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CA19141 – Integrating Neandertal Legacy: From Past to Present Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting

October 24th 2023
Zagreb, CROATIA
Online meeting (via ZOOM)

Overview of the key details:

Action Chair: Ivor Janković (Croatia)
Action Vice-Chair: Stefano Benazzi (Italy)
WG1 Leader: Katerina Harvati (Germany)
WG1 Substitute Leader: Sorin Hermon (Cyprus)
WG2 Leader: Francesca Romagnoli (Spain)
WG2 Substitute Leader: Trine Kellberg Nielsen (Denmark)
WG3 Leader: Ron Pinhasi (Austria)
WG3 Substitute Leader: Pere Gelabert (Austria)
WG4 Leader: Sanjin Mihelić (Croatia)
WG4 Substitute Leader: Matija Črešnar (Slovenia)
Science Communication Manager: Agnė Žilinskaitė (Lithuania)
STSM and Grant Awarding Coordinator: Florent Rivals (Spain)
Grant Holder: Institute for Anthropological Research (Croatia)
Grant holder manager: Morana Jarec (Croatia)

Start of the Action: October 15th 2020

Third Grant Period: November 1st 2022 – October 31st 2023



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1. Welcome to the participants (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

The Management Committee Meeting of COST19141 *Integrating Neandertal Legacy – From Past to Present* (iNEAL) started at 10:00. Ivor Janković, the Action Chair, welcomed the participants of the CA19141 MC meeting which was scheduled as virtual meeting via ZOOM platform.

1.a. Verification of the quorum (Morana Jarec, GRANT HOLDER MANAGER)

Morana Jarec, Grant Holder Manager, confirmed the quorum, the presence of two-thirds of the participating COST countries. The following 22 of 29 countries having accepted the MoU of the Action were represented at the meeting: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and United Kingdom. For the detailed attendance list, please see annex 2.

1.b. Adoption of the agenda (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

The agenda of the meeting (Annex 1) was approved without changes or additions by the members of the Management Committee of CA19141.

2. Information to the MC

2.a. Brief recap on the GP3 and State of the Action Participation Action Chair (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

Progress on the Action during GP 3:

- 5 Training schools (4 were planned). Total of 83 participants (51 young res., 45 from ITC countries, 34 female)
- 4 STSM's successfully completed
- 1 Working group Meeting (Haifa)
- iNEAL workshop on Integrative paleoecology: Multiproxy analyses to reconstruct Neanderthal paleoecology, seasonality and mobility based on mammal assemblages (virtual).
- Roundtable: Lamina Productions in Pre-Upper Mis 3 Contexts (virtual).
- International Lithic Taxonomy Group meeting (virtual).
- iNEAL Session at the European Archaeological Association Meeting in Belfast (10 presentations with 32 participants)
- 1 presentation at the 10th Scientific Conference Methodology and Archaeometry (Zagreb)
- 2 presentations at the 3rd VCWAP – Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists (virtual)
- 1 presentation at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age (Aarhus)
- Numerous media outputs and appearances



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2.b. Budget status: summary from the Grant holder (Morana Jarec, GRANT HOLDER MANAGER)

Work and budget plan GP3 (1 Nov 2022 – 31 Oct 2023)

Allocated budget (GP3): 175.499,15 EUR

Grant amount (GP3): 175.380,82 EUR

Meetings	initial WBP	WBP amendment	to be spent by the end of GP3	actually spent
WGs meeting, Haifa, Israel	45.008,00	30.764,56	0,00	30.764,47
MC meeting (online)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Training Schools				
WG1 Training School, Ravenna, Italy (initially planned in Tübingen, DE)	16.022,00	20.172,00	0,00	14.580,42
WG2 Training School, Haifa, Israel	16.000,00	17.997,50	0,00	17.997,49
WG2 Training School, Madrid, Spain	0,00	27.360,00	0,00	32.585,21
WG3 Training School, Vienna, Austria	15.804,00	19.444,00	0,00	7.955,60
WG4 Training School, Lisbon, Portugal	16.140,00	19.220,00	≈ 1.600 (two reimbursement claims to be submitted)	20.891,80
Dissemination				
Printing	2.000,00	2.000,00	0,00	1.248,00
Web site	700,00	700,00	0,00	700,00
Grants				
Short-term Scientific Missions	9.000,00	9.000,00	0,00	6.000,00
Inclusiveness Target Countries				
Conference Grant	2.400,00	2.400,00	0,00	0,00
Dissemination Conference Grant	2.800,00	2.800,00	0,00	0,00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)				
ZOOM licence	150,00	72,02	0,00	72,02
bank fees	497,00	497,00	≈ 152,06	184,72
Total Science Expenditure	126.521,00	152.505,06	1.752,06	132.979,73
FSAC 15%	18.978,15	22.875,76	262,81	19.946,96
Total Grant	145.499,15	175.380,82	2.014,87	152.926,69
UNSPENT:	20.439,26			



