

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The main objective of the project is reconstruction of features of the cultural landscape of the western Sudeten Mountains and the course of its development from the Middle Ages to the time of World War II. The subject of detailed analysis will be an area of four former districts, i.e. former political and administrative areas, of which central points were Jelenia Góra, Wleń, Lwówek and Gryfów Śląski. The interdisciplinary studies, conducted mainly in terms of archaeology, history, cultural anthropology, geography and geology, will be directed towards description of the relationship between humans and the environment of characteristics difficult to settlement and economic adaptation. The environment, especially in the pre-industrial era to the 20th century, significantly affected the cultural profile and lifestyle of communities occupying given area. In conditions of predominantly agrarian economy, foothills and mountain areas were settled later and less intensively than lowlands which were more suitable for farming. This tendency is confirmed by relatively rare finds concerning the Sudeten area settlement in the early Middle Ages.

The planned study will tend to reconstruction of mountain sub-region model composed of complementary functional elements such as: fortified sites, towns, villages, mining centres, remains of law execution (gallows, reconciliation crosses). In achieving the goal will be helpful modern methodical instruments, based on possibilities offered by the aerial laser scanning (LiDAR) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), combined with the results of traditional archaeological prospection, environmental analysis, cartographic and written sources. Previously undertaken study within the Wleń district confirms that such research approach allows to achieve previously unattainable cognitive potential. The analyses with use of software associated with the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) make possible to determine spatial relationships between discovered features and structures, and in this way they facilitate reconstruction of the whole landscape and cultural memory. The analysis in terms of the cultural anthropology will help determine the scope of perception and acceptance of the landscape by the new population, arriving to the western areas of the Sudeten Mountains after 1945.

A picture closer to the past reality, instead, will be achieved by discussion and mutual review of separately gained results. In the case of archaeologists, the focal point will be placed in implementation of non-invasive prospecting methods, in particular based on analysis of aerial laser scanning (ALS/LiDAR) and connecting their results with the results of research carried out by conventional methods, i.e. with the results of previous excavations and analysis of cartographic sources. All data collected in this way will be subject to further analysis by the software associated with the Geographical Information Systems (GIS).