**The Human and Habitation in Prehistoric and Early-Historic Lithuania: Continuity and Change**

Culture is never static, yet the distinction of its constituent parts and archaeological characteristics creates a seemingly finite collection of these features, identifiable as the archaeological culture. Constant transformation in the evolution of humanity encompasses things such as environmental appropriation, economic, technological, behavioural, demographic and spiritual culture, religion, and other aspects. Lifestyles change, as do features of the material culture reflected in archaeological objects and artefacts, settlement structures, the nature of contact with other groups, its direction and significance, social organisation, customs, and other features that make up the identity of the individual and the community.

When researching these changes and transformations, it is important to answer the question what prompted them: were they the outcome of internal development, or did the inspiration come from elsewhere? To what extent did they influence lifestyles and the expression of identity? Which ones were fundamental at the level of the whole pre-Baltic/Baltic region? On the other hand, the past is not necessarily a consistent and constant process of transformation. Change itself is dynamic. To grasp this dynamic, to identify the continuity and the stages of the change, to understand them in their context and to make cause/outcome connections, is the challenge that an archaeologist faces.

The programme focuses on three main components and chains connecting them, which are understood as links through mutually related causalities.

The main component of the programme is the human (community). Being affected by the surrounding nature (and adapting it), the social and cultural environment (trade, the exchange of ideas, competition, conflicts, etc.), the human forms his own unique lifestyle or culture (economic and behavioural models, technologies, social organisation, spiritual culture and identity). Lifestyles can change for various internal and external reasons (inner development, challenges and achievements, external influences, or supporting others when in need). This dynamic (transformation, consistent changes or stages of continuity), embodied in the material archaeological heritage, is the main connecting chain linking all the planned research by the participants in this programme.

**Objectives of the programme:**

1.      To research the natural environment and its impact on lifestyles, settlement, living spaces, their systems and the processes of their formation, and various post-depositional processes and factors.

2.      To study lifestyles and daily life, economy, and the adaptation of the natural environment for economic activity and habitation.

3.      To research technologies, crafts, technological innovations and their spread, communication, exchange and trade, and the expansion of cultural innovations.

4.      To research social organisation, hierarchy, social relations, social transformations and development, and their connection with internal and external factors; to study conflict and warfare.

5.      To investigate behavioural models, the identity, ideology, customs and rituals.

 6.  To publish archaeological findings and archival materials.