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## CENTENARY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES

**Abstract:** On May 15, 1926 the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS or Comité international des sciences historiques – CISH) was founded in Geneva as a non-governmental organization intended to bring together historians from all over the world. The 100th anniversary of this event is approaching.

**Keywords:** international congress, ICHS, CISH, Poznań, history, historical sciences

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Since 1900, international congresses of historians had been held at sporadic intervals. They took place in the European capital cities – first one in Paris, then in Rome (1903), Berlin (1908) and London (1913). However, after the First World War it became necessary to replace these scattered assemblies by more regular meetings, organized by a stable institution, which would allow historians to present their methods and the results of their research. During the fifth International Congress of Historical Sciences in Brussels 1923, an idea emerged for a permanent organization that would unite and organize intellectuals in the historical sciences from around the world in order to promote contact and personal exchange. At its inception in 1926, the ICHS included only nineteen national committees, dominantly from Europe. After the Second World war, which severely disrupted the institution's structures, the ICHS reorganized at the International Congress



in Paris in 1950 and has continued to develop ever since. Its influence now extends more to Asia, Africa and South America. Today, the organization encompasses over fifty national committees and almost thirty affiliated commissions.

The main task of the Committee is to organize the International Congresses of Historical Sciences every five years in various parts of the world. The last Congress took place in Poznań, Poland on August 21–27, 2022. Over 100 sessions were held during the Congress, over 550 papers were delivered from all epochs and all fields of historiography. The Congress in Poznań gathered around 1,000 participants from all continents. Roughly 60% of them participated in person, the rest took the opportunity to participate online (Filipowska, 2023).

To celebrate the centenary, the ICHS Board has announced 2026 as the Year of the ICHS and invite not only its members (both national committees and affiliated commissions) but also representatives of the entire “ecumene” of historians to celebrate the anniversary together. Among other commemorative activities, Centennial Conference ‘The Past, the Present, and the future of History: Celebrating 100 Years of International Committee of Historical Sciences’ will be held in Leipzig, Germany 27–30 August 2026. The conference will explore the developments, dynamics, and diversification the historical sciences have undergone over the past decades while also fostering inspiration for future research and innovation. It will also serve as an opportunity for a balanced reflection on the current state of historiography, taking into consideration a wide range of historiographical traditions and schools of thought. The ICHS Board is looking forward to mobilization of historians as broad as possible in terms of geography, gender, and age as well as the inclusion of various approaches and political orientations to contribute to such a balance and a comparison of historiographical fields and their current standings, together with discussions of cross-fertilization, with the aim of deepening a broader understanding of common goals and hazards. The ICHS Board wants the organization to become a worldwide forum of historians and a shared platform for necessary discussions on possible future orientations of the historical sciences. In addition, some of the national committees, including Polish, and affiliated commissions plan to organize their own celebrations of the ICHS centennial.

The Board wish to celebrate the principles that have guided ICHS from the beginning, defense of freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical research and teaching in particular. The Committee was

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International Committee  
of Historical Sciences

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created to use every means at its disposal to ensure the ethical professional conduct of its members. These are still core values of ICHS and its activities (see more 'Celebration of CISH's 100th Anniversary', 2025).

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