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**Migrations of French Architects, Builders and Engineers to the Lands of the
Commonwealth in the Fourth Quarter of the 17th and 18th Centuries. Roads,
Causes and Effects.**

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The aim of the project is to investigate the professional activity of architects, builders and engineers of French origin in the 18th century in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The project aims to identify in detail the reasons and paths of their journeys to Polish and Lithuanian territories, alternative career models, the social profile of the disponents, the process of building their political influence among the state's elite and the geography of activity. The research will be based on a carefully selected group of representatives of the builders community who came directly or indirectly from France in the above-mentioned period, were educated in French schools or were the first to speak French. As the time frame of the project, I adopted, respectively: the reign of Jan III Sobieski and the impact of his artistic initiatives (the end of the 17th and early 18th centuries) and the end of the reign of King Stanisław August Poniatowski, and the Third Partition of Poland (1795) as a moment of a significant decline in artistic patronage.

The project will focus on the analysis of the origins and development of the profession of architect and engineer in the Commonwealth in the light of the progressive professionalization and universalization of architectural and engineering education in France in the 18th century. It is important to emphasize the study of career models for architects and builders educated in France. The profession of an architect and engineer is inextricably linked with mobility, constituting the identity of engineers through trips motivated by princely demands and the search for patrons, and thus with building a professional travel habitus.

The research methodology will be inspired by the concept of geography of art by Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann and the concept of kulturtransfer. I will also use the methods of social history of art, the work focuses on the characteristics of the paths of artistic influence. Basic research questions, key to this project are the following: Who hired architects and

builders from France? Were they employed only by the royal court and the highest nobility? From what artistic and educational centers did they come to these courts? Were they paid the same as Italian, Prussian and Dutch specialists?

RESEARCH CONCEPT AND WORK PLAN

The research concept and work plan is divided chronologically and problematically into five points. This division allows for a problematized and complete analysis of the subject of the project.

1. Engineers of the court of Jan III Sobieski - the beginning of artistic migration directly from France

The first French builders in the Commonwealth were Huguenot fortificators Hoccart, Filip Dupont and de Flenierce. During the 2nd half of the XVII century royal scholarship holder at the Accademia di San Luca in Rome, military and civil architect Benoit Renard, whose career is a great example of the social promotion of an engineer at the royal court or Charles Benoit at the court of Jędrzej Potocki, Grand Hetman of the Crown.

2. French engineers and architects at magnate courts during the reign of the Wettins - a career model for an educated architect and engineer

During the reign of Augustus II the Strong and Augustus III the Saxon, many artists associated with Bauamt migrated and worked in the Commonwealth: De Bleur, brought to the court of Elżbieta Helena Sieniawska as engineer Jean-Baptiste Dessieur, Pierre Hiche; Zacharias Longuelune; Pierre Ricaud de Tirregaille and the engineer and author of an architectural treatise Deza de Vanjou.

3. French artistic colony at the court of Stanisław August Poniatowski - triumph and understanding of French architecture.

Charles-Pierre Coustou and Victor Louis were the most important among the eighteenth-century architects coming straight from France. Thanks to their involvement, the newest models of early classicism reached the Crown. During this period, architect is employed not as a builder and engineer, but as an artist creating a concept, later completed by local communities, or not built at all, left in the design phase and treated as equal to the finished work. The project will focus on career models for the following architects and engineers: Amoudru Anatole, pupil of Blondel; Charles-Pierre Coustou and Victor Louis; Joseph Lacroix; Jacques de Levigny, military engineer; Michał Kado (Cadeau, Kadau) acting on behalf of Franciszek Sapieha; Marc-Rene de Montalembert; Pierre Denis Guibaut et al.

5. The influence of modern French architectural treatises and templates - the myth of goût français in architecture.

The impact of the most important 18th-century treatises and templates as well as synthetic publications in the territory of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth remains to be thoroughly investigated. It is also necessary to examine the problem associated with the alleged "goût français" in the second half of the 18th century. The myth of the French character of architectural designs and interior decorations, present in Polish literature, is to be verified.