




# ERC Consolidator Grant



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

*Małgorzata Kot*

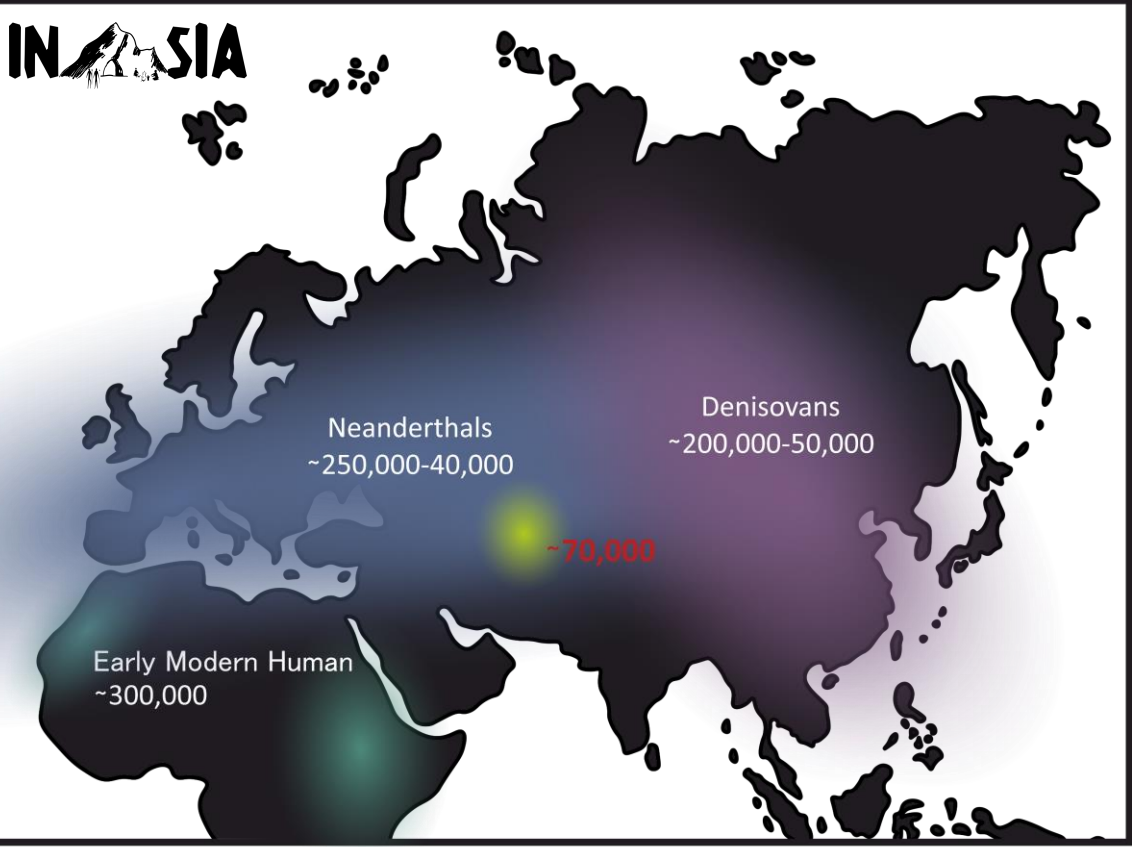
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**IN  ASIA**

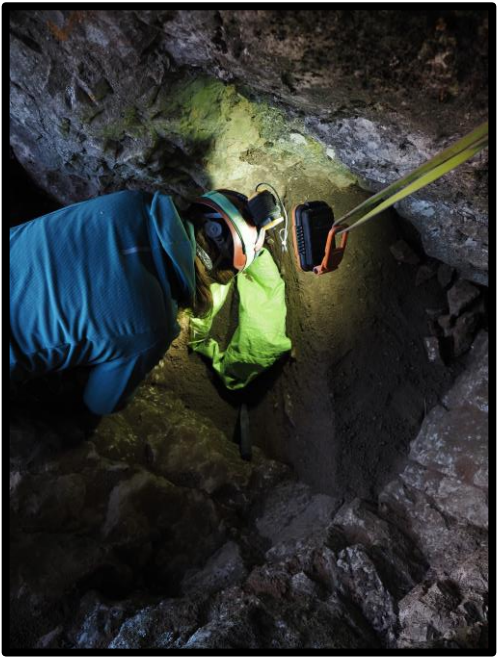
Were They Modern Humans?

