



HOUSE

Workshop #1: kick off meeting
Warsaw, January 27-28, 2020

The first workshops planned in the project "Historical ontology of urban space" took place in Warsaw at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences on 27-28 January 2020. The accelerated pace of their organization and the sheer volume of matters to discuss resulted from the changed project work schedule: in the initial schedule, the project was planned to have started in October, but eventually the project work began in December 2019, after the decision had been issued that NAWA [hereinafter: Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange] was to finance the initiative. In this situation, we decided to implement the workshop according to the program, which is attached to this report.

The major goal of this meeting was to present partners and discuss the main substantive assumptions of the project. An important element of the meeting was also the election of the project scientific council and the adoption of the council's regulations. The council's regulations are attached to this report. At the first meeting of the council, the main assumptions of the project and the scope of the responsibility of individual project partners were discussed. The chairman of the council was also elected – it was dr hab. Marek Słoń, prof. IH PAN [hereinafter: the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences].

The workshops began and finished with visiting the city. The main theme of the project is the ontology of urban space. In the HOUSE project we work on examples taken from the history of Warsaw. For this reason, we decided that presenting the city within its oldest frames of the city walls should allow the workshop's participants to better understand the subject of the research.

In a short introduction, Ms. Wiesława Duży, PhD, recalled the main goals of the project and the effects we wish to achieve in the project. The schedule of the project works was also discussed, which - due to the epidemic - had to be revised in the second half of March.

Presentations of the project partners constituted a large part of the workshops, with particular emphasis on discussions on the partners' previous experience, which could be used in the implementation of the HOUSE project. These presentations were accompanied by a discussion on the possibilities of working together in the upcoming months.

This discussion was systematized by the speech of Mr. Patryk Wasiak, PhD, who discussed the possibilities of developing the current project in the future, giving as an example the grant programs of the European Scientific Council. The discussion accompanying this part of the workshop shall continue until the end of the HOUSE project.

The second day of the workshop began with an important part performed by dr hab. Marek Słoń, prof. IH PAN, Tomasz Panecki, PhD, and Katarzyna Słomska, MA. Katarzyna Słomska described and explained details of the Polish Database of Topographic Objects (BDOT10k), and presented it as an example of hierarchical structure which may be a pattern for the database elaborated within the HOUSE project. Professor Marek Słoń discussed the concept of the Historical Atlas of Towns as a source edition including data model from the BDOT10k. In the last presentation in this session, Tomasz Panecki presented examples of harmonization of BDOT10k with data collected from historical maps.

In the following session Professor Słoń presented a preliminary catalogue of symbols used in selected volumes of historical atlases of cities from the series created under the auspices of the International Commission for Urban History. Next, Tomasz Panecki guided a group work exercise for participants of the workshop. Their goal was to collect individual objects appearing on city plans and organize them into classes and categories. This task was to show the workshop's participants how different approaches (functional, morphological, and referring to size) could be used to create thesauri. This ambiguity and diversity hamper the data harmonization and database creation. The pursuit of the data harmonization shall be the focus of the work under the HOUSE project.

The next issue addressed at the workshop was the discussion concerning the program of the scientific conference planned as another important activity within the HOUSE project. The conference program is attached to this report. Unfortunately, due to the epidemic situation, this event could not take place as planned. In a short time, however, we have managed to invite most of the speakers to participate in the conference, which will be held remotely on 27-30 April 2020. The report concerning the conference along with the conference materials shall be prepared and published separately.

Wiesława Duży, PhD