

Institute for Recent History of Serbia
Belgrade.



Historical Archive "Тимочка Крајина"
Zaječar.



Scientific Conference
"Science, Art, Spirituality:
Two Centuries of Cultural Institutions in Serbian/Yugoslav Society"
Zaječar, September 24–25, 2026
dvavekaustanovakulture@gmail.com
<https://inis.bg.ac.rs>
<https://www.arhivzajecar.org.rs>

Dear Colleagues,

The scientific conference is dedicated to the study of cultural institutions as one of the key factors of social and cultural development. Over the past two centuries, these institutions have acted as guardians of collective memory and cultural heritage, but also as significant centers of education, scientific work, and artistic creation. In this way, they represented an important pillar of the development of cultural life in Serbian and Yugoslav society.

The research into the establishment, development, and functioning of cultural institutions, as well as the associated social organizations and groups, will be considered in the broader socio-historical context of the renewal of modern Serbian statehood and society, i.e., the emergence and development of the Yugoslav state and society. The area in which these processes took place was a meeting point of different civilizational influences, traditions, languages, scripts, and cultural patterns, which also influenced the various forms of organization and functioning of cultural institutions in particular social environments.

Starting from contemporary theoretical and empirical research, cultural institutions are viewed as institutionalized forms of social action that play a significant role in preserving cultural values, transmitting knowledge, and maintaining social order. As such, they represent an important structural segment of the institutional system of every society.

The scientific conference will, in the form of case studies, examine specific types of cultural institutions: scientific and educational institutions (academies of sciences and arts, universities, libraries), institutions important for the preservation of cultural heritage and identity (museums, galleries, and archives), institutions intended for artistic expression and community culture (theaters, cinemas, cultural centers and community centers), as well as other social, religious, and public institutions (media, churches, hospitals, etc.). Special attention will be paid

to the history of their establishment, their modes of operation, and their impact on cultural and social development.

For the scientific results of the conference, in addition to insights into the development and functioning of cultural institutions in Serbian/Yugoslav society over the past two centuries, knowledge of these processes in other European countries and around the world is also significant. Such knowledge about cultural institutions in other countries enables a comparative overview and a better understanding of the role and development of similar institutions in Serbian/Yugoslav society.

Sub-themes of the Scientific Conference:

- Cultural Institutions as Bearers of Preserving and Fostering National Identity.
- Individuals and Institutions: The Influence of Cultural Actors on the Development and Shaping of Cultural Institutions.
- Cultural Policy in Various State Systems: From the Principality of Serbia to the SFR Yugoslavia.
- Local Cultural Institutions and Regional Identity.

The working languages of the scientific conference are Serbian, Russian, and English.

Submission of abstracts (abstract up to 200 words and 5 keywords) by June 1, 2026, to the email address: dvavekaustanovakulture@gmail.com

Notification of topic acceptance will be sent no later than June 20, 2026.

Submission of Full Papers by September 1, 2026, to the email address: dvavekaustanovakulture@gmail.com

Peer-reviewed papers will be published in a thematic collection.

Important announcements regarding the scientific conference will be available on the website of

The Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Belgrade – Serbia:
<https://inis.bg.ac.rs>

The Historical Archives "Timočka Krajina", Zaječar – Serbia:
<https://www.arhivzajecar.org.rs>

For any additional questions, you can contact us via the conference email address: dvavekaustanovakulture@gmail.com

We hope you will accept our invitation and, through your participation, contribute to the successful work and quality of the scientific conference.

Sincerely,
Organizing Committee of the Scientific Conference