Hrvatski nacionalni odbor za povijesne znanosti (HNOPZ) / Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (CNCHS) and Comité International des Sciences Historiques (CISH) / International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS) (1995–2025)

The Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (CNCHS) / Hrvatski nacionalni odbor za povijesne znanosti (HNOPZ) is the umbrella and largest professional organization of Croatian historians in the Republic of Croatia. HNOPZ was founded in Zagreb on 17 March 1992, through the efforts of a group of Croatian historians, based on a resolution of the Presidency of the Society for Croatian History/ Društvo za hrvatsku povjesnicu (formerly the Historical Society of Croatia/Povijesno društvo Hrvatske), with the aim of joining the Comité International des Sciences Historiques (CISH) / International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. CISH, as an international non-governmental organization whose primary mission is to advance historical scholarship, regularly organizes the World Congress of Historians every five years. It was at the 18th World Congress of Historians, held in 1995 in Montreal, Canada, that HNOPZ was admitted as a full member of CISH under the name Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (CNCHS).

Key participants in this process were the first elected president of HNOPZ, Prof. Dr. Franjo Šanjek (OP), a professor at the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb, and Dr. Mirko Valentić, vice-president of HNOPZ and then director of the Institute for Contemporary History (later the Croatian Institute of History) in Zagreb. In February 1993, Dr. Alexander Buczynski, representing the Institute for Contemporary History, became the secretary of HNOPZ, and on 11 December 1999, he was elected vice-president.

In accordance with the legal regulations at the time – based on the applicable Law on Associations in the Republic of Croatia – HNOPZ was (re)established as an association at its Founding Assembly held on 12 October 1998, with headquarters at the Croatian Institute of History (Opatička 10, Zagreb), and was registered with the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia (today the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation). At that time, the Statute of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences was also adopted. According to the Statute, HNOPZ's goals are to analyze, promote, support, and develop historical sciences in the Republic of Croatia; to encourage and uphold freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical sciences; to advocate for professional ethical standards among its members; to promote Croatian historical scholarship internationally; and to coordinate the organization of scientific conferences and symposia in the field of historical sciences (Article 8).

F. Šanjek served as president of HNOPZ (1992–1999) and of the National Committee for Comparative Church History (1995–2005). During his term, the First Congress of Croatian Historians was successfully organized in Zagreb – under the plenary theme, "Croatian National and State Identity and Continuity" (held from 9–11 December 1999, interrupted due to the death of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tuđman, and resumed on 6 May 2000). The president of the Organizing Committee was Dr. Alexander Buczynski. The congress was jointly organized by HNOPZ, the Croatian Institute

of History in Zagreb, the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, and the Society for Croatian History.

At the end of the First Congress of Croatian Historians, a new Presidency of HNOPZ and a new president, Prof. Dr. Neven Budak, a professor and then soon thereafter the dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, were elected by vote. The position of HNOPZ secretary was held from 1999 to 2004 by Dr. Stjepan Matković from the Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb, followed by Dr. Marino Manin, also from that institute. To inform its membership, HNOPZ launched the *HNOPZ Bulletin* (*Glasnik HNOPZ-a*) in April 2002 (only one issue was published), and in 2004 it co-published with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences/FF-press – the *Lexicon of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences* (*Leksikon Hrvatskog nacionalnog odbora za povijesne znanosti*, compiled by Neven Budak and Kristina Milković).

One of the main tasks of HNOPZ is the organization and coordination the National Congress of Historical Sciences every four years. Accordingly, the Second Congress of Croatian Historians was held in Pula from 29 September to 3 October 2004, under the plenary theme "Croatia and Europe – Integrations in History." The congress was organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities in Pula, University of Rijeka. The Third Congress of Croatian Historians, on the theme "Religion in the Social and Cultural Context of Croatian History," was held in Supetar on the island of Brač from 1 to 5 October 2008, co-organized with the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Split.

Prof. Dr. N. Budak served as president of HNOPZ from 1999 to 2010, when Prof. Dr. Damir Agičić, a professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, was elected president, and Dr. Tomislav Galović, then senior assistant in the Department of History at the same faculty, became secretary. The next gathering of Croatian historians took place at the Fourth Congress of Croatian Historians, themed "Freedom," held in Zagreb from 1 to 5 October 2012, organized by HNOPZ, the Society for Croatian History, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb. This was a scientific conference with international participation held under the high patronage of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, led by Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister), although until then the patron had been the President of the Republic.

The Fifth Congress of Croatian Historians focused on the broad and complex theme: "Crises, Conflicts, and Solidarity in Historical Perspective." It was held in Zadar from 5 to 8 October 2016, and organized by HNOPZ, the Society for Croatian History, and the Department of History of the University of Zadar.

