

**Museum
of King Jan III's Palace
at Wilanów**
Keeper of European heritage





European Union

The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów
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2021

Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów protects and preserves testimonies of memory related to King Jan III Sobieski, who established the residence in 1677, and the Stanisław Kostka Potocki Museum, which has existed since 1805. By making them available to the public, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów provides modern education about the times of its two patrons and fosters the values associated with Old Polish traditions. It shapes attitudes of active citizenship and instils a sense of patriotic responsibility for national cultural and natural heritage.

The Museum regularly organises temporary exhibitions, conferences and scientific seminars, conducts scientific research, publishes scientific and popular books, and offers teaching in both cultural and natural values of the Wilanów residence. The Museum's vortal, an extensive repository of knowledge and educational resources, contains several thousand articles describing in detail the history and culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Museum also introduces new technologies that enhance the visitors' experience.

Thanks to the revitalization and conservation works supported with funds from the European Union and the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport of the Republic of Poland, the number of visitors is constantly growing.

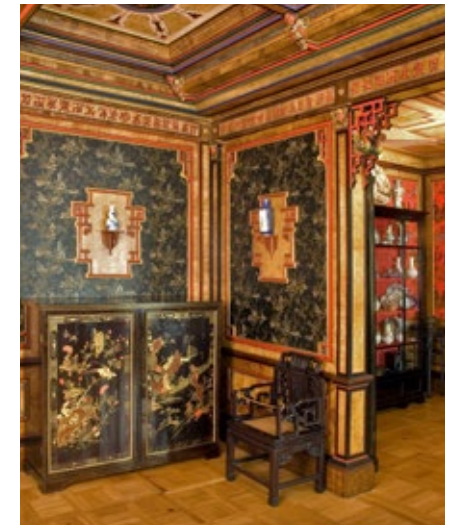
Up to this point, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów has obtained over 110,000,000 PLN in funding from the European Union and the financial mechanisms of the European Economic Area and Norway Grants.

More information: www.wilanow-palac.pl



1. “Restoration of interiors of Poland’s first museum of art – the Museum Palace in Wilanow” – European Regional Development Fund – Integrated Operational Programme For Regional Development, 2005–2007

Project execution consisted in the renovation and restoration of royal chambers located in the oldest part of the Palace, i.e. the Queen’s Bedroom, the Queen’s Antechamber and Mirror Cabinet, and also nineteenth-century premises in the right wing of the Palace – the Chinese Rooms and the Hunting Rooms. Restoration included, among other things, paintings, wallpapers, decorative architectonic elements, fabrics, and wall paintings, as well as wainscoting and other wooden elements.



Chinese Room, photo W. Holnicki

Queen’s Bedroom,
photo Z. Reszka

2. “Renovation of the royal palace and garden complex in Wilanów – stage II” – European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, 2007–2009



View on the statue of Victoria through the south wing of the Palace, photo W. Holnicki, R. Pieniek

This interdisciplinary project helped restore the garden façades of the Palace to their former splendour. The original colouring of the Baroque elevations was recreated based on the earliest extant plasterwork of the main body of the Palace, dating to ca. 1694. The original, valuable sculptures of the attic storey have been replaced with copies, so that the originals could be placed on display in the Pavilion constructed in the years 2008–2010. The archaeological research conducted in the gardens uncovered the most distant chapters of Wilanów residence history, which evolved from a settlement whose origins can be traced back to the eleventh century. Bacteriological and mycological monitoring of Palace air led to the stabilisation of climate parameters in the Museum’s most important historic rooms.

3. “Revitalization and digitalization of the seventeenth-century palace and garden complex in Wilanow – stage III” – European Regional Development Fund – Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme, 2009–2013



Conservation works in the Wilanów Palace, photo W. Holnicki

This project was another stage of the revitalisation of Poland’s only surviving summer royal residence built in the Baroque style. The comprehensive revitalisation and restoration of Baroque architectural elements covered four historic gardens closest to the Palace, including elements of garden architecture, and the South Pergola. Conservation and restoration work was also performed in six private apartments of King Jan III situated in the main body of the Palace. At parallel, we assessed the present conservation and microbiological conditions. Restoration covered the Chinese Room, the King’s Wardrobe, the King’s Bedroom, the Dutch Cabinet, the Grand Vestibule, and the Al Fresco Cabinet. This project also involved conducting the next stage of comprehensive archaeological work, which enabled providing a final summary to our knowledge about the history of the Wilanów residence.



