

## **Medium-term Strategic Plan of the Institute of History of the Research Centre for the Humanities (2020–2023)**

### **Analysis of the external environment and review of the internal capacities**

The Institute of History looks back on a remarkable history within the Hungarian research organization: the scientific potential and research capacity concentrated in its academic workshops have placed the Institute of History at the cutting edge of the science of history in Hungary. The majority of the initiatives aimed at the renewal of the profession and the revisiting of disputed historical questions have originated from here. After the political changeover in 1989, even the remaining ideological barriers restricting the 20th-century history research disappeared, and thanks to that, the Institute could freely fulfil its role as a research hub and research organizer that no other institution would have been able to then in Hungary, and this holds true for the present as well. Besides research in the narrow sense (i.e. research on the entire history of the Hungarian people and state), this role incorporates the dissemination of the results of the Hungarian science of history for as broad a public as possible, as well as the international representation of the profession and the shaping of public mentality. Following the reform of the institutional architecture, since 2012, the Institute of History – operating as a member institution of the Research Centre for the Humanities – has been able to significantly intensify its interdisciplinary role in cooperation with the associate institutes. In the past years, several institutes of history have been established which have set themselves the goal of revisiting the controversial events and figures of Hungarian history (usually in the focus of heated remembrance politics debates). While this situation has produced a competition much more fierce than before for the Departments of Modern History and Late Modern History of the Institute, it does not leave the positions of the Institute as a whole unaffected, either. Consequently, the Institute can only preserve its earlier status if it rigorously maintains its professional standards, does pioneering work in the study of topics of public interest, and its staff and direction adapt even better to the competition. On the whole, the size, composition, age distribution, and innovative capacity of the research staff, as well as the infrastructure, and the organizational and management regime are all suited to help the Institute tackle these tasks, and preserve and further reinforce its position in both Hungary and abroad. At the same time, with tighter control and a strict monitoring of the satisfaction of requirements, the Institute should gradually replace those staff members who are not performing up to the mark by other excellent researchers who are “available on the market”. The Institute continues to be a magnet research centre, but given the constraints of our budgetary envelope, it poses a problem to ensure due financial recognition for our first-line researchers. Nevertheless, the direction of the Institute and the majority of the researchers believe that from the perspective of long-term basic research and the preparation of many-year work-intensive summaries, source editions and so on, it is still Act XXXIII of 1992 on the Legal Status of Public Employees (“Kjt.”) that provides the most secure framework of employment whereas project-based employment should only be considered as an auxiliary to that.

### **Mission statement and strategic goals of the Institute**

The mission of the Institute is to be an authoritative and cornerstone institution for all – both in Hungary and abroad – who study the history of the Hungarian nation, Hungary throughout the ages, and Central Europe. In order to accomplish that, it must perform minimum four tasks simultaneously that mutually complement each other. (1) Most research carried out at the Institute handles the history of the Hungarian nation, the historical Hungarian state, and

the territories inhabited by Hungarians (broadly speaking, Central Europe) as part of European and universal history, and communicates it as such to the world. It is through research on national history that the Institute connects with the study of universal history, and theoretical and methodological topics of a more general and broader nature in the focus of attention of international professional circles. With a view to a consistent representation of this approach, we need to further increase the international embeddedness of the community of Hungarian historians, including the intensification of publication activity in world languages. (2) The second task, which is an integral part of the first one while also being one in its own right, is to firmly defend Hungarian history against attempts at expropriation which manifest themselves more and more expressly and efficiently in those countries with whose peoples Hungarians have shared a state and a common destiny for a thousand years. At the same time, the Institute must do its best to find a common denominator with these interpretations of history to the extent possible. (3) The Institute should bring together all of the Hungarian historiographies of the Carpathian Basin, and as an organizing hub, it should encourage minority institutions and fellows living in different mainstream cultures to act as genuine intermediaries between Hungarian historiographies (or those written in Hungary) and those of the “successor states”. (4) The Institute must do everything in its might to influence “public history”, so that it would leave “myth creators” and the “agents of oblivion” in a vacuum. In connection with that, it must go to great lengths to preserve and broaden the Hungarian-language scientific and popular science publication system of the science of history, and to be present as much and as efficiently as possible in those media organs whose professionalism is up to the mark. In order to achieve these goals, it must increasingly rely on modern information technology tools such as the inter- and multi-disciplinary approach/utilization of findings structured in disciplinary databases, and the wide-ranging application of the possibilities opened up by the Internet. The performance of the tasks determined in the strategic plans is closely related to the fact that the Institute can constantly assure the conditions for the publication of its three periodicals (*Történelmi Szemle*, *Világtörténet*, *Hungarian Historical Review*) as well as book publication.

