

This project aims to explore the issue of **artistic and cultural exchange in the perspective of foreign policy** – in other words, the relationship between the country's international policy and its cultural manifestations abroad.

This subject will be exemplified by a look at **Poland and the Netherlands**, and their cultural relations in a very particular period in history, namely the so-called **Cold War (1945-1989)**, when two opposite socio-political ideals clashed: communism and capitalism, represented then by Polish and Dutch political systems respectively.

It is in this context that the issue of **Polish-Dutch cultural exchange** will be examined, analysed and described **in the face of foreign policies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Polish People's Republic**. The shifting function and use of art and culture after the Second World War will be explored, as well as external conditions of cultural exchange (such as the role of state institutions and cultural intermediaries) and social reactions to their involvement in art and breach of artistic autonomy.

A first inventory of traces of Polish-Dutch cultural exchange in the analysed period shows its significant dependence and intertwinement with the state's foreign policy. Previously unpublished documents gathered in archives of Polish and Dutch state institutions indicate **direct relationships between cultural life and international affairs, as well as their mutual interdependence**, showing a far more profound **correlation between international cultural policy and cultural exchange** than hitherto assumed.

The project will therefore provide a **first comprehensive reconstruction and analysis** of the process of post-war cultural exchange between Poland and the Netherlands in a broader perspective of foreign cultural policy, which has so far been overseen in the historiography of Dutch-Polish cultural relations and only marginally noticed, but not thoroughly investigated.

By exploring the issue of Polish-Dutch cultural exchange during the Cold War era, the project will **contribute to a better understanding of the issue of artistic autonomy from the field of power** by revising important links, interdependencies and correlations between the worlds of art and politics, and by **identifying external factors determining this exchange**. This will also provide new methodological insights regarding the relationships between international cultural policy and the world of art and culture.

The project will also form a **significant contribution to the historiography of Polish-Dutch cultural mobility** as it will add another dimension to existing studies on this subject pointing to the vivid ties which have existed between these two countries, and have significantly gained in importance in recent years. As such it will contribute to a more integrated understanding of European cultural cohesion in case of Poland and the Low Countries as well as internationally, **both in academia and beyond**.