



Múzeum
Slovenského
Národného
Povstania
MUSEUM OF SLOVAK NATIONAL UPRISING



ON THE RUINS OF WAR

OCCUPATION • LIBERATION • FATES • RECONSTRUCTION

» CALL FOR PAPERS «

The last months of the Second World War brought a lot of human and material damage and trauma to the whole European continent (as well as to Slovakia itself). The horrors, until then only distant, no longer concerned only the soldiers of the individual armies at the front, but also the everyday survival of the civilian population. Not even the signing of Germany's unconditional surrender and the apparent victory of the Allied forces, however, meant an immediate return to "normal". Destroyed cities after bombing or crossing the front, the absence of an administration, the trials of those responsible and their collaborators, the return of soldiers with the traumas they had endured or survivors of horrors previously unknown – all this plunged Europe into the so-called "Year Zero" (an interim or provisional period that had to kick-start the reconstruction of the administrative and everyday life of the old continent).

The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising and its partners are organising an international scientific conference to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The aim of the conference is to present new insights into the last months of the Second World War and the period immediately following its end.

APPLICATIONS

Please be sure to submit a short abstract (maximum of 500 words) of your paper proposal in Slovak, Czech, or English **no later than 20 September 2025** to the following e-mail address: konferencie.msnp@muzeumsnp.sk. We will not accept submissions after this deadline. In case of greater interest, we reserve the right to reject the paper proposed due to time and capacity reasons.

For any further questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us at one of the following e-mail addresses: konferencie.msnp@muzeumsnp.sk katarina.ristveyova@muzeumsnp.sk

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

The conference will be held at the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising (*Kapitulská 23, Banská Bystrica*), on **12 – 13 November 2025**.

Please note that the official languages of the event are Slovak, Czech, and English, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided throughout the conference to Slovak and English only.

The partners of the event are the Institute of Military History, Nation's Memory Institute, Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the Slovak Historical Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

TOPICS OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

shall address (*but are not limited to*) the following subjects:

- *Advance of the front during the liberation of Europe*
- *Reprisals of the occupation armies*
- *The decaying regime of the Slovak state (efforts to mobilise, propaganda against the Uprising and the Allied forces, the collapse of the power-repressive apparatus, etc.)*
- *The situation in Slovakia at the end of the Second World War (military operations, liberation, defence of the disintegrating state apparatus, 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps, etc.)*
- *Returns of survivors and the persecuted – their integration into society, coping with trauma, state policy towards survivors and their family members, compensation, the attitude of the majority society towards their returns (society's coping with information about the horrors in the concentration camps, pogroms, blaming of bystanders and active perpetrators, ...)*
- *Reconstruction after the Second World War – rebuilding everyday life, administration, towns and buildings*
- *Stories of the key figures of the last days of the war*
- *"Year Zero" in Europe – post-war life in a period of governmental and administrative interim (provisional rule)*
- *Diplomatic negotiations and personalities behind the post-war treaties*
- *Trials of war criminals in Europe and Slovakia*
- *The role of Allied armies in the liberated territory after the war*
- *Adjusting the borders of post-war Europe*