### **Setting up a system of performance indicators adapted to the profile of the Institute of History**

Currently, the performance of the researchers of the Institute is measured according to several systems. According to the Organizational and Operational Rules of the Research Centre in force, the evaluation aims to establish whether “... the individual public employees, the directors of the individual institutes, and – depending on the internal structure of the given organizational unit – heads of departments/research team heads, as well as the departments and research teams, have completed their tasks prescribed in their work plans (and the ones that have emerged additionally in the course of the year).” At present, the evaluations are thus anchored on the annual work plans. In addition to that, there is a system of criteria and promotions (specified in the classification policy of the Research Centre), which determines an expected yearly amount of work for each position (typically, a certain number of publications and certain scientific public life activities). Moreover, there exist certain “external” performance indicators (not yet incorporated into the policies of the Research Centre) such as the number of references and various indices and factors that are predominantly required by the institutions announcing national and international calls for proposals and grants. The integration of all these different methodologies into a uniform system will be the principal task of the years ahead. As part of that, the obligation to prepare a work plan must be laid down in the performance assessment/classification policy as well. The current distinction between tasks “included in the work plan” and “additional” tasks must be

brought to an end. Consideration must be given to the use of “external” performance indicators; in that respect, however, increased caution should be exercised. The use of only those indicators should be supported that can be applied to the unique context of humanities, lest “mechanical” measurement methods (based solely on data) entirely override those forms of assessment that are more suited to the traditions of humanities. We must also insist on the characteristically “humanities-type” reference calculation methodologies (such as multiple references and so on). Impact factors, or any other concealed versions thereof, are unacceptable in the science of history, as is the “downgrading” of Hungarian-language professional periodicals in comparison with reviews of similar quality whose only merit is that they are published in one of the world languages.

### **Strategic action plans and priority tasks**

The strategic plans formulated by the Institute have set relevant scientific goals cutting across the structure of departments. In line with the foreign-language book publication project of the RCH, the Institute aims to make available in English comprehensive volumes written for a scholarly readership about the **major turning points of Hungarian history**, from the foundation of the Hungarian state up to the present. The main turning points and comprehensive works include the following: 1. Hungarian prehistory; 2. Foundation of the Hungarian state; 3. The Mongolian invasion; 4. The Hungarian victory at the siege of Nándorfehérvár (Belgrade) (1456); 5. The Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848–1849; 6. Trianon; 7. The Revolution of 1956. The elaboration of further milestones (e.g. the period of the Ottoman rule, the history of political changeover) is planned to take place as part of other tasks of the Departments.

The writing of a **history of Hungarian dynasties** from the Árpáadian Dynasty till 1918 is a priority goal over the medium term. The planned two-volume, multiple-author monograph places the Hungarian royal dynasties in focus; it is not just another history of Hungary that we wish to prepare. This time the history of Hungary will come to life through the history of the successive dynasties, complementing the well-known, conventional perspectives of the traditional studies of Hungary’s history with numerous aspects that have not been pointed out before.

The processing of the **history of Upper Hungary** is an important objective in the long run. Up until the 19th century, this region was not considered a separate territorial unit either in the geographical or administrative sense, consequently, no summaries were prepared about the history of Upper Hungary in Hungary, whereas works written in Slovakia mostly discussed the history of the region separately from that of the Hungarian Kingdom, disregarding any connections with the latter. The aim is to conduct examinations on multiple levels, and present not only the history, society, etc. of the given region, but to embed the information into the context of the entire Hungarian Kingdom and then of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, thus offering both accurate local knowledge and a broad overview.