The Problem of the Initial Upper Palaeolithic in West Central Asia

IN ASIA

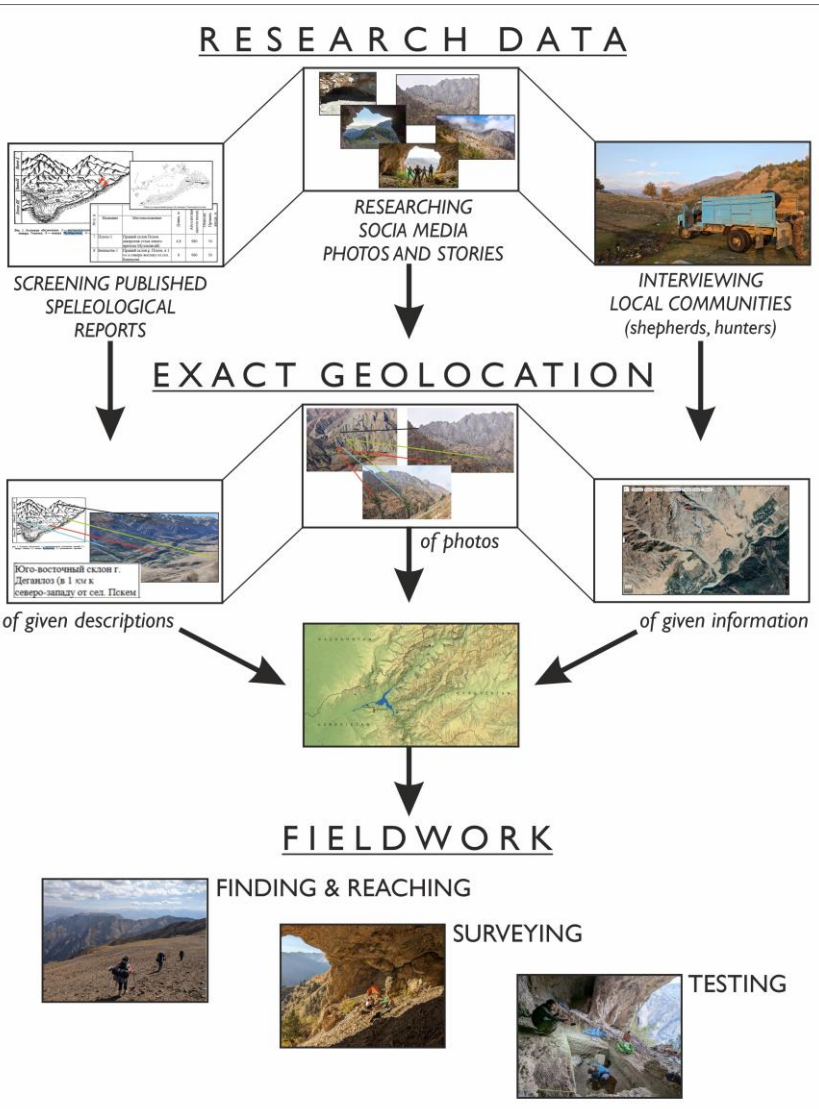


# caves

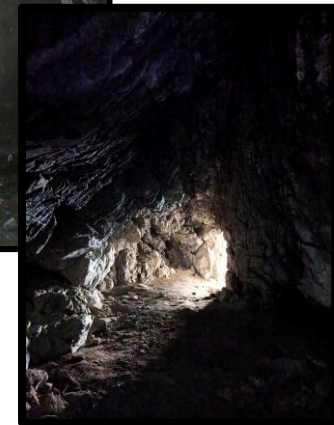


what if you don't find anything?





