

Phase 1/2025 – Results

The EXLIDO project aims to reconstruct the life of the earliest Neolithic communities in Dobrogea (6th millennium BC) through an inter- and multidisciplinary approach to the archaeological material from the site of Palazu Mare – *Malul Alb* (Constanța County). Phase I/2025 primarily focused on team organization, the acquisition of equipment and infrastructure, the development of the project website, and the monitoring of progress along three main research directions: bioarchaeology, ceramics, and lithic materials. The annual report submitted to UEFISCDI was prepared in accordance with these activities.

Bioarchaeology. Over 10,000 faunal remains were analyzed, revealing a pastoral economy based on cattle and caprines, with mixed exploitation of milk and meat, while hunting and aquatic resources played a secondary role. Thirty-seven samples were collected for isotopic and radiocarbon analyses. Although the human remains recovered are extremely scarce, they nonetheless offer the potential for the first future reconstructions of human diet. The hard animal material industry was examined through 55 artifacts, highlighting the technological specificities characteristic of the Prehamangia and Hamangia cultures.

Prehistoric ceramics. Approximately 755 samples were analyzed, including three figurines. Typological, technological, and archaeometric studies (XRF and microtomography) highlighted technological differences between Prehamangia and Hamangia, the use of local clay sources, and distinct cultural influences, reflecting functional diversity and cultural adaptations.

Lithic materials. A total of 1,995 pieces were inventoried, 1,753 were analyzed from a technological and typological perspective, and 635 petrographic samples allowed for the identification of flint sources. Knapping techniques and use-wear traces indicate specific economic organization and strategies of Neolithic communities.

Dissemination and scientific valorization. The results were disseminated through 17 scientific communications (12 international and 5 national), including an international session organized in Romania (Pontica 58). Publications include one article published in *Documenta Praehistorica* (bone industry) and one article accepted for *Natures en Sociétés* (archaeozoology). The results were also integrated through the project's web platform and the annual report to UEFISCDI.

Phase I/2025 enabled the creation of an integrated database and generated the first significant results on pastoral economy, hard animal material processing, and ceramic production. The project adhered to principles of excellence, dissemination, and sustainable integration, achieving a substantial impact on the national and international scientific community.