Beyond the comprehensive plans of the Institute, we have formulated the following plans according to the traditional departmental structure of the Institute. The strategic action plans and goals have been specified on the basis of the institute- and department-level tasks formulated over last year.

#### *Medieval Research Department*

The work of the “Lendület” [Momentum] **Medieval Hungarian Economic History** Research Team – operating within the Medieval Department – is pursued on the basis of the work plan submitted in the framework of the grant. The funding of Lendület is provided till 30 June 2020; if the grant is prolonged, the study of the role of the royal economic policy and towns in

economy will be continued. The funding of the activities of the research team is complemented by the grant provided by NRDIO, which guarantees additional financial support up until 30 November 2020. Prepared in the framework of this programme, the volume bearing the working title *Kereskedelmi források* [Commercial Resources] is expected to come in the course of 2020–2021. If the research team receives further financial support in the future, their priority will be the publication of studies, collections of papers, and monographs in connection with this subject. Moreover, the team is planning to continue the source publication (both chronologically and thematically), as well as to prepare a modern, Hungarian–English bilingual seal catalogue that will place the medieval seals of the towns of the Hungarian Kingdom in the limelight. It is of key importance that this work – aiming for exhaustivity – is carried out by Hungarian historians so that the outcome of the study of seals reflects the authentic reality of the past, instead of historical narratives presented from the perspective of the successor states. This programme is organically connected to the source publication processing medieval Hungarian town privileges, prepared in the framework of the **Árpádian Dynasty Programme** and in cooperation with the City Archives and Research Institute of Székesfehérvár. The research in progress is financed from the budget of the grants obtained, while the source publication and the seal catalogue, as well as the continuation of the programme are possible only if involving resources on top of the basic funding.

The task of the Medieval Department is to pursue basic research on Hungarian medieval history, embedded into the context of European history, compile syntheses and compendiums summing up research findings, and prepare source publications that can serve as material for further research.

The Department carries out research on the history of the **Árpádian Dynasty** and the history of **the era of Hungarian Angevin rulers** (who were considered to be the maternal line of the Árpádian dynasty in the Middle Ages). Volumes expected to come out by 2023: 1. the volume on Sáros County of the historical geography of Hungary in the Árpádian Age; 2. a monograph-type collection of papers presenting the secular elite in the Angevin Period. Closely connected to the above is the participation of the Department in the implementation of the research sub-programmes of the Árpádian Dynasty Programme announced by the Hungarian government, which covers both the organizational tasks (stretching beyond the institutional frameworks of the RCH and its Institute of History), and research conducted at the Institute of History and the City Archives and Research Institute of Székesfehérvár. Results expected to be achieved by 2023: 1. the annotated chronology of the history of the Árpádian Age; 2. the publication of 10 monographs in English; 3. the publication of 3–4 source publications and monographs in Hungarian; 4. the creation of an e-Árpád database; 5. the volume on Somogy County of the historical geography of Hungary in the Árpádian Age. The financial resources of this research are provided by the Hungarian government and Székesfehérvár City with County Rights.

Besides the **Jagiellonian Age research** carried out for the Mohács Research Team of the Research Centre, the late medieval research conducted by the Department focuses most of all on the completion of the **late medieval archontological programme**, research into law history, and the study of diplomatic relations. Results expected to be achieved by 2023: 1. the publication of volume III of *Magyarország világi archontológiája 1458–1526* [The Secular Archontology of Hungary, 1458–1526]; 2. a monograph on medieval excesses of power; 3. a volume exposing the late medieval political–diplomatic relations between the Hungarian Kingdom and the Holy Roman Empire.

The involvement of funds in addition to the basic funding would allow for the compilation of **an online**, Hungarian- and English-language **encyclopaedia (online database)** that would provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the Hungarian Kingdom from its creation

till 1541, partly for the Hungarian readership, while also offering a reference point for foreign professionals who come into contact with Hungarian history.