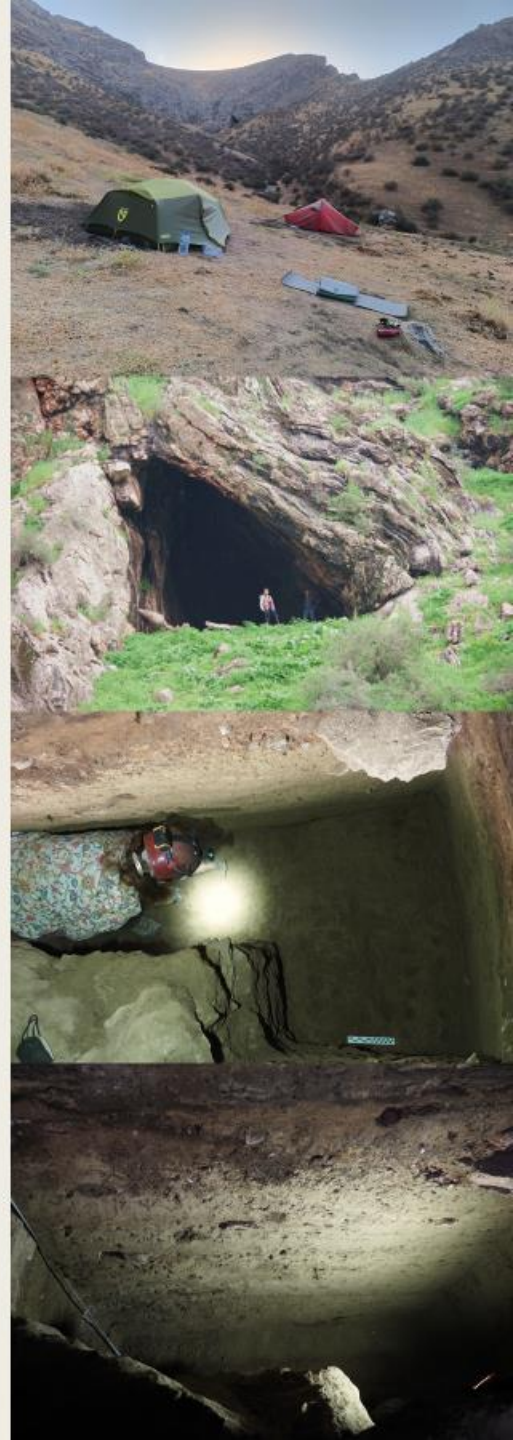
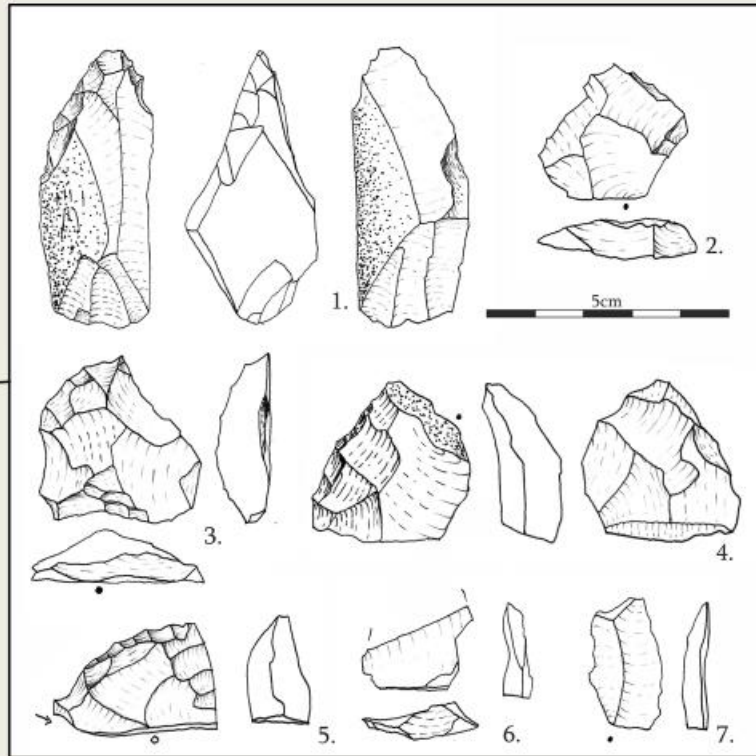
