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## **The scientific and research experiences in the implementation of the program “From the Land of Witelon to the Land of Ivan Franko” between 2019 and 2023**

### SUMMARY

In this article, the authors refer to their own experiences related to the implementation of the “From the Land of Witelon to the Land of Ivan Franko” program, which has been ongoing since 2019. The continuation of historical research is reflected in 2023 in a project funded from the state budget granted by the Minister of Education and Science under the “Science for Society II” Program .

**Key words:** research, cultural heritage, history, projects, collaboration.

### **Introduction**

History is one of the academic disciplines that focuses on the study of the past and traces of human activity. The result of understanding the causes, course, and consequences of historical events is the written accounts of researchers whose interpretations allow contemporary society, especially the younger generation, to learn about and understand these phenomena and processes.

For many, the intertwined history of Poland and Ukraine still represents a challenging past for both nations, marked by periods of conflict and rivalry. However, collaboration is also noteworthy, which, in the face of Russian aggression and attempts to destroy the Ukrainian nation, takes on new significance today. It poses a challenge at various levels, especially in making efforts to overcome all barriers in relationships and differences in the treatment of the past. It involves assessing history, discovering Ukraine by Poles, and Poland

by Ukrainians, filling gaps in historical knowledge, and preserving cultural heritage, which is particularly endangered on the Ukrainian side.

The built ties and good Polish-Ukrainian relations over the years are the result of collaboration among various communities, including, perhaps most importantly, scientific and research communities. This significantly influences the development of dialogue, understanding historical facts, and efforts to preserve cultural heritage on both sides of the border. It also increases the chance for the development / strengthening of partnership, as well as active involvement of youth in carrying out joint activities<sup>1</sup>. In these endeavors, funds and grants from various sources play a crucial role, without which the implementation of many interesting initiatives would not be possible<sup>2</sup>.

### **Implementation of the program “From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko” and methodological workshop**

One of the elements of the longstanding collaboration and partnership between Collegium Witelona State University and the “Academic Community” Association, working on behalf of the University, with the Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University in Drohobych (since 2000) and the State Historical and Cultural Reserve “Nagujewicze” – a Branch of the Lviv Regional Council (since 2017) is the cultivation of traditions that popularize historical issues<sup>3</sup>. The concept of our program was preceded, among other things, by the implementation of the project “Helping Compatriots in Ukraine – in Memory of Fallen Borderland Residents” (2017–2019). The third edition of this project was the one during which the idea for the implementation of the program “From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko” was born. The program includes, among other things, the organization of exhibitions promoting outstanding figures, conferences and seminars, as well as the publication of bilingual scientific and didactic publications on the history of the Drohobych land at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> B. Skwarek, *Wzmacnianie współpracy polsko-ukraińskiej na polu naukowo-badawczym na przykładzie zrealizowanego projektu sfinansowanego ze środków Fundacji PZU*, „Zeszyty Naukowe Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej im. Witelona w Legnicy” 2020, nr 36(3), Legnica, s. 95 (s. 95 – 99); B. Skwarek, *Potencjał obszaru naukowo-badawczego a możliwości współpracy na arenie międzynarodowej. Rozwiązania aktywizujące środowisko akademickie i społeczności lokalnych na przykładzie partnerskich projektów* [w:] *Спадщина Івана Франка в контексті досліджень проблем історії, культури і музеєзнавства від найдавніших часів до сучасності*, Пóсвіт, Нагуєвичі – Дрогобич 2021, УДК 821.161.2.09(092)Фра, s. 91–99.

<sup>2</sup> B. Skwarek, *Potencjał obszaru naukowo-badawczego...*, s. 92.

<sup>3</sup> The following historical issues topics have been covered so far: among others *Lemkowie u progu XXI w. Odrodzenie czy asymilacja; Polskie Dziedzictwo Kultury Kresów; Konflikty zbrojne we współczesnym świecie; QUO VADIS UKRAINA?; Wojska Sowieckie w Polsce 1945–1993; Odbudowa niepodległej Polski po i wojnie światowej*. Published works: *Pamiętnik pokoleń. Wielu z nich wciąż żyje i pamięta*, 2017; *Zamki, dwory i pałace w Sudetach*, Romuald M. Łuczyński, II wyd., 2016; *Przygotowania lotnictwa i obrony powietrznej do wojny w 1939 roku w okresie od 24 marca do 31 sierpnia*, A. Stachula, 2014; *Wojska radzieckie w Polsce 1939–1993*, pod red. S. Dąbrowskiego, K. Jaworskiej, W. W. Szetelnickiego, 2014; *Tożsamość kulturowa Polaków z Kazachstanu w kontekście tendencji globalizacyjnych*, L. Jakubowska, 2011. Some exhibitions organized: *Walki o niepodległość ciąg dalszy – w 25 rocznicę powstania NSZZ Solidarność; 100-lecie niepodległości Polski*.