#### *Early Modern History Department*

Based on the experience of the previous years, the need has become clear for an **English-language summary of the history of Ottoman Hungary (Hungary under the Turkish occupation)**. The specificities of the Ottoman expansion and rule in Hungary are either misunderstood by or unknown to the international academia, which results in false narratives about Ottoman Hungary, and despite the efforts of recent years, the Hungarian results are accessible only in fragments for the international community of researchers. In the period 2020–2023, mostly in the framework of the NRDIO research project operating within the Department (*Kereszténység és Iszlám. Keresztes háború és együttélés választóján a 16–17. században* [Christianity and Islam. At the Intersection of Crusades and Co-existence in the 16th and 17th Centuries]), preparations will be made for an English-language monograph on the history of Ottoman Hungary, and preliminary studies will be published for it.

Another key priority is the professional study and processing of the history of the **Principality of Transylvania**, going against the narrative propagated by the successor state, as a result of which various issues of the early modern history of Transylvania are misinterpreted in many respects. In the same vein, it is necessary to continue the thorough exploration of the co-existence of nations and religious denominations in Transylvania, as well as the detailed analysis of the foreign relations of the principality, which will clarify both the position of the Transylvanian state within early modern Europe and its outstanding role in Hungarian history. Pursuing this line of research will make it possible to firmly anchor the Transylvanian Museum Society (as the most important Hungarian scientific workshop in Transylvania) onto the Hungarian science of history. Regarding the international publication of research results, a priority objective is to publish – jointly with the RCH Institute of Archaeology – an English-language volume presenting the history of Szeklerland up until 1992.

The interdisciplinary Holy Crown “Lendület” [Momentum] Research Team operating within the Department seeks to fill one of the biggest gaps of Hungarian science: the systematic uncovering of the 16th–20th-century history of the **Holy Crown and Hungarian coronations**. It is our hope that a more thorough acquaintance with the modern history of the Hungarian state and national representation can deepen the historical knowledge of the Hungarian population as well as reinforce our national identity. The Department will publish a book on the history of the coronation Diet of 1625, an English-language monograph on the history of coronations and the history of the Holy Crown, as well as an English-language collection of studies on Spanish and Hungarian court representation.

Also operating within this Department, the **Family History** “Lendület” [Momentum] Research Team is building a database for family reconstruction, which will be created by the harmonization of dozens of databases, and will contain hundreds of thousands of data. With the help of the database, a compendium will be prepared on family structure in Hungary in the 16th–19th centuries, covering all social strata. In addition to that, an English compendium will be written with the involvement of an international team of authors, which intends to offer an East-Central European comparative study of early modern family history. Furthermore, the research team will publish ego-documents, of which one is of outstanding importance: the collection and publication of the Latin-language diary of Dániel Türck, a 16th-century humanist notary from Lőcse, and the collection and publication of the diaries of early modern Lutheran pastors from Upper Hungary.

The traditional profile of the Department has always comprised the preparation of significant source publications. Accordingly, within the NRDIO grant, a continuation is planned to the

critical edition of the country description prepared by Matthias Belius – which, however, mostly remained in manuscript –, *Notitia Hungariae*. As a result of that, Volume VI (Abaúj, Gömör, Torna and Borsod Counties) and Volume VII (Heves, Csongrád, Bács-Bodrog, Jászkunság) would be published by 2023. Thanks to the **Ottoman diplomacy** NRDIO research envelope, two books will come out: *Konstantinápolyi követjelentések 1568–1574* [Envoy Reports from Constantinople 1568–1574] and *A budai pasák levelezése 1616–1629* [The Correspondence of the Pashas of Buda 1616–1629]. The critical edition of the **international diplomatic correspondence of Prince Francis II Rákóczi** and his literary work – known and cited for short as *Confessio peccatoris*, or *Confessio* – written during his years in exile will be a long-awaited publication. The latter makes close cooperation indispensable with the Institute for Literary Studies, and a French translation of this work will also be published in the upcoming years. In connection with that, the study of French–Hungarian relations will be pursued: the biography of Charles V, Duke of Lorraine and the critical edition of the volume titled *Mémoires de Jean-Louis de Bussy-Rabutin* will be published.

#### *Modern History Department*

The priority aim of this Department is to study the institutionalization of sciences in 19th-century **Hungary** from the perspective of **intellectual and institutional history**. In connection with that, the fellows will continue the collection and critical edition of István Széchenyi's correspondence, for the first volume of which (to be published in 2021) an electronic database will also be built. The collection and publication of József Eötvös's correspondence will be carried out in the framework of an NRDIO grant. The first volume – covering the period till March 1848 – will come out by the end of the grant period (2023). In relation to that, the history of Diets in the Age of Dualism will also be studied in a monograph.

