

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

**25/09/2024 at 10:00:00
Virtual (ZOOM), Croatia**

Overview

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

End of the Action: October 14th 2024

Fourth Grant Period: November 1st 2023 – October 14th 2024

The meeting started at 10:00 via ZOOM platform.

1. Ivor Janković, Action Chair, welcomed participants, verified the quorum and MC members adopted the agenda

2. Ivor Janković briefly informed MC on activities that took place after the last MC meeting.

a) Recap of the minutes of the last MC meeting, e-votes and matters arising since the last meeting

In the last MC meeting there was a report on the progress of the Action's GP3, report on the GP3 budget, all WG leaders gave their reports, as well as grant awarding coordinator and grant holder manager. MC voted on the budget, Action plan and elected Pere Gelabert as WG3 substitute leader.

b) Core Group: report from the Core Group, including delegated decisions

Core Group met in the iNEAL Final Conference and meeting in Zagreb where it discussed Action's results: which elements are considered successful, and which are found challenging.

Most successful:

- Training schools – interaction of scholars from different disciplines and countries, creating strong bonds and collaborations
- STSMs – research visits to other institutions, creating collaborative potential
- one of the direct outcomes of this Action and networking - new ERC Synergy grant „In search of the Last Neandertals” – two of the PIs are iNEAL Members (Stefano Benazzi and Omry Barzilai) and several other members of iNEAL CA are involved in the project.

Challenges:

- low number of applicants from ITC researchers. Possible reasons monetary issues (although 50% of funding can be up front), young researchers from ITC might feel inexperienced or face competitive pressures?
- General agreement that the Action was very successful and that we need to find a way to maintain the network. Committed to do this through:
 - website at IAR will maintain active and all relevant info will be posted
 - WG 2 leader Francesca Romagnoli will engage with other iNEAL members and periodically organize on-line meetings and discussions, topical round tables or workshops
 - submission of new COST Action proposal as a follow-up, focusing on main aspects of WG 4 (public/societal/economic etc. benefits and aspects of Neandertal legacy)

c) Action Membership: New Specific Organisations and COST Members represented in the MC

No new organizations joined the Action.

d) Action Participation: WG membership and applications, New MC Members/Observers and provisional substitution.

Five new members joined working groups. Numerous colleagues who are not officially members of the Action engaged in creation of our Neandertal sites catalogue technical report. Many expressed their interest in joining in future work.

e) Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder

	INITIAL WORK AND BUDGET PLAN	AMENDMENT	NEW WBP (AFTER IFR)	TO BE SPENT	BUDGET (AT THE END OF GP4)
MEETINGS					
Malta meeting	30.081,00 EUR	29.055,00 EUR	11.118,58 EUR		11.118,58 EUR
Zagreb meeting	55.960,00 EUR	66.100,00 EUR	66.100,00 EUR	approx. 50.000,00 EUR	50.000,00 EUR
MC meeting	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR		0,00 EUR
TOTAL MEETINGS:	86.041,00 EUR	95.155,00 EUR	77.218,58 EUR		61.118,58 EUR
TRAINING SCHOOLS					
TS Istanbul	19.996,00 EUR	19.996,00 EUR	24.859,80 EUR		24.859,80 EUR
TS Krakow	19.954,00 EUR	19.954,00 EUR	19.311,57 EUR		19.311,57 EUR
TOTAL TRAINING SCHOOLS:	39.950,00 EUR	39.950,00 EUR	44.171,37 EUR		44.171,37 EUR
STSMs					
STSMs	6.000,00 EUR	6.000,00 EUR	5.200,00 EUR		5.200,00 EUR
TOTAL STSMs:	6.000,00 EUR	6.000,00 EUR	5.200,00 EUR		5.200,00 EUR
GRANTS					
ITC CG	2.000,00 EUR	6.600,00 EUR	4.250,00 EUR		4.250,00 EUR
DISS CG	4.000,00 EUR	4.000,00 EUR	4.000,00 EUR		4.000,00 EUR
TOTAL GRANTS:	6.000,00 EUR	10.600,00 EUR	8.250,00 EUR		8.250,00 EUR
DISSEMINATION					
Website	700,00 EUR	700,00 EUR	700,00 EUR		700,00 EUR
Code book	5.000,00 EUR	9.000,00 EUR	9.000,00 EUR	10.392,50 EUR approx. 4.900,00 EUR	10.392,50 EUR
Education kit	2.000,00 EUR	6.000,00 EUR	6.000,00 EUR	4.900,00 EUR	4.900,00 EUR
Posters	1.000,00 EUR	1.000,00 EUR	1.000,00 EUR	700,00 EUR	700,00 EUR
TOTAL DISSEMINATION:	8.700,00 EUR	16.700,00 EUR	16.700,00 EUR		16.692,50 EUR
OERSA					
ZOOM	150,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	74,20 EUR		74,20 EUR
bank charges	500,00 EUR	500,00 EUR	192,76 EUR	approx. 90,00 EUR	282,76 EUR
TOTAL OERSA:	650,00 EUR	650,00 EUR	266,96 EUR		356,96 EUR
TOTAL DIRECT	147.341,00 EUR	169.055,00 EUR	151.806,91 EUR		135.789,41 EUR
INDIRECT	22.101,15 EUR	25.358,25 EUR	22.771,04 EUR		20.368,41 EUR
TOTAL	169.442,15 EUR	194.413,25 EUR	174.577,95 EUR		156.157,82 EUR