<sup>4</sup> More on the topic in: B. Skwarek, *Potencjał obszaru naukowo-badawczego...*, s. 97–98.

The State Historical and Cultural Reserve “Nagujewicze” in the context of this article and the discussed program, plays a significant role because it is the place where the idea for the mentioned program and conducting research was conceived. Therefore, it is worthwhile to provide the reader with a brief overview of its activities.

Above all, it is the most important historical and cultural center in the Lviv Oblast, operating since 1994. Within its space, it houses a museum showcasing the heritage of Ivan Franko – one of the most prominent figures in Ukrainian political thought and literature. The collections gathered so far include over 7,000 exhibits, among others manuscripts, maps, parish registers, photographs, and more.

The extensive cultural heritage of this region (as well as the entire Drohobych region) remains largely unexplored and requires ongoing fieldwork, archiving of existing museum documents, research on books and manuscripts, and, finally, conducting ethnographic interviews among the older generation. This allows for obtaining archival sources often in their possession and preserving the stories they share. One example is the statistical data covering about 300 surnames of residents from just two villages, Nagujewicze and Stupnica, who contributed to the history of Polish-Ukrainian relations, analysis and registration of over 150 manuscripts and old publications from the collections of the Ivan Franko Museum that have not yet been examined or gathering narratives from 30 living veterans who remember the history of the Polish-Ukrainian community from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Enriching these collections and digitizing them are made possible through agreements and projects implemented by the institution, including collaborations with organizations such as the Heritage Foundation (USA) and the “Protect Heritage” Foundation from Lublin (Poland).

As part of the ongoing scientific research, during the aforementioned project “Helping Compatriots in Ukraine – in Memory of Fallen Borderland Residents” (2019), which includes, among other things, the analysis of source materials (cataloging, registration, translation, and description of documents from the 19th and early 20th centuries), in the initiated program “From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko,” after collecting extensive source material, the first of the planned series of three publications in Polish and Ukrainian was issued in 2020: “Jan Niewiadomski (1840–1914) – His Role in the Life of Drohobych/ Ян Невядомський (1840–1914 рр.) – Його роль у житті Дрогобича”<sup>5</sup>. The dominant theme of the publication is the life of its protagonist, Jan Niewiadomski, intertwined with the economic, social, political, cultural, and national reality of the city. The figure is, on one hand, little-known in the history of the examined period in Drohobych, and on the other hand, intriguing. His career begins as a novice baker, who achieves significant success as an entrepreneur, allowing him to build a villa that, due to its uniqueness and architectural and spatial solutions, becomes one of the most important landmarks in Drohobych in the early 20th century. Jan Niewiadomski is also a social activist guided by patriotic ideals. He starts his political career as a municipal official and local politician, eventually becoming the mayor of Drohobych. As a participant in the January Uprising of 1863/64, he nurtures the memory of this exceptional

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<sup>5</sup> B. Lazorak, B. Skwarek, T. Lazorak, *Jan Niewiadomski (1840–1914) – jego rola w życiu Drohobycza/Ян Невядомський (1840–1914 рр.) – його роль у житті Дрогобича*, Wydawnictwo Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej im. Witelona w Legnicy, Legnica 2020. Co-funded by PZU Foundation digital version: <https://wydawnictwo.collegiumwitelona.pl/pl/monografie-do-pobrania>.

event in the history of the Polish nation and its participants<sup>6</sup>. An essential element of this project during the work on the publication was establishing connections with the descendants of Jan Niewiadomski. They possess in their family collections the Family Chronicle initiated by the protagonist of the book and continued by subsequent family members, as well as the Commemorative Book funded by the Savings Society in Drohobych in 1910. These materials, both written and in the form of photographs, constitute a valuable source of knowledge about the Niewiadomski family. They were complemented by sources from Lviv archives (such as press materials) and from the private collection of Dr. Bohdan Lazorak. The materials used for the first time in scientific circulation undoubtedly enhance the value of the publication.