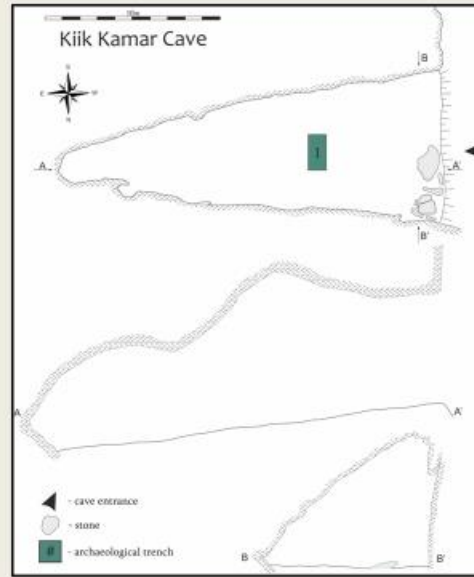
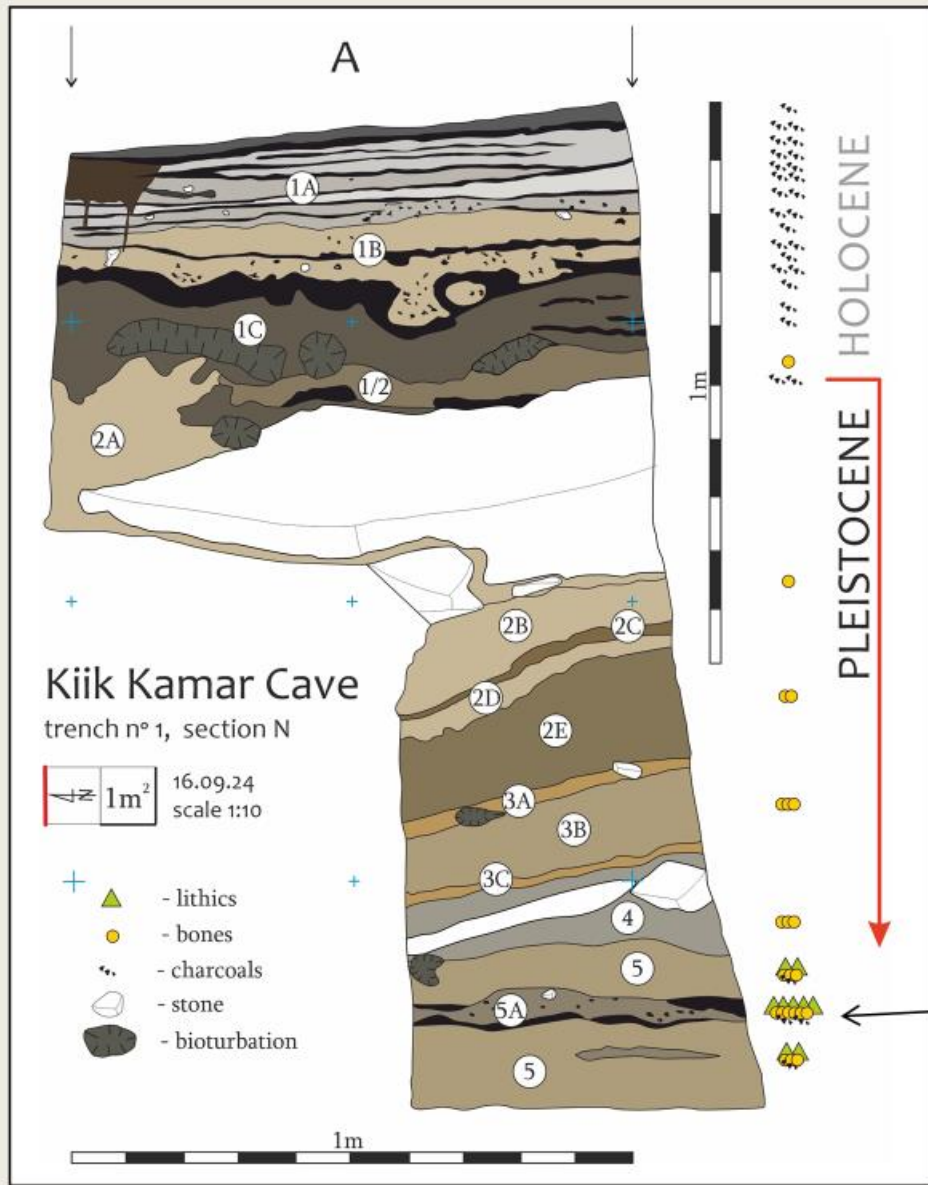














