

Institute of History Strategic Plan for the Years 2023 - 2030



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Since the end of 2022, the Institute of History (IH) has been engaged in an ongoing consultation process to foster discussions on the **Institute's scientific concept and develop a new medium-term strategic plan** for the years 2023–2030. The document was formulated during a period when the Institute was undergoing two parallel accreditation processes: a comprehensive accreditation conducted by an International Assessor Board (Metapanel) engaged by the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and a periodic accreditation administered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic. In both evaluations, the IH was recognized as an institution with “a series of high-quality research projects of European standard” and “excellent publication outputs,” solidifying its position as a leader among historical research institutes in Slovakia, as well as among the humanities and social sciences institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. This strategic plan aligns with the conclusions drawn from the positive evaluations, as well as the critical suggestions and recommendations provided.

The Strategic Plan (SP) was prepared and approved by the Scientific Board in collaboration with the research staff of the Institute of History. It represents the outcome of discussions held within the IH's departments and project groups. The final version incorporates recommendations from the International Advisory Board. The Strategic Plan is grounded in the legal framework outlined by the Founding Charter of the IH SAS, the Certificate of Competence to Conduct Research and Development issued to the IH SAS by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic, and is in alignment with the Statutes of the Institute.

The Scientific Board of the IH will oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan and may make necessary updates as required. The Strategic Plan will serve as a **primary guideline in the following areas**: a) **evaluation and approval of new projects**, b) **assessing and approval of PhD. thesis topics**, and c) **the recruitment policy**.

Funding the Institute's priorities

The Institute's financial management is supervised by the Management Board, responsible for overseeing the funding of the Institute and endorsing its financial plan for the upcoming three to five years. The operation of the SAS, and consequently, the IH, relies on an annually approved budget. The realization of the Institute's Perspective Research Priorities is inherently tied to their funding through domestic and/or foreign project schemes. This funding covers expenses such as translations, publications, short research trips, and participation in scientific conferences. Initiatives such as the Doctoral Program and Career Development are partially funded by the SAS budget and the financial reserves of the Institute.

In the foreseeable future, the funding of the Institute will primarily rely on national projects. Nevertheless, the Institute needs to focus on at least partial diversification of its sources of income. European, international, and bilateral projects of various kinds will assume a crucial role in this process, along with resources from the EU's Recovery and Sustainability Plan assigned to Slovakia.

Internal Organization of Research at the Institute

The Institute of History, established in 1943, stands as the largest institution dedicated to historical research in Slovakia. It is structured into seven departments, each focusing on specific chronological periods and research areas. The departments serve as formal administrative units, with department heads facilitating communication between Institute management and staff members. However, research activities at the IH primarily revolve around project-based work, mainly conducted within the framework of domestic project schemes such as APVV and VEGA. Typically, project teams are formed by drawing members from various departments, facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange beyond the limitations of specific chronological boundaries. This approach ensures optimal flexibility and efficiency in research, while also fostering stimulating and creative discussions. Approval of submitted projects and their final evaluation falls under the responsibility of the Institute's Scientific Council. The Institute's management, working alongside the Scientific Board, conducts evaluations of individual researchers. If necessary, an ad hoc evaluation committee, consisting of internal and external members, may be established by the Scientific Board for this purpose.





Research priorities for the 2023-2030 period are divided into two parts. **The first part includes themes and research activities derived from priorities identified in the 2017-2022** strategic plan, which received approval from the Institute's Scientific Board in 2017. **The second part comprises themes that have surfaced from internal discussions, reflecting both current and emerging topics and trends in historical research, as well as significant societal issues.** We have also considered the recommendations of the 2022 Accreditation Commission and aligned our priorities with the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021-2027. Our focus is primarily on the cluster pertaining to Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society. The majority of the newly established priorities address areas of significant interest, including democracy, cultural heritage, social and economic transformations, and mobility. Through careful consideration of these factors, we aim to ensure our research not only remains at the forefront of the field but also addresses the pressing questions and challenges of our time with keen insight and relevance.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the Institute's research priorities also consider the specific needs of Slovak historiographical research. As the largest research institution in the field of history and related historical disciplines, the IH holds a special position within the Slovak academic environment, which also implies certain professional and social expectations. Furthermore, the IH serves as a national center for architectural research, playing a vital role in researching and documenting modern architectural heritage and urban history in Slovakia. In the field of cultural diplomacy, the IH acts as a strategic partner to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, actively participating in the international promotion of Slovak history.





**Priority
Research
Themes
for 2023 -
- 2030**

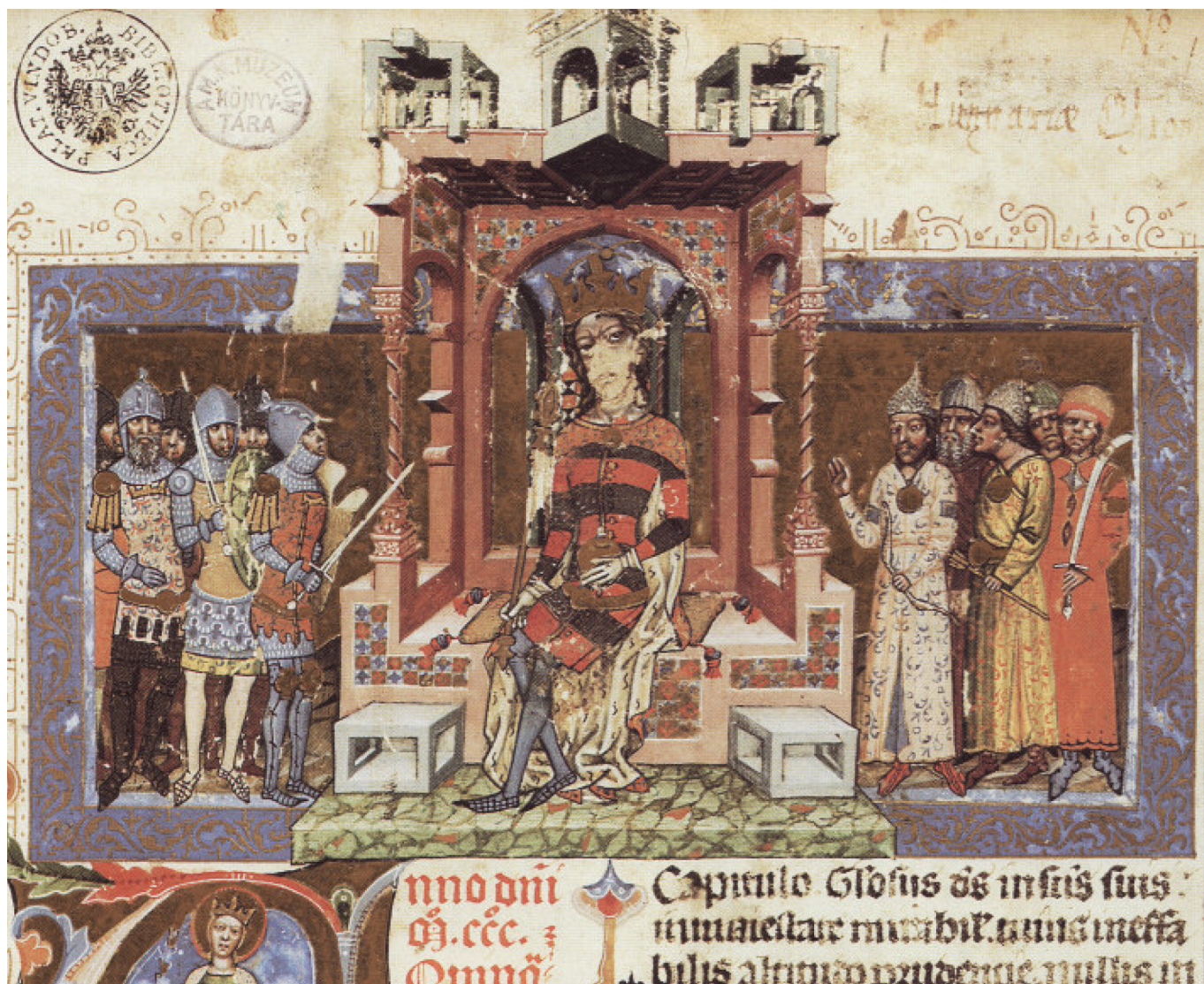
**Current
Research
Priorities
and Projects
in Progress**

Transformations of the Power Structures and Identity Formation of Privileged Social Groups

This research delves into the elites of the medieval and Early Modern Kingdom of Hungary. It explores the concept of the privileged class and the emergence of new socio-legal categories spanning the early Middle Ages to the Early Modern period. Emphasis is placed on the gradual societal transformations, the formation of the lower nobility, the emergence of the aristocracy, and the upper echelons of the urban populace.