The fellows of the Department will present the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 in an English-language volume. Within the study of the different intellectual–ideological currents across the ages as a broader historical context, 19th-century nation-building nationalism, as well as anti-liberalism and anti-modernism in the contemporaneous empire are subjects of scholarly scrutiny. In connection with that, the fellows are planning an English-language volume titled *A Nation Divided by History and Memory: Hungary in the Twentieth Century and Beyond*; furthermore, as a result of post-doctoral research, they would examine, also in English, the topic of *Hungarian Imperialism in Southeast Europe and Beyond, 1880–1918*.

Another important research orientation of this Department is the study of the **strategies of social elites** in the changing economic and social context of Hungary in the long 19th-century Hungary. A priority task is the extension of domestic socio-historical research in the period of the bourgeoisie and modernization to the aristocracy, the economic elite, the Jewry, and the local elites. The results of the examination of the Galician Jewish immigrants between 1840 and 1938 are expected to be published in 2020. For the continuation of the Siemens company history, pursued in the framework of economic historical research, external funding would be necessary to enable the publication of the results in 2023. The examination of relations networks and informal structures in 19th-century large estates is conducted in the framework of post-doctoral research, but for a more extensive analysis of this topic, additional funds will have to be involved as well.

The study of social groups is complemented by the building and development of socio-historical databases also available for the broader community of researchers: a database is being prepared on persons belonging to the political elite, and another one is also being built on family history in connection with which data analysis and data visualization are equally performed. In continuation of the GISta Hungarorum historical geographic information

framework system, already available online, the objective is to further analyse the various aspects of territorial disparities in the Age of Dualism.

#### *Horthy Era Department*

The **three-volume compendium on the Horthy era** (1. compendium; 2. macropedia; 3. the bilateral relations of Hungary), being prepared on the basis of a four-year work plan, with the cooperation of approximately sixty researchers on 130 author's sheets, is the biggest endeavour of this kind ever since the ten-volume history of Hungary. This project is financed from NRDIO funding, but additional funds will be required for the publication of the work. Within the Department, the study of political, social, cultural, economic and nationality history topics is performed on the basis of four-year research, publication and event plans, whereas the Trianon100 project working group operates according to five-year ones. Furthermore, two post-doctoral fellows and fellows doing their DSc dissertations are working on the execution of their three-year plans as well, such as their big monographs on Miklós Horthy, and Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky, and a compendium presenting the relations of Hungary with the great powers and the states in the region. The preparation of international comparative projects is in progress with the support of the International Visegrad Fund, ENRS, the University of Vienna, and the academic institutes of the neighbouring countries.

The priority task of the HAS **Trianon100** "Lendület" [Momentum] Research Team, closely connected to the Department, is the source-level exploration of the events leading up to the tragic Treaty of Versailles, which fundamentally determined the history of the Hungarian state and nation, and its consequences, and the preparation of related monographs and source publications. In connection with that, the research team will host an international conference in 2020, and it will also organize a Trianon conference series in the Hungarian countryside, in cooperation with the Hungarian Historical Society. 13 volumes are expected to come out in the course of 2020 and 2021.

The preparation of the monograph examining the history of the **Hungarian Soviet Republic** from new perspectives has been carried out from grant funds, but now additional resources would be needed for its publication. The source collection related to this period is also under preparation. As a new project, **the study of the destiny of WWI veterans between the two World Wars** is performed in the framework of a grant lasting till 2023. The processing and publication of the material in a monograph may be carried out subsequently.

The processing of the archived materials of the **major anti-war and resistant groups in Hungary between 1944 and 1945**, and the examination of the period between the German occupation and the Arrow Cross takeover are carried out in an NRDIO PD grant framework, which, however, expires in 2020, so the continuation of these works, as well as the publication of the research findings will necessitate the involvement of external financial resources.

