**The Development of Vilnius from the 13th to the Mid-20th Centuries: The City’s Communities, Spatial Expansion and Self-Governance**

This research programme intends to continue the previous study of the history of Vilnius.

**Aim of the programme**:to study Vilnius’ communities, the city’s expansion and self-governance, by showing its economic and social development from the 13th to the mid-20th century; to disseminate the research findings, and popularise and highlight the history of the city.

Participants in this programme intend to examine Vilnius’ history through three thematic cross-sections:

**1) The history of the city’s communities and social groups**. Researchers will examine local communities from two perspectives: professional and cultural. They will discuss features of the daily life of Vilnius’ Catholic and Orthodox communities; the diets of the inhabitants; the impact of immigration and the imprint it left on the cityscape; and cultural influences and processes of integration covering the period from the 13th to the 18th centuries. Moreover, researchers will analyse certain professional communities and their activities (e.g. brick manufacturers, potters) in the 15th to the 18th centuries. There are also plans to examine daily life and the social situation of non-dominant social, economic and cultural groups (labourers, schoolchildren, prisoners, prostitutes, soldiers), the situation and coexistence of the city’s ethnic communities, and to analyse Vilnius’ sanitary conditions and the health of its inhabitants in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**2)** **The city’s spatial expansion**. In combination with other relevant research and sources, some of the participants in the programme will examine the spatial expansion of the city in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period through the context of ceramic wares discovered, identifying patterns in their visual characteristics and their spread through the city.

**3) The development of the city’s self-governance**.Researchers will analyse the history of several of Vilnius’ institutions of local government (the Treasury, the Voigt’s Office) during the period from the 15th to the 18th centuries. Another part of this research will look into changes in self-governance during Imperial Russian times (the late 18th-19th century). Participants in the programme also intend to collate and publish the privileges given to the city by the rulers which confirmed its possession of Magdeburg rights.