

## **Social and economic importance of military camps and garrisons in the Polish-Lithuanian state (16th-18th cc.)**

The specificity of the Polish-Lithuanian military (the domination of field troops) makes it possible to analyze military camps for their functioning as urban establishments. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, despite the unquestionable economic breakthrough at the beginning of the modern era, was characterized by relatively weak status of towns. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, despite the unquestionable economic breakthrough at the beginning of the modern era, was characterized by relatively weak status of towns. If we adopt classifications developed by western researchers, among such centers all economic functions ascribed to towns only the biggest ones were met by the biggest ones only, those of over 10 thousand inhabitants, of which, on the territory of the Crown, were merely seven (Gdansk, Cracow, Warsaw, Poznan, Lublin, Lvov and Kiev), and within the borders of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania only two: Vilna and Riga. At the time of peace the main military camp was the second or third largest city in the Commonwealth, after Gdańsk and Riga. The camps became the largest towns in the Commonwealth in the periods of war threats (or during military actions).

The fundamental object of the project is:

- 1) analysis of economic and social aspects of military camps of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth,
- 2) presentation of the specificity and making a model of the military wagon fort in particular centuries,
- 3) preparation of a demographic model of the Polish-Lithuanian army, including the real number of people participating in the army,
- 4) examination of the role of military garrisons in the development of towns in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century Commonwealth.

Even though Polish studies on the military history of the modern era have a very rich tradition, the strictly military current dominates therein, which concentrates attention on the questions of armament and tactics, the description of the course of particular campaigns or biographies. The subjects of the proposed grant as well as the methodology connected therewith depart from this tradition and instead they try to connect military history with studies on economic history, demography, as well as cartography and history of law. The authors of the project will be interested in foremost broad, socio-economic aspects of the functioning of the army, their impact on economy, demography and everyday life of the urban centers under scrutiny.