

Bell Beaker Single graves: Chronological insights and Data challenges



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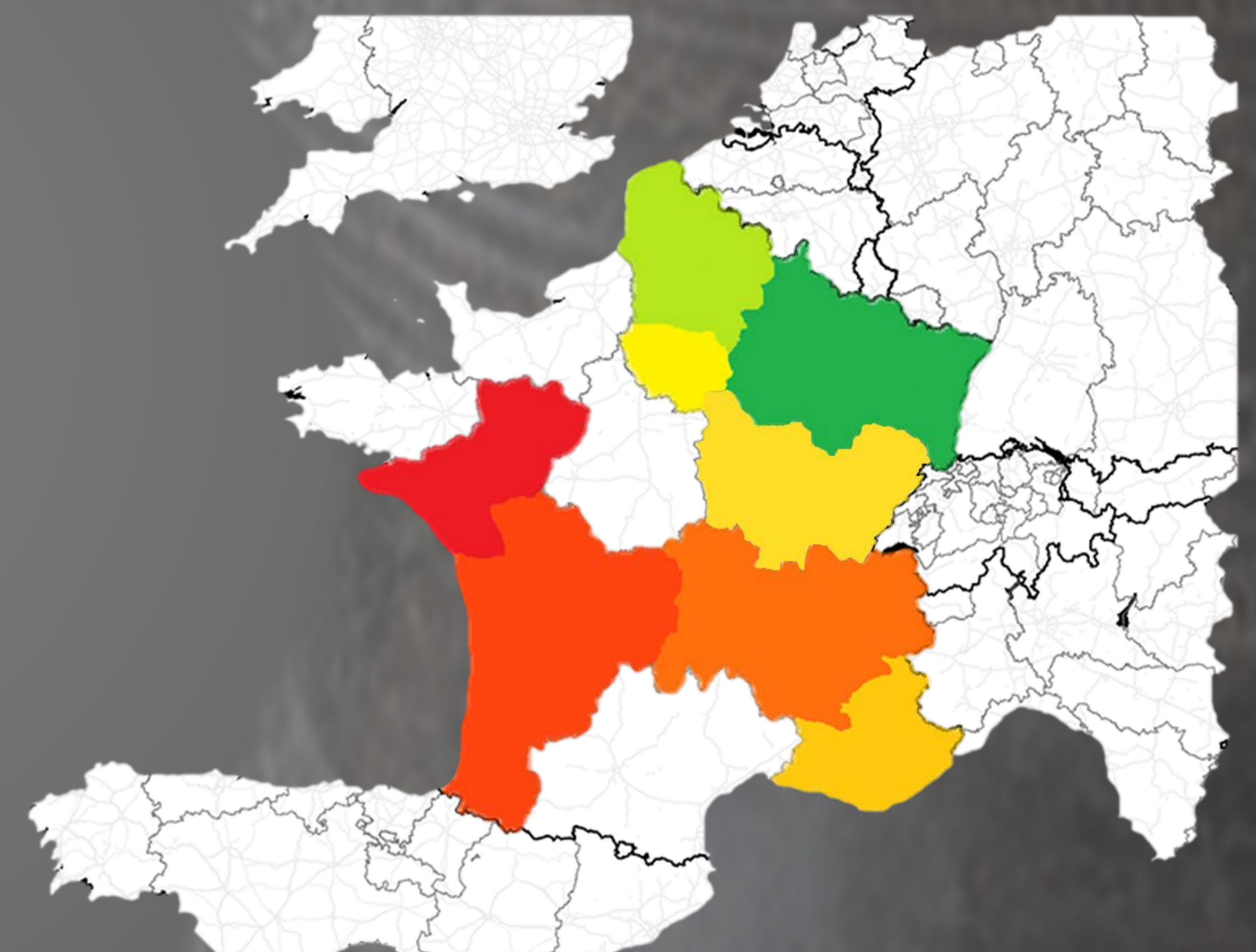
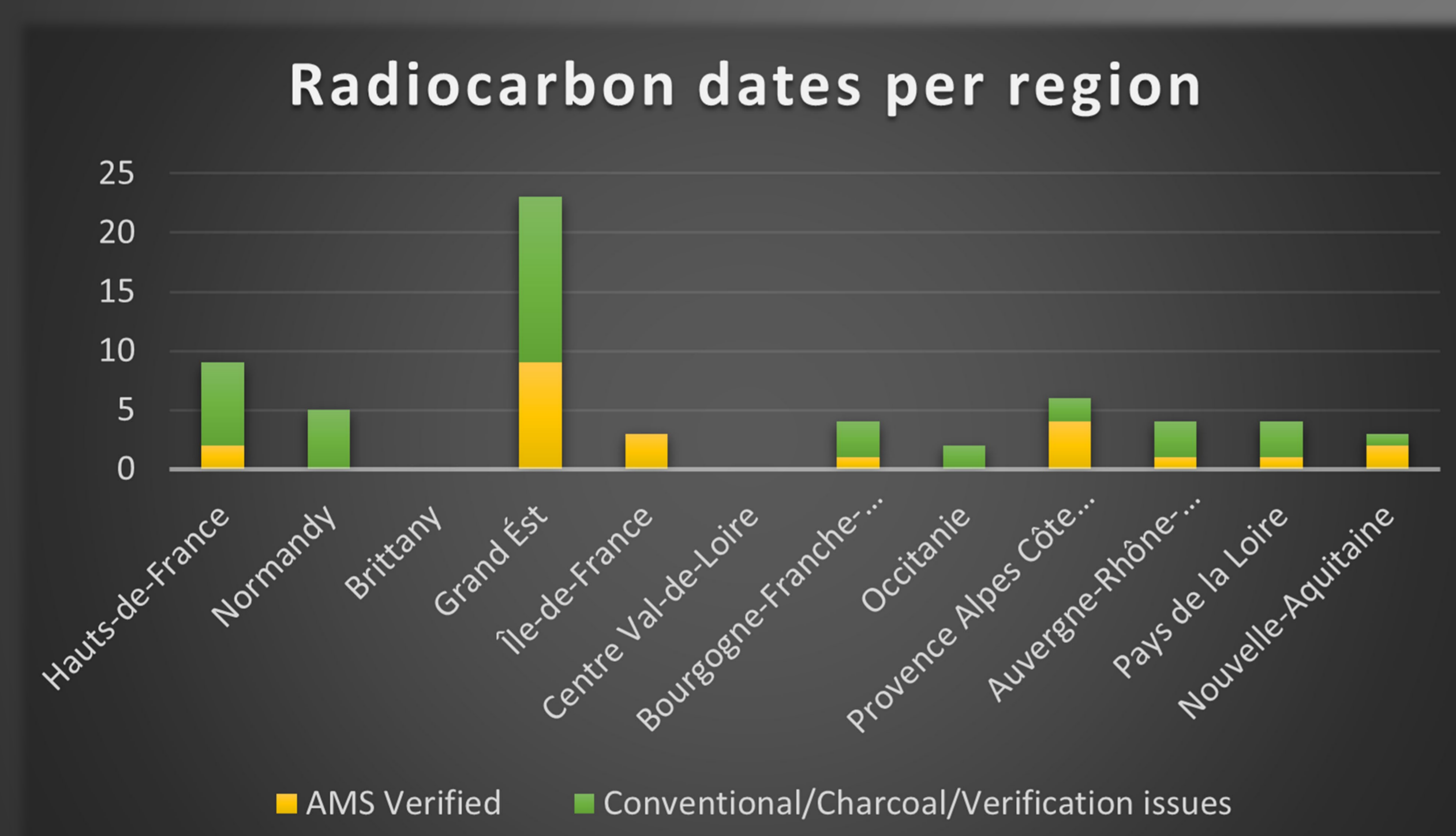
Background and Purpose

From Bell Beaker communal graves to solitary resting places: how to trace the emergence and spatial-temporal distribution of single graves in France?

