

**Hungry for Data:  
Studying court dining and using sensory data (1300–1800)**

**Programme**

International Workshop, Vilnius, Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania,  
May 29–30, 2026

Organisation: **COST Action 24164: *Sensing Europe's Court Spaces at the Crossroads of Past, Present and Future* (SENSES)**

**What data can we use to understand and even measure sensory experiences and dining at court?**

Dining at court may have been a feast for the senses – but what kind of data do we have to understand and measure these feasts? Court studies has a strong interest in dining as a core part of court life. To understand dining at court we have used economic accounts, travel descriptions, printed ceremonials, and the very rooms used. Adding to this mix there are now new and exciting opportunities. Has new technological breakthroughs allowed new forms of data and measurements of data?

SENSES (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA24164/>) has established a working group focussing on dining at court in the early modern period (with a generous definition of the time frame of that period). We hope to encourage and stimulate both new research and new methods to form a deeper understanding of courtly dining. This SENSES workshop focuses on the identification and feasibility of sensor-based data and other measurable proxies relevant to court dining (e.g., lighting conditions, room acoustics, circulation paths for serving, thermal and ventilation aspects, and spatial patterns of seating/order and visibility). The workshop therefore explicitly aims to attract additional members and partners (heritage professionals, engineers, data specialists) who can advise on data acquisition and experimental designs that remain historically responsible.

**Organisation:**

Rasa Leonavičiūtė-Gecevičienė (Vilnius)

**Scientific Committee:**

Stephan Hoppe (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munch), Chair

Fabian Persson (Linnaeus University, Kalmar)

Barbara Arciszewska (University of Warsaw, Warsaw)

Mona Hess (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg)

Maximilian Kristen (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

## Programme

**Friday 29 May 2026**

### Morning: Framing and Site Experience

09:15–09:30	Welcome and introduction to COST SENSES and WG2 Dining	Leonavičiūtė-Gecevičienė, Hoppe, Persson
09:30 - 09:50	brief round of introductions	all
09:50–10:05	Court culture and the place of dining within court studies	Persson
9:50-10:00	<i>Between Hall and Parlour: Spaces, Sense, and a Shared Language of Court Dining</i>	Wiedemann-Naaborg
10:00–10:20	The Palace of the Grand Dukes as a courtly and culinary space	Leonavičiūtė-Gecevičienė
10:25–10:55	Coffee break	—
10:55–11:05	The architecture of dining: halls, kitchens, service routes in European palaces, 1300–1800	Leipold
11:05–11:30	Digital approaches to sensory data: 3D, acoustic, thermal modelling and data structures	Hess
11:30–12:15	Open discussion; bridge to the afternoon	all

### Afternoon: Shared embodied experience

12:15–14:00	Lunch
14:15–16:00	Guided visit of the Palace of the Grand Dukes, with particular attention to dining and service spaces
16:00	Barbara Arciszewska: (1) planning of the follow-up conference at Wilanów Palace (Warsaw, 2027)
16:20	Hoppe: AI and some other recent approaches
16: 45	Kristen: data structures
18:30–	Informal reception/dinner

Saturday 30 May 2026

09:00–10:00	Roundtable: responses to the Friday framing and site visit,
10:00-10:30	(2) planning of the follow-up conference at Wilanów Palace (Warsaw, 2027)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00–11:15	İnan: Mapping the Imperial Table — Habsburg ceremonial diagrams as spatial-sensory datasets
11.15-11:25	Herget: new models for cultural data
11:25–11:40	Kalinovska : short presentation, data harvesting in court studies
11:40-12:00	Fox: King’s table
12:00–12:30	Panel discussion

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–14:10	Hoppe-Münzberg: Dining in a Collection Space. The Electoral Apartments in the Dresden Stallgebäude as a Setting for Court Hospitality
14:10–14:30	Kliewer: Codifying Taste — sensory criteria in courtly food-quality practices
14:30–15:00	Panel discussion

15:00–15:45 Coffee break

15:45–16:10	Sawoszczuk: Olfactory reconstruction — methods and data
16:10–16:30	Kugu: Scenting Prestige — olfactory and material data at the eighteenth-century Ottoman court
16:30–17:00	Mahúgo: Sonic environments of court dining
17:00–17:25	Domšić: Modelling flavour as operational sensory data for heritage interpretation
17:25–17:50	Panel discussion

### Closing synthesis

17:50–18:20	Closing synthesis: comparability of data types, priorities for the second WG2 workshop (D2.WG2.2), contributions to the white paper
18:20	Close
19:00	Informal reception/dinner