SUMMARY
This project aims to provide high-resolution, layered specific microstratigraphic analysis at the Neolithic-Bronze Age, lakeside settlement of Dispilio (Kastoria, northern Greece), in order to examine the human selection strategies within an alternating lacustrine regime, observe the occupational history of the site in its geomorphological context and highlight the significance of lakes as favorable habitats for the Neolithic dwellers. The basic analytical tools for this study are sedimentology and soil micromorphology, through which it is possible to study site formation processes, differentiate post-depositional disturbances and observe the relationships and arrangements of the cultural materials in their natural context.

The thesis includes 12 chapters: 1. An introduction including the problem description, the aims, objectives and restrictions of research. 2. An overview of the wetland archaeology paradigm with emphasis on the lacustrine natural processes and the site formation processes of the lake-dwelling sites. 3. A review of the theoretical and methodological approaches applied to the study of the lake dwelling settlements. 4. A description of the materials, the methods and the sampling strategy. 5. A presentation of the physical setting of the broader region of the study area, including an overview of climate and archaeology. 6. An outline of the climate, vegetation, geology and geomorphology of the study area and of the previous research regarding site formation processes and lake level reconstructions. 7. A presentation of the sedimentological and micromorphological analysis together with the macroscopic observations as indicators of natural processes and microenvironments, of water energy and water levels, of post-depositional features and anthropogenic structures and activities. 8. A description of the results of the sedimentological analysis, followed by interpretation remarks. 9. A presentation of the results of the micromorphological analysis with interpretative remarks. 10. The radiocarbon results and their correlation to the chronological framework of the previous research. 11. A synthesis of the results, associated with the environmental and archaeological data of the broader region. 12. A concluding chapter, which reviews the main objectives, limitations and accomplishments of this dissertation.

A strong accomplishment of this project, has been the integration of different methodological tools, in order to understand the environmental and anthropogenic induced changes in the site as a multiscalar process. The three-dimensional entity of a human-related space was described at a given time, with the integration of the human activities and the local environmental conditions. This process, together with the
radiocarbon results led to the construction of a solid stratigraphic background, on which the excavation data and the individual scientific analysis can be placed and interpreted. The main occupational phases of the settlement extend throughout the MN and the LNI. During this period, the site underwent many phases of habitation and subsequent destructions from conflagration, destructing part of, or the whole settlement. At the same time, the site has been subject to a number of alternating inundations. These events, nonetheless, do not seem to pose a restriction to the evolution of the settlement, as is attested by the intensive anthropogenic activity during and after the regression-transgression episodes. It is denoted therefore that floods must have had a diverse effect on the decision making of the lake dwellers, not always signifying a problem. The understanding of geomorphological processes in a local level has not only offered invaluable information on the impact of naturally induced processes on the archaeological site, but by correlating these processes with regional environmental and cultural events, one can decipher the role of environmental changes as triggers of cultural modifications.