2.c. Update from the COST Association (if representative is present)

Dr. Federica Ortelli, Science Officer of the Action greeted everyone present.

3. Follow up and discussion on the

3.a. Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

Implementation of COST Policies in GP3

Cost indicatory targets for COST Actions:

- to include Researchers and Innovators from the greatest possible variety and range of COST Members in the Actions, at the very minimum including Researchers and Innovators from 12 distinct Inclusiveness Target Countries (we have 14)
- to spend 50 per cent of the budget dedicated to networking activities to the benefit of Researchers and Innovators affiliated with a legal entity in Inclusiveness Target Countries or Near Neighbour Countries (final report pending – two people need to file for reimbursement)
- to dedicate at least 3 Mandatory Leadership positions to researchers based in Inclusiveness Target Countries (we have 3)
- to have 40 per cent of participations to networking activities by Young Researchers (we have 110 participations, 59 YRs = 53,64%)
- to dedicate 20 per cent of Mandatory Leadership positions to Young Researchers (we have 12,5%)
- to dedicate 50 per cent of Mandatory Leadership positions to female researchers (we have 37,5%)

3.b. Grant Awarding by the Action (Florent Rivals, GRANT AWADING COORDINATOR)

Short-term scientific missions

Out of 6 planned, 4 funded.

Name	Home institution	STSM title	Host institution	Host contact	Dates
Valentina Lubrano	ICArEHB, Faro, Portugal	Zooarchaeological and taphonomic analysis to understand the duration of Neanderthal occupation at Teixoneres Cave unit III	Institut Català de Paleoeologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES-CERCA) Tarragona, ES	Florent Rivals	Start date 01/04/2023 End date 02/05/2023
Pere Gelabert	University of Vienna, Austria	Archeo-genetic perspectives for understanding the	Universidad de Cantabria Santander, ES	Manuel Ramon	Start date 13/07/2023 End date





		Carnivore-human interactions in El Miron cave		Gonzalez Morales,	23/07/2023
Meir Orbach	University of Haifa, Israel	Reconstructing diet and seasonality of the Perissodactyla from the open-air site of Nesher Ramla, Israel	Institut Català de Paleocologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES-CERCA) Tarragona, ES	Florent Rivals	Start date 03/09/2023 End date 10/09/2023
Sara Silvestrini	University of Bologna, Italy	Reconstructing the subsistence strategies and the faunal composition through ZooMS during the Middle-Upper Paleolithic transitio	Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria Vienna, AT	Katerina Douka	Start date 26/09/2023 End date 10/10/2023

ITC conference grants

No ITC conference grants funded.

Dissemination conference grant

No Dissemination conference grants funded.

3.c. Progress of each working group (WG LEADERS/SUBSTITUTES)

WORKING GROUP 1: FOSSIL DATA (Owen Alexander Higgins, on behalf of Stefano Benazzi, VICE CHAIR)

- WG1 Training School An introduction to geometric morphometric methods for the study of human remains was organized from 9th – 11th October, 2023, at the University of Bologna, Department of Cultural Heritage, BONES lab in Ravenna, Italy.
- The necessary codes for data collection related to fossil material were successfully added.
- Currently, members of WG1 are engaged in the process of collection of data for the forthcoming period.

