Kazimierz Twardowski’s place in Polish culture and European philosophy
(description for the general public)

Previous studies on Twardowski’s scientific legacy have proven, firstly, that his philosophical views influenced the thinking of the next generations of Polish philosophers and representatives of other disciplines, i.a.: psychology, sociology, history, philology and musicology. Secondly, Twardowski formulated methodological directives to protect science – the humanities first of all – against going astray into what he considered shallow journalism. Let us recall the diagnosis given by Twardowski himself: “Awareness of [...] [the duty to manage the postulate of precision in a scientific work] ultimately significantly hinders the formulation, from either outline or lecture notes and sketches, of a text to be printed. How many authors publish in the domain of philosophy, papers, dissertations, and even extensive volumes, directly swarming with equivocations, incomprehensibilities, illicit transitions of thoughts, inconsistencies, vague expressions and paralogisms, who, together with their publishers lost nothing and gained publicity and often admiration from wide circles of readers! I would envy the ease of their literary production if I did not look down upon the products of their pens and resent their conduct as highly detrimental to the 

This is just one of the two main objectives of the project.

The second main objective of the project will be to gather existing arguments and also add new arguments in favor of the thesis, that Twardowski was an independent, excellent and versatile thinker – the author of many original conceptions and solutions that have stood the test of time and are still surprisingly current. This will help to change the situation, which was dramatically described, by Douglas Patterson (University of Pittsburgh): “There is no reason why Leśniewski, Łukasiewicz, Ajdukiewicz, Kotarbiński, Twardowski, and their compatriots are not accorded at least the status of Carnap, Reichenbach, Schlick, Neurath, and Hempel. My belief here is that this isn’t really anything more than a legacy the many misfortunes Poland endured in the twentieth century. Lvov and Warsaw before the Second World War seem poised to play roles equivalent to that of Vienna in the history of philosophy before being cut off by fascism and communism. As a result, in the English speaking world undergraduate and even graduate students learn nothing of the Polish school, and many important texts are walled off by archaic or missing translations.”

The composition of the research team, including, besides the project manager, eminent experts on this issue from both Poland and abroad, guarantees that these – and other – objectives of the project will be successfully realized.