PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

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Project Title	EXTRA-LONG DISTANCE TRADE LITHIC MATERIALS IN THE COPPER AGE ARIUŞD (ERŐSD) GROUP
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1. Project objectives (no more than 10 lines)

The present project was designed to continue a previous initiative (CHARISMA, 2013–2014), dedicated to the petroarchaeological study of the lithic implements from the Copper Age Ariuşd (Erősd) Group in Transylvania (cca. 4500–3800 B.C.). While the earlier investigations were focused mainly on the material of the eponyme settlement (Ariuşd), for the present analysis we have selected archaeological samples from other, recently excavated, key settlements of the Ariuşd Group. The main objective of the project was to provide further data on the geochemical composition of the raw material types we have already identified during the previous studies, with special attention on the so-called 'extra-long distance raw materials' (obsidian and different flint types with non-local origin). In a wider context, our goal was to obtain more comparative raw material data, in order to corelate the local informations in the overall image of the Ariuşd-Cucuteni-Trypillia cultural complex.

2. Main achievements and difficulties encountered (no more than 20 lines)

The present investigation was applied for a number of 40 chipped lithic material samples, provening from the settlements of Boroşneu Mic (Kisborosnyó)-Borzvára, Doboşeni (Székelyszáldobos)-Borvízoldal, Malnaş Băi (Málnásfürdő)-Füvenyestető and Olteni (Oltszem)-Vármege, all of them dated in the early stages of the Ariuşd Group. The artefacts were selected in such way to represent all the suspected raw material categories. The samples were subjected to non-destructive Prompt Gamma Activation Analysis (PGAA) in the Budapest Neutron Center. Apart from minor difficulties caused by the small size of some samples, which led to a lenghtening of the measurement time, the investigation can be considered complete and successful. Although the final evaluation of the results is still in progress, summarising the the data analysis we can say that the measurements were able to identify and determine the quantity of the major components and some minor trace elements of the main raw material types. These data confirm (and enrich with additional informations) the earlier observations regarding the raw material usage of the Copper Age communities from Eastern Transylvania. The main long distance raw materials, wich can be determinded accurately, were the moldavian Prut- and Volhynian Flint and, in much smaller amounts, the Balkan Flint and the Carpathian Obsidian. In the latter case, the recent observations are indicating more likely the use of the so-called 'Carpahian I' Type. For the time being we cannot determine major differences in the lithic industry of the investigated settlements. But a more detailed comparison, with additional analysis, will hopefully prevail the answers to this problem as well. Hovewer, the significant number of these long distance trade goods is highlighting the extensive cultural and economical relationships of the prehistoric community.