This poster presents the research of an ongoing PhD project, conducted as part of the ERC Synergy grant COREX. The current focus is a sub-project, utilizing radiocarbon data, for exploring Bell Beaker single graves in France. Despite a limited dataset, mostly due to preservation conditions in some French regions such as Brittany, the study still yields interesting results, exploring transregional mobility and chronological insights. However, the research also highlights a critical concern accompanying dataset compilation from legacy data and methodological data hygiene challenges. The method emphasizes the role of addressing data quality when using radiocarbon data for demographic research.

Results and Conclusions

Due to the selection criteria, the method used in this study led to a restricted dataset. Initially, there were 63 radiocarbon dated single graves under consideration, however, after quality assessment, only 23 AMS radiocarbon dates met the predetermined criteria for inclusion in the analysis. The subsequent presentation of results is illustrated through a representation of France, depicting the regions from which the final dataset was derived. A color gradient scale is utilized, progressing from green to red, to denote the relative chronological positioning of each region in relation to others. In this illustration, green designates the earliest chronology, based on single grave contexts, while red signifies the most recent occurrences. Results show a chronological division between the northern and southern regions of France and possible spatial-temporal correlation between regions.



Method

Principal method for this study is the selection of AMS radiocarbon data, sampled from human bones and dentine, pertaining to closed context single graves. This methodical approach establishes a foundation for a robust model.

The data cleaning process is a crucial step for collecting legacy data and encompasses the gathering, evaluation, standardization, verification, and enrichment of information. The initial phase, data gathering, involves collecting data from an array of sources, from excavation reports to databases. Subsequently, data evaluation assesses the quality and relevance of these sources, identifying gaps and inconsistencies. The verification stage confirms that the gathered data aligns with original publications, and data enrichment involves adding contextual details to enhance the dataset. Lastly, standardization ensures that data adhere to a uniform structure and format.

Data Gathering

Databases
Articles/Reports
Grey literature

Data Verification

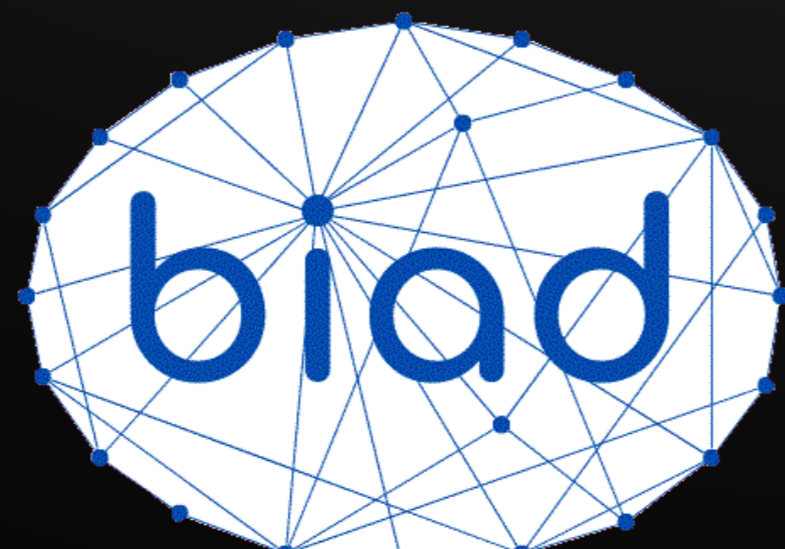
Quality Assurance
Evaluation
Enrichment

Data Cleaning

Standardization
Deduplication

Call for Bell Beaker data !!!

I am grateful for any contribution to the dataset I am compiling for my PhD project. Please forward any data related to the Bell Beaker context to the following email: fredrik.dahlberg@gu.se



Part of the synergy project 'COREX: From Correlations to Explanations: towards a new European prehistory', funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement No. 95138).

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