Presentation of the project

The project *Political Languages and Socialist Imaginaries: Collective Identities in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union* is a six-month preparatory project designed to establish the conditions for the effective launch of the ERC Starting Grant project IMAGiNE — The Socialist Imaginations of Yugoslavism, Czechoslovakism, and Sovietism. The project will be implemented by a four-member team consisting of the principal investigator, two researchers, and a technical assistant. The purpose of the project is not to begin implementing the ERC research programme prematurely, but to provide the necessary webbased, technical, data, bibliographic, and archival support. By the start of the ERC project, a project website, an initial data infrastructure, a review of key scholarly literature, and a preliminary overview of sources and archival fonds relevant to the study of socialist Yugoslavia will be in place. The methodological framework will be developed by the broader project team.

The project *Political Languages and Socialist Imaginaries: Collective Identities in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union* investigates how supranational collective identities were shaped and communicated in socialist Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. Their strength or weakness cannot be explained solely by institutions, political decisions, and national conflicts, but must also be understood through ideological languages, symbols, historical narratives, rituals, and everyday practices. The comparative and multilingual scope of the research requires prior technical, bibliographic, and archival preparation.

The first objective is to establish a basic project website. It will present the research questions, objectives, team members, and planned activities, and will be designed so that it can be expanded once the ERC project begins. Its basic structure, visual identity, initial content, and maintenance procedures will be developed.

The second objective is to establish the initial data and technical infrastructure. This will include the structure of a digital repository, rules for naming and organising files, an initial metadata schema, backup procedures, and access permissions. The infrastructure will enable the systematic storage of bibliographic data, archival inventories, digitised materials, research notes, and project documentation. An initial research data management plan will also be prepared, taking into account the FAIR principles, copyright, the rules of archives and libraries, and personal data protection.

The third objective is to prepare a review of the key scholarly literature on Yugoslavism, Czechoslovakism, and Sovietism, socialist supranational identifications, political culture, symbols, rituals, commemorative practices, and everyday life in socialist societies. The aim is not to produce a definitive bibliography, but to identify key works and major scholarly debates. The availability of this literature in the SCNR library and other collections will be assessed. A list of important missing publications will be prepared, and selected books and other scholarly works will be purchased for the SCNR library within the available budget.

The fourth objective is to review and identify sources and archival fonds relevant to the study of socialist Yugoslavia. The review will cover relevant archives, libraries, museum and documentation collections, and digital repositories in Slovenia and the other successor states of Yugoslavia. Particular attention will be given to institutions and archival fonds in

Ljubljana, Belgrade, Zagreb, and Sarajevo, as well as in other locations holding materials produced by federal, republican, party, cultural, media, and educational institutions.

The project will identify archival fonds containing party and state documentation, materials produced by mass organisations, cultural and educational institutions, media sources, materials relating to holidays, symbols, and rituals, public opinion surveys, letters, petitions, and other relevant sources. Basic information will be collected on the content, chronological scope, organisation, and accessibility of the materials held by individual institutions and fonds. The aim will not be to collect or analyse archival materials, but to produce a preliminary overview and a prioritised list of institutions and fonds for further research.

The principal investigator will be responsible for the project's scholarly and organisational direction and for setting bibliographic and archival priorities. The two researchers will contribute to the literature review, assess the availability of publications, prepare acquisition proposals, and identify relevant archival institutions and fonds. The technical assistant will be responsible for the website, repository, metadata structure, backup procedures, and project documentation.

During the first two months, the structure of the website, the repository design, the metadata schema, and the criteria for recording literature and sources will be prepared. During the third and fourth months, the scholarly literature, the SCNR library holdings, and relevant archives and archival fonds will be reviewed. The final two months will be devoted to completing the website and repository, purchasing literature, and preparing the bibliographic and archival reviews.

The project is budgeted at EUR 75,000.00 under cost category B and corresponds to 0.69 FTE. The budget includes EUR 46,512.72 for salaries, EUR 7,716.78 for employe contributions, EUR 3,286.99 for work-related reimbursements, EUR 12,723.85 fo materials and services, and EUR 4,759.66 for depreciation.

The main outputs will be a project website, an initial data and technical infrastructure, digital repository, a metadata schema, a research data management plan, a review of key scholarly literature, an expanded SCNR library collection, and an overview of relevant institutions, collections, and archival fonds for the study of socialist Yugoslavia. The project will enable the ERC project to begin with the necessary infrastructure already in place, improved access to key literature, and a clearer overview of sources for the Yugoslav component of the research.