



49ème Colloque International de l'AFEAF

*Food economies in Iron Europe:
Production and consumption from the mountains to the coast*

Lleida (15-17 May 2025)

The consolidation of the agricultural economy stemming from the expansion of cereal farming is a notion that is essential to understand the development of Iron Age communities. The end of the Bronze Age marked the beginning of a period characterised by significant changes in land occupation and systems of exploitation, as well as in settlement patterns with the emergence of fortified sites. These changes observed at a European scale, although manifesting different rates and intensity of development, constitute a complex phenomenon that is worthy to explore and compare from a variety of socio-economic and political perspectives.

Certain research has linked changes in land occupation patterns and site typology to political and technological changes that had a decisive impact on the agricultural and livestock production systems of the Late Bronze Age. These transformations, particularly intense from the Iron Age onwards, led to profound changes in local societies and economies, forever altering the perception and management of the territory.



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The theme of the **49th AFEAF Congress** to be held in Lleida is motivated by the fact that 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the meeting on ‘*Food products of plant origin in the Iron Age in Western Europe: from production to consumption*’ held in Girona, Catalonia, in 1998. The future meeting thus offers an excellent opportunity to organise a gathering presenting the latest scientific developments related to research on the Iron Age food economy in Europe (from a broader perspective than agricultural production). The intention is to promote a review of the new bioarchaeological data and the techniques of the last two decades serving the study of the evolution of production and consumption systems in European Iron Age societies. The meeting will also offer the opportunity to review the latest research in progress in all areas of the archaeology of food production and technological innovation regardless of whether they concern inland valleys, mountainous or coastal settlements or the first urban sites.

Dates and location

The congress will be held from 15 to 17 May 2025 in Lleida (Catalonia) in the [Old Rectorate building](#) of the University of Lleida (in the city centre).

Partner entities and institutions



Themes of the sessions

- **Session 1 - *Producing, storing and consuming: interdisciplinary methodological advances for the characterisation and study of food economies (25 years after the AFEAF meeting in Girona in 1998)***. This session focuses on methodological approaches and seeks to highlight the latest methodologies (biochemical and palaeogenomic analyses, spatial analyses and modelling, experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, etc.).



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- **Session 2 - *From mountain to coast: adaptation, change and interaction linked to food production and practices.*** The second session focuses mainly on work related to characterising changes (and/or continuity) in food production and consumption in different ecosystems. The aim is to better assess the nature of these changes, their pace within territories, and the intensity of exchange/circulation of food products between mountain, inland plain, and coastal areas.
 - **Session 3 - *The Iron Age in Europe: innovations and diffusion of agricultural production technologies.*** The third session focuses on technological innovations applied to agricultural and livestock production and their impact and diffusion within local economies and the social organisation of production both throughout mountainous and coastal areas or connected to inland areas.

The themes of the three sessions aim to explore how Iron Age economies adapted and integrated into Mediterranean markets. Yet how is it possible to observe the initial phases of implementing these interconnected economies through archaeological indicators?

Sessions 2 and 3 prioritise a diachronic approach along various scales to address the following topics:

- Incorporating and integrating technological innovations in agricultural production.
- Management of new cultivation areas and the emergence of specialised productions.
- Evolution of storage capacities and surplus accumulation.
- Changes in the mobility of people, animals, and goods between territories.
- Integration of animals in agricultural work and transportation.
- Interdisciplinary contributions integrating archaeological, bioarchaeological, ethnographic, and biochemical data.

Formats of the presentations

The proposals will follow the three following formats:

- 1. Oral communications**
- 2. Posters**
- 3. Mini-posters**

The mini-poster format aims to highlight bioarchaeological research. The purpose is to render visible these less ‘spectacular’ (seeds, wood fragments, charcoal, pollen, phytoliths, bone fragments, potsherds with organic residues, experimental objects, ethnoarchaeological objects, etc.) that are usually excluded from museums and exhibitions. The intention is to emphasise



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their scientific and discursive potential and highlight all the information that can be obtained through their study. Originality is the primary criterion for acceptance. The mini-poster should comprise only 1000 characters (approximately 150 words) and 1 or 2 images. A template will be provided corresponding to a single page in the proceedings. This format should yield a new corpus of materials that does not adapt to the classic poster format but is noteworthy and deserves presentation. It adopts a more visual format, similar to that of a photographic exhibition, prioritising high-resolution images to display the material or object.