The continuation of the research, aimed at further delving into historical facts, intricacies, and introducing unknown archival materials into circulation, supplemented with illustrations and records related to figures and events associated with the “former Borderlands,” led to the publication of another monograph in 2022: “Drohobych and the Drohobych Region in the years 1914–1919. Studies on the history of the city and the region/Дрогобич і дрогобицька земля у 1914–1919 РР. Дослідження історії міста та регіону”<sup>7</sup>. The depicted events in it serve as a historical reflection of what was happening in Central-Eastern Europe in the realms of politics, diplomacy, and military actions. It also reflects the aspirations of Ukrainians to achieve the most significant goal – the establishment of an independent Ukraine. The first two chapters are devoted to the Russian invasion in the eastern part of Galicia and the occupation of this region lasting until 1915. The main theme of Chapter III is the organization and activities of the Francis Joseph Imperial and Royal Gymnasium in Drohobych during the years 1914–1918. The portrayal of the city, the consequences of looting and vandalism, as well as the reconstruction and restoration of administrative, educational, cultural, economic functions, etc., are described in Chapter IV. The last part (Chapter V) concerns matters of particular significance for the recent past and present of Ukraine and Poland in various contexts of their mutual relations. It relates to the history of the Western Ukrainian People’s Republic, which holds substantial importance in shaping the sense of identity for the contemporary generation of Ukrainians, especially the younger generation. The key objective of this project was to reconstruct the historical truth about the wartime, political, cultural, and educational events in the Drohobych district during the years 1914–1919. This was particularly done based on less known or entirely unknown sources that would help better understand the mentality and life stories of all national communities residing in the Drohobych region (Poles, Ukrainians, Jews, Germans) not only on the eve and duration of the war but also during the period of the formation of the Western Ukrainian People’s Republic and the Second Polish Republic. The included material is supplemented by numerous documents and photographs from the discussed period, sourced from the press, archives, and museums. This additional material allows for a more accurate understanding of the historical past of the unsettling wartime events<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> B. Skwarek, *Wzmacnianie współpracy polsko-ukraińskiej na polu naukowo-badawczym...*, p. 97; *Jan Niewiadomski (1840–1914) – jego rola w życiu Drohobyca*, „Kwadrans Akademicki”, Biuletyn Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej im. Witelona w Legnicy”, Rok XIX, nr 8(203), sierpień 2020 r., p. 20.

<sup>7</sup> B. Lazorak, B. Skwarek, T. Lazorak, *Drohobycz i ziemia drohobycka w latach 1914–1919. Studia z dziejów miasta i regionu*, Wydawnictwo AE-H, Warszawa–Legnica–Drohobycz–Nagujewicz 2022. Co-funded by state budget in the framework of the Ministry of Education and Science program „Doskonała Nauka” (project no DNM/SP/ 548992/2022).

<sup>8</sup> *Drohobycz i ziemia drohobycka w latach 1914–1919. Studia z dziejów miasta i regionu*, „Kwadrans Akademicki. Biuletyn Collegium Witelona Uczelnia Państwowa”, Rok XIX, nr 8(224), sierpień 2022 r., p. 53

The final stage of the discussed program is the project “Journeys with History – From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko”, funded by the state budget, granted by the Minister of Education and Science under the “Science for Society II” Program. The project, according to the principles of historical methodology, aims to conduct further research focusing on the search for unknown, authentic, and reliable sources of historical facts, descriptions of events, narrative and cartographic materials, registers, diaries from the late 18th to the early 20th century, concerning Drohobych and its region. The analysis of the historiography of the Drohobych region shows that this particular period is among the least explored. The materials introduced into circulation will showcase the tourist, industrial, educational, and cultural values of Drohobych and its surroundings – a region closely connected to many Poles. The final result will be the publication of the monograph “Land of Salt and Oil: a History of Travel in the Drohobych Region from 1768 to 1914. Research and Texts”, which, thanks to the introduction of unique and hitherto unknown source documents, will fill a gap in historical research. It will provide, enhance, and/or solidify the knowledge of the Polish-Ukrainian community about unknown facts related to historical journeys in the Drohobych region in the second half of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. It will also preserve the history and other values, including the unique heritage of the Drohobych region, for present and future generations. The structure of the monograph includes an extensive introduction by the authors, who will introduce the reader to the topics and the memoirs, diaries, and travel descriptions contained in the book. In four chapters, the monograph will present travel descriptions from the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, not only to Drohobych itself but also to the rocky fortress of Tustan and the ancient palaces of the counts Tarnowski, Bielski, and Winnicki in Wróblewice, Śniatyniec, Rychtycze, and Uroże. Complementing this intriguing journey through the Drohobych region will be appendices containing selected archival and little-known documents, literary materials with descriptions of wanderings, as well as photographs from the turn of the discussed centuries. In the authors’ intention, the publication prepared as part of the project is meant to become a “regional historical guide” for international delegations traveling along the local spaces of the Drohobych region. Its strength will be the brochure titled “In the Footsteps of Famous Travelers of the Drohobych Region in the Times of Ivan Franko”, included with each copy. This brochure will feature a new tourist route with the most interesting and, at the same time, rare travel descriptions from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

