



The five-year project (2025-2029) *Archaeological and Palaeogeographic Exploration of the Spercheios Valley (APEXS)* is a cooperative venture between the Polish Archaeological Institute in Athens and the Greek Archaeological Service. The project is co-directed by Maria-Foteini Papakonstantinou, Emerita Ephor of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Eurytania and Professor Jakub Niebieszczanski of the Faculty of Archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

Within the framework of research on human–environment interactions, APEXS focuses on the palaeogeographic reconstruction of the landscape surrounding several well-known prehistoric sites during the Early Holocene. The research is complemented by further archaeological documentation aiming at enhancing our understanding of the cultural evolution of the region through the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

The selected sites are distributed along the west–east axis of the Spercheios Valley and the northern coastline of the Malian Gulf (Central Greece) and have been affected to varying extends by geological processes, particularly fluvial activity (Lianokladi and neighboring Amouri) and sea-level rise (Agia Paraskevi and Rakches). Previous excavation results indicate that the Middle Helladic period represents the best-documented occupational phase at these settlements to date.

The methodological framework integrates geoarchaeological approaches, including vibro-coring, electrical resistivity tomography, and laboratory analysis of sediments, with established archaeological methods, such as excavation and field survey.

APEXs constitutes the international continuation of the long-running Greek APEKS (ΑΠΕΚΣ) initiative (Archaeological and Palaeogeographic Research in the Spercheios Valley - Αρχαιολογική και Παλαιογεωγραφική Έρευνα στην Κοιλάδα του Σπερχειού). The APEKS project has been conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Eurytania in the valley of the Spercheios River since 2006 under the direction of Maria-Foteini Papakonstantinou, then head of the Ephorate and Professor Konstantinos Vouvalidis of the School of Geology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki as the head of the palaeogeographic research. Numerous papers presenting the results of the project are published in various scientific journals and in the proceedings of the AETHSE conferences from 2012 onwards.