

REPORTS

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IN CARE OF THE FAMILY: SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE POLISH LANDS FROM 19TH TO 21ST CENTURY. HISTORICAL DICTIONARY [W TROSCE O RODZINĘ. POMOC SPOŁECZNA NA ZIEMIACH POLSKICH OD XIX DO XXI WIEKU. SŁOWNIK HISTORYCZNY] AS A PROJECT CARRIED OUT UNDER THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMANITIES [NARODOWY PROGRAM ROZWOJU HUMANISTYKI]

Abstract: A team of researchers led by Prof. Dr. Paweł Grata of the University of Rzeszów has received the funding necessary to carry out the project “In Care of the Family: Social assistance in the Polish lands from the 19th to the 21st century. Historical dictionary” under the National Program for the Development of the Humanities. The project will be carried out from 2024 to 2028. The amount of funding amounted to more than one million seven hundred thousand zlotys.

Keywords: Scientific project, National Program for the Development of Humanities, Historical dictionary, University of Rzeszów, Paweł Grata, Economic History, Social History

<https://doi.org/10.14746/sho.2024.42.1.010>

The main objective of the project is to conduct comprehensive research into the history of social welfare in the Polish lands from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century, and on their basis to develop a comprehensive five-volume historical dictionary containing 2,000 entries. The research will concern social assistance defined today as “an institution of

social policy of the state and non-governmental organizations, aimed at enabling individuals and families to overcome difficult life situations, which they are unable to overcome using their own resources, capabilities and entitlements.” The research conducted under the project will cover relief activities carried out in the Polish lands from the time of their gradual transformation from the formula of traditional care for the poor (in the second half of the 19th century) into a much more modern, specialized and taking into account the interests of the wards, until its evolution into social assistance, which for many years functioned in Poland under the oppressive system of real socialism, and after 1989 became the form of activity of public authorities and social organizations indicated in the definition quoted above. The territorial scope was delineated taking into account the evolution of the understanding of the concept of Polish lands in the historical eras under study. Accordingly, for the period of the Partitions, the interwar period and World War II, the territories that became part of the Second Republic after the Great War are included, while for the post-1945 era, the scope includes the borders of the Polish state established after World War II. The aim is to create, thanks to the searches conducted, a comprehensive and unique body of knowledge on social welfare in the Polish lands and thus fill a significant gap in the existing research on the social history of the Polish lands, which will allow to show in the form of a historical dictionary a number of figures, institutions, ideas, phenomena, processes and events occurring within the scope of aid activities in the Polish lands.

As part of the project, five volumes of the publication “In Care of the Family. Social assistance on Polish soil from the 19th to the 21st century. Historical dictionary”, and the entire publication will make up a coherent and comprehensive picture of the studied issue. The individual volumes will cover about 25 publication sheets each, consisting of about 400 dictionary entries, arranged in alphabetical order (the number of entries in each volume may vary due to the principle of distributing the contents of successive volumes on an alphabetical basis). In total, the publication will cover about 125 publication sheets and 2,000 entries (the volume of each entry will be within 1,500–3,500 characters, the average for the entire dictionary is 2,500 characters per entry plus about 500 characters of source notes). The results of the research will also be published online in an open access format on the project’s website, which will include the 2,000 dictionary entries prepared as part of the project (along with their

source bases), as well as digital versions of subsequent volumes of the dictionary published in print. In a situation where the state of research to date on the history of Polish social welfare is relatively modest and scattered, and absolutely requires further exploration and detail, the five-volume historical dictionary published under the project will significantly expand the possibilities for future research. The entries included in the dictionary and disseminated on the project's website, which are in fact short scientific articles, will constitute an excellent source of verified scientific knowledge, useful to many researchers of the social history of the Polish lands, and, thanks to the bibliographical guidelines attached to them, will allow further continuation of research based on the inspiration flowing from the proposed project (in total, the publication will provide references to several thousand sources and studies related to the history of social welfare in the Polish lands).

The project is conducted by Prof. Dr. Paweł Grata, head of the Department of Economic and Social History at the University of Rzeszów. The Project Team is completed by Dr. Mirosław Grewiński, Dr. Karol Chylak, Dr. Krzysztof Chaczko, Dr. Jarosław Kinal, Dr. Bartosz Pasterski, Dr. Aleksandra Haligowska, Monika Niezgoda, MA, and Katarzyna Flisak, MA.

This project is another project activity carried out under the direction of Prof. Dr. Paweł Grata, who, together with his team, is carrying out the following research and knowledge dissemination projects: "W drodze ku modernizacji. Niepodległa Polska i Wolni Polacy w XIX–XXI wieku" [On the way to modernization: Independent Poland and Free Poles in the 19th–21st centuries], "Ku lepszej przyszłości. Opieka nad dziećmi na ziemiach polskich w XIX–XXI wieku" [Towards a better future: Child care in Poland in the 19th and 21st centuries], "Polscy bohaterowie. Innowatorzy, wynalazcy, modernizatorzy i ich wkład w rozwój społeczeństwa" [Polish heroes: Innovators, inventors, modernizers and their contribution to the development of society], "Czego uczy nas historia gospodarcza? 12 rozmów na trudny czas" [What does economic history teach us? 12 conversations for difficult times].

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