Three-dimensional documentation work, photo W. Holnicki

The project also had a digital dimension. A selected Wilanów collection was digitised in 3D, which led to the creation of digital tools for educating, shaping, and developing the information society. What is more, we created a Virtual Museum. This resource is a treasury of certified and user-friendly knowledge about the residence, the collections, and the culture of centuries gone by. In recognition of completing this project, the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage honoured the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów with an award.



King's Chinese Cabinet, photo W. Holnicki



Visualization of the 3D documentation works

Since 2008, thanks to the support from the European Union, the Museum has been developing techniques of three-dimensional documentation of historical objects in close cooperation with the Warsaw University of Technology. The Museum has become a centre of competence in this field for many Polish institutions tasked with caring for cultural heritage. For the past two years, the Museum has been participating in the research project called CHANGE (Cultural Heritage Analysis for New Generations), conducted under the European research and innovation programme (Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No.813789). Activities involved in the project include training in 3D techniques for the participants in the project, under the auspices of the Museum (more information at <http://change-itn.eu/>). In 2020, the Museum participated in the framing of guidelines for 3D digitization of objects of cultural heritage under the direction of the European Commission's Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana (DCHE Expert Group).

4. “Upgrade and adaptation of the foreground to the Wilanów Palace, the Baroque pearl of Mazovian royal residences, for tourist reception and service purposes – stage I” – The European Regional Development Fund, Regional Operational Programme for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship 2007–2013, 2010–2012



Bird's-eye view of the foreground of the Wilanów Palace, photo B. Wronka

The function of the Palace foreground has evolved over time. Initially, it was a garden landscape form. It then went on to become an element of the residence's rural economy, and finally took on the role of museum reception area. Work performed under the project was aimed at increasing visitor capacity, developing tourist infrastructure, and bringing back the landscape garden style. To this

end, we rearranged the plant cover, replaced alley surface, and performed conservation of the ceramic fence, the small chapel, and the bridge situated in front of the main gate. The monitoring system was also expanded to cover the foreground perimeter. Ground works were performed under archaeological supervision, as earlier research identified a cemetery within this site. The discovered graveyard has been preliminarily dated to the eleventh century. This project was supplemented with activities taken in the area of communication. A tourist information system using photocodes and Bluetooth technology was installed, and videos on foreground history and revitalisation were prepared.

5. “Revitalisation and digitalisation of Wilanów, the only Baroque royal residence in Poland” – Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme, 2014–2015

The following Palace rooms were subjected to conservation under this project: the Banqueting Hall with the two adjacent staircases, the Three Windows Cabinet, and the Quiet Room. The Pump Station and its surroundings, which sit on the banks of the Wilanowskie Lake, have also been subjected to renovation and conservation. The roofs of the south wing and the Palace belvedere, as well as the Corps de Gard building, were modernised. What is more, we performed the conservation of the retaining wall of the moat, and the well in the Palace courtyard.

Illusionist decoration in the Banqueting Hall, photo W. Holnicki





On the Wilanów Palace roofs, photo W. Holnicki

The project included extensive actions for adjusting the educational and cultural offer to the needs of people with disabilities. We used audio description and tactile aids to assist people with visual disabilities, video materials for people with hearing disabilities, and we adjusted the Museum website accordingly.

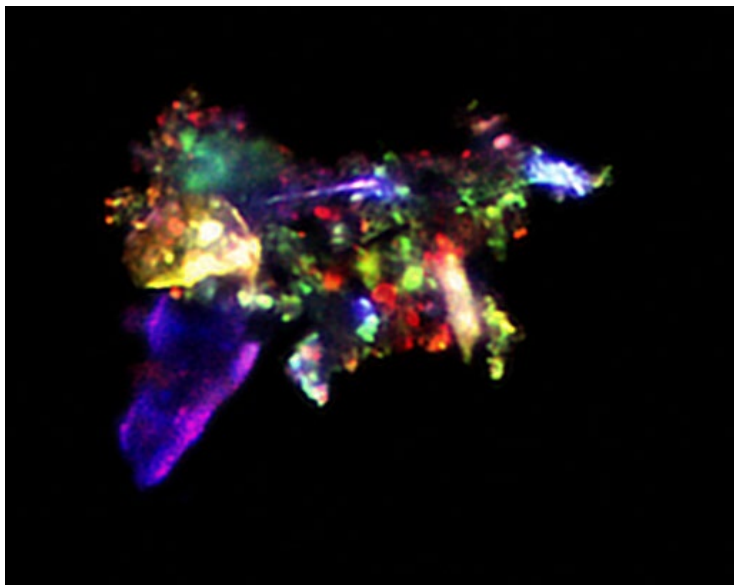
The project enabled the continuation of work on 3D documentation of selected collections, and the implementation of new 3D recording technologies to i.a. expand the Open Museum, i.e. the Museum's digital education offer. Moreover, the project supported the preparation of educational copies for the historic re-enactment programme. More than 50 paintings, sculptures, and items of artistic handicraft were subjected to conservation and restoration. We also expanded the wireless and free system of Internet access within Museum premises.