In nearly all European societies, there was a legally uniform social group officially recognized as the "nobility," which had distinct internal stratifications based on status, wealth, and power. Despite rival counter-elites emerging from different social groups, the nobility constituted an elite in almost all respects. In the sense of P. Bourdieu's theoretical conceptions, the nobility possessed all forms of capital - economic, social, cultural and symbolic - and thus acquired an exclusive position in society.

From the beginning of the 14th century, the Kingdom of Hungary underwent fundamental changes in its social and economic structure. These changes, which lasted until the end of the Middle Ages, served as the basic starting point for the later Habsburg monarchy. The focus will be on the emergence and development of monarchical power in the Central European context and on the transformations of medieval society and economy from the second half of the 13th century to the end of the 14th century.





The main research topics will be the centralization of royal power, the nobility, noble courts, the administration of the kingdom, the exercise and transfer of elements of royal power, and the representation of the Hungarian political elite. Career progression is a key aspect, examining opportunities for individual power growth within and beyond the royal court, particularly in county assemblies. The study will delve into the career advancements of nobles, burghers, and foreigners, addressing questions of favorites and the disinherited in offices and positions, as well as considerations of familiarity. Additionally, research will encompass diplomacy and communication, leveraging AI for text analysis, including the identification of encrypted communications. Priorities also encompass studying gender roles and exploring daily life.

A central research topic is a re-evaluation of the interpretation of historical processes and phenomena associated with the origins and evolutions of medieval and early modern societies. Within the foundational social divide between free and unfree individuals, specific groups existed whose status, duties, and rights remain sparsely documented and understood.

The research will be covered by ongoing and planned grants: VEGA (2022-2025) Medieval Society in the Kingdom of Hungary (Structure, Coexistence and Confrontation of Social Groups until the End of the 13th Century); APVV The Glamour and Fall of the Nobility. Strategies of Noble Representation in the History of Slovakia (2022-2026); APVV Crossing the Frontiers. The Phenomenon of Mobility in the History of Slovakia (2021-2025) and VEGA (2024-2028) The New Monarchy. Transformations of Society in the late Middle Ages. VEGA 2/0054/24 - "Digitalization, Analysis, Processing, and Decryption of Historical Encrypted Documents."

These lines of research will be followed by further projects on the formation of the Hungarian nobility in the 11th-13th centuries, the position of royal women in medieval society, and society in the late Middle Ages.

The history of historiography in Slovakia

One of the specific expectations associated with the research activities of the HÚ SAV is to map the history of historical science in Slovakia in the Central European context. The aim of this research is to analyze selected chapters and personalities of historiography in Slovakia, to clarify the methods used in the past, and to compare them with the world historiography (especially with the Central European historiography).

The study will concentrate on the evolution of Slovak historiography in the latter half of the nineteenth century, particularly during the first half of the twentieth. The principal focus will be on the concept of the national story in its various manifestations. The central research question will be to examine the politicization of history and historicization of politics during the various phases of the development of Slovak historiography.

The research primarily concentrates on historical periods and themes that have historically been the subject of significant academic and public discourse. The primary focus of the research is on the APVV project, "History of Historiography and Thinking about History in Slovakia" (2023–2027).



The following research topics are of particular interest:

- Thinking about history in Slovakia
- Intellectual discourse on the Slovak national story
- The development of the concept of national identity
- Slovak Marxist historiography and its developmental phases
- Political instrumentalization of the past



Society in Slovakia in the Era of Modernity. Emancipation of the Unprivileged Classes in Social, Political and Cultural Life

The concept of mass politicization holds significant relevance in the study of modern societal development. The emergence of a “citizenry” and the active participation of diverse social strata in public, political, and cultural domains during the 19th century were fundamental prerequisites for the establishment of modern states across Europe. This process of empowering the underprivileged social groups was closely intertwined with the rise of political nationalism and the conception of the nation-state. Moreover, the “plebeianization” of politics exerted a profound influence on the evolution of culture, art, and architecture. There is a lot of potential for innovative research in these fields.

Our focus lies on the processes of politicization and political socialization in the territory of Slovakia from the early 1840s to the mid-1990s, within the broader context of developments in Central Europe. Examining Slovak cases will provide fresh knowledge and perspectives, enriching our understanding of social processes concerning political phenomena, perception, and comprehension of politics and state power among various groups and strata of the population. The analysis encompasses not only the democratization of political life but also examines mass political mobilization in relation to fascist and communist ideologies and regimes. The historical trajectory of Central Europe has been characterized by a interdependence between ethnic and civic principles in state-building, which assumes a significant role in our research. Additionally, our investigation encompasses the examination of Slovak populist and nationalist mobilization since 1989. This interdisciplinary research draws upon insights from the fields of architecture and urban planning, sociology, political science, and art history to examine the multifaceted aspects of societal transformation.

The main research activities are primarily carried out through the interdisciplinary project APVV "Political socialization in the territory of Slovakia during the years 1848-1993" (2021-2025). This project aims to address the fragmented nature of existing research and provide fresh insights into the dynamics of politicization and depoliticization processes, considering the significant geopolitical changes that took place in Central Europe during that period. In addition, two more focused projects contribute to this research. The first one is the VEGA project "The Role of the Bourgeoisie in Modernization Processes in the Transition from State to Civil Society (Hungary and Slovakia, 1780-1918)" (2021-2024), which delves into the influence of the bourgeoisie in the modernization processes within the context of the transition from a state-oriented society to a civil society. The second project, VEGA "Political Mobilization, Politicization, and Political Indifference of the Slovak Population, 1848-1938" (2023-2026), places its emphasis on the examination of political mobilization, the process of politicization, and the presence of political indifference among the Slovak population during the years 1848-1938.



Travelling, Transfer of Information, Cultural Models, Knowledge and Social Mobility

The project Vega entitled "Roads and Travel in Medieval Hungary," examines the mobility of specific groups identifiable in the sources. The first area of interest concerns the journeys of kings and their royal courts as they moved around the country. The royal meetings and diplomatic journeys undertaken by envoys illustrate the practical side of political power in this period. The second area of interest examines the economic aspect of travel in the Middle Ages, including trade routes and the associated infrastructure. Finally, the research examines religiously motivated travel, including pilgrimages, pilgrims, and pilgrimage sites. The project focuses not only on the mobility of populations and the transfer of material goods, but also on the transfer of concepts between courts and territories in medieval Europe. Based on a *longue durée* approach, it traces these processes from Great Moravia in the 9th century through the Kingdom of Hungary to the rise of the Habsburgs.

The transfer of information, cultural models, knowledge, and social mobility is the focus of an ongoing VEGA research project titled "Transfer of Ideas and Cross-Border Migration in a Divided World: Actors and Structures. Society in Czechoslovakia in the period of state socialism" (2023-2027). This research aims to examine the social and spatial factors that influence the transfer of ideas, concepts, and cultural forms. The research explores contact zones and communication networks in scientific, scholarly, professional, and artistic domains, with a particular emphasis on their role in shaping historical memory, environmental protection, and religious conceptions within the political sphere. These phenomena are integral to historical development, transcending specific time periods.



