**From Individual to Community: Research into the Lithuanian Metrica and other Important Historical Sources Relating to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania**

**Aim of the programme**: to research and publish the Lithuanian Metrica and other historical sources relating to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, revealing the goals and roles of their creators, and the history of their formation, archiving, use and the function of the Lithuanian Metrica archive.

The Lithuanian Metrica, books of the chancellery of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, functioned as the ruler’s archive, the oldest and the main state legislative corpus, the formation of which began at the 15th century. Due to various circumstances, the Lithuanian Metric includes not only the documentary heritage of state significance, but also the rich documentary heritage of Lithuania's Magdeburgian towns, cities and even private individuals. The main corpus books of the Lithuanian Metrica are currently kept in Moscow (Russia).

The publication of volumes of the Lithuanian Metrica contributes considerably to the protection of the cultural heritage of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and highlights relevant issues in the fields of source research, palaeography, diplomacy and other auxiliary sciences of history, all of which are discussed in the academic introductions to the already-published books of the Metrica and other publications. In addition, as a legacy of the civilisational phenomenon that the Grand Duchy was, the Metrica is also relevant to a number of contemporary European states: especially Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Latvia, also the Czech Republic, Denmark, Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Hungary and Germany.

The oldest documents in the Lithuanian Metrica archive partly cover the gap in Lithuanian historical sources that stretches from the 15th to the first half of the 16th century, which appeared due to the destructive wars of the 17th and 18th centuries. That is why the research into the volumes, especially covering the 16th century, and their compilation and publication, is an objective of the utmost priority for Lithuanian historians. In terms of source research and sharing, for various reasons, Lithuania still lags behind older archaeographical research centres, like Poland, Russia, Germany and France. Therefore, the implementation of this programme contributes to entrenching the role of Lithuania, and parallel with that, the Lithuanian Institute of History as a centre for the study and dissemination of the written legacy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

The publication of the books of the Lithuanian Metrica will facilitate and speed up the investigations and analytical work of researchers who tackle various problems relating to Lithuanian history (the books that have already been compiled and published by the Institute are available online at [http://dev.metrika.ldkistorija.lt](http://dev.metrika.ldkistorija.lt/); the page is managed by Vilnius University). The accumulated experience from previous work allows the researchers in this long-term programme to continue broadening the scientific aspect of the investigation.

**Objectives of the programme**:

1. Research into the materials of the social-political-legislative communities of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (the investigation and publication of the Lithuanian Metrica and other Early Modern Period historical sources).

2. The study of the role of individual contributors in the creation of the Lithuanian Metrica archive.

3. The dissemination of the latest findings, achievements and actual problems pertaining to the programme.