

Population of Wieliczka between the years of 1591-1788. Historical and demographic study of a protoindustrial mining town.

The project aims at reconstitution of the demographic situation of the mining town in the early modern period. Wieliczka was an important economic centre located within the borders of the First Polish Republic. The main idea behind the study is to present and make an attempt to understand the demographic phenomena that took place in Wieliczka within the years 1591 and 1788. Hence, the population and family structure in the town will be presented.

The results of the project will answer the question of what the model of the Wieliczka family looked like in the modern period, paying special attention to the eighteenth century, for which reconstruction of families will be carried out. In addition, the work aims to check the directions of origin of nupturants who came to Wieliczka, and later settled in it.

It is no secret that salt soup in Wieliczka often suffered from a shortage of employees, and the population of Wieliczka and the surrounding villages was not able to fill this deficit. In the project, it will be most important to check what proximal attitudes of the mining society of the city are guiding. The effects of the project should answer the most bothering questions related to natural fertility. It will be checked if the Wieliczka families have influenced or tried to influence their fertility.

The project will list features of Wielicki's marriage, with marriages representing "the West" and "the East" in the characteristics of the European Marriage Pattern, which will allow to determine to which group Wieliczka should be included. In addition, reconstructed families of civil servants, municipal officials and ordinary townsmen will be compared to see the differences in the city's community, which will allow better to get to know the model of the Wielicka family.

In additional an analysis of the parish census of 1788, I will allocate the household structure according to typology of family households by P. Laslett, with modification of C. Kukli. The results received on the number of simple, extended and complex households present in Wieliczka will be compared and presented together with the results of studies on the other European cities.

The most important source material will be kept records of Wieliczka in Archive of Metropolitan Curia in Cracow, such as register books and inspection records; and in the National Archives in Krakow, such as documents, books and files concerning the city, citizens, The Hospital of the Holy Spirit and crafts. The main method used in the project is the family reconstitution method. Approaching the results critically, it is possible to receive most reliable data.

The next basic method will be the aggregative method, also called the aggregate method. It is an anonymous and extremely statistical method. After conducting the query and developing the database, selected factors for a specific area and time will be applied, e.g.: demographic, births, deaths, marriages, sex ratio at birth, demographic dynamics, birth rates and infant deaths.

The project is pioneering. So far in Poland, there has been no work on the natural mining industry in the proto-industrial period.

Considering the history of Wieliczka, which is recognizable throughout Europe, historians and demographers should be willing to refer to the results of research that will be obtained in the project.