

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

The main objective of the project is to prepare and publish a historical atlas of Kalisz, according to the rules of the International Commission for the History of Towns. It will comprise several archival panoramas and maps of the town, and – among others – the earliest pre-industrial-age plan measured out and drawn to a scale of 1:2500 (the principal map), a modern map of the centre and of its surroundings in a smaller scale, and a number of thematic maps showing the town's spatial development. A commentary will describe the history of Kalisz. This project also includes two important additional elements: a digital version with interactive maps and files ready to download (open access), and a digital edition of five town court books (about 2000 pages of manuscripts). A relational database and a dedicated interface should connect all these elements and link them with external data and materials.

The atlas of Kalisz will open the Greater Poland volume of the series entitled: *Historical Atlas of Polish Towns*. Kalisz was one of the most important centres of Poland under the Piast dynasty and later the capital of a voivodeship and a medium-sized town, typical of Central Europe. Advanced research on the history of the town made it possible to present its development from the early Middle Ages up to the 20th century. The novel form of the publication, connecting the traditional paper form and the high-tech digital tools, should facilitate the access to the information not only for professional historians, but also for everybody who is interested in history, for town planners, local government officials and many others. The data presented in the standard of Geographical Information System can be directly used in city management and other cartographic projects.