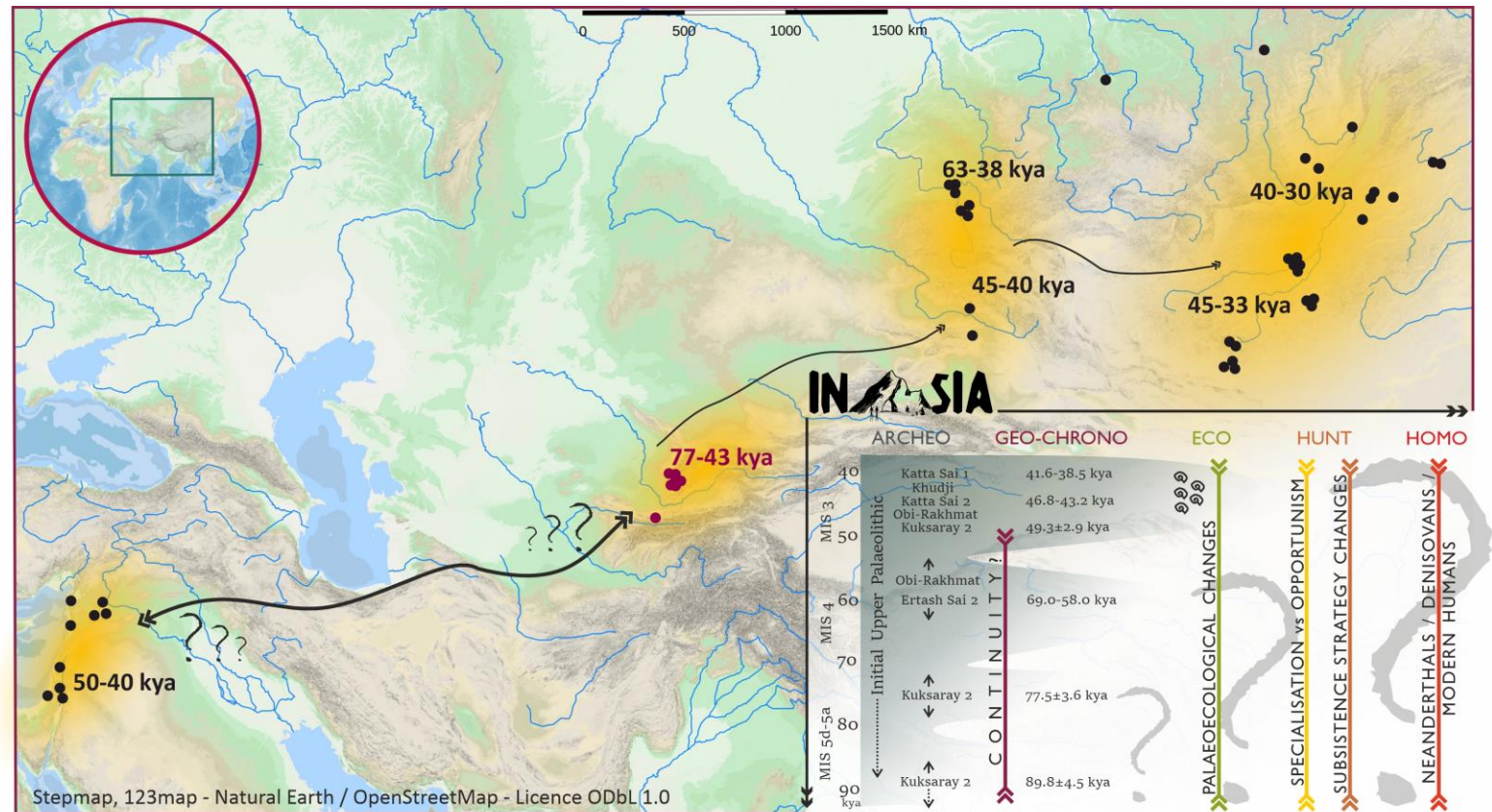
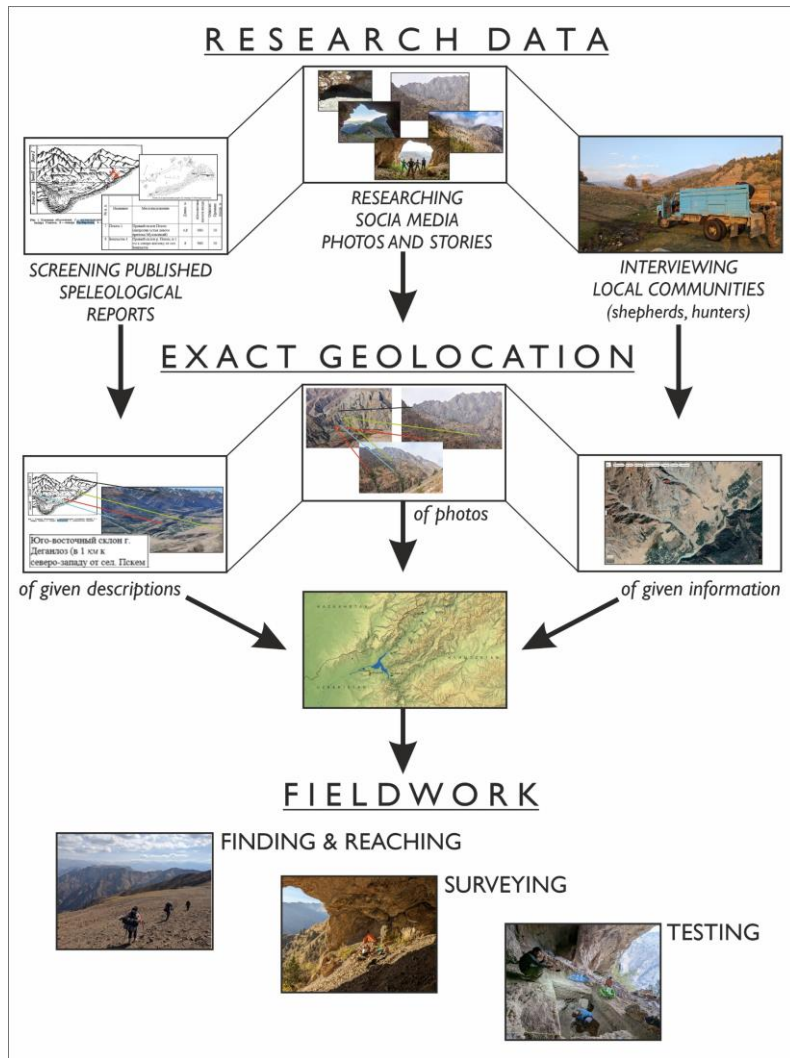