f) Update from the COST Association (if representative is present)

The COST representative wasn't present.

3. **Ivor Janković continued with the follow up and discussion on the:**

a) Action management: structure, leadership positions and other supporting roles. Mandates to the Core Group (if applicable)

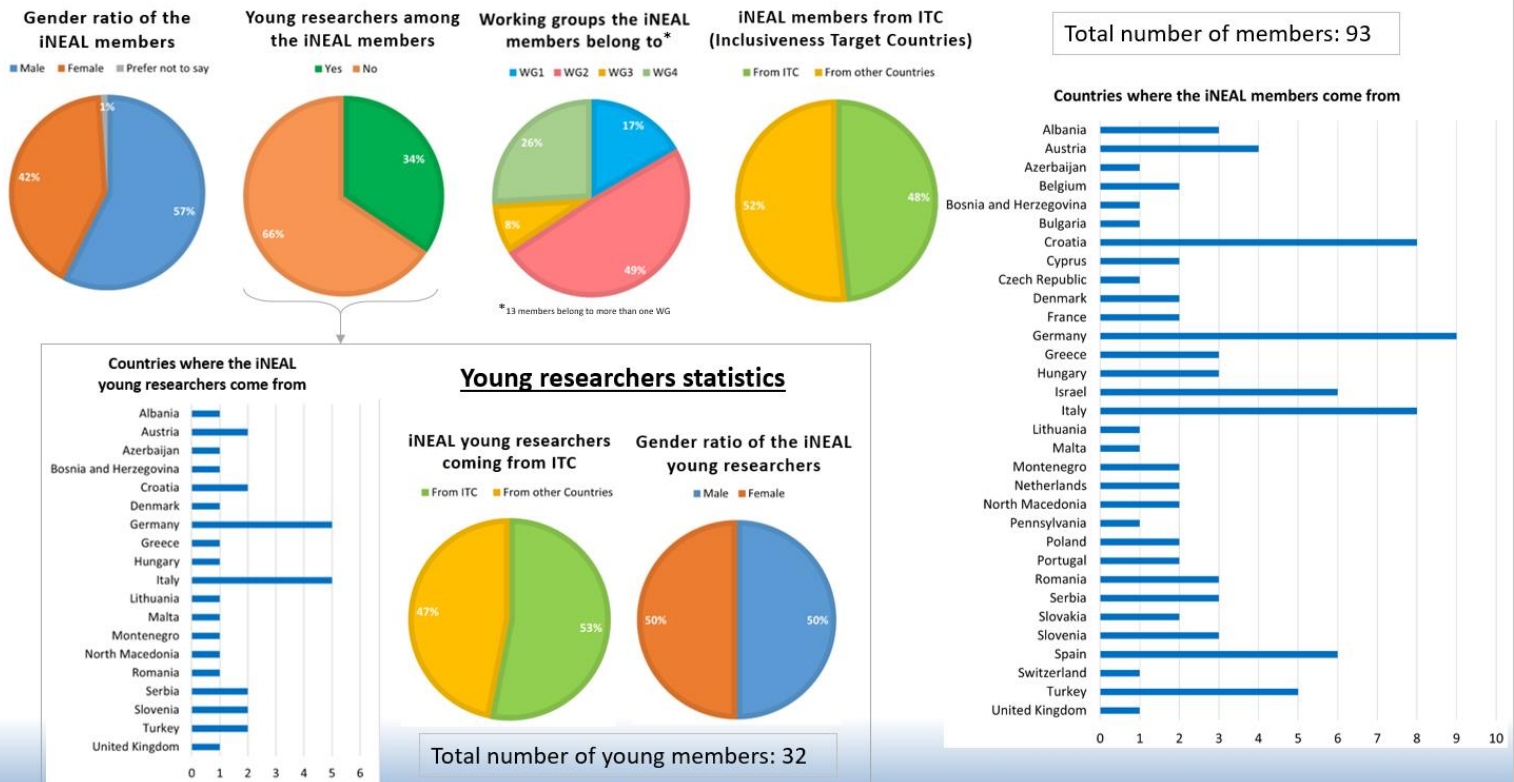
Action structure did not change since the last MC meeting.

b) Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

COST inclusiveness policy is developed around three main elements:

- a. Geographical spread
- b. Career stage: involving young researchers
- c. Gender balance

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness policies – Members statistics



c) Grant Awarding by the Action

STSMs in GP4:

1. Erica Piccirilli, “Exploring external shape and entheses patterns of Neanderthal and modern human fourth metatarsal bones through geometric morphometrics approaches”, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
2. Gabriele Russo, “High-Resolution Surface and Taphonomy Study of Non-Utilitarian Anthropogenic Modifications on a Middle Paleolithic Bone Tool”, Université de Bordeaux, France.
3. Lana Zoldoš, “Comparative Analysis of the AHR Gene in Homo neanderthalensis and Homo sapiens”, University of Vienna, Austria
4. Lavinia Caffarelli, “Investigating Late Neandertals’ mobility and seasonality in the Lessini area”, IPHES, Tarragona, Spain

OTHER GRANTS in GP4:

1. ITC CONFERENCE GRANT Lia Vidas: “Investigating Neandertal subsistence at the Romualdova pećina (Croatia) site through a multidisciplinary approach to faunal remains”, presented at the EAA Meeting in Rome, Italy
2. ITC CONFERENCE GRANT Milena Carvalho: “Human diet and ecology during the Middle to Upper Paleolithic Transition in Portuguese Estremadura: the case from Lapa do Picareiro”, presented at the EAA Meeting in Rome, Italy
3. ITC CONFERENCE GRANT Valentina Lubrano: “Beyond the Model: Challenges in Distinguishing Types of Occupation in Late Neanderthal Sites”, presented at the EAA Meeting in Rome, Italy
4. DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE GRANT Sanjin Mihelić: “Integrating Neandertal legacy: From Past to Present (Slight Return)”, presented at the EEA Meeting in Rome, Italy
5. DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE GRANT Ivor Janković: “Integrating Neandertal legacy: From Past to Present”, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, New Orleans, USA

d) Progress of each working group

Working group 1 Activities during GP4 (Carolin Röding)

- Main activity of the WG1 during GP4 was preparing data for the technical report

Working group 2 Activities during GP 4 (Francesca Romagnoli)

- Members are specialists in lithic technology (morpho-metric analysis, knapping methods and techniques, refits, raw material economy, use-wear analysis, etc.), petrography, archaeozoology, taphonomy, palaeoecology, experimental archaeology and behavioral archaeology
- Most members have a consolidated experience in archaeological fieldwork. Our group include researchers with experience in Big Data management, GIS applications, multivariate statistics, and imaging techniques.