From 29 September to 2 October 2021, the Sixth Congress of Croatian Historians was held in Rijeka with the plenary theme of "Culture". It should be noted that the organization of the Sixth Congress was not possible in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to its postponement until 2021. The organizers of the congress were the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (Zagreb), the Society for Croatian History (Zagreb), the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – Department of History, in cooperation with the Institute for Historical and Social Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Rijeka and its branch in Pula, the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral in Rijeka, the State Archives in Rijeka, the Historical Society of Rijeka, and the Historical Society of the Island of Krk. The congress featured 37 sections and 281 presentations with 328 registered participants.

Finally, the Seventh Congress of Croatian Historians, with the plenary theme "Land", was held in Slavonia, in the city of Osijek, from 25 to 28 September 2024. It was organized by the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (Zagreb), the Society for Croatian History (Zagreb), the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek – Department of History, the Croatian Institute of History – Department for the History of Slavonia, Srijem, and Baranja (Slavonski Brod), in cooperation with the State Archives in Osijek and the Society for Croatian History – Osijek. Within 37 sections, 268 presentations and 298 participants were registered. At the conclusion of this congress, the next congress was announced, planned to take place in 2028 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Juraj Dobrila University in Pula.

Except for two, all Congresses of Croatian Historians have been held under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia. For the successful organization of the congresses, a number of sections were formed to ensure clear thematic profiling of participants and their papers.

In addition to the national congresses, one of the significant achievements of HNOPZ has been the establishment of historiography awards. This was done in cooperation with the Society for Croatian History on 22 May 2014, when it was decided that starting in 2015, professional awards in the field of historiography would be granted. Subsequently, a Rulebook on Awards was drafted and adopted, and in October 2014, a jury was selected comprising Prof. Dr. Damir Agičić, Prof. Dr. Željko Holjevac, Prof. Dr. Tvrtko Jakovina, Dr. Jasna Turkalj, Prof. Dr. Zdenka Janeković Römer, Prof. Dr. Marko Trogrlić, and Dr. Filip Hameršak. In December 2014, the first call for awards was announced, and the official award ceremony has since been held on History Day as part of the Kliofest History Festival, which is regularly held at the National and University Library in Zagreb. HNOPZ actively participates in the organization of the Kliofest History Festival every year.

The HNOPZ Presidency for the 2024–2028 term consists of: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tomislav Galović (President), Dr. Zdravka Jelaska Marijan, Dr. Marica Karakaš Obradov (Secretary), Dr. Tihana Luetić, Prof. Dr. Marija Mogorović Crljenko, Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Petrić (Vice President), and Dr. Gordan Ravančić.

Thanks to the efforts and editorial work of Dr. Gordan Ravančić, HNOPZ now has its own web portal: https://sites.google.com/site/hrvatskinacionalniodbor/.

HNOPZ Publications and Conferences

In recent years, the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (HNOPZ) has acted as an organizer or co-organizer of numerous conferences and has published or co-published around a dozen publications. Following the First Congress, and in cooperation with other institutions, HNOPZ participated in organizing the scholarly conference "Croatian Spring – 1971", held in Zagreb from 18 to 19 December 2001.

In addition to the publications – *HNOPZ Bulletin* and the *Lexicon of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences* – it also co-published the proceedings of the scholarly conference of Croatian and Polish historians held in Dubrovnik in 2001, titled *Croats and Poles – Distant and Close Nations* (*Hrvati i Poljaci – narodi daleki i bliski*, 2003), edited by Damir Agičić.

The publication *Towns and Communication. Vol. 1: Communication in Towns* (2010) contains papers from the scholarly conference on communication in cities, organized by

the International Commission for the History of Towns in Zagreb in 2006. The proceedings were edited by Neven Budak, Finn-Einar Eliassen, and Katalin Szende, with HNOPZ as a co-publisher.

In cooperation with other organizations, HNOPZ has organized several academic conferences with international participation dedicated to prominent Croatian historians, and the following collections of papers have been published:

- *Jaroslav Šidak i hrvatska historiografija njegova vremena* (Jaroslav *Šidak* and Croatian Historiography of His Time), eds. Damir Agičić and Branimir Janković (2012)
- *Josip Matasović i paradigma kulturne povijesti* (Josip Matasović and the Paradigm of Cultural History), ed. Suzana Leček (2013)
- *Nada Klaić i njezin znanstveni i nastavni doprinos razvoju historiografije* (Nada Klaić and Her Scientific and Teaching Contribution to the Development of Historiography), eds. Tomislav Galović and Damir Agičić (2014)
- *Ljubo Boban i istraživanje suvremene povijesti* (Ljubo Boban and the Study of Contemporary History), eds. Damir Agičić and Marica Karakaš Obradov (2017)

A new collection titled *Ferdo Šišić i hrvatska historiografija prve polovice 20. stoljeća. U povodu stopedesete godišnjice* Šišićeva *rođenja* (Ferdo *Šišić* and Croatian Historiography in the First Half of the 20th Century. On the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary of *Šišić*'s Birth) is currently in preparation.