# ERC proposal

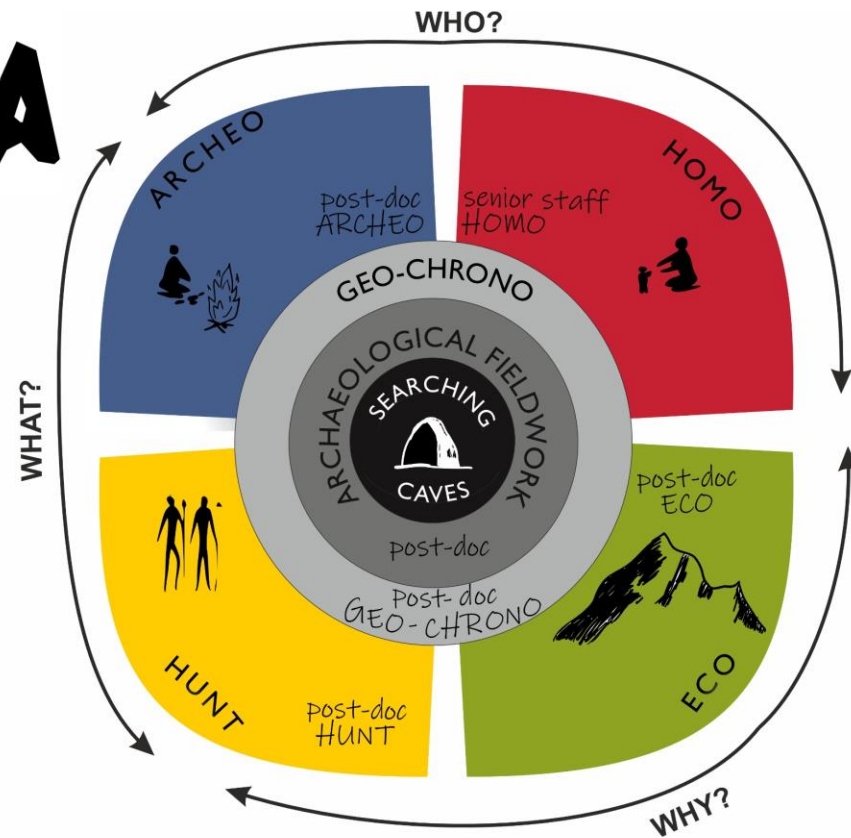
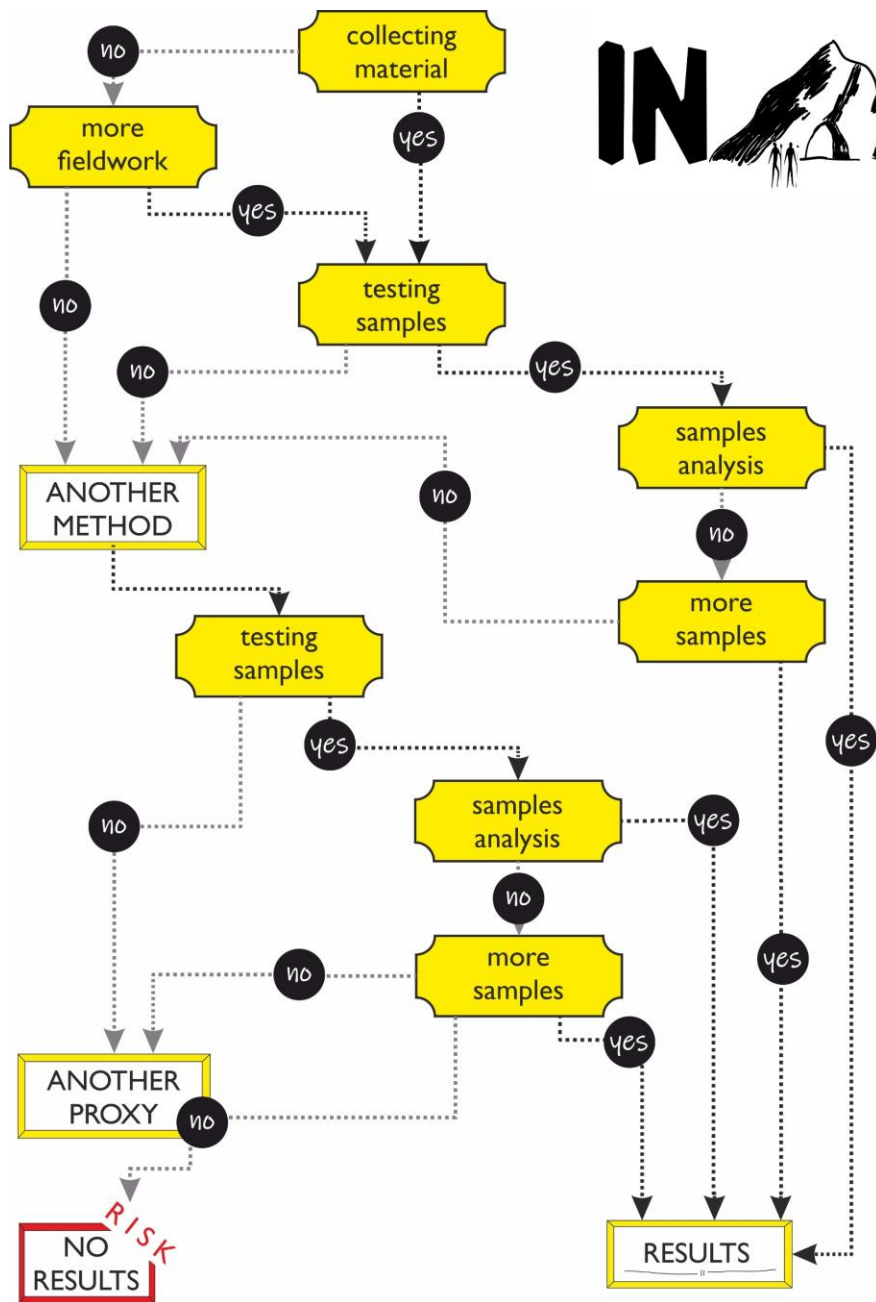
## simple

