

The project has been designed to explain the unexplored phenomena of the social position, the system of values and the role model of the Polish courtier in the Jagellonian monarchy and in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, ruled by elected kings, until the fall of the latter. The participants will focus on studying the three main modules, but not forgetting other factors shaping and determining the role and function of courtiers. Therefore, the chronological framework of our project will be the period from the beginning of the reign of the first representative of the Jagellonian dynasty on the Polish throne, i.e. from 1386, until the abdication of Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1795. The study will be limited only to the royal courts, as we do realize the extent of the subject matter, the time constraints and the difficulties we would encounter when taking into account the Lithuanian courts. In addition, the specifics of the Lithuanian court differ greatly from the process that took place at the court of the Polish Crown rulers and requires a separate examination, which might be another step in our research.

In the light of the present, small, fragmentary and largely intuitive knowledge of the courtesans of the Polish kings, it is possible to put forward a preliminary hypothesis that the social position, the system of values and the role models of the courtiers of Polish were rooted in the pan-European tradition. It means that all those elements had strong cosmopolitan background, adapting itself over time to the original and unique socio-political system of the Kingdom and later of the Commonwealth. This issue was noticed by Łukasz Górnicki while, based on the Italian original, he was preparing his "Dworzanin Polski" (an adaptation of Baltassare Castiglione "Book of the courtier"), which is our inspiration, but also a starting point for the discussion that may lead to completely new and unexpected conclusions.