**Historical Source Texts, Contexts and Interpretations of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania**

**Aim of the programme**:based on a comparative study of historical sources for the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL), to reveal the historical development of their contextuality and textuality (intertextuality), and to investigate and publish state and private historical sources from the 16th to the 18th centuries, revealing their significance, specificity and variety of genres.

The scope of this research encompasses the investigation of bodies of institutional and specific source groups or single documents, looking at the problematics of their contextuality and textuality (intertextuality). The textual  code of a specific source, its interconnection with other source groups, the question of the original and copies of it,  is one of the important directions of this programme. Even though the main body of sources studied is central state institutions (Supreme Tribunal of Lithuania, etc) and local state institutions (GDL voivodeship and district court books, Magdeburg city acts, etc), documents belonging to personal archives that were compiled in Lithuania Minor, where the conditions for writing in Lithuanian  were more favourable thanks to the influence of the Reformation, bear the same importance. One of the most important cornerstones of the programme is to study and publish materials pertaining to the GDL’s legislative and court systems. Factors like the codification of laws and the high-level legislative culture singled out the state across the region, while the local nobility’s understanding of the supremacy of the law started to form as early as the first half of the 16th century. A separate legislative and court system strengthened the GDL’s statehood within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and became an important part of the political identity of the nation. In addition, this research will be further complemented by studying and publishing historical sources with the intention of presenting a wider variety of genres that appeared over a longer period of time, stretching from the early 16th to the end of the 18th century (up to now, it is mostly dominated by the publication of 16th-century legislative sources).

**Objectives of the programme**:

1. The research and publication of the documentary heritage of the GDL’s central state institutions in the period from the 16th to the 18th century.

2. The research and publication of historical 16th to 18th-century sources from the GDL’s local institutions; the investigation of the circumstances of their appearance and storage locations.

3. The research and publication of 16th to 18th-century private source materials from Lithuania Minor.

4. The search for new historical sources relating to the GDL and Lithuania Minor, and their introduction into historiographical circulation, highlighting their importance to the field and presenting them to Lithuanian society and the international academic community.