## but...

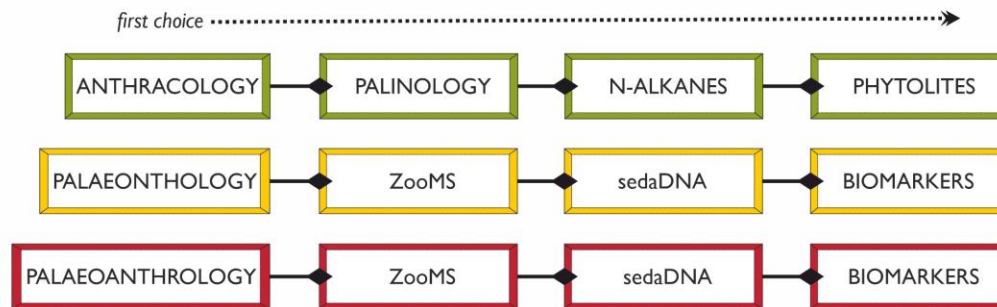




# INDONESIA

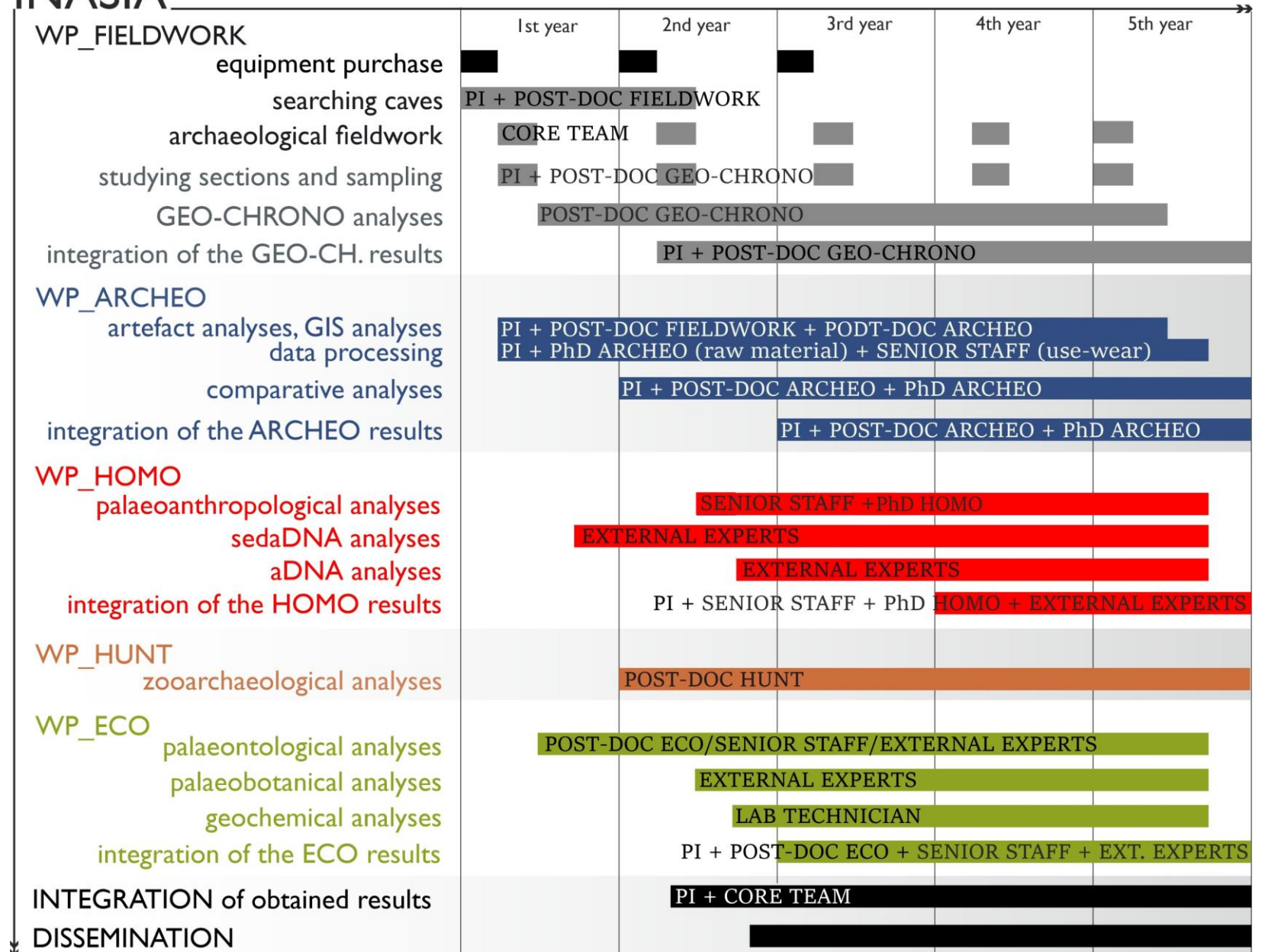


## CHAIN OF ANALYSES





# INASIA





<p><b>A. PERSONNEL</b></p> <p>Apart from the PI, who will dedicate 75% of her working time to the project, the core team will consist of five post-doc researchers, with 50% of their working time for 48 months. These positions will be opened to conduct the analyses within the following research sections: FIELDWORK, ARCHAEO, GEO-CHRONO, ECO, HUNT. Two PhD students, contributing 80% of their working time for 48 months, will also be involved. One will conduct the raw material procurement analyses, and the other will be devoted to palaeoanthropological or palaeontological analyses, depending on the quantity of material collected in the field. Additionally, one lab technician will be recruited, working part-time (50%) for 36 months, to participate in the geochemical analyses of lipids, bile acids and PAHs.</p> <p>Three senior staff members will participate in the project, conducting use-wear, palaeoanthropological &amp; malacological analyses. These experts already work in the HI, are high-value specialists in their expertise, and have access to the necessary lab equipment, e.g. digital microscope Keyence VH-Z100R for microscopic analyses. Due to the project's flexible approach, we plan to allocate in total 25% of work time over 18 months for all senior staff members. The division will depend on the quantity of collected material.</p> <p>Since the University of Warsaw is an HR Excellence in Research award holder, all new researchers will be recruited according to the principles of the European Charter and Code included in the University's rules of recruitment for scientific staff. All job positions will be published at UW, the Ministry of Science, Higher Education websites and the EC EURAXESS portal for mobile researchers.</p> <p><b>B. SUBCONTRACTING</b></p> <p>Due to the project's multidisciplinary approach, several analyses will be conducted using external experts or outsourced services. This includes micromorphology section preparation (ca 50 samples/35€); geochemical analyses (ca 250 samples/11€); dating, e.g. 14C dating (ca 60 samples/500€), OSL dating (ca 50 samples/500€); isotope analyses (ca 10 samples/4000€); ZooMS analyses (ca 5000 samples/10€); palaeobotanic analyses (ca 20000€); sedaDNA analyses (ca 500 samples for screening/217,24 € and ca 5% of these for enrichment 196,22€/sample).</p> <p><b>C. PURCHASE COSTS</b></p> <p><b>C.1 Travel and subsistence</b></p> <p>We anticipate that the PI and post-docs will travel 1–2 times/year, with a budget of 12 000€/4 years each; PhD students once/year (9000€/4 years each).</p> <p>We have also allocated 11 400€/5 years to invite Uzbek researchers to Warsaw to bring the lithic artefacts for use-wear analyses and take part in training in sampling methods (7–10 days), travel unit cost – 2280€.</p> <p><b>C.2 Equipment</b></p> <p>For newly recruited team members (6 persons), notebooks will be purchased (ca 1500€/piece) to serve as their main project workstation.</p> <p>To secure the project data, a network-attached storage solution will be used (1500€), additional portable hard disks to secure data in the field (2700€/6 devices) will be needed.</p> <p>Additionally, we will buy a portable digital microscope &amp; portable rack to conduct the palaeontological and palaeoanthropological analyses in the field (4500€).</p> <p><b>C.3 Total other goods, works and services</b></p> <p><b>Consumables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geochemical analyses, including of lipids, bile acids and PAHs, will be conducted by post-doc ECO &amp; one lab technician at the fully equipped Laboratory of Biogeochemistry and Environmental Conservation, University of Warsaw. The analyses require specific chemical reagents. We calculated their cost at 34 000€ for analysing in total ca. 750 sediment samples.</li> <li>- Small lab equipment, including tweezers, ultrasonic washer, magnifiers, etc. (ca 4000€), and sampling equipment, i.e. zip bags, gloves, plastic boxes, sample tubes, etc. (ca 4000€).</li> <li>- For office supplies, we allocated 1500€.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dissemination costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We plan to publish 12 journal articles in, e.g. Nature, PNAS, Quaternary Science Reviews and Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences. English translation and proofreading (5400€). Publications costs in Open Access (ca 2500€/article).</li> <li>- The conference fees (ca. 11 250€ assuming 200/250€ per person).</li> <li>- Project website design, development and maintenance (6000€).</li> <li>- Popularisation of the results in three languages: Polish, Uzbek and English, e.g. set of popular science articles, interviews, presentations at schools (6000€ covering translation costs and graphic design).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other additional direct costs-</b> Server space to share data within the research team will be needed (1500€/year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obligatory audit (6500€).</li> </ul>