WORKING GROUP 2: CULTURAL DATA (Francesca Romagnoli, WG2 LEADER)

- There is 64 members and participants from 24 countries in WG2
- WG2 activities:
 - Increasing WG2 network
 - Collaboration with WG4
 - Organisation and several talks at iNEAL session at EAA 2023



- A collective talk at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermeier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, talk at the 10th Scientific Conference on Methodology and Archaeometry, talk at Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists
- Publication of the book “Updating Neandertals”
- Organisation of Seminars & Round tables:
 - INTERNATIONAL LITHIC TAXONOMY GROUP (F. Romagnoli, A. Kandel)
 - LAMINAR PRODUCTIONS IN PRE-UP MIS 3 CONTEXTS (Jacobo Gennai, Davide Delpiano, Marco Peresani)
 - INTEGRATIVE PALEOECOLOGY: MULTIPROXY ANALYSES TO RECONSTRUCT NEANDERTHAL PALEOECOLOGY, SEASONALITY AND MOBILITY BASED ON MAMMAL ASSEMBLAGES (Florent Rivals)
- WG2 Training Schools *Neandertal and Homo sapiens material culture in Middle Paleolithic western Asia* was held from 14 – 16 March, 2023, at the University of Haifa, Israel, and *Advancing into Palaeolithic Archaeology: Best practices in multidisciplinary studies* from 27 – 29 September, 2023, at UAM-Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

WORKING GROUP 3: MOLECULAR DATA (Pere Gelabert, WG3 SUBSTITUTE LEADER)

- WG3 Training School *Paleogenomics: From sampling and data collection to multidisciplinary analyses* was held from 19 – 20 September 2023, at the University of Vienna, Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, Austria
- WG3 contributed to define the codes we are collecting for the publication planned in the next grant period

WORKING GROUP 4: FROM PAST TO PRESENT (Sanjin Mihelić, WG4 LEADER)

- WG4 Training School *Presenting Neandertals* was held from 3 – 5 October, 2023, at the Autonomous University of Lisbon, Department of History, Arts and Humanities, Lisbon, Portugal
- Organisation and presentations at the iNEAL session at EAA 2023
- Plans for the GP4
 - iNEAL Conference and meeting in Zagreb
 - Training School *Neandertals in Tourism*, Istanbul, Turkey, 8-10 May 2024
 - Education kit/guidelines and best practices book planned
 - iNEAL session at the next EAA meeting in Rome, Italy
 - media outputs and appearances
- Sanjin Mihelić showed iNEAL booklet as an output of GP3
- Telmo Pereira, the local organizer of the TS in Lisbon reported that the TS was a success and that University was impressed. He continued that he is sure that the TS in Lisbon attracted new members to the network.

4. Planning

4.a. Draft plans for the following GP(s) (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

- Meetings:
 - iNEAL final conference and meeting (Zagreb, 16-18 September 2024)
 - Topical Meeting on Neandertal Legacy Code book (venue to be decided – tentatively Zagreb)
 - MC meeting (virtual)
- Training schools:
 - Training school WG 2, „Knapping in Silicon Valley: Modern Tech for Ancient Objects”, Krakow, Poland, 4-6th June 2024.
 - Training school of the WG 4, „Neandertals in Tourism”, Istanbul, Turkiye, May 8-10th 2024.
- STSM's
 - 4 planned
- ITC Conference grants:
 - 2 planned
- Conference appearances:
 - iNEAL Session at the next EAA meeting (Rome) is planned
- Dissemination:
 - Neandertal sites code book publication
 - Exhibition (10 posters) on Neandertal legacy is planned to be created by iNEAL
 - Education kit/guidelines and best practices book planned

Francesca Romagnoli proposed to hold the online seminar “Women leadership in Palaeolithic research” in order to visualise the research led by women involved in the action (pending date).

The list of activities was approved by the MC.

