**The Historical Development of the Statehood of Lithuania (the Grand Duchy of Lithuania) in a European Context (13th–18th Centuries)**

Aim of the programme: based on the comparative research of statehood, to reveal the historical development of the Lithuanian state in the 13th to the 18th centuries in the context of the evolution of other European states, and to disseminate the research findings in order to raise public awareness about the history of the statehood of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL).

The research in the programme is carried out in several directions:

**1)** **the** **investigation of the development of the state’s structure and governance, and the relationship between officials and the political culture**, aiming to examine the nature and evolution of the union of Lithuania and Poland in the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period through the prism of inter-state unions; to identify manifestations of the crisis in the state’s governmental institutions, tendencies in the weakening of the state and the means to overcome the crisis in the second half of the 17th and the first half of the 18th centuries; to examine the relations between state institutions and their embodying officials and the political culture;

**2) research into the formation of the state religion** based on an analysis of the development of the chapels in Vilnius Cathedral between the 15th and 18th centuries;

**3) the study of the state’s military and economic development**: by contextualising the phenomenon of wars between Lithuania and the Teutonic Order, it is intended to determine how much and in what way the wars were a unique or casual Medieval European phenomenon, how and under what conditions the military measures implemented by the Grand Dukes of Lithuania and self-organised Lithuanian society were effective; to research the economic conditions that determined the state’s development; to analyse the administrative, economic and political aspects of the functioning dietine system (*seimeliai* / *sejmiki*);

**4) the creation of an interactive geographical information system (GIS)**, featuring maps and other related information relevant to the long-term programme.

**Research methods**: analytical, descriptive, source research, interpretative, historical, comparative, systemic, and methods pertaining to information technologies (spatial GIS analysis, data analytics, SQL Structured Query Language, Python programming language). Using these methods, maps and other programmes, the relevant information will be presented and made publicly accessible on the website of the Lithuanian Institute of History <https://www.istorija.lt/>.

**The research results**will be conveyed in the form of analytical and discussion narratives, and achieved in the form of scientific presentations, papers, studies and monographs. Integrated research on the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the preparation of research studies in English will facilitate the strengthening of Lithuania’s position as a centre for research into the GDL; it will also promote the spread of new scientific knowledge, and contribute to the preservation and fostering of the historical memory.