Additionally, a separate volume was published: *Sveučilišna nastava povijesti u Hrvatskoj. Tradicija, današnje stanje, perspektive povodom 140. godišnjice početka rada povijesnih katedri Sveučilišta u Zagrebu* (University History Education in Croatia: Tradition, Present State, Perspectives on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the founding of the history departments at the University of Zagreb), edited by Damir Agičić and Branimir Janković (2018).

Academician Franjo Šanjek (1939–2019) – First President of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (HNOPZ)

Franjo Šanjek – a Dominican, a distinguished Croatian historian and medievalist, and a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts – was one of the founders and the first president of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences (HNOPZ).

He was born on 1 April 1939, in Poljana Biškupečka near Varaždin (Croatia). He attended elementary school in the nearby village of Sveti Ilija from 1946 to 1950, followed by secondary education in Zagreb at the Interdiocesan Religious High School for Priest Candidates (1950–1952), then in Varaždin (1952–1953), and finally in Bol on the island of Brač at the Dominican Classical Gymnasium, where he graduated in 1957.

Choosing a religious vocation, he joined the Dominicans – the Order of Preachers (*Ordo Praedicatorum*) – entering the Dalmatian Dominican Province, later the Croatian Dominican Province. That same year, in Dubrovnik, he received the Dominican habit and took the temporary religious name Brother Nedjeljko, later changed to Dominik, after the order's founder, St. Dominic de Guzmán. He used this name for a few years before returning to his baptismal name, Franjo.

He took his solemn vows in 1963 in Dubrovnik, where he studied philosophy and theology at the Higher Dominican Theological School (1958–1962). He continued his studies there (1962–1963) and then at the Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology / Catholic

Faculty of Theology in Zagreb (1963–1966), where he obtained a licentiate in theological sciences in 1966. He was ordained a priest on 29 June 1965, in Zagreb Cathedral by Cardinal Franjo Šeper.

From 1966 to 1968, he studied auxiliary sciences of history at the renowned Vatican School of Palaeography, Diplomatics and Archivistics. In 1968, he began studying religious history at the École Pratique des Hautes Études – Department of Religious Studies and at the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, University of Paris IV (Sorbonne). In 1971, he earned his PhD at the University of Paris–Sorbonne with the dissertation *Les 'chrétiens bosniaques' et le mouvement cathare dans l'Occident médiéval aux XIIe–XVe siècles*, under the mentorship of Christine Thouzellier. His doctoral thesis was published in both Croatian (*Bosansko-humski krstjani i katarsko-dualistički pokret u srednjem vijeku*, 1975) and French (*Les chrétiens bosniaques et le mouvement cathare XIIe–XVe siècles*, 1976).

While still studying in Paris, in 1970 he became an assistant at the Chair of Church History at the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb. He taught general and historical methodology, auxiliary sciences of history, Church history in the Middle Ages, medieval Church history of the Croats, early Christian archaeology, and the history of sacred art.

In 1974, he began teaching as a private docent, and in 1975 he was appointed assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1993, full professor in 1998, and attained permanent professorship in 2003.

He was appointed Head of the Chair of Church History and Director of the Institute for Church History at the Catholic Faculty of Theology in 1984, serving in these roles until his retirement in 2010. He was also actively involved in postgraduate (licentiate and doctoral) studies at the Faculty. He served as Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Zagreb from 1994 to 1998.

From the beginning, he was a professor at the Croatian Studies program (today the Faculty of Croatian Studies) at the University of Zagreb, and he also taught at the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, as well as at the newly established Catholic University of Croatia in Zagreb.

In his scholarly work, Franjo Šanjek focused extensively on the Church history of Croatia in the European context from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, on the study of European and Croatian medieval history, and on the role of Croatian intellectuals in the development of medieval European Christian theological, historical, and philosophical thought and education.

In his honor, a *Festschrift* titled *Humanitas et litterae. Zbornik u čast Franje Šanjeka* (*Humanitas et Litterae. A Volume in Honor of Franjo Šanjek*), edited by Lovorka Čoralić and Slavko Slišković, was published in 2009.

Franjo Šanjek passed away on 27 July 2019, in Zagreb.

Tomislav Galović
President of the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences,
Zagreb (Croatia)

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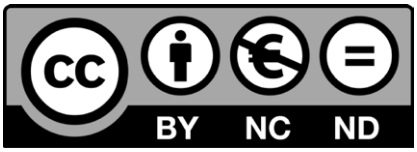
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