This project, which focuses on the Cold War period, will be followed by other projects mapping chronologically older periods. The phenomena under study are an immanent part of historical development, regardless of the epoch. These phenomena include, for example, media representations of the world in a particular geographical setting and the directly related production of propaganda to indoctrinate society. A further aspect of the project is the examination of the external environment, which can be defined in working terms as transnational space or "convergence zones". This environment provided actors with information and expertise, which they then brought to the "home" environment. Another research question is the manner and extent to which the penumbra of knowledge and information acquired was applied, or allowed to be applied, and adapted to local conditions.

The concept of "information and knowledge transfer" will serve as a framework for examining the dynamics in the development of the public sphere, including transnational influences that shaped it. The analyses will cover both the periods of authoritarian regimes and subsequent revitalization of the public sphere. The research will encompass a wide range of phenomena, including the exploration of strategies employed to circumvent state-imposed norms, the importation of prohibited literature, the production of texts outside the official channels of "circulation," various forms of censorship and self-censorship spanning from the 18th century to the late modern period, as well as the mechanisms implemented by the state to regulate the transfer of cultural and scientific knowledge.

Closely connected to the transfers of information, cultural models, and knowledge are social mobilities as necessary conditions for this transfer. The potential of the topic of migrations/social mobilities is much greater than forced migrations, deportations, internal and external displacements, which Slovak historiography has so far focused on, and thus it will be closely linked with another priority research theme, "Reconstruction of the country and society after war conflicts".

The following research topics are of particular interest:

- The settlement of the border areas of Czechoslovakia following the expulsion of the German population in 1945/1946.
- Labor and earnings migrations from the territory of Slovakia to overseas from the end of the 19th century to approximately the first half of the 20th century, along with the phenomena immediately related to them (the acquisition of professional skills, migrants' language skills, and their "transfer" as a result of return migration (changes in property ratios and ethnic proportions in the regions/counties of Spiš, Zemplín, Šariš).
- Research on return migration and knowledge transfers, formation of interest associations, societies, acculturation processes, etc.
- The social and psychological impact of migration both in the countries (regions) of origin and in the "receiving" regions/states at the "micro" (family, relatives) and "macro" (municipality - district - region/county - state) levels.

The Modern and Postmodern City

The process of privatization and the immense influence of capital during the 1990s led to urban development in the cities of the former communist bloc that was largely detached from professional discourse and had minimal regard for public interests. This resulted in drastic transformations of cityscapes, where unique qualities were lost, and cities became generic products driven by land exploitation and financialization. The aim of the latest research at IH is to identify the different conditions, dynamics and results of this transformation by comparing two centres of the former Czechoslovakia - Prague and Bratislava. The investigation focuses on four main themes: decision-making processes, public space and public amenities, housing and heritage protection. The research is developed in cooperation with the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and includes heuristic archival research, interviews with the main actors of the time and formal analyses of the urban structure.

The IH has undertaken a systematic exploration of the history of modern city planning, aiming to identify the characteristics that contribute to a city's resilience and the preservation of its urban fabric. To achieve this goal, the Architecture Department's staff has developed an innovative hybrid approach that combines architectural-historical research, urban morphology techniques, graphical 2D and 3D imaging tools for architectural investigation, and phenomenological research to examine the intricate relationship between humans and the urban environment. The knowledge acquired through historical urban research is then further developed in theoretical reflections on contemporary urban challenges, particularly within the context of ongoing climate change and housing crisis, considering the perspectives of both human and non-human entities.





