

#### Description for the general public

The aim of the project is to describe the form and function, and to explain the meaning of erecting memorial crosses along public roads in Poland. The main research questions of the project are: Why are crosses placed at the accident sites in Poland? By whom, and to what extent a memorial cross is identified with religion and to what extent to other categories of meaning? The following hypothesis has been put forward: It depends on the person's religiosity whether the cross erected at the site of a road accident is seen either as a religious symbol or a sign associated with death and a marker of burial sites in the cemetery characteristic for the cultural background of the individual.

Firstly, the genesis of raising the question of memorial crosses is filling in the cognitive gap in Polish literature on the subject, secondly the exceptional case study Poland in terms of two parameters (the number of people killed on the roads and the number of memorial crosses), thirdly, the desire to obtain the results by the most commonly used methods in the world literature (individual interview, photographic documentation) in order to provide a comparison of research results and to involve in the international debate on the issues of memorial sites along roads. In Poland, the originality of the project concerns all its aspects (form, function, meaning), and on an international scale it is a representative poll (as yet no one did it) and the research on the content of religious meaning attributed to the cross located at the site of a road accident.