

# Genealogy in a European Context

International Erasmus+ Job Shadowing  
Programme



European  
Commission



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
OF HUNGARY



# Preliminary Programme

This programme is a pioneering ERASMUS+ job shadowing initiative that, for the first time in Hungary, creates an opportunity for Hungarian amateur genealogists, archival professionals, and those interested in family history research to gain direct insight into international genealogical practices and methodologies. Through presentations, professional exchanges, and job shadowing activities, participants will be able to observe how genealogy-related archival services, educational programmes, and public outreach activities are organised and developed in different European contexts.

The event aims to bring the diverse and dynamically evolving world of European genealogy closer to Hungarian audiences, while also providing a forum for international exchange of experience and the strengthening of professional networks. Genealogy plays an increasingly important role in reinforcing the social relevance and public engagement activities of archives. By connecting individuals and communities to their personal and collective past, family history research contributes significantly to raising awareness of archival heritage and encourages broader use of archival collections and services.

In this respect, the programme strongly supports the broader objectives of the ERASMUS+ initiative by promoting international cooperation, professional mobility, knowledge transfer, lifelong learning, and the development of innovative educational approaches within the archival and cultural heritage sectors. The job shadowing component is particularly important, as it allows Hungarian professionals to learn directly from international experts and to adapt good practices that may contribute to the future development of user-oriented archival services in Hungary.

The presentations and discussions of the workshop will be held in English, which not only facilitates integration into the international professional community but also contributes to the development of participants' professional language and communication skills. A key objective of the event is to enable Hungarian audiences to gain first-hand experience of European genealogical practices, while also encouraging dialogue between professional archivists, researchers, and the wider public interested in family history.

Video recordings will