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<p><b>D. OTHER COST CATEGORIES</b></p> <p><b>D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services</b></p> <p>The Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw guarantees access to the SEM-EDX scanning microscopes. Unit cost: 25€/1h x 20h. Total cost 500€.</p> <p><b>D.7 ERC additional funding</b></p> <p>The project contains major fieldwork costs. This is due to the fieldwork to be conducted in the Western Tian Shan mountains in Uzbekistan. High-mountain conditions require special equipment to build a secure base camp and conduct fieldwork. Due to restrictions on the transportation of bones out of Uzbekistan, we will conduct some analyses during the fieldwork. Additionally, we will set up a dedicated field lab to sample human &amp; animal remains and transport the samples for further analyses.</p> <p><b>Travel and subsistence</b></p> <p><b>FIELDWORK:</b> archaeological excavations. Travel cost of 5 team members to Uzbekistan x 5 years; duration of a single fieldwork season – 60 days. In total 141 500€. Includes accommodation and alimentation costs: 1 500 days x 76€ person/day (minimal calculated based on Polish law regulations); travel costs 1000€ per flight; visa cost: 100€ per person.</p> <p><b>FIELDWORK:</b> study visits of team members in Uzbekistan to conduct further analyses. Travel cost of 7 team members to Uzbekistan x 5 fieldwork campaigns; duration of a single study visit – 21 days. In total 90 860€. Calculation as above.</p> <p><b>Consumables</b></p> <p>Fieldwork and basecamp equipment: small fieldwork equipment including trowels, sieves, ropes, etc. (10000€), base camp equipment including, e.g. satellite phones, handheld transceivers, shadow tents, tents, sleeping bags, camp tables, stools (14 800 €), field-kitchen equipment (1500€), chlorine for water disinfection (1250€), solar panels and battery (1500€).</p> <p>Field lab consumables for sampling: dremel for bone sampling (150€); chemical reagents for collagen extraction and sampling in Uzbekistan (5000€).</p> <p><b>Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific equipment will be needed during fieldwork, including an atmospheric water generator to produce drinking water (3500€); a rugged laptop computer for field documentation (3200€); a 3D scanner to document artefacts and bones at the site (12 000€); a portable Neat Infrared Spectrometer (NIR) for quick and non-destructive assessment of collagen preservation in the field before ZooMS analyses (80 000€).</li> <li>- Additionally, the field lab will be equipped with: a laboratory freezer and compact muffle furnace (2000€); freeze dryer with a vacuum pump (8000€); semi micro balance (1500€), mechanical shaker for sieve analysis and a set of sieves (1800€).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other additional direct costs</b></p> <p>To conduct archaeological fieldwork, we need to hire local field technicians. We allocated 36 000€ to cover the cost of four field technicians/5 years with a salary of 900€/1 month.</p> <p>Car rental for transportation of the equipment and team members (7500€/5 years).</p> <p>Transport of equipment to Uzbekistan by cargo plane ca 10 000€/5 years.</p> <p>Transport of samples from Uzbekistan by plane ca 3000€/year.</p> <p>HI. Founded in 1816, the University of Warsaw (UW) is the largest and the best (Shanghai Ranking) higher education establishment in Poland – among the top 4% of the world's universities. UW has so far hosted 32 ERC Grants of all kinds. Researchers from UW have been conducting archaeological fieldwork in Uzbekistan for 30 years. UW offers equipped laboratories to conduct all the planned core analyses as well as administrative, financial and legal support to implement the project.</p>
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- ✓ financial model
    - ✓ native speaker proofreading
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- ✓ *Granty na Granty* programme
  - ✓ project LOGO
    - ✓ meeting with a native speaker
      - +/- mock interview






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The Problem of the Initial Upper Palaeolithic in West Central Asia