**KOMPLEXNÝ NÁVRH ÚZEMNÉHO PLÁNU
DO ROKU 2010
ALTERNATÍVA I**

**ÚZEMNÝ PLÁN
HLAVNÉHO MESTA SLOVENSKEJ SOCIALISTICKEJ REPUBLIKY
BRATISLAVY**

**KONCEPT
1988**

ÚTVAR HLAVNÉHO ARCHITEKTA MESTA BRATISLAVY

RIADITEĽ

ING. ARCH. IVAN MARŠÁLEK

HLAVNÝ PROJEKTANT

ING. ARCH. PETER KOVAČIK

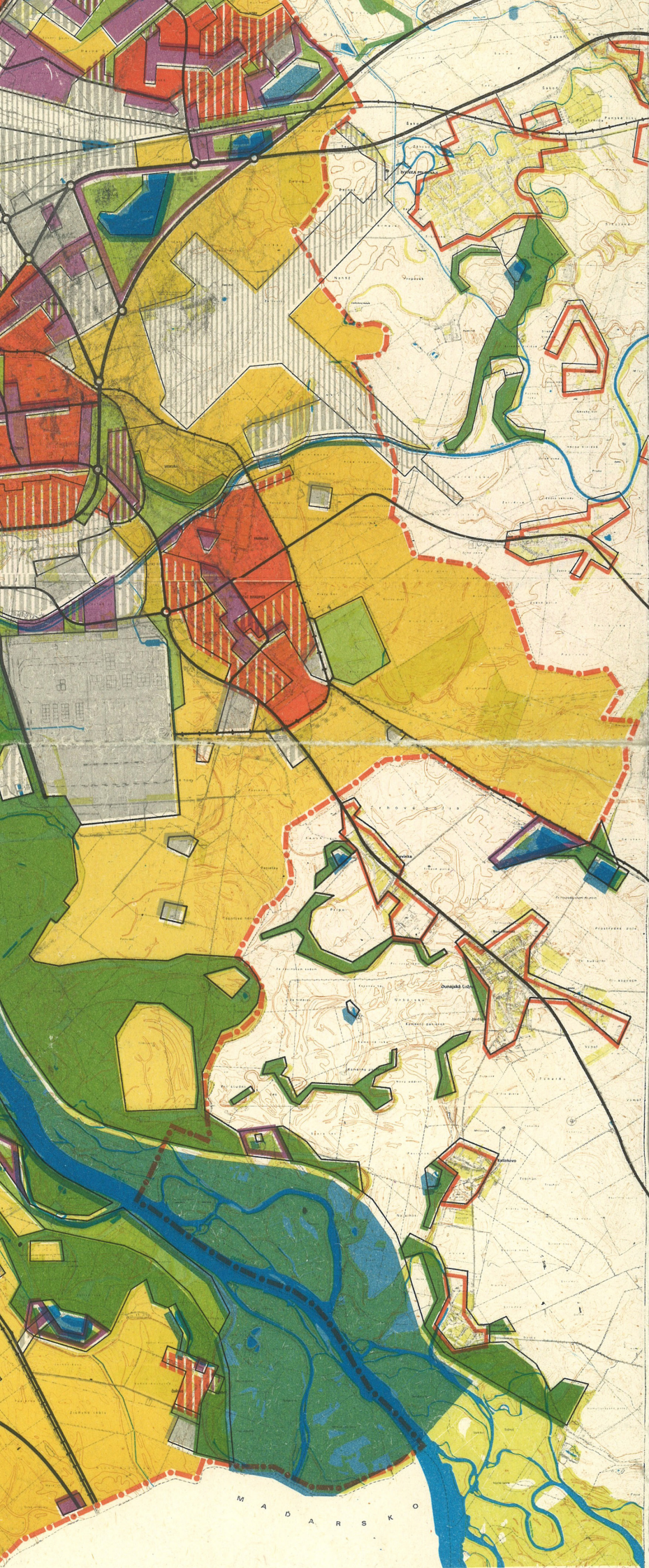
VEDÚCI PROJEKTANT

ING. ARCH. OLGA VRANKOVÁ

ING. ARCH. DUŠAN KEDRO

ZODPOVEDNÝ PROJEKTANT*

ING. ARCH. MARTIN ARPÁS



**Perspective
Research
Priorities for
2023 - 2030**

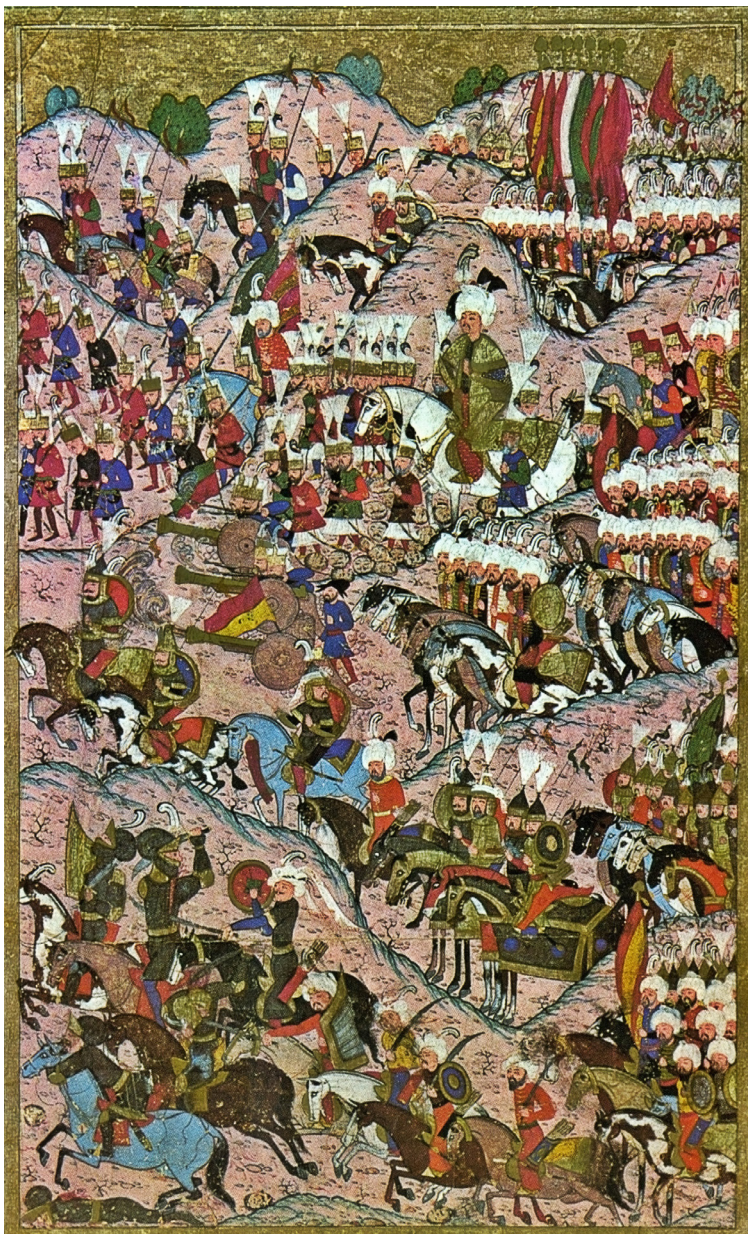


“Ungaria Reflorens: Medievalism and Modernism in the Early Modern Period”

The Battle of Mohács (1526) altered the geopolitical situation in Central Europe. Historical-philological research will examine the early modern period (1526-ca.1750) – not only within the Kingdom of Hungary but also in a broader European context – as a time of encounter and intersection between the medieval and the modern. Neo-Latin authors often referred in particular to the early period of the Kingdom of Hungary as a golden age that needed to be re-established. This intertwining of medieval and modern elements is evident not solely in historical thought but is also pervasive across a spectrum of literary genres, mirroring the ‘querelle des anciens et des modernes’. The project aims to investigate selected historical processes unfolding in the aftermath of Mohács, with a focus on understanding how the collective memory of the Mohács catastrophe contributed to their formation and development.

The project’s primary objective is to examine the early modern period in the territory of present-day Slovakia through the lens of the Mohács catastrophe—a traditional landmark delineating the Middle Ages from the modern era. It seeks to address the pivotal question: “What did Mohács signify for the development of Hungary and present-day Slovakia’s territory?” This perspective necessitates careful consideration of continuity and discontinuity, as well as tradition and innovation, within the timeframe under study.

The research will introduce an innovative perspective on intellectual development during the early modern period by exploring the consequences and reflections of the Mohács catastrophe. The notion encapsulated in the phrase “Ungaria reflorens” - or “Hungary flourishing again” - is grounded in the study of Latin literature from the 17th and 18th centuries. During the time of the Ottoman threat and the rebellions of the Estates, authors often looked back to the origins of the Kingdom of Hungary. They particularly focused on the holy King Ladislaus, viewing him as a model of a victorious warrior against enemies and a symbol of the country’s prosperity. In the second quarter of the 18th century, there was a noticeable inclination towards constructing narratives, which heralded a new era of flowering and integration for the country. Within the archetype of the ideal ruler, the figure of the pious warrior began to be supplanted by others, including the wise promoter of culture and education, as embodied by king Matthias Corvinus. In both scenarios, authors perceived the period before Mohács as the golden age of the kingdom. The catastrophe at Mohács in 1526 represented a decisive turning point in their intellectual frameworks. Aspirations for the country’s restoration, as expressed in literary sources, amalgamated an idealized image of the Middle Ages with emerging, modern currents of thought.



The research will examine the following aspects:

- Analysis of contemporary discourse on Mohács and its consequences, occurring both within aristocratic courts and in Latin literary production.
- Investigation into German journalism and Ottoman historiography of the 16th and 17th centuries.
- Study of selected free royal towns (such as Bratislava, Trnava, Bardejov, Levoča, Košice, Prešov) and towns existing under a landlord’s authority in the condominium territory that alternately belonged to the Hungarian Kingdom and Ottoman Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries
- Analysis of the Neo-Acquistica Commission’s work, which determined the legitimacy of land claims in territories liberated from Ottoman rule post-1683.
- Analyses of the depiction of the Hungarian Middle Ages in Latin literary productions (including historiography, panegyric literature, and poetry) from the 16th to the 18th centuries in Hungary.
- The history of book culture and its relationship to the public sphere in the early modern period

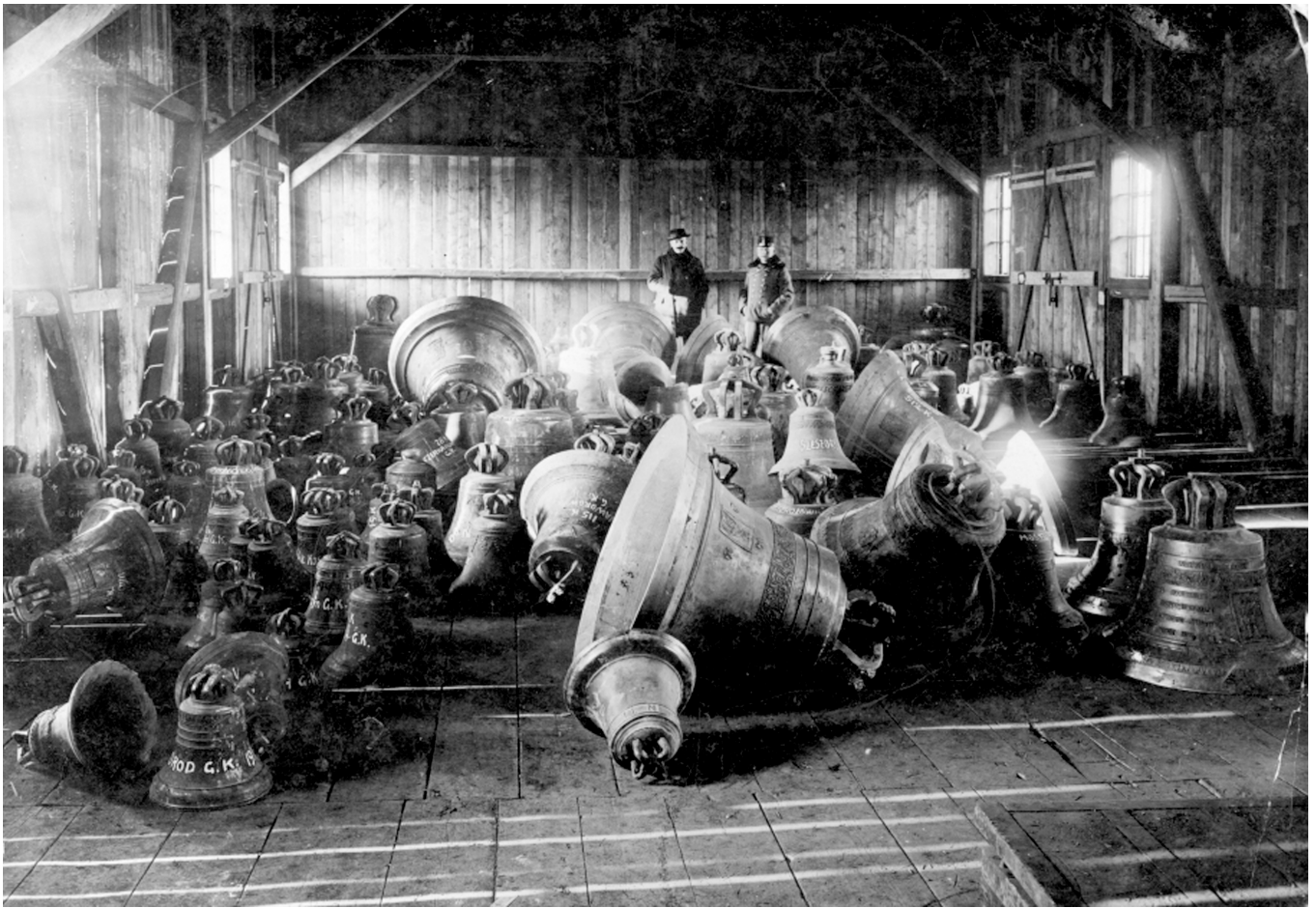
Social Exclusion/Inclusion and Social Cohesion

