



Identifying the food cultures of ancient Europe: an interdisciplinary investigation of plant ingredients, culinary transformation and evolution through time

Fact Sheet

Project Information

PLANTCULT

Grant agreement ID: 682529

[Project website](#)

DOI

[10.3030/682529](https://doi.org/10.3030/682529)

Project closed

EC signature date

16 March 2016

Start date

1 April 2016

End date

31 March 2022

Funded under

EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council (ERC)

Total cost

€ 1 891 875,00

EU contribution

€ 1 891 875,00

Coordinated by

ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO
THESSALONIKIS



Greece

Objective

The project seeks to explore culinary practice among early farming European communities, from the Aegean to Central Europe, spanning the Neolithic through to

the Iron Age (7th-1st millennia BC). The project seeks to identify the ‘food cultures’ of prehistoric Europe, and to reconstruct how cultivated and wild plant foods were transformed into dishes exploring their underlying cultural and environmental contexts and their evolution through time. The project will explore how culinary identities were shaped through the selection of plant foods both in terms of ingredients as well as processing and cooking practices. Thus not only species and meals but also the equipment involved in plant food preparation will be considered for the study area, linking the end product to the relevant technologies of transformation. Macroscopic and microscopic examination of the archaeological finds and experimental replication of various aspects of food preparation techniques informed by ethnographic investigations will form the main analytical tools. The interdisciplinary and contextual examination of the archaeological record will provide a fresh insight into prehistoric cuisine in Europe, the transformation of nature to culture through cooking. The project will revolutionise perceptions of prehistoric food preparation providing insights for the ‘longue durée’ of traditional plant foods constituting Europe’s intangible cultural heritage.

Keywords

Archaeobotany

ancient food studies

starch analysis

phytolith analysis

ground stone tool technology

tool use-wear analysis

cooking devices

prehistoric cuisine

Programme(s)

[H2020-EU.1.1. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council \(ERC\)](#)

MAIN PROGRAMME

Topic(s)

[ERC-CoG-2015 - ERC Consolidator Grant](#)

Call for proposal

[ERC-2015-CoG](#)

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[ERC-COG - Consolidator Grant](#)

Host institution



ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS

Net EU contribution

€ 1 673 675,00

Total cost

€ 1 673 675,00

Address

KEDEA BUILDING, TRITIS SEPTEMVRIΟΥ, ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
546 36 THESSALONIKI

Greece

Region

Βόρεια Ελλάδα > Κεντρική Μακεδονία > Θεσσαλονίκη

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#) [Website](#)

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#)

[HORIZON collaboration network](#)

Beneficiaries (4)



ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS

Greece

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Total cost

€ 1 673 675,00



UNIVERSITAT BASEL

 Switzerland

Net EU contribution

€ 71 250,00

Address

PETERSPLATZ 1

4051 Basel 

Region

Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera > Nordwestschweiz > Basel-Stadt

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Total cost

€ 71 250,00



UNIVERSITAET HOHENHEIM

 Germany

Net EU contribution

€ 89 950,00

Address

SCHLOSS HOHENHEIM

70599 Stuttgart 

Region

Baden-Württemberg > Stuttgart > Stuttgart, Stadtkreis

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Total cost

€ 89 950,00



OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

 Austria

Net EU contribution

€ 57 000,00

Address

DR. IGNAZ SEIPEL-PLATZ 2

1010 Wien 

Region

Ostösterreich > Wien > Wien

Activity type

Research Organisations

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Total cost

€ 57 000,00

Last update: 28 January 2025

Permalink: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/682529>