6. "Social education in the conflict between urbanisation and ecology at the Wilanów Palace Museum" – European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, 2014-2016



Morysin Nature Reserve, photo J. Dobrzańska

This project focused on the biodiversity of the Wilanów residence. It aimed to gauge the urbanisation pressure exerted on this area, which has particular natural and cultural value. Under the project, we performed an in-depth study of the air, and analysed the water and the land ecosystems. Among others, we sought to identify and explore invasive species, monument trees, birds, insects, and bats. Study results were regularly published to build knowledge on the biodiversity of the ecosystem present in the historic Wilanów residence and foster a sense of collective social responsibility for preserving the biological, ecological, and economic values vested in this unique site.



Air analysis,
dust particle
in a confocal
microscope

As part of the follow-up to this project, air studies are now regularly conducted both outside of the building and in the interiors, in the direct vicinity of our collections. These studies aim to evaluate microbiological purity, which translates into environmental safety for both people and historic objects. We apply the impact method and use modern equipment with an in-built electronic anemometer to analyse air, which provides us with information on the current condition of the examined area and potential threats. We resort to the same method to analyse the chemical composition of air. These studies form a pillar of our preventive actions aimed at protecting Museum collections, exercising care over natural heritage resources, and preserving biodiversity and ecosystems.

7. “Restoration and protection of the symbol of the Polish cultural heritage – the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace in Wilanów” – Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment, 2017–2019



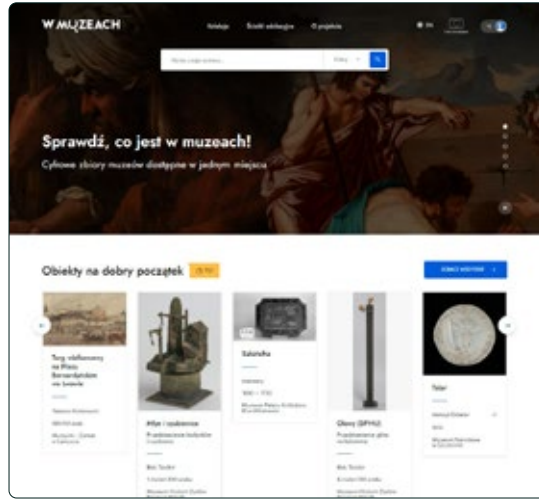
Hercules statue
by the Wilanów
Lake, photo
W. Holnicki

This project was the most important redevelopment task since the accession of Poland to the European Union, from the point of view of all investments previously carried out by the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace in Wilanów.

The project consisted in the conservation, documentation and securing work in the Garden Galleries and Lapidarium on the Palace ground floor; modernisation and reconstruction of the garden gallery exhibition halls on the upper level of the Palace; conservation renovation of the roof of the northern wing of the Wilanów Palace; repair and security work in the Orangery building; conservation and making copies of four Hercules figures along with pedestals; three-dimensional documentation of a selected collection.

8. The “www.muzeach” (“In Museums”) project – Operational Programme Digital Poland, 2019–2022

This project aims to provide public access to the digital resources of five museums, brought together under the leadership of the Wilanów Museum. The main objective is to make different resources available in one place, in a simple form, and for free—and thereby to improve digital access to resources offered by participating institutions.



The project provides for the development of infrastructure for the digitisation and sharing of digital resources of the museums. It uses high standards of documentary photography, as well as various advanced digitisation techniques, such as RTI, gigapixel, structured light scanning, and photogrammetry. As part of the project, a joint website with a multiple search engine has been created and will be available from 2 January 2022.