According to the assumptions and rules in historiography, several historical methods were applied in the research conducted within the program “From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko”. Following O.C. Porszniwa’s<sup>9</sup> definition that historical method is a way leading to the establishment of historical facts, encompassing, in a broader sense, components such as ideas and principles defining the direction of scientific research considering their specificity, the character of defined goals, principles, procedures, and techniques of working with historical sources. The following methods were used: monographic and descriptive method – involves a detailed study of an individual case, primarily considering information in a qualitative and descriptive form, and strictly adhering to the chronological order of the described events; philological method (the analysis of written texts from historical sources, their deciphering, and the interpretation of language meaning, establishing facts

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<sup>9</sup> O.С. Поршнева, *Междисциплинарные методы в историко-антропологических исследованиях*, Екатеринбург 2005, p. 10.

based on them); argumentum ex silentio method - involves reasoning from the silence of sources, considering the thesis that the historical facts being described did occur, but the authors of the sources were unaware of them. In the new project “Journeys with History – From the Land of Vitello to the Land of Ivan Franko”, methods proposed in classifications by J. Topolski<sup>10</sup> and J. Daszkiewicz<sup>11</sup> were applied. These include the direct, inductive, and deductive methods, along with the reconstructive method, allowing for the establishment of historical facts, drawing conclusions, formulating hypotheses, and justifying them. This is done by considering the credibility and authenticity of analyzed sources, utilizing knowledge based on both the primary and extraneous sources. The progressive method relies on sources from a specific period. The geographic (spatial) method involves using geographic knowledge while establishing historical facts and emphasizing geographic factors in the case of “journeys with history” descriptions. The comparative method allows for establishing facts not directly stated in sources and justifying hypotheses regarding causal relationships and historical generalizations. The decoding method involves written translations of source texts, interpreting them in the source language, and creating equivalents in the target language.

### Conclusion

The four years of experience in implementing the program, continuously conducted since 2019, have solidified the collaboration among scientists from Poland and Ukraine<sup>12</sup>, not only in the scientific field but also in historical, pedagogical, cultural, educational, and volunteer aspects. The ongoing research also aims to stimulate research curiosity, enrich the workshop of work, while simultaneously highlighting the integrity of science..

The development of partnership arises from the need to popularize historical facts while simultaneously preserving cultural heritage and discovering previously unknown common ground for local communities. It also provides a unique opportunity to overcome barriers related to the history of difficult Polish-Ukrainian relations in favor of tolerance, open dialogue, and emphasizing positive values in both historical and contemporary contexts. Moreover, it plays a significant educational role in instilling patriotic attitudes in the consciousness of the younger generation, nurturing the memory of past events, exploring regions and historical landmarks, building social sensitivity, and fostering trust in undertaking joint efforts in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.

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<sup>10</sup> J. Topolski, *Metodologia historii*, PWN Warszawa 1968, p. 312–330.

<sup>11</sup> Я. Дашкевич, *Майстерня історика: Джерелознавство та спеціальні історичні дисципліни*/Упорядн: А. Гречило, М. Капраль, А. Фелонюк. Львівське відділення ІУАД ім. М. С. Грушевського НАН України. – Львів: Літературна агенція „Піраміда”, 2011. – 792 с.

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Beata Skwarek, Prof. CW – Doctor of Humanities in Pedagogy, Assistant Professor at Collegium Witelon Uczelnia Państwowa, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of Psychology and Pedagogy; Dr. Bohdan Lazorak – Candidate of Historical Sciences, Director of the Institution of the Lviv Regional Council, State Historical and Cultural Reserve “Nagujewicze”; Mgr. Tetiana Lazorak – Master of Teacher Education, Researcher at the Institution of the Lviv Regional Council, State Historical and Cultural Reserve “Nagujewicze.”

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## STRESZCZENIE

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**Naukowo-badawcze doświadczenia w realizacji programu „Od ziemi Witelona do ziemi Iwana Franki” w latach 2019–2023**

W prezentowanym artykule autorzy odnoszą się do własnych doświadczeń związanych z realizacją od 2019 r. programu „Od ziemi Witelona do ziemi Iwana Franki”. Kontynuacja badań historycznych znajduje odzwierciedlenie w 2023 r. w projekcie finansowanym ze środków budżetu państwa przyznanych przez Ministra Edukacji i Nauki w ramach Programu „Nauka dla Społeczeństwa II”.

**Słowa kluczowe:** badania, dziedzictwo kulturowe, historia, projekty, współpraca.

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