

EUROPEAN
REMEMBRANCE
HEROISM
Piety
Central
European
Cooperation
FUTURE
battle
past
Re-burial
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
1526 Mohács
National
Memorial
Antemurale Christianitatis
King Louis II

HISTORY

Partners:

Dr János Hargitai, Ministerial Commissioner

Municipality of the City of Mohács
and Mohács 500 Nonprofit Ltd.

Directorate of the Duna-Dráva National Park

Janus Pannonius Museum, Pécs

Research Group of the Department of
Anthropology, University of Szeged

Institute and Museum of Military History

HUN-REN BTK Institute of History

Hungarian National Archives

University of Pécs

HUN-REN PPKE-PTE Vilmos Fraknói Vatican
Historical Research Group

Klebelsberg Centre

Professional Association of History Teachers



National Heritage
Institute



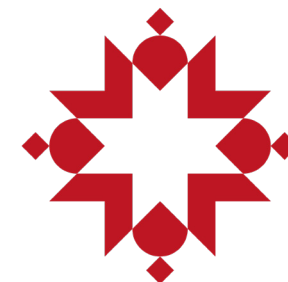
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MOHÁCS
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Mohács 500 –
*The Programme of
the National Heritage
Institute for the solemn
commemoration of the
500th anniversary of the
Battle of Mohács.*



National Heritage
Institute

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

Mercy – Heroism – Central-European Solidarity

In preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Mohács (1526), the National Heritage Institute has set the following main objectives:

1. Exhumation and dignified reburial of victims from the mass graves discovered at the Mohács National Memorial.
2. Renovation of the National Memorial site.
3. Engaging school-age audiences through experience-based learning as part of the National Pedagogy of Memory Programme.
4. Establishing international professional partnerships.

EXHUMATION – IDENTIFICATION – REBURIAL

According to the latest research, it has been discovered that the mass graves at the Mohács National Memorial contain remains of Christian warriors who were captured during the battle. For nearly 500 years, these executed soldiers laid scattered and unburied in grave pits. In collaboration with the Janus Pannonius Museum (Pécs) and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Szeged, the identified remains will be given a respectful Christian-Hungarian reburial.

Where, when and how?

The reburial will take place at the Mohács National Memorial on the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Mohács (29 August 2026). A chapel will

be built by the initiative and with the support of the National Heritage Institute. The remains of the warriors found in the III. and IV. mass graves will be placed into this chapel's crypt.

MEMORY PEDAGOGY

The significance of the Battle of Mohács in 1526 and its special place in Hungarian culture of remembrance require the events to be presented in an accessible and immersive manner, especially for young people. In 2022, the National Heritage Institute developed a curriculum-based educational package for the Mohács National Memorial to strengthen the national identity of students in grades 7–11. This complements local museum pedagogy by providing pre-visit classroom exercises, on-site learning and post-visit activities. The methodology is uniform across all memorial sites and is tailored to separate by age group. It also includes optional, site-specific elements. Our key partners in designing and implementing the programme are the Professional Association of History Teachers and the Klebelsberg Centre.

In 2024, five informative animated shortfilms were produced about the heroes of Mohács and the anti-Ottoman wars, specifically for school-age audiences. Viewers get to learn about II. Louis, the king with a horribly tragic fate; Pál Tomori, the resolute archbishop; Pál Bakics, the Serbian military leader; Štěpán Šlik, the Czech commander; and the famous Zrinyi family. The films aim to bring the legacy of these heroes vividly to for today's younger generation.

GOING INTERNATIONAL

The Battle of Mohács is not just a Hungarian concern, but an integral part of the wider historical and cultural heritage of Central Europe and Europe as a whole. Our goal is to embed commemorative programmes within an international context. To this end, we are planning an annual academic conference with our partners, featuring international speakers and participants.

Our inaugural conference, which took place in December 2024 at the Castle Garden Bazaar in Budapest, was titled 'Antemurale Christianitatis – Central Europe and the Western Balkans, Bastions of Christianity' and formed part of the cultural events of Hungary's 2024 EU Presidency.

The resulting research volumes will be published in two languages.

Our institute has organised various study visits to several Ottoman-era battlefields such as Kosovo Polje, Varna, Udbina and Belgrade. We also plan to hold public panel discussions in Hungary and in other countries that preserve the memory of Mohács, including Belgrade, Prague and Zagreb.

We commemorate the 1526 Battle of Mohács and the centuries-long resistance against the Ottoman Empire in the spirit of fostering international cooperation. Our aim is to establish a network of collaboration and scientific exchange with the countries linked to these historical events.