Proposals for papers, posters, or mini-posters must be submitted before 15 September 2024. They must consist of author(s) details, a title and an abstract of 2500 to 3000 characters for oral communications, 1500 characters for posters, and 1000 characters for mini-posters.

Congress Secretariat

Submission of proposals through the following online form (one per contribution):

- [EN Form](#)
- [FR Form](#)

For poster and mini-poster proposals, **templates and design guidelines will be provided.** Please send them in the specified format exclusively to this address: afeaf.lleida2025@gmail.com

Publication of the proceedings

The publication of the proceedings (in the AFEAF Collection) is scheduled for May 2027.

The deadline for manuscript submission is 15 October 2025, and compliance with this deadline is mandatory.

Excursion

Exceptionally this year, the conference organisation has been changed for practical reasons: the conference will be held on the first two days, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 May, and the excursion on Saturday 17 May, allowing visitors to discover three major sites in the region.

1. **The Fortress of Els Vilars** (Arbeca, les Garrigues): 800-300 BC.
2. Lunch in the cellar and wine tasting from the Vinya Els Vilars winery (Arbeca).
3. **Tumular necropolis of Almenara** (Urgell): 900-600 BC.
4. **Iberian city of Molí d'Espígol** (Tornabous, Urgell): 800-50 BC.



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Gala dinner

A gala dinner will be held at the [La Llotja](#) restaurant in Lleida City.

Organising committee

Philippe Barral (Président de l'AFEAF), **Valérie Taillandier** (Secrétaire de l'AFEAF), **Philippe Gruat** (Trésorier de l'AFEAF), **Natàlia Alonso** (Universitat de Lleida), **Ariadna Nieto-Espinet** (Universitat de Lleida), **Georgina Prats** (Universitat de Lleida), **Alba Castellano** (Universitat de Lleida), **Armelle Gardeisen** (CNRS, ASM-UMR5140, Montpellier), **Núria Rovira** (Université Paul Valéry, ASM-UMR5140, Montpellier), **Miguel Tarongi** (ISEM-CNRS, UMR 5554, Montpellier).

Scientific Committee

Philippe Barral (Président de l'AFEAF), **Valérie Taillandier** (Secrétaire de l'AFEAF), **Philippe Gruat** (Trésorier de l'AFEAF), **Natàlia Alonso** (Universitat de Lleida), **Ariadna Nieto-Espinet** (Universitat de Lleida), **Georgina Prats** (Universitat de Lleida), **Alba Castellano** (Universitat de Lleida), **Armelle Gardeisen** (CNRS, ASM-UMR5140, Montpellier), **Núria Rovira** (Université Paul Valéry, ASM-UMR5140, Montpellier), **Miguel Tarongi** (ISEM-CNRS, UMR 5554, Montpellier), **Veronica Cicolani** (AOrOc, UMR8546 CNRS-PSL), **Ferran Antolín** (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin), **Laurent Bouby** (CNRS, ISEM-UMR5554, Montpellier), **Allowen Evin** (CNRS, ISEM-UMR5554, Montpellier), **Silvia Valenzuela Lamas** (IMF-CSIC, Barcelone), **Meriel McClatchie** (University College of Dublin), **Amy Bogaard** (University of Oxford), **Ermengol Gassiot** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), **Marie-Pierre Horard-Herbin** (Université de Tours), **Angela Trentacoste** (British School, Rome), **David Asensio** (Universitat de Barcelona), **Alexandre Beylier** (Sète agglomération Méditerranée), **Lidia Colominas** (ICAC, Tarragone), **Eric Gailledrat** (CNRS, ASM-UMR5140, Montpellier), **Dominique Garcia** (INRAP), **Josep M^a Palet** (ICAC, Tarragone), **Guillem Pérez Jordà** (Universitat de València), **Carme Rovira** (Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, Barcelone), **Véronique Zech** (MNHN, Paris), **Jaime Vives-Ferrandiz** (Museu de Prehistòria de València), **Luc Jaccottey** (Inrap - UMR 6249, Besançon), **Sammy Ben Makhad** (UMR7209 AASPE, UMR6566 CReAAH).

The participants can indicate in the registration form if they desire to receive the transaction **pre-prints** in digital format (PDF).