

The historical Silesia (located nowadays in the borders of Poland and Czech Republic) and the neighboring Land Kłodzko are regions extremely rich in material monuments of the old law. These include both those related to the places of court debates but also the enforcement of penalties and the implementation of customary law or imprisonment, documents, graphics and photographic documentation. However, the region not yet been exploited by wide research and, regardless of its uniqueness in terms of preserved sources, not widely known in legal archeology.

The presented project's objective is to obtain wide source base; to classify, develop and make available monuments of the old law located on the territory of historical Silesia and Kłodzko region from the late Middle Ages to XVIIIth century. It will be based on the division: 1. places of court sessions in towns and villages, 2. places of punishment execution with equipment, 3. tools, places and equipment for the implementation of legal norms and penalties, 4. attributes, symbols, and signs of legal ritual. Second result will be creating free to access database, available worldwide connected to the internet site. Each of the preserved monuments will be recorded in the form of photographs, accompanied by a detailed english description with a practical way of its functioning. Third result, will be monograph. It will contain description of legal system in force in Silesia and Kłodzko region from Middle Ages to the changes in the penal law in the XVIIIth century, normative and practical functioning of law, detailed description of preserved monuments, their practical use, as well as annex in which there will be examples of monuments in the subject matter. The monograph will be also free to download. The project is based on following source base: monuments of the old law, the accumulation of which in these two areas exceeds their number in the whole Poland, documents, graphics and photographs from archives in Poland, Czech, Germany and Austrian. The used methodology consists of methods used in history, law, archeology and art sciences, according to investigators experience and knowledge. The significance of the project has many perspectives. Firstly the project will create a strong data base, detailed monograph and due the online publication of the project results it will make possible to present them to non-Polish-speaking researchers and their wide internationalization. Secondly, the project will open the possibility to continue work in other areas of the country in the future. Many of which still are waiting for proper research in the subject matter. Thirdly, cooperation with the Provincial Office for the Protection of Monuments in a given area and updating or making completely new cards of individual monuments will allow for their better protection. In addition, local governments will also be able to access an online platform, thanks to which they will be able to learn about the condition of a certain group of monuments in their area.