

**Number of project:**

GUKPOST/7/2025

**Name of the project:**

Unravelling the succession of insectivore and bat metacommunities in the European and Anatolian Miocene fossil record.

**Abstract:**

This project aims to investigate Miocene eulipotyphlan (insectivores) and chiropteran (bat) assemblages to enhance and complete their faunal record. By updating these fossil assemblages, we will identify key faunal associations (metacommunities) across different time periods and regions. Insectivore and bat species are sensitive to environmental factors, so studying the succession of their metacommunities throughout the Miocene will provide valuable insights into the structure and stability of paleocommunities. This research will also help correlate these communities with established faunal systems and examine how environmental changes affected mammal faunas. The project will focus on three main objectives: 1) Revising European Miocene insectivore and bat faunas by comparing collection materials from multiple European institutions. 2) Expanding the small mammal fossil record from peripheral areas through two field campaigns in Anatolia. 3) Conducting statistical (R software) and biogeographical (QGIS software) analyses to assess the similarities and explain the succession of small mammal metacommunities based on their reconstructed characteristics (through actualism, faunal comparisons and biomechanical interpretation). The total budget is 12,000€, with 81% allocated for international travel, 10% for equipment, 8% for consumables and services, and 1% for conference fees.