From September 16 to 20, 2024, I participated in the Computational Archaeology training school at the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Brno. The participants were from different countries, and it was exciting for me to communicate with participants with diverse backgrounds and experiences. This created a pleasant and interesting working atmosphere.

Working in R is a new experience for me. I have not used it in my research before. At first, working with new programs and knowledge was complicated. However, the organizing team was always available and always helped when there were questions. All materials were always available online, and I could go back to other aspects of the topic to clarify some details for myself. On the last day of the training, I even managed to use the skills I had learned from materials from my region.

I am thrilled with my new knowledge, having learned all perspectives and how they can be used. I am studying Neolithic societies in the south of Ukraine. It was constructive for me to listen to the Keynote lecture as part of this training school. I want to use the skills I have acquired in population dynamics and settlement patterns in the second half of the 5th millennium BCE. In addition, I have access to different materials and data, which will be much easier to organize and use in my research.

In addition, I work part-time at Odesa National University. I plan to use the new knowledge I have gained in my work at the university. I can include it in my classes to study these methods. Another student from Ukraine and I, who also participated in this summer school, decided to organize events within our student archaeological community at the university shortly. We want to study the method at these events, improve our skills and knowledge, and share it with other students and archaeologists.

Since 2023, I and my students have started collecting data on archaeological sites from the Odesa region. Now, we continue to carry out this work. At the summer school, I was impressed by the ARIADNE system and how information about archaeological sites can be organized and accessed. By studying how such databases are created, I can improve how we collect information about the Odesa region. And I hope our work's results will be helpful for many researchers.

I would like to thank the summer school organizers for the opportunity to participate. I gained much helpful knowledge that I will use in my research. I will gladly recommend the following summer schools to my colleagues and students.

Mariia Lobanova