Social exclusion/inclusion and social cohesion have emerged as significant research topics within various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. These concepts have also played a central role in the social and political discourses in most member states of the European Union in recent decades. The study of social exclusion and inclusion encompasses two main perspectives. Firstly, it examines them as inherent phenomena that reflect the "nature" of society. Secondly, it considers them as political ideas that shape public policies. This comprehensive approach allows for an examination of various forms of exclusion that have emerged in relation to processes of nation-state building and the promotion of a unifying national identity. It also explores processes of social disciplining and the exertion of state power. In the pursuit of achieving and strengthening national homogeneity and unity, state authorities have resorted to different forms of exclusion and marginalization. Certain population groups and strata have been targeted based on categorizations related to various factors, including religion (confession), ethnicity, race, social class, and gender identity. This has led to their exclusion from societal structures and opportunities. By exploring social exclusion/inclusion and social cohesion from this multidimensional perspective, we aim to gain insights into the complexities and dynamics of social dynamics, as well as the impact of state policies on marginalized groups.

The research will primarily focus on investigating the evolving dimensions of inclusion and exclusion in the following areas:

- Religious conversions: the enforcement of religious conversions by both state authorities and local communities.
- Inclusion of children through education: from Maria Theresa's school reform to education practices during socialism.
- Identity politics and social categorization and identification: effects of social stereotypes and prejudice and their objectivization and normativisation.
- Social inclusion: various forms of assistance that facilitated socially vulnerable individuals' access to education, employment, housing, and social or health care.
- Emigrants and asylum seekers: the support, inclusion, exclusion and discrimination and assimilation of emigrants and asylum seekers.
- Historical criminology and social aspects of justice: the integration of released and amnestied prisoners into society.
- Women from the fringes of "moral society": the experiences of women categorized as prostitutes, concubines, mistresses, royal favourites, and luxury companions.
- Gender history: gender aspect will be incorporated into relevant research topics as a strategy to explore and examine gender-related dynamics.





Collective Frustrations, Phobias, Hatred and Violence in Interwar and Wartime Society

The disintegration of the traditional system of authority, the loosening of social discipline and control, and the uncertainties brought about by modernization, liberalization, and democratization created favourable conditions for the political instrumentalization of collective (social) emotions during the interwar and wartime periods. The war, the establishment of the democratic republic, the post-war crisis, the economic downturn, and the crisis of democracy further contributed to the manifestation and escalation of collective phobias, frustrations, and anger, as well as the spread of hate narratives. These phenomena played a pivotal role in the expression of collective violence and found support within the political sphere. They also led to the emergence of radical views, ideologies, and movements, forming what can be described as “emotional communities” that left a significant impact on politics and public life in Slovakia.

The social development of Slovakia from the beginning of the First World War through the interwar period to the end of the Second World War was deeply influenced by policies and events where interconnected collective phobias, frustrations, hatreds, and violence played a significant role. These encompassed a range of manifestations, including spontaneous outbursts at the end of the First World War, such as military mutinies, street riots, rural revolts, looting, and socially and nationally/ethnically motivated lynching. They also involved clashes between mob and state authorities, violent conflicts and attacks in the political and public sphere, and the systematic persecution and organized violence by the regime against minorities, culminating in the Holocaust.

The chosen approach will encompass various fields of historical research,

promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across disciplines such as social psychology, anthropology, historical sociology, social and cultural history, political history, and the history of thought. Within this thematic block, the research aims to analyse both historical and contemporary forms of collective phobias, frustrations, and hate narratives.

Additionally, it will investigate the following aspects:

- The emergence of new variations of these destructive emotions and their accompanying manifestations and practices.
- The cultural, economic, socio-political, and ideological factors that contributed to collective frustrations, phobias, and hatreds, and their impact on society, societal order in local and state-wide contexts, the regime, and the state.
- The different forms of collective violence in peace, war, and post-war situations, both spontaneous and organized, and the actors involved.
- Investigation of populist, radical, and extremist movements on the left and right that propagated hate narratives against the state, the regime, and specific social groups and classes.



Reconstruction of the Country and Society After War Conflicts

The primary focus of the analysis will be on understanding the impact of war conflicts and the process of post-war reconstruction in Slovakia and the broader Central European region. The research will primarily focus on examining war conflicts and post-war reconstruction in the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on the context of Slovakia and the broader Central European region. However, an important aspect of the study will involve comparison with analogous phenomena in earlier periods, particularly the medieval and early modern eras. By undertaking this comparative analysis, we aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the continuity and change in patterns of warfare and post-war reconstruction throughout history. The research will commence by exploring the economic, political, and military contexts that shaped the onset and progression of warfare, as well as the effects of military campaigns on the development of the war economy.



Within this comprehensive study of conflict and post-war reconstruction, specific attention will be given to the following themes:

- Economic coercion, export/import restrictions, trade, currency, and tariff wars in medieval, modern, and 20th-century contexts.
- War conflicts, campaigns, border disputes, territorial claims, and the justification of warfare in contemporary sources.
- Assessment of the social, economic, and political impact of armed conflicts on the demographic structure of society.
- The effects of war conflict and the war economy on the technical infrastructure, industry, agriculture, and trades. This includes analysing the impacts of a distorted economy, centralized management, and the wasteful exploitation of resources.
- The influence of conflict, the war economy, and reconstruction on the social status and health of the population, including the scarcity of basic necessities, regulation of production and distribution, and the spread of malnutrition, diseases, and epidemics.
- The supply situation in Slovakia during the first and second wars, including the measures implemented by Slovak economists from 1939 to 1945. Additionally, the research will explore post-war measures to improve the health situation, including the care of war victims and foreign aid.
- Assessment of the impact of war, the war economy, and post-war reconstruction on the development of science and technology, including the stagnation of certain fields during wartime conflicts.