#### *Contemporary History Department*

The Contemporary History Department studies international relations after the Second World War and the social history of the socialist era in an East-Central European comparison. One of their priority research orientations is the **long history of the everyday life of the Kádár era and the political changeover**. This research, which explores the history of the political changeover in Hungary over a longer period of time, is partly a follow-up to the Horizon2020 COURAGE project. It seeks to examine the political changeover from a new perspective – that of the changes in the everyday life of families – from 1956 in a European comparison. During this research, an online encyclopaedia of the Kádár era, as well as an international registry of private and public collections facilitating research on this period will be prepared. However, the further development of the COURAGE database and the integration of new

items, again, require the involvement of additional funding. In the framework of the research on the everyday life in the Kádár era, there are eight English-language monographs and co-authored volumes, as well as further Hungarian manuscripts that are ready for publication, but the publication of the bulk of them demands further financial resources.

By uncovering new sources, the aim of **research on international relations** is to shed light on how the evolution of international relations changed Hungary's history after 1945, how much room for manoeuvre Hungary had in the international arena, and in what way international relations affected the history of the society. Therefore the Department places a special emphasis on the study of the diplomatic, social, economic and cultural relationships between the great powers and the major European states (e.g. USA, China, FRG, France), international political and economic alliances (UN, European Economic Community, COMECON), the Third World and Hungary, and the countries of the East-Central European region. English-, German- and Hungarian-language monographs and source publications are being prepared about the Chinese, Polish and German relations, but the publication of the findings will require the involvement of additional funds.

The Department also studies **the history of the Hungarian emigration between 1945 and 1956**. Their research focuses on those Hungarians and Hungarian communities forced into emigration after 1945 and 1956 whose economic or cultural achievements left a mark in the world, and made an impact on the social and cultural life of the receiving country. This research supports the hypothesis that the cultural performance of the Eastern European states, including Hungary, which are often depicted in historical literature as being on the periphery, did not only copy or follow the Western cultural trends but was actively shaping the intellectual and scientific workshops of the Western world. In this research topic, manuscripts of English and Hungarian monographs will be completed by 2023, but their publication will have to be partially covered from additional grant funds.

#### *South-East European History Department*

The chief goal of this Department is to turn **the Hungarian science of history** into an essential **player in the region** with respect to **research on Southeast Europe**. Cooperation with the historical workshops of the Balkan Peninsula is paramount, and it significantly enhances the objectives of the Hungarian foreign policy on the West Balkans on the level of cultural diplomacy, too. Over the past years, the Department has established an active work relationship with nearly all of the research centres of history on the Balkans, and several joint publications are under preparation. It is in connection with the above that the **Acta Balcano-Hungarica** book series of the Institute has been launched, which will serve as the primary English-language forum for the publications of numerous novel research projects related to the individual states and nations of the Balkans, thus providing an extensive readership for the dissemination of the Hungarian research findings. Based on the positive feedback, it is possible that the first volume of the series will also be prepared for publication in Albanian, the costs of which would partially have to be covered from external sponsorship.

The **GIS (geographic information system)-based automatized and expandable database**, which will be able to process statistical data in a uniform digital format and will allow for the simultaneous handling of large quantities of data, is being developed by the Department. The nearly 600 historical thematic maps, basic maps and databases prepared with the use of the GIS (around 7 million pieces of economic, social and demographic data) become freely accessible, and they provide a reliable foundation for the study of the spatial aspects of social and economic phenomena and their changes, thus promoting comparative and trend research on the Age of Dualism. In connection with that, the Institute will continue the publication of the collection of maps of Hungary in the Age of Dualism using the database, as well as the further development of the virtual atlas prepared with the help of the GIS software designed

for early modern Ottoman sources. With a view to the promotion of the goals of the software development, the Department will organize an international workshop for the utilization of the experience of the Croatian and Romanian projects. Moreover, in the event of a successful NRDIO grant application, the countrywide educational programme of the GIS and database building will be pursued. The course meets the training requirements set by ERC grants as well. Also in continuation of the GIS programme, the historical geographical atlas of Hungary will be prepared in an A3 format with the help of the available grant funds (Momentum budget).

