



**Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences
National Archives
Faculty of Arts, Charles University
Faculty of Arts, University of South Bohemia**

with the support of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Strategy AV21,
"Resilient Society for 21st Century: Crisis Potentials
and Effective Transformation" research programme

are holding the
international conference

**POLICIES – INTERESTS – ENERGY
Energy Crises, Security and Society
in Central Europe in the 20th century**

Held on:

**14 and 15 September 2023,
Prague, Czech Republic**

Venue:

**National Archives, Archivní 2257/4, 149 00 Prague 4,
Congress Hall, with option of online access
for participants abroad**

Transport connections:

Chodovec bus stop, buses 115, 125, 136, 170, 203 and 213

Conference languages:

**Czech, Slovak, English, German
and Ukrainian (no translation)**

INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

Czech Academy of Sciences



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



Filozofická
fakulta
Faculty
of Arts

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice



Czech Academy
of Sciences

STRATEGYAV21

Top research in the public interest

CALL FOR PAPERS:

2023 marks 50 years since the 1973 oil crisis which made the industrialised countries of Europe, and after some time and following on from the USSR's economic problems also the countries of Central and Eastern Europe within the Soviet bloc, aware of the fragile nature of their economic wealth and security, alongside an awareness of their critical dependence on supplies of the raw materials for energy and the crucial significance of accessible and cheap energy in order to maintain social cohesion, the security of the state and the resilience of society. The two different social systems responded in different ways. The industrialised world was able to deal with the deep energy crisis caused by the huge increase in oil prices, while in the Soviet bloc, paradoxically as a result of the "deferral of price increases", the crisis was made deeper. Alongside other factors, half-hearted economic reforms and the increasing dysfunction of the system, this led to the collapse of real socialism a decade and a half later. Yet similar difficulties were also occasionally or more persistently experienced by individual European countries in the past depending on the technologies used at the time and the availability of basic sources of fuel and energy. At the same time, however, such occasions represented an opportunity for mutual assistance and subsequent co-operation and integration in resolving these difficulties. This was the case regardless of the ruling political system.

The objective of this conference is to bring together studies on the history of securing fuels and energy over the course of the 20th century on the European continent, in particular Central Europe, and to explore connections between energy, security, interests (business, societal and state interests) and policies in the various social systems.

Priority topic areas and issues examined:

- Capability for modernisation, innovation and transnational connectivity within creative thinking (level of political and economic thought);
- Competition between states for sources of raw materials and energy;
- Creation of distribution networks within states, including legislative and contractual framework;
- Energy policy as a subject of domestic political controversy;
- Securing the fuel and energy self-sufficiency of states in regard to preparation for defence against external threats;

- Interconnecting state distribution networks and European co-operation and integration;
- Different approaches and interests regarding energy policy in a bipolar world, the impacts of an energy shortfall on a society in crisis;
- Modernising fuel sources;
- Natural circumstances and disruptions to fuel and energy supplies;
- Impacts of an energy shortfall on society, businesses and government and how they operate, and adaptation attempts (changes to diets, lifestyle behaviours, modernisation and transformation of production procedures and technologies for manufacturers, managing the distribution of available fuel sources);
- Impacts of harvesting fuel sources on the environment;
- Reflections on energy crises in the media alongside the memories of population groups of the fuel crisis;
- The energy crisis and its depiction in fiction and film documentaries.

Please send proposals of contributions – title, abstract (no longer than 300 words), brief academic CV – by 18 June 2023 to the following email address:

david.hubeny@nacr.cz

The conference organisers reserve the right to select papers for the conference programme.

Papers presented, which shall undergo peer-review, shall be published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Paginae historiae*, in 2024.

Organising committee:

Emil Voráček (Institute of History of the CAS),
David Hubený (National Archives),
Jaroslav Valkoun (Charles University Faculty of Arts),
Miroslav Šepták (University of South Bohemia Faculty of Arts)