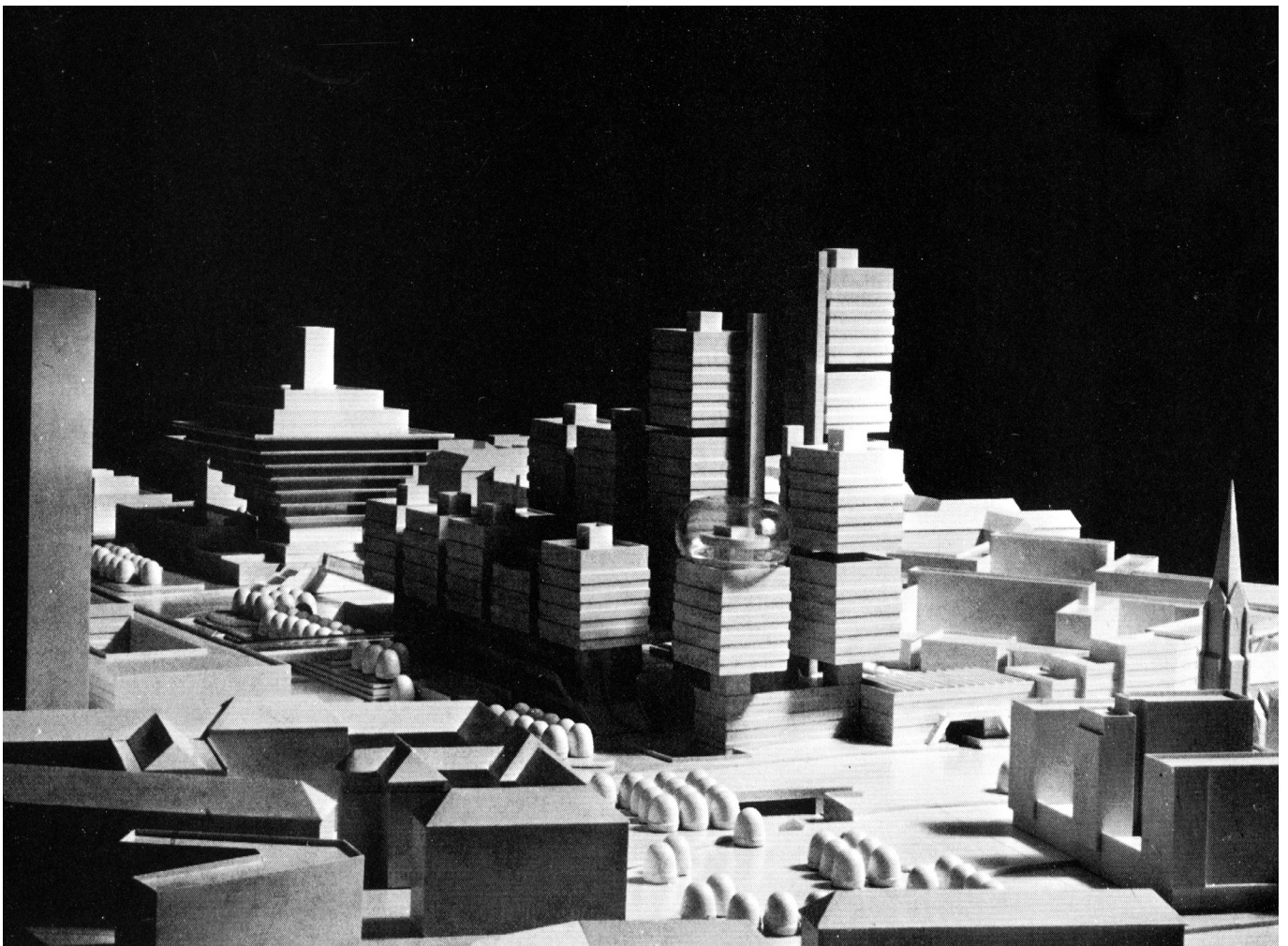


The Legacy of the Welfare State and Post-war Modernism

The themes of sustainability, the circular economy, and the role of the creative industries in driving environmental change are increasingly gaining attention in the European public sphere. An impactful initiative, namely the New European Bauhaus (beautiful – sustainable – together), has emerged as a significant platform for fostering and advancing viable solutions. Drawing inspiration from the renowned German art school, this initiative integrates science, research, art, and culture to promote innovation. Moreover, it represents a substantial shift in how European cultural heritage, particularly its more recent aspects, is approached and valued.

The latter half of the 20th century witnessed the development of the welfare state in Europe, characterized by the construction of housing, schools, healthcare facilities, and cultural establishments. Notably, a significant portion of Slovakia's building stock consists of structures built during this period. These urban structures and architectural works pose a notable challenge as we seek to re-evaluate the past with a fresh perspective that prioritizes revitalization and adaptation rather than demolition. Thus, it is crucial to explore new approaches for their revitalization and maintenance while also identifying their unique architectural, spatial, and structural characteristics. The research will focus on these key areas, which hold the potential for significant social impact:

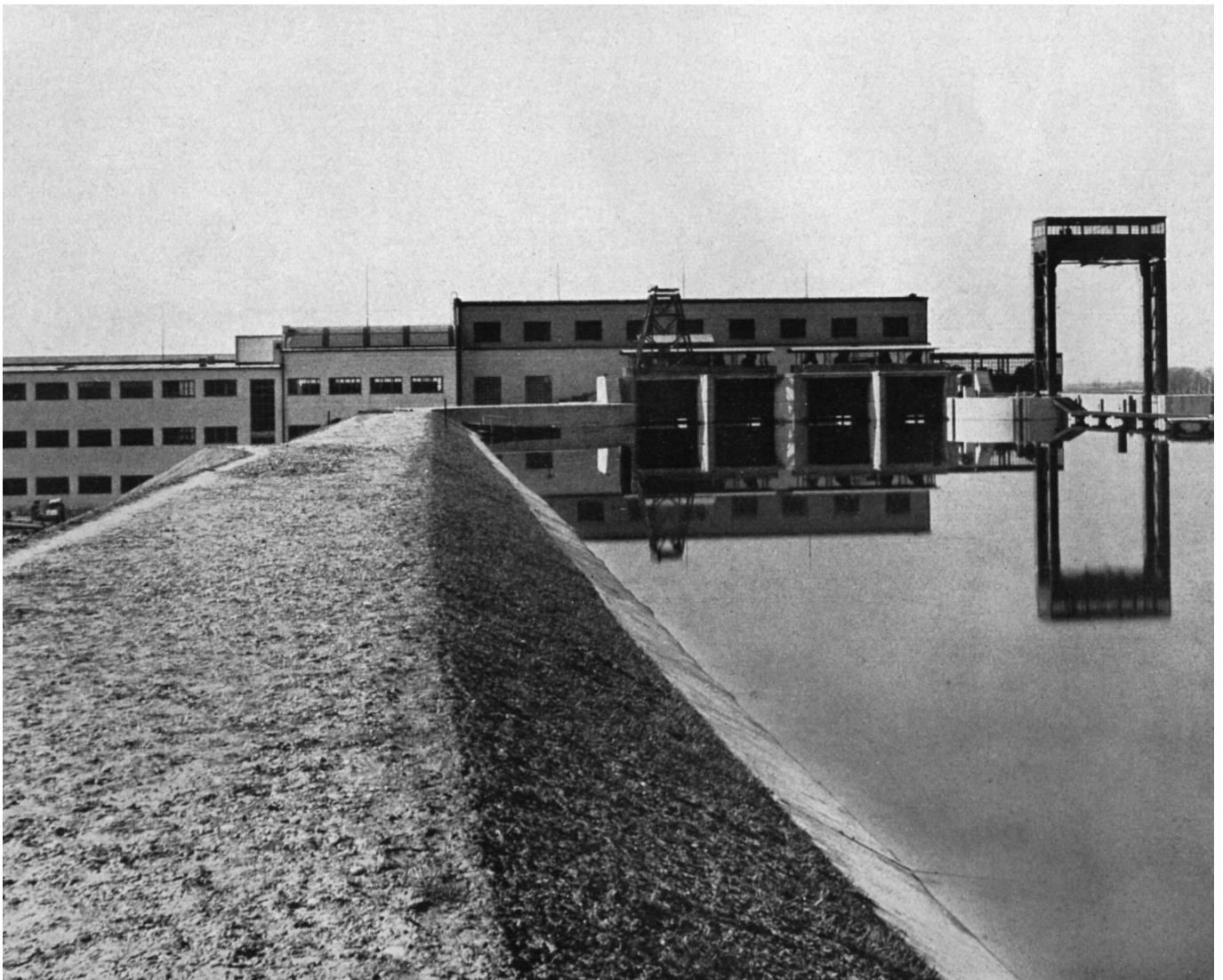
- Identification and assessment of the extent, structure, and preservation status of architecture from the specified period, including individual works and urban complexes. This will involve deepening our understanding of their architectural values and determining which aspects should be prioritized for future monument protection
- Analysis of the theoretical, political, and social contexts that influenced the development of welfare state policies and their reflection in architecture during the second half of the 20th century. This exploration is crucial for recognizing and defining the intangible heritage values associated with post-war modernism, encompassing not only housing but also a diverse range of public infrastructure typologies.
- Outlining the methodology of conservation in post-war modernism and engaging in debates regarding the history and theory of conservation and restoration approaches and methodologies in the post-World War II era.
- Developing sophisticated mechanisms to assess post-war architecture, providing a foundation for the professional activities of state administration in monument protection, environmental protection and spatial planning and management of existing structures.
- Monitoring, digitizing, and evaluating selected buildings while expanding the nationwide database of modern architectural works.
- Reflecting on the contemporary reception and treatment of post-war modernist works, as well as exploring the historical and theoretical understanding of the active involvement of professionals and the public in preserving and restoring the architectural heritage of the welfare state.
- By addressing these research areas, the aim is to foster a deeper appreciation of post-war modernist architecture, promote informed decision-making regarding preservation and restoration, and facilitate the effective management of architectural heritage within various administrative and planning contexts.

