

SCIENCE PROGRAM NO. 1

1. The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (hereinafter referred to as “the Institute”) implements the Research and Experimental Development Program for 2022-2026, “**Research and Publication of Classical Lithuanian and Prussian Multilingual Literature and Its Cultural Contexts**” (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”).

2. Program’s Goals:

The Program provides for (1) fundamental research on classical Lithuanian literature, covering the literary heritage of Prussia, the multilingual poetry and poetics of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (hereinafter—“the GDL”), and the GDL narrative and its tradition in the 19th century; (2) bringing up to date the existing interpretations of the classical Lithuanian literature and creating its synthesized picture based on modern methodology; (3) production of documentary and/or critical editions and presentation of the results in a monograph, studies and articles; and (4) dissemination of the results in international and national events.

3. Program’s Objectives:

Objective No. 1. To research and prepare the sources of Prussian Lithuanian literature, including the documentary and biography of Kristijonas Donelaitis, the poetry of Martynas Liudvikas Rėza, and the collection of sermons of Kristijonas Gotlybas Milkus, *Mišknygos* (1800); to continue the documentary and critical edition of Donelaitis’s written legacy in the series of *Raštai* [The Works] and to offer a new critical discourse on Donelaitis’s corpus.

Objective No. 2. To study the multilingual Baroque and Enlightenment poetry and poetics of the GDL, covering the ideas of the literary theory of the time and attempts to realize them in individual and collective works; the confessional and inter-confessional aspects of Baroque poetry and the emblems; the 18th-century GDL Jesuit and Piarist Latin poetry and bilingual commemorative works; the transformation of literary works in the Enlightenment and the genre and stylistic diversity of Greek literature in the GDL.

Objective No. 3. To carry out complex research on the GDL narrative: national and political self-consciousness, historical imagination and its literary manifestations, covering the biographical literature of the GDL in the 16th-18th centuries; the development of the GDL narrative in 18th-century culture, and its the fate in the 19th century; the westernization of Ruthenian literature in the GDL and the validation of the Church Slavonic written tradition through translations (including adaptations) making it first a vernacular and by the mid-16th

century, the official Ruthenian language of the GDL; the history of the Simonas Daukantas's work *Būdas senovės lietuvių, kalnėnų ir žemaičių* [The Character of the Ancient Lithuanians, Highlanders and Samogitians, 1845], identifying the nature of the sources, revealing the impact of dominant sources on the ideas and Lithuanian imagery in the text, and the influence of Prussian Lutheran Lithuanian literature.

4. Methodological Approach:

Researching of fictional, civic, historical, biographical, religious and other classical texts and their features is crucial for the conception of national and civic identity of modern Lithuanian society. It is achieved by rethinking the long tradition of statehood, learning about the culture, literature and historical ideas of ancient Lithuania. The new research on the multilingual Lithuanian literature of the GDL and Prussia provides scientifically based assessments that form part of our national interests and national historical narrative in the diversity of other European societies.

The documentary and critical edition of Donelaitis's written legacy is supported by the most recent results of source studies carried out in the archives of the Federal Republic of Germany (in Berlin and Leipzig). The analysis of sources takes into account the latest trends in the interpretation of Donelaitis's works in Lithuania and abroad, reflecting on the most recent research and contextual information. The biography of Donelaitis is prepared according to the principles of a complex cultural landscape, where the personality traits are highlighted through the relationship with the environment, i.e. against the backdrop of religious, linguistic, ethnic, literary, political, administrative and economic processes of the time. The liberation from the previous ideological contexts (primarily nationalist and socialist), which have distorted the image of Donelaitis's personality, is the most important methodological approach to the new biography.

The Program provides a continuation of the research on classical Lithuanian literature, maintaining the position of a research center for the heritage of the GDL in Lithuania and providing the public with scholarly sources and research that can be used as a basis for the preparation of popular works and textbooks.

The process of preparing old source for publication involves methods corresponding to the different stages of such work—from searching for texts and data in European memory institutions, deciphering, transcribing, translating, and commenting, to detailed and summarizing research. The principles of preparing a source publication are established, authentic and reliable texts are identified, documentary transcription of texts is carried out,

critical texts are produced, and subject and textual commentaries are provided using international textological methods. Descriptive analytical, reconstructive, source studies and combinations of all these methods will be used in the planned research, taking into account their specific nature. Diachronic and synchronic search and analysis, comparative and intertextual methods will also be used.

The Program is based on the long-term MTEP program “Fundamental Research on Classical Lithuanian and Prussian Literature” carried out by the staff of the Department of Classical Literature and the Department of Textual Studies of the Institute in 2017-2021. The new program includes research on Ruthenian literature and Greek literature of the GDL and the works of Simonas Daukantas. It will continue to examine the processes and transformations of the literature of the GDL and Prussian Lithuania in the 19th century.