Another important objective is the implementation of the multi-year work plan preparing **the critical edition of the diaries of István Burián** with the help of NRDIO grants. The results of the research on the international background of the Hungarian Turanian Society will be processed in 2020. Our international relations can be further developed in connection with the conference to be held in 2020 in Hungary by the Hungarian–Bulgarian Joint Academic Committee of Historians, which will focus on the problematics of Eastern European state building.

#### *Church History Department*

Although neglected in the years of communist dictatorship, this historical sub-discipline has long-standing traditions in Hungarian historiography, and they proved instrumental in the revival of research after 1990. The fellows of this Department study the history and co-existence of religious – predominantly Christian – denominations from the Middle Ages up to the present in the Carpathian Basin. In the long run, the Department has set itself the objective to prepare a compendium series of church history, presenting *The History of Christian Hungary*. The work process of this project would span over ten years, and its implementation is only conceivable with the help of additional financial resources.

In connection with medieval church history, special emphasis is laid on the examination of the role of the **Byzantine Christian culture**. A priority task related to early modern church history is the study of **the relations between the Holy See and the Hungarian church organization**. On the one hand, this involves the study of the construction of the missionary church organization in the Ottoman Hungary, the role undertaken by the Hungarian Catholic church organization in the occupied territories, and the re-organization of the bishoprics that stayed under Habsburg rule.

The exploration of **the 19th- and 20th-century history of synods, episcopal conferences, and Catholic assemblies** is also in the focus of research. Based on the source publications of synod decisions – published earlier in several volumes –, research and analysis can continue on their impact on society.

Basic research uncovering the possibilities of **church opposition to the communist dictatorship** in the second part of the 20th century is also of fundamental importance. In the framework of the latter, the exploration of the sources on the age of Pope Pius XII (1939–1958), made available by the Vatican Apostolic Archive from 2020, is a priority task, which may materialize with the help of further grant funds. Based on the cooperation agreement concluded with the Committee of National Remembrance and the Faculty of Humanities of Pázmány Péter Catholic University, a joint church historical research team will be set up that will strive to bring to light, as comprehensively as possible, all those reactions and responses that the (Catholic) church gave to the church policy and anti-religion attitude put forth by the Kádár regime, and identify the contemporary forms of value-saving. What the research project is curious to find out in the first place is how the practice of religion (activities related to devotional life) may be interpreted as cultural resistance. The results of the research team will be presented annually in the framework of a conference, and the proceedings of the talks will be published in thematic volumes.

### *Research Assistance Team*

During the book and periodical publishing activities of the RCH Institute of History, the staff members of the Research Assistance Team will continue to perform the high-level substantive-formal-technical preparation of the publications, and the monitoring of the distribution and utilization of the publications. They will insert the publications of the research findings of the Institute into the general communication and PR of the Research Centre, take care of the grant-related, economic and legal administration in connection with the publications, and they will coordinate editorial cooperation with renowned national and international publishers and research institutes. In response to the changing reading and literature consumption habits of the society, it is among the strategic objectives of the Institute to disseminate research findings to a readership as broad as possible through more recent communication channels and with the help of high-quality popular science publications.

### **Planning of the economic background of the Institute's action plans (business plan)**

The Institute provides funds for the majority of the activities from the basic subvention, but it is also drawing on increasingly substantial and varied grant funds. Over recent years, grant funds have gradually increased in terms of proportion, and the Institute wishes to maintain this situation. At the same time, the regular and reliable increase of the basic subvention is indispensable to ensure long-term and stable functioning. When planning projects, the direction of the Institute always reviews the relevant domestic and international tender opportunities. Foreign institutions financing individual research also provide significant assistance in the course of longer-term source explorations abroad.

### **Monitoring the measures following from the strategy (feedback); measuring and verifying the implementation of the strategic actions**

The executive bodies of the Institute (direction, forum of the heads of department, forum of the research fellows of the Institute) exercise regular control over the implementation of the decisions, and the foreseeable and unexpected consequences of the measures. During the annual performance assessment, the researchers give account of the tasks accomplished over the year, and the direction of the Institute takes the necessary actions in light of the results. The director, the assistant director and the scientific secretary also have the possibility to monitor the work of the individual participants of major projects. The executives hold regular meetings with the members of the External Advisory Boards as well.

17 December 2019, Budapest

Antal Molnár  
Director

Pál Fodor  
Director General