WG2 main aims:

- Improve our understanding of Neanderthal behaviors and adaptations in different landscape at a local and European scale of analysis from a multidisciplinary perspective

- Improving knowledge of the archaeological records from areas where the publication language is little known (mainly non-English and French publications)
- Improving understanding for lack of evidences in specific areas and chronologies (e.g.; historiographic bias versus geomorphological bias)
- Improving collaborations between members to start novel collective projects and studies of archaeological collections to improve shared methodologies, comparisons between sites and regional data
- Collaborate in the iNEAL dataset
- Continuously increasing WG2 network
- Collaborations with WG4
- Organization and several talks at the iNEAL EAA session
- Collective talk at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier-Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age + a talk at the 10th Scientific Conference on Methodology and Archaeometry + talk at Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists
- Publication of the book “Updating Neanderthals”
- WG2 members participated in STMS call as both hosting early career investigator and supporting investigators applying in the call

iNEAL-WG2 Training Schools in GP4:

- Knapping in Silicon Valley: Modern Tech for Ancient Objects - Organisers: Damian Stefański, Paweł Valde-Nowak / Venue: Archaeological Museum in Kraków / Kraków-Częstochowa Upland sites (Poland)

iNEAL-WG2 Seminars & Round Tables:

- Integrative Palaeoecology: multiproxy analyses to reconstruct Neanderthal paleoecology, seasonality and mobility based on mammal assemblages (organiser: Florent Rivals)

Working group 3 Activities during GP 4 (Pere Gelabert)

- Main activities during GP4 consisted of defining and complementing the codes connected to genetic research
- WG3 managed to collect relevant data for all sites in the catalogue

Working group 4 Activities during GP4 (Sanjin Mihelić)

WG4 events and dissemination:

- iNEAL session at the EAA meeting in Rome, Italy (11 presentations with 43 participants)
- Training school „Neanderthals in Tourism”, Istanbul, Türkiye
- Two dissemination grants to promote the Action’s activities (I. Janković, SAA, New Orleans, USA, and S. Mihelić, EAA, Rome, Italy)
- Publication: “Intergrating Neandertal Legacy: Educational kit / Guidelines for Best Practices in Heritage presentation, Management and Valorization of Neandertal Heritage in Tourism” (will be finished in few days)
- Exhibition series of 10 posters on Neanderthals (will be finished in few days)

Future plans:

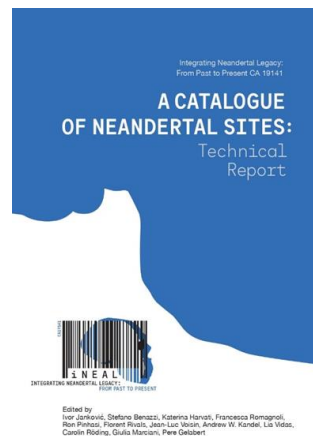
- Engaging iNEAL members in preparation for the next COST call (in progress)

e) Progress on MoU Objectives, WG tasks, deliverables, and Goals for the current GP

Grant Agreement Period Goals:

- GAPG 1 Creation of a database on Neandertal Legacy and publication
- GAPG 2 Organization of training schools
- GAPG 3 Organization of iNEAL Conference Meeting
- GAPG 4 Organization of a WG Meeting
- GAPG 5 Publication of the Guidelines for best practices in heritage presentation & valorization of Neandertal heritage in tourism
- GAPG 6 Creation of a travelling exhibition on Neandertal Legacy
- GAPG 7 Widening the network of experts of specific profile

GAPG 1



[LINK TO THE REPORT](#)

GAPG 2

TS WG4 Neandertals in Tourism. Istanbul, Türkiye
TS WG2 Knapping in Silicon Valley: Modern tech for Ancient Objects. Krakow, Poland

GAPG 3

iNEAL Final Conference & Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia (and CORE group meeting)
iNEAL Session at the EAA, Rome, Italy