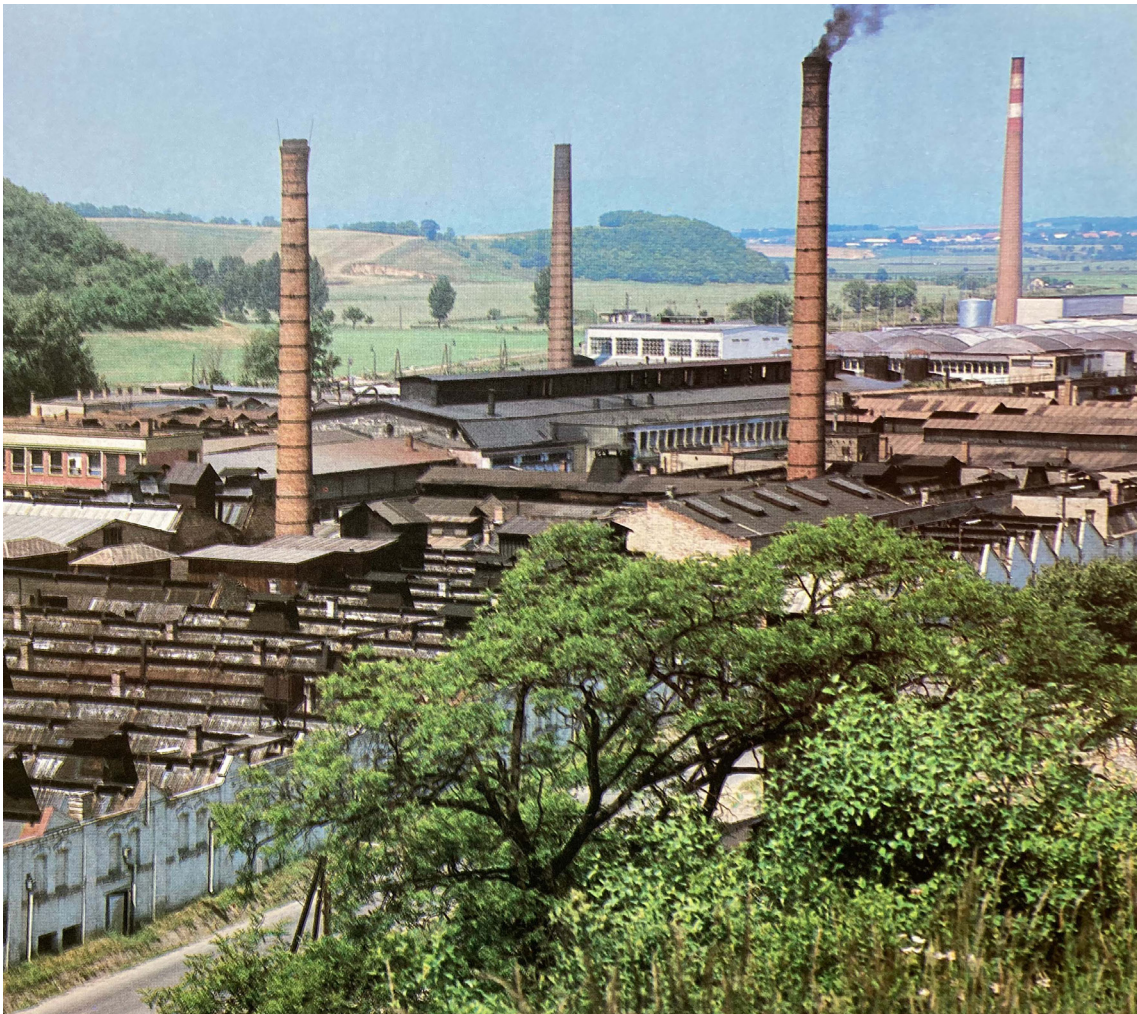


The economic history of Slovakia during the 20th century

The “global 20th century,” especially its second half, was for Slovakia, under the conditions of state socialism and a planned economy, an era of not always successful and not always “perfect” implementation of Soviet models in the field of agriculture and industry, especially heavy and chemical industry. In the results of historical research in the Slovak environment so far, the focus has been primarily on statistical indicators and the political sphere of decisions. A further area that requires further investigation is the role of local elites and the general population in the implementation of directives from above. A particularly relevant aspect of this topic is the growing influence of experts in shaping specific state policies, which can be traced back to the early 1960s. Additionally, they became a pivotal element in Czechoslovakia’s endeavors to gain influence in so-called Third World countries. Since the advent of industrialization, Slovak territory has been characterized by the emergence of economic sectors with a significant ecological footprint (mining, metallurgy, magnesite, pulp and paper, cement, and chemical industries). Following the end of the Second World War, the aforementioned characteristics of the Slovak economy deepened, and new industries were established in non-ferrous metallurgy (nickel, aluminum), thermal and atomic energy, plastics, fertilizers, chemical fibers, heavy engineering, and armaments, respectively.

The research will concentrate on the development of industrialization, its impact on the quality of life of the population, and the shape of the landscape.





The following research areas will be explored:

- The role of experts, technocratic thinking, and science policy in economic development.
- The development of the chemical industry in Slovakia.
- Plans to “control and reshape nature” through the great works of socialism
- the building of critical infrastructure
- the response to the consequences of socialist industrialization and the reshaping of nature – the beginnings of a targeted environmental policy and the building of an institutional basis for environmental protection.
- nature protection, building protected areas and parks
- Interdisciplinary collaboration across multiple disciplines such as archaeology will be initiated in order to get more robust data collection and more precise analysis.



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Institutional strategic challenges

International Research Cooperation

The IH has set a strategic goal to enhance scientific collaboration with domestic and foreign institutions, particularly through joint projects (bi- and multilateral, ERC, MSCA, HERA). It will actively participate in the “Impulz” project scheme initiated by the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, aimed at strengthening its potential to secure European grants.



- For the research priorities of Modern and Postmodern City and History of the Welfare State and Post-war Modernism, the Institute will collaborate with the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University, DOCOMOMO International (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement), the Faculty of Architecture and Design of the Slovak University of Technology, The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, and various non-profit organizations
- In investigating the process of societal and landscape reconstruction following 20th-century conflicts, the Institute will engage in cooperation with the Institute of Economic and Social History, the Faculty of Arts Charles University in Prague, the Department of History at Masaryk University in Brno, historical departments at other Czech universities, as well as academic institutes in Hungary (ELTE), Austria (CEU Vienna, Department of Medieval Studies, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften und Europäische Ethnologie, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck), Slovenia (The Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenian Academy of Sciences, Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Slovenian Academy of Sciences) and Poland (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences). The Institute will also continue its collaboration with the Institute of Military History, history departments of universities in Slovakia.
- Furthermore, the Institute will foster cooperation with departments specializing in environmental history and historical geography abroad, such as the Institute of Economic History at the University of Ostrava and the Collegium Carolinum in Munich. It will also seek partnerships with institutes within the Slovak Academy of Sciences, faculties of art and natural sciences at universities, technical colleges, and museums in Slovakia and abroad.
- The Institute will maintain its commitment to supporting the participation and engagements of its researchers in transnational academic networks, such as the National Movements & Intermediary Structures in Europe (NISE), European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), the Working Group on Post-Socialist and Comparative Memory Studies of the Memory Studies Association (PoSoCoMeS), or Kommission für Geschichte und Kultur der Deutschen in Südosteuropa.

