



IGCP/UNESCO 442 Project "Raw materials of the neolithic/aeneolithic polished stone artefacts: their migration paths in Europe" in its third year

This interdisciplinary/intersectorial IGCP/UNESCO project Nr. 442 (geological sciences + historical sciences - archaeology) in the year 2001 is in its third year of being realised. Based on, it should be said, tradition, also in this year one (the 4th one) plenary session of the project corresponding members was organised. The plenary session, workshop and excursion was realised in Udine and Genova in Italy in the term 25th - 29th September 2001. Substantial part of necessary complicated organising activities have been done by Prof. Claudio D'Amico, to whom we would like to express our thank also in this way.

We have good experiences from the last year, when all oral communications presented during the Eggenburg (Austria) 3rd plenary session of the Project have been published in extenso within the 3 months limit after mentioned plenary session. Based on the last year experience also in this year we encouraged all corresponding members of the Project to submit appropriate manuscripts to be published within the 3 months limit after the realised plenary session in Udine and Genova. In spite of the last year, when papers in extenso have been published in *KRYSTALINIKUM* as its No. 26 in the year 2000 in the Czech republic (which journal is distributed by E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung - Nägele und Obermiller) in this year we are thankful to the editor and the editorial board of the scientific journal *Slovak Geological Magazine*, published by the Slovak Geological Survey, for acceptance of papers in extenso and extended abstracts of lectures, which have been presented in the Udine and Genova meeting, to be published. It should be mentioned, that abstracts of presented oral communications in the Eggenburg meeting in September 2000 have been published in archaeological journal *Archeologické Rozhledy* (LII, pp. 709-725, Praha) in 2000.

Realizing IGCP/UNESCO 442 Project also geosciences as well as archaeology try to add some new information on pre-historic human societies, namely on the level of their material life. Based on archaeological artefacts, represented by daily used tools, but also weapons and symbols of power or excellence, application of standard geoscience laboratory methods and used equipments allow to define types of the raw materials used and to characterized their provenancies. Meanwhile in the Palaeolithic leading abiotic raw material has been represented by radiolarite, flint, obsidian and limnoquartzite, resp., settled style of living ("neolithic revolution"), introduction of agriculture as the substantial way of food providing and treatment of domestic animals in the Neolithic, needed high amount of suitable stone tools. Chipped tools characteristic for the Palaeolithic have been replaced by polished tools in the Neolithic. They have been made from various kinds of rocks of all three main types: from the sedimentary, metamorphic as well as igneous categories. Their identification on one side, and definition of their provenances on the other one, together with tracing their migration paths in European continent, is the main goal of given IGCP/UNESCO interdisciplinary project.

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