



CIFA

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Chartered
Institute for
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Innovation festival

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'Mapping intentionality: demonstrating innovation in Neolithic pottery uptake in the Eastern Balkans' (H2020-MSCA-IF-2017).

European Neolithization is a complex prehistoric process, associated with movements of people, objects and ideas from Asia into the new European territories.

This project recovers and interprets the hidden technological variability in the first prehistoric pottery in the Eastern Balkans – a region acting as a bridge between the two continents.

The multi-analytical and cross-disciplinary approach reveals the innovative adaptations to local conditions that the adoption of pottery production, as a new technology, must have involved in the Early Neolithic period.

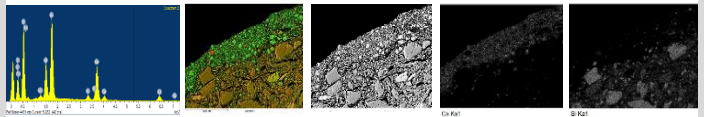
Moreover, it reveals a variability of decorative styles, characteristic of various groups of population that shared not only common territories, but also similar aesthetic views expressed in material culture, such as pottery and its decoration.



Coiling technique: shaping the vessels



Paints: chemical analysis



The technological variety established within each of the major technological components of pottery production is interpreted in the context of the local raw materials (availability) and technical approaches (decision making) at each archaeological site.

These findings were communicated at primary and secondary schools for students to:

- recreate pottery making activities (simple vessels) – as ceramic technology was a key innovation and a leading craft in the ancient world.
- understand how different groups of population lived and created together over the centuries.

The focus is on the regions and schools with highest percentage of students from ethnic minorities and vulnerable children.



White-painted pottery: vessels and fragments

