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**11th International Conference
on the Mesolithic in Europe**
Ferrara, 15th-19th September 2025

**PROGRAM &
ABSTRACT BOOK**



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PROGRAM AND
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INTRODUCTION

For its eleventh edition, the MESO Conference will be held for the first time in Italy, hosted by University of Ferrara, from the 15th to 19th September 2025.

The first International Conference on the Mesolithic in Europe was held in 1973 in Warsaw, initiated by Stefan K. Kozłowski. Since then, the Conference has been held every five years, bringing together scholars from leading research institutions and laboratories around the world.

From the outset, these conferences gained significant scientific recognition, playing a key role in advancing research on the Mesolithic and in securing its rightful place in the broader context of prehistoric and archaeological studies.

With one exception, the proceedings have been regularly published, providing valuable updates on the state of research and reflecting the evolving understanding of the Mesolithic as a distinct and meaningful historical period.

The most recent edition took place in Toulouse in 2020. Despite excellent organization, the event was held online due to pandemic-related restrictions.

We now look forward to welcoming the Mesolithic research community in person once again for the 11th edition of the conference, which will be held in Ferrara, continuing the dynamic tradition that has always defined European Mesolithic studies.

THE EARLY MESOLITHIC OCCUPATION OF MALGA STAULANZA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PEOPLING OF THE BELLUNO DOLOMITES (ITALY) DURING THE SAUVETERRIAN

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The recently excavated site of Malga Staulanza (Belluno Dolomites, Italy) adds important new data and offers the chance to test the old hypotheses. The site is an open-air high-altitude settlement (1.681 m a.s.l.), occupied during the Late Glacial (Late Epigravettian) and the Early Holocene (Early Mesolithic, Sauveterrian). The lithic industry related to the latter phase presents typical Sauveterrian features and confirms the existence of a common know-how. However, compared to the other highland sites of the region, the site's altitude is unexpectedly low. Thanks to a multi-disciplinary approach involving lithic technology, raw material analysis, traceology and spatial analysis, it was possible to infer the reasons that led Mesolithic people to occupy this area during the Early Holocene. A complex relationship with local topographic and environmental features emerges from our study. In particular, the driving factor seems to be the presence of an intramorenine pond and its natural resources. Particularly significant is also the presence of a clear-out testified by the uncovering of a tree-throw around which most of the activities took place. These data represent a further step forward in understanding the Mesolithic peopling of one of the best-known territories throughout Europe.