

# Institute of National Remembrance

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2018-06-23, 11:55

## International Cooperation

The Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) cooperates with partner institutions, primarily from the European countries (Germany, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Ukraine), and the U.S. (Hoover Institute, Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Cold War International History Project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC) and Israel (the Yad Vashem Institute). The Institute is also involved in cooperation with Polish institutions abroad such as the Polish Underground Movement (1939-1945) Study Trust in London, the Pilsudski Institute of America and the Polish Historical and Literary Society in Paris. Above all, the cooperation involves organisation of scientific conferences, implementation of joint research projects and issuing joint publications.

IPN has signed more than a dozen cooperation agreements with international institutions. Among them are the Office of Federal Commissioner for the Records of the National Security Services of the former DDR (Germany), Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (Russian Federation), Nation's Memory Institute (Slovakia), the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (the Czech Republic), the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, Lithuanian Special Archives, the National Council for the Study of Securitate Archives (Romania), the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes (Romania), the Security Service of Ukraine, the Holocaust Museum in Washington (USA) and the Yad Vashem Institute (Israel), the Pilsudski Institute of America and the Polish Underground Movement (1939-1945) Study Trust in London.

Apart from bilateral agreements, there have also been signed three important multilateral agreements. They concern cooperation within the European Network of Official Authorities in Charge of the Secret-Police Files, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and the International Council on Archives.

In 2011 the Institute has coorganised several major international scientific conferences on the history of 1939-1989. They brought together world-renowned scholars. The most successful conferences were: "»There are no longer any Jewish towns...« Extermination of Jews in Polish provinces. Perpetrators - Victims - Witnesses", "The Soviet system of concentration camps and prisons. The form of political repression in Central and Eastern Europe in the first half of the 20th century" and "Need to Know: Intelligence and Politics. Western and Eastern Perspectives".

IPN and the Ministry of Justice have organised the first celebration of the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarian Regimes, which was connected to the Polish presidency in the European Union. On 23 August 2011 representatives of European ministries of justice and delegates of IPN's partner institutions met in Warsaw. The government

representatives signed the Warsaw Declaration, which urges to continue efforts in commemorating victims and to punish the perpetrators.

As part of the educational work the Institute creates historical exhibitions. Throughout recent years such exhibits as "The Phenomenon of Solidarity. Pictures from the History of Poland, 1980-1981", „Cold War. Short History of Divided World", "Polish Peoples' Republic: So Far Away, So Close...", „The Destruction of the Polish Elite, Operation AB – Katyń", "Battle of Britain" proved to be very successful abroad.

Due to the immense media interest in more than 150 countries in 2012 IPN has issued its most well-known board game "Kolejka" ("Queue") as an international edition. In the new version apart from the Polish cards there are sets in 5 more languages: English, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese. Within the international cooperation IPN has initiated study tours, which will be continued in years to come. Until now experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Belarus, Ukraine, Tunisia, Cuba and South Korea have visited the Institute to find out about the structure and work methods of the Archives and to learn from the IPN experience.