

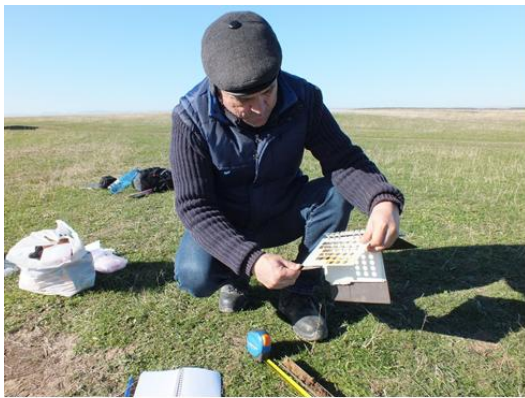
Research theme: *Interdisciplinary research in archaeological sites in the Suceava Plateau*

The Suceava Plateau is an area of ancient prehistoric humanization, in this area several ancient cultures, such as the Neolithic or Bronze Age, succeeded each other, which left numerous traces of settlements and necropolises. The beginnings of their research date back to the end of the 19th century.

In recent decades, research on these archaeological sites has intensified, and, in order to clarify some aspects of the evolution of the landscape and the prehistoric economic and social aspects, the interdisciplinary approach has occupied an increasingly important place, being promoted and supported since 2001 by Lecturer Dr. Vasile BUDUI, from the Department of Geography and within GeA. Following collaborations with teams of archaeologists from the Bucovina National Museum in Suceava, several settlements and tumulus necropolises on the territory of the Suceava Plateau were researched, including: the settlement at Adâncata, the settlement at Baia, the Adâncata Imaș tumulus necropolis, the necropolis at Horodnic de Jos, etc.

The importance of interdisciplinarity in tumulus research was highlighted from the beginning of the collaboration through the results obtained for tumulus no. 2 from the Adâncata necropolis; In 2001, it was demonstrated that at the base of the ancient trampling soil, in T2, a soil cleaning was practiced, then a rectangular ditch was dug, above which a small stone construction was built, in which deceased, mostly cremated, were deposited; on the surface of the mound, a discontinuous circular ring was created, composed of Sarmatian sandstone slabs; also, pedological analyses showed the overlapping of the tumulus construction made of nearby soil material over a humus layer deposited at the base, thus providing clarifications regarding the construction method of mound T2. For the tumulus necropolis at Adâncata, radiocarbon dating was carried out, which partially intuited the succession of three populations with different origins and funerary manifestations, but having as a common denominator the erection of tumuli.

Gradually, the collaboration expanded to include specialists from Ukraine and Poland. The most recent interdisciplinary research project, in which Lecturer dr. Vasile BUDUI also participates, started in the fall of 2024 and is coordinated by Jan ROMANISZYN (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The project “The waves of Kurganization. Multidisciplinary studies of Early and Middle Bronze Age Pre-Carpathian barrow societies” was won in a competition launched by the National Scientific Center of Poland (2023/49/B/HS3/00966). This project aims to investigate the remains dating back to the Bronze Age in the Suceava Plateau, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the large-scale work being carried out by a Polish-Romanian team. The project aims to conduct a complex investigation of several funerary monuments (tumuli), both from an archaeological, geomorphological, geological and pedological point of view, in addition to those already researched and published, from Adâncata, Horodnic de Jos, Plopeni, Grigorești and other tumuli necropolises in the mentioned area. The activities themselves began with a series of identifications and localizations in the field in the fall of 2024, using non-invasive methods (remote sensing, LIDAR scanning, magnetometry, georadar) or minimally invasive methods (drilling to collect samples for observations, preliminary analyses and radiocarbon dating), then continuing in 2025 with the opening of some tumuli; the pedological analyses of the collected samples will help clarify some aspects regarding the tumuli construction, and will also be a clear benchmark regarding how the soil evolves over time under given conditions; according to the project program, the activities will continue until the summer of 2027.



*Lecturer dr. Vasile **BUDUI***