

**THE RECEPTION OF THE *CONSENSUS OF SANDOMIERZ (1570)* IN EUROPE FROM SIXTEENTH TO
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
THE ROLE OF IRENICISM IN CREATING CONFESSIONAL CULTURES**

POPULAR SUMMARY

Consensus of Sandomierz (*Zgoda Sandomierska, Consensus Sendomiriensis*) was a unique document on not only European, but even global scale. The agreement was made at the particular moment, when the Protestant Churches in Europe decidedly separated, and therefore the Consensus soon gained a special significance for Protestant cultures beyond Poland. It was published in print in 1586/87 and 1605 in Palatinate. Thanks to its dissemination, it became the most quoted document in the works of irenic theologians and in various projects on religious agreements in Holy Roman Empire, England, France, and in the Netherlands.

The aim of the project is to investigate the reception of Consensus of Sandomierz in Early Modern Europe. The research will be based on the manuscripts archived in Warsaw, Cracow, Kórnik, and Toruń, as well as Berlin, Herrnhut, Prague, Zurich, and Bethlehem (USA), and on the printed sources (correspondence of the theologians, published historiography, polemics and irenic works).

The analysis of the reception of the Consensus will provide a substantial insight into the field of seventeenth-century irenicism and confessional polemics. I intend to shed a new light on the Early Modern irenicism and to show that the Consensus played a variety of theological, political, and even social roles. It was used by every confession to fulfil its own goals. Therefore, I claim that the reception of the Consensus was confession-specific, taking a distinct shape for each Protestant denomination involved in the process. Even the theologians, who belonged to the circle of irenicists and intended to reunite the divided churches and confessions, used the Consensus for their own, confessionally motivated purposes. I have named this process as 'confessional irenicism'.