

Session 1: **Innovations in the Bronze Age subsistence economy: Regional perspectives**

Before and after millet in Slovenia, south of the Alps to the Balkans

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Results from selected settlements in Slovenia, classified in a chronological order, show that millet appeared in the Late Bronze Age and strongly expanded in the Iron Age. There was no significant difference recognized between the spectra of cultivated and gathered plants of the Late Bronze- and Early Iron-Age settlements. Quite the same spectra of cultivated plants are recognized in both periods. Their frequency does differ, but the small samples and finds that were collected more or less by a chance defer us from making any far-reaching conclusions.

One suspicion could be recognized: it seems that millet and foxtail millet become more popular and important in the Iron Age, while finds of storage pits and prepared food of millet (like porridge) are more often found.

In comparison with the period before the millet appearance (i.e. Early Bronze Age – Eneolithic), much more remains of cereal (barley, einkorn and emmer) and gathered plant taxa could be recognized, but this is more probably the result of different taphonomy (waterlogged preservation) and methodology of plant remains obtaining (sieving methods, etc.).

In Slovenia there is an opinion that millet appeared and spread due to changed environmental (climate, plant diseases, etc.) conditions, as an additional nutrition taxa, that needs very short ripening period and could be therefore sowed after the main crop (i.e. cereals). Particularly when cereal harvest was not enough or failed due to bad weather conditions or parasites/diseases, the millet crop saved people from hunger. Increased military service could also be the reason (for people as well as for domesticated animals; e.g. site Ljubljana-Tribuna was a military camp).