SETTLING WATERSCAPES IN EUROPE: 
the archaeology of Neolithic and Bronze Age pile-dwellings

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The workshop will bring together scientists who are involved in the research of pile-dwellings within largely expanded boundaries in Europe. The organizers invite contributions with a focus on human-environment interactions, origin and (dis)continuity of European pile dwellings, regional methodological distinctions and regional peculiarities of pile-dwellings sites. This workshop will also examine possibilities and limits of interpreting cultural remains of the pile dwellings from multidisciplinary perspectives.

The number of multidisciplinary research of recent years has provided new data about anthropogenic influence on the landscapes of Neolithic-Bronze Age pile-dwellings, which allows to characterize the lifestyle of inhabitants, peculiarities of the ecological niche and human and environment interaction in more detailed ways.

The widely discussed phenomenon of European pile-settlements suggests such approaches on their origin and evolution as a reaction on natural changes or new symbols of changing societies, as well as underlines existence of specific architectural forms and other evidences in culture (art, weaponry, adornments, utilities etc.). In the huge area where pile dwellings have been explored for decades, different ways, methods, even schools of underwater and peat-bog excavation techniques as well as data analysis has been formed under the influence of different traditions of practice in separate countries. These and other factors can create limits of our understanding the past, but on the other hand may suggest wider possibilities for interpretations.

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