4.b. Budget plan for GP4 (Morana Jarec, GRANT HOLDER MANAGER)

Work and budget plan GP4 (1 Nov 2023 – 14 Oct 2024)

Allocated budget (GP3): 169.500,00 EUR. The proposal of the distribution of funds is the following:

Work and budget plan	quantity	per event	total
Meetings			
WGs meeting + LOS		1	30.000,00
Final conference & MC meeting + LOS		1	56.000,00
Training Schools			
Training schools + LOS		2	20.000,00
Grants			
Short Term Scientific Mission		4	1.500,00
			6.000,00

ITC conference grant	2	1.000,00	2.000,00
Dissemination conference grant	2	2.000,00	4.000,00
Dissemination			
Website maintance	1	700,00	700,00
Poster design	1	1.000,00	1.000,00
WG4 Publication design and printing	1	2.000,00	2.000,00
Catalogue / database design and printing	1	5.000,00	5.000,00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)			
ZOOM licence	1	150,00	150,00
Bank fees	1	500,00	500,00
Total Science Expenditure			147.350,00
FSAC (15%)			22.102,50
Total Grant request			169.452,50

Members of the MC were asked to vote on the proposed budget for GP4, there were no objections and WBP for GP4 was adopted.

6. AOB (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

Ivor Janković asked everyone present if they agree to elect Pere Gelabert as WG3 substitute leader (instead of Daniel Fernandes), and there was no objections.

7. Summary of MC decisions (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

1. Financial plan and work plan (incl. the activities planned, based on MOU) approved
2. Adoption of Pere Gelabert as WG3 substitute leader

8. Closing (Ivor Janković, ACTION CHAIR)

Ivor Janković thanked all present for attending. The Management Committee Meeting of COST19141 *Integrating Neandertal Legacy – From Past to Present* (iNEAL) ended at 11:10.

Minutes prepared by:

Morana Jarec, GRANT HOLDER MANAGER



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Annexes: Agenda of the Management Committee Meeting; Attendance list

ANNEX 1 – Agenda

COST Action CA19141: "Integrating Neandertal Legacy: From Past to Present"

Management Committee Meeting

Draft Agenda

24/10/2023 at 10:00:00

Virtual, N/A, Croatia

N/A, N/A, Croatia

1. Welcome to participants, verification of the quorum and adoption of agenda **Action Chair**)
2. Information to the MC
 - a) Brief recap on the GP 3 and State of the Action Participation **Action Chair**
 - b) Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder. **Morana Jarec**
 - c) Update from the COST Association (if representative is present)
3. Follow up and discussion on the
 - a) Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy **Action Chair**
 - b) Grant Awarding by the Action report from our Grant manager **Florent Rivals**
 - c) Progress of each working group report **WG leaders/substitutes**
4. Planning
 - a) Draft plans for the following GP(s). **Action Chair**
 - b) Budget Plan for GP4 **Morana Jarec**
5. AOB
6. Summary of MC decisions **Action Chair**
7. Closing **Action Chair**



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ANNEX 2 – List of participants

Name (Original Name), User Email, Total Duration (Minutes), Guest

Morana Jarec, morana.jarec@inantro.hr, 85, No

Nikola Vukosavljevic, 84, Yes

kate britton, 80, Yes

Maria Gurova, 79, Yes

jeanluc, 79, Yes

HR Ivor Jankovic, 77, Yes

PL Damian Stefański (Damian Stefański), 76, Yes

Paraskevi Elefanti, 76, Yes

Srđan Delić (ME Srđan Delić), 74, Yes

Bärbel Auffermann, 74, Yes

telmopereira, 71, Yes

Adrian Dobos (Sigizade), 73, Yes

Ani Bajrami (ani bajrami), 58, Yes

Francesca Romagnoli, 71, Yes

Federica Ortelli - COST, 58, Yes

p.valde-nowak@uj.edu.pl, 15, Yes

Draghanna's iPhone, 43, Yes

Adrián Nemergut (Miriam Nemergutová), 70, Yes

Andrei D. Soficaru (Paleoantropologie), 69, Yes

Dusan Mihailovic, 69, Yes

Berkay Dincer (Berkay Dinçer), 69, Yes

Florent Rivals, 69, Yes

TR-Parisa Göker, 69, Yes

Petr Skrdla, 68, Yes

Matija Cresnar, 62, Yes

Zsolt Mester, 67, Yes

Johann Galdies, 67, Yes

owen.higgins2, 66, Yes

Sanjin Mihelic, 65, Yes

Leskovar, Tamara, 59, Yes

Ron Pinhasi, 11, Yes

Pere Gelabert, 53, Yes

Katerina Harvati, 39, Yes



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