#### 3 Summary

The purpose of this dissertation is to achieve new knowledge on textiles, tools, technological development and human relations in the Early Iron Age within the present Danish territory. As far as possible, the dissertation is based on studies of all tablet woven bands and tablets dated to the Early Iron Age. The results have been achieved by historical technological analysis of tablet weaving as an element of design and construction in connection with textiles from the Early Iron Age. The theoretical approach is based on the theory of chaîne operatoire (operative chains) where the tablet weavings are seen as a result of a chain of actions. In general, the method of Lise Bender Jørgensen is applied – a method where approximately all textiles are recorded and where statistics are worked out on the basis of the recorded data. For the analysis of the tablet woven textiles it was necessary to develop a method of preservation weighted comparative analysis for a.o. the optimization of data foundation. The results show that tablet weaving can yield information on a number of issues outside the technology of the weaving method itself. The results reveal that tablet weaving came to Denmark in an already developed state around CE. That just one find possibly need to be dated back to Pre Roman Iron Age, that there are few tablet weavings from Early Roman Iron Age and significantly more from the Later Roman Iron Age. In Early Roman Iron Age 90 % of the tablet weavings are woven so that they are integrated in another textile and 10 % are woven as independent bands. In the Late Roman Iron Age tablet weaving can be divided into two craft traditions:

1. Tablet weaving as an auxiliary technique for the warp weighted loom where tablet weaving primarily serves a practical function and is executed as part of a household production. The tablet weavings would have a single warp.
2. Tablet weaving as a work of prestige for well off women where the tablet weaving primarily had an ornamental function. The tablet weavings would have a plyed warp.

It follows that if the warp threads can be observed on small fragments this may offer the possibility of an interpretation of those fragments.

Besides, it is demonstrated that tablet weaving with a 2-threaded warp and 2 single threads as weft may have been cloaks with tablet woven borders – the so called “prachtmanteln”. In the analysed material were found fragments of 14 cloaks of this type.

Hitherto it has been assumed that if a piece of textile had tablet woven borders it was woven on a warp weighted loom because this loom demanded a steady starting border for holding the warp – in this case the starting border was woven **before** the rest of the textile. But the results reveal that that tablet weaving woven to the edge of another textile with a 2-threaded warp would have been woven to the edge of the textile **after** the weaving of the entire textile. Therefore, a number of those weavings that previously has been noted as produced on a warp weighted loom probably was woven on at tubular loom instead. This indicates that the change of weaving technology and the change from the tubular loom to the warp weighted loom probably was not as so sudden after all. The two types of looms may have coexisted within a period of time.

Furthermore, chaîne operatoire has been applied in order to reach an understanding of the weavings at the mental level and hereby to reach an anthropological level of understanding. By the registration of exceptions from the standard method of weaving (errors etc.) it is possible to gain information about the individual weaver and the working conditions the weaver was part of. The results show examples of the fact that the weaver has had a concept for the design of the band but not always the required know-how for executing the work accordingly. Furthermore, there are examples of bands that seem to be the result of a learning process where the “master” has weaved the more complicated parts of the work and two “apprentices” have executed some of the simpler parts of the same work. Under the subject “ethnicity” there are examples of bands woven in special techniques revealing that they might have been produced abroad. Under the subject “tradition” geographical and chronological differences in the application of the tablet weaving technique are viewed. Under the subject “gender differences” it is demonstrated that tablet weaving probably was a women’s occupation – besides possible differences in the use of tablet woven bands on the clothes of women and men.