GAPG 4

WG meeting related to finalization of the Codebook publication, Valetta, Malta
MC Final meeting (today)

GAPG 5 & 6

in final phases, will be done by the end of the Action

GAPG 7

A great number of additional researchers were engaged in creation of the Catalogue of Neandertal Sites

4. Ivor Janković briefly informed MC on planning:

a) Upcoming activities

No „official activities” because Action is ending on October 14th 2024. Many iNEAL members expressed interest in continuing the work and maintaining the iNEAL Network and continue with some of the activities (on line, at other scientific meetings, e.g Neandertal legacy symposium at EAA). The iNEAL website at the Institute for Anthropological Research will remain active and relevant information can be posted there. Several members expressed interest of organizing on-line meetings / small symposia / workshops /round tables. The Report (A catalogue of neandertal sites) now has 127 sites and the iNEAL network is committed to continue to collect the rest of the sites in the same format and regularly publish (on line, in PDF) them as the addendum on the website. Preparation for the next COST call (date: October 23rd 2024). The network will continue to engage in applications for various research grants, publication of research resulting from STSMs, etc.

5. Monitoring and Reporting to the COST Association

GP4 Intermediate Financial report was submitted in July. GP4 report on the progress and Final Financial report will be submitted in October.

6. AOB

There were no other questions raised during meeting.

7. Summary of MC decisions

There were no decisions made during the MC meeting.

8. Closing

Ivor Janković thanked everyone for participation.

The meeting ended at 11.00.

Minutes taken by

Morana Jarec, Grant Holder Manager

Minutes approved by

MC

Attachments:

1. AGENDA
2. LIST OF ATENDEED

Agenda

2. Welcome to participants, verification of the quorum and adoption of agenda
3. Information to the MC
 - a) Recap of the minutes of the last MC meeting, e-votes and matters arising since the last meeting
 - b) Core Group: report from the Core Group, including delegated decisions
 - c) Action Membership: New Specific Organisations and COST Members represented in the MC
 - d) Action Participation: WG membership and applications, New MC Members/Observers
 - e) and provisional substitution.
 - f) Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder.
 - g) Update from the COST Association (if representative is present)
4. Follow up and discussion on the
 - a) Action management: structure, leadership positions and other supporting roles.
 - b) Mandates to the Core Group (if applicable)
 - c) Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
 - d) Grant Awarding by the Action
 - e) Progress of each working group (WG members or send me brief info if cannot participate
 - f) Progress on MoU Objectives, WG tasks, deliverables, and Goals for the current GP.
5. Planning
 - a) Upcoming activities
6. Monitoring and Reporting to the COST Association
7. AOB
8. Summary of MC decisions
9. Closing

Ateendees:

Ivor Janković (CROATIA)
Anna Degioanni (FRANCE)
Maria Gurova (BULGARIA)
Omry Barzilai (ISRAEL)
Irka Hajdas (SWITZERLAND)
Dora Varjacic (CROATIA)
Morana Jarec (CROATIA)
Francesca Romagnoli (SPAIN)
Pawel Valde-Nowak (POLAND)
Paraskevi Elefanti (GREECE)
Parisa Güneş (TURKEY)
Carolin Röding (GERMANY)
Adrian Dobos (ROMANIA)
Zsolt Mester (HUNGARY)
Damian Stefański (POLAND)
Stefano Benazzi (ITALY)
Berkay Dinçer (TURKEY)
Adrian Nemergut (SLOVAKIA)
Dusan Mihailovic (SERBIA)
Kasper Rodil (DENMARK)
Petr Skrdla (CZECHIA)
Nikola Vukosavljevic (CROATIA)
Srđan Delić (MONTENEGRO)
Sanjin Mihelić (CROATIA)
Bärbel Auffermann (GERMANY)
Ron Pinhasi (AUSTRIA)
Tamara Leskovar (SLOVENIA)
Telmo Pereira (PORTUGAL)
Dragana Šnjegøta (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)
Matija Črešnar (SLOVENIA)
Johann Galdies (MALTA)
Kate Britton (UK)
Pere Galabert (AUSTRIA)