Publication Strategy

The collaboration with esteemed publishing houses has yielded positive outcomes during the previous accreditation period. Over a quarter of the monographs were published in global languages and languages relevant to Central and Eastern European Studies. The goal for the upcoming period is to enhance the publication activity of the Institute's staff in leading international scientific journals. In 2022, the Scientific Board and the directorate of the IH approved the criteria for evaluating the scholarly outputs of individual researchers.

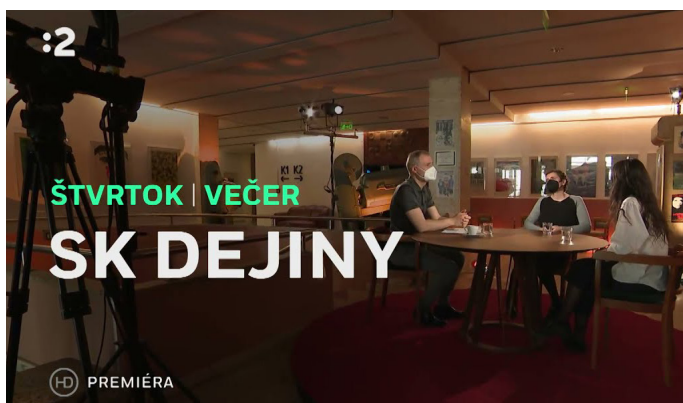
Measures:

- The Institute will facilitate the conditions for increasing the number of studies published in scientific journals and chapters in scientific monographs in English and other global languages (currently at 30 percent).
- Adequate funding will be allocated for the translation of the highest-quality outputs into English and other global languages during project preparation.
- The Institute will persist in its robust dedication to open-access publishing whenever feasible. Both Institute's primary journals adhere to the BOAI (Budapest Open Access Initiative) definition and are indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). A substantial portion of the Institute's publications is made available for free downloading, and this practice will continue in the foreseeable future.



Social Impact and Public Engagement

In the current era characterized by the weakening of democratic principles and the prevalence of misinformation, it is crucial for the IH to continue and enhance its public initiatives. With the emergence of new societal challenges, historians must actively engage in public debates, shaping and facilitating constructive discussions. Moreover, it is important to explore innovative methods to reach diverse audiences.



Register modernej
architektúry oA HÚ SAV



Measures:

- The IH will continue to deepen its participation in developing innovative approaches to popularizing science, initiating debates, providing historical advice on issues of national and global significance, and countering political extremism. Initiatives will not be limited to public debates and lectures, publishing in a wide range of platforms from mainstream media to journals; rather, a greater emphasis will be placed on websites offering historical content, as well as collaborating in the production of podcasts and vlogs with historical themes.
- The IH will continue to utilize social media as a means of disseminating its research and popularization activities, with the objective of informing the public about events and activities. Various Facebook groups have been operational since 2009 to promote the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Since the beginning of 2024, IH SAS has an Instagram account.
- The staff of the IH will continue to produce a successful history podcast in collaboration with one of the influential daily newspapers. The long-standing cooperation of the HÚ SAV with public television and radio concerning the production of series popularizing history will continue in the coming period. A particularly important activity of the Institute is the Register of Modern Architecture. The Register of Modern Architecture is an integral component of the Institute's efforts to disseminate historical knowledge and serves as a valuable resource for the Ministry of Transport and Construction, as well as other public authorities and institutions. The Architecture Department of the Slovak Academy of Sciences recognizes the importance of continuous updating and expansion of the Register, which is a top priority for the department.

Personnel Policy and Career Development

In the Institute's personnel policy, the strategic goal is to ensure generational renewal and continuity of scientific research. During the period of 2023-2030, the Institute aims to achieve an optimal age balance within its staff. In terms of gender composition, the Institute strives to maintain balance and equal opportunities in its decision-making positions, such as the Administrative and Scientific Boards. The strategic objective is to create better conditions for work-life balance and support the integration of diverse generations. The Institute's management has established a comprehensive list of recruitment criteria for new employees, including excellent proficiency in English and another relevant language, a strong publication record, experience in international collaborations, project involvement, teamwork skills, and adaptability to current research priorities.

A crucial prerequisite for attracting talented young scientists is for the Institute's management, along with the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and decision-making bodies, to enhance the attractiveness of academic work.



Measures:

- The IH will create opportunities for the recruitment of graduates from foreign universities. Institute will promote greater national heterogeneity of its personnel. Job offers will be announced on the EURAXESS portal.
- The Institute will actively seek various forms of non-institutional funding to attract foreign researchers for both short-term and long-term research stays. The Institute's management will produce a list of possible ways of financing these stays and will provide a basic manual how to obtain them.
- The IH will provide maximum support to postdoctoral fellows and young researchers in their applications for prestigious grant schemes. Institute will motivate and support applicants in submitting projects of the MSCA and ERC types. Support mechanisms will be tailored to the specific preferences of the applicants. The institute's leadership will actively collaborate with relevant supporting organizations, such as National contact point for European projects.
- Support for international networking - the IH will establish a Guest Researcher Program of IH SAS, inviting foreign postdoctoral fellows and researchers to collaborate with the Institute.

Doctoral Program

The IH places a strong emphasis on the implementation of doctoral training, considering it a consistent priority. The doctoral program is realised in accordance with the contractual agreements with the Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava and the Faculty of Arts at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. In addition to offering guidance from experienced tutors, the IH supports PhD students by providing courses on the theory and methodology of historical research, as well as essential soft skills such as project writing, curriculum development, teaching preparation, and presentation and argumentation skills. These courses are offered to students pursuing their studies at the IH and to PhD students enrolled at the aforementioned faculties.

Given the number of independent and senior researchers authorized to supervise PhD students and the quality of its PhD program the Presidium of the SAS has increased the quota for the IH to six funded PhD positions per year starting from 2023. The IH will continue to enhance the quality of its PhD program, focusing on four main areas: 1. increasing the number of international PhD students, 2. improving the competence of supervisors and internationalizing the program, 3. strengthening international cooperation with foreign universities and research institutes, and 4. enhancing program efficiency and delivery.

Measures:

- To enhance international visibility and improve the PhD program, the IH will: a) promote the program through platforms like Euraxes, H-Soz-Kult, and social media, b) actively seek potential PhD candidates at foreign universities through initiatives like supporting guest lectures by IH staff, c) facilitate PhD networking.
- The IH will enhance supervisor competence and internationalize the PhD program by: a) implementing internal training for new supervisors, b) promoting scientifically attractive and innovative themes, c) increasing the proportion of training conducted in English, d) continuing to prioritize support for PhD students to pursue studies abroad; e) encouraging PhD students to write their dissertations in English.
- IH will strengthen international cooperation in PhD student training with foreign universities and research institutes and establish connections with other humanities and social science institutes of the SAS. The IH will: a) establish joint seminars or an "international doctoral school" with universities in the Central European region (Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, and potentially other countries), b) involve postdoctoral students (Young researchers of the SAS platform) in the educational process through tutoring and training.
- The IH will enhance the efficiency of the PhD program implementation by: a) creating the position of PhD Program Coordinator, b) establishing a position of a PhD Trustee (PhD Ombudsman).



Image sources:

p. 4, 6, 9, 30, 34 / pexels.com

5, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33 / Institute of History Archive

8, 11 / Chronicon pictum, National Széchényi Library

13, 21 / Wikimedia Commons

18 / Bratislava City Archives

20 / Jorgel Briefe 1847

25, 26, 27 / The Military History Archive

IH SAS is also active on social media and 11 online projects, where it publishes information from the field of history research, the Slovak Historical Society and scientific-popularization work:



www

history.sav.sk

register-architektury.sk
historickycasopis.sk
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