The wmuzeach.pl website hosts in one place the digitised collections of: the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the National Museum in Lublin, the National Museum in Szczecin, and the Castle Museum in Łańcut. Other museums will also be able to publish their collections here. The target audience of the project encompasses, among others, people interested in art and history, scientists, students and teachers, curators, and tourists.

The wmuzeach.pl website

The Museum as a keeper of European heritage

The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów is active on the international arena. It regularly cooperates with research institutions across the globe and belongs to networks of institutions entrusted with European cultural and natural heritage. The Museum's focus stretches beyond the implementation of important, often innovative research, conservation, and educational projects, and encompasses also developing key competencies and knowledge of staff, partners and management, also in the context of creating new, innovative educational activities. Aware of the fact that knowledge and skills are becoming outdated at a much faster pace than ever before, the Museum seeks to continuously improve the competencies of its employees in line with the life-long learning concept.

Setting up structured light scanning equipment, photo E. Bunsch



9. Network of European Royal Residences



Since June 2006, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów has been active in the Network of European Royal Residences, with its offices at the Palace of Versailles. The Network brings together 30 cultural institutions that administer royal residences in 15 countries.

Bearing witness to the history and identity of Europe, European Royal Residences are complex and multifaceted places of prestige: originally places of power and representation, they are now museums, open to the public, offering an extremely varied cultural programme. The Network is primarily a tool at the service of European palace-museum staff and experts, enabling them to meet and share their experience in the preservation, management and promotion of the rich cultural heritage in their care. As they come together around various large- and small-scale joint projects, through technical meetings or the organisation of common cultural programmes, this Network, which is unique in Europe, aims to improve the management and conservation of European Royal Residences that receive more than 37 million visitors every year and promote them across the world.

The EPICO programme (created in 2015 as a partnership between major royal residences open to the public), gathered a team of specialists in preventive conservation, art historians, registrars and scientists to help collection managers to prioritize preventive conservation actions and quantify the resources required. The project was the winner of the 2017 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Award.

10. Europa Nostra 2019 Award for "A Place at the Royal Table" project

"A Place at the Royal Table" is an initiative by the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów which aims to share knowledge and experience about the culinary history of royal courts. Through the means of workshops, open-air activities and academic conferences they raised awareness about the culinary traditions and customs of European courts. The project was realised within the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, with similar activities taking place in royal palaces across Europe, as part of the Network of European Royal Residences. The project was the winner of the 2019 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards in the category Education Training and Awareness-Raising.

"It is now widely acknowledged that food culture is an important intangible aspect of European heritage and mechanisms for the integration this knowledge into the wider understanding of heritage have recently come into sharper focus. Thanks to a greater emphasis on sensory exploration we can come closer to a greater understanding of the role of food in the past," the jury said.



Culinary reenactment workshops with school group, photo W. Holnicki

11. European Route of Historic Gardens – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.



Since 2017, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów has been an active member of the European Route of Historic Gardens (ERHG), which was awarded the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certificate on 30 October 2020. ERHG is a non-profit association aiming to unite the largest possible number of managing bodies of Historic Gardens in Europe, with the objectives first of forming a stable network and second of obtaining recognition as a Council of Europe Cultural Route for this historic artistic and natural heritage.

The mission of the association is to raise social awareness about the role and significance of garden heritage in the stability-building of European cultural unity. As European garden art evolved across state borders and was strongly linked to its environmental, often unique value, it constitutes an exceptional example of the co-existence of culture and nature, which both require particular protection amid the global economic, social, and environmental crises.



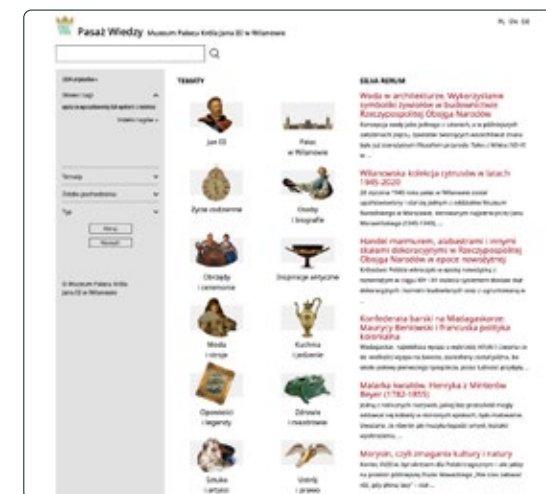
Baroque garden by the Wilanów Palace, photo W. Holnicki

12. Silva Rerum

The Museum is a partner to many research centres and collaborates with numerous scientists who study the broadly understood culture and history of the Commonwealth of Two Nations against the backdrop of Europe's common heritage. The Museum provides a platform for presenting the results of scientific research, and inspires and co-organises research projects and conferences. The results of these studies are published as books, and on the Museum vortal in the open, free repository of knowledge which sheds light on the rich culture of Old Poland. The approximately 3,500 scientific and popular scientific articles gathered in this online resource paint a fascinating picture of the Commonwealth of Two Nations and its standing in Early Modern Europe. Some publications are available in English.



Cover of the "Compendium Ferculorum"



Passage to Knowledge – popular science resource

13. “Learning to teach. Developing social competencies through programmes for seniors at the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów” – 2018–2019

The objective of this project was to strengthen key competencies of museum staff so as to increase the potential for creating programmes addressed to adult recipients of culture, art, and natural heritage, and involve adult audiences in initiatives for local communities. Learning consisted in job shadowing and performing activities at three partner institutions: Parques de Sintra – Monte da Lua SA, Palacio Nacional de Mafra, and Consorzio Delle Residenze Reali Sabaude – La Reggia di Venaria Reale. Project conclusions were presented at a Polish nation-wide conference, along with the best practices observed in European royal residences.

Project implementation was financed from the European Social Fund, under the Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development (OP KED) as part of the Transnational Mobility of Non-professional Adult Education Staff project, from OP KED funds under the principles of the Erasmus+ Programme, Adult Education.



Workshops with adults

14. „Entrepreneurial museum – creative museum” – Erasmus+ Programme, 2019–2022



Blacksmith during a reenactment show, photo M. Mastykarz

This project assumes holding mobilities (meetings) of museum staff and partners at four open-air museums in Latvia, Romania, Denmark, and Sweden to enable the exchange of good practices and observe how other members of museum staff work (job shadowing), i.e. lead craft workshops. The trips will be summed up by workshops addressed to individuals involved in adult education. The sum-up workshops will discuss mobility-related issues, methodology for holding events for adult audiences, and organisation and management methods useful for handicraft workshop hosts. These activities will result in drafting recommendations and guidelines for outlining the institution development strategies for the coming years.

15. „Museum of Communities” – Erasmus+ Programme, 2020–2022



As we cooperate with the Gödöllő Royal Palace and the Italian NGO Stazione Utopia, we exchange knowledge and experience. Within our group, we provide each other with training and learn from each other how to encourage local communities residing in the vicinity of museums to take up volunteering. The goal behind these efforts is to involve locals in telling interesting and appealing stories about cultural, natural and historic heritage, while interweaving their own experiences and life stories in that narrative. This project will lead to creating an educational tool called the Story Cube, which will support volunteers and educators in learning how to build a unique story, put one's arguments in the right order, come up with their own opinions on a given object or phenomenon, and share their own reflections. The Story Cube will be available free of charge to anyone who is interested in using it.

Workshop
in the Palace,
photo E. Behrens-
Nowakowska

16. „Between Mnemosyne and Terpsychore” – Erasmus+ Programme, 2021–2023



The new European project titled “Between Mnemosyne and Terpsychore” combines sites of European heritage, modern dance, and youth education. The project is being implemented by six institutions from three European countries: Portugal, Poland, and Spain.

Mnemosyne, the Greek goddess of memory and the patron of heritage sites, and Terpsychore, the goddess of dance, will grant their protection to our efforts. Combining the powers of these two ancient goddesses will strengthen the role of palaces as a space for developing critical thinking. Interpretative tools, such as modern dance and digital means of mediation in the area of heritage, make room for unleashing creativity in youth.

Participants
of the project
in the King's
Library, photo
E. Behrens-
Nowakowska



European Union
Cohesion Fund



European Regional Development Fund – Integrated Operational Programme For Regional Development



European Union
Cohesion Fund



European Regional Development Fund – Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



European Regional Development Fund – Regional Operational Programme
for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship 2007–2013



European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism



Republic
of Poland



Ministry of
Culture
National
Heritage
and Sport
of the Republic
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European Union
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European Funds – Operational Programme Digital Poland



Republic
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European Social Fund – Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development



Erasmus+ Programme



Museum
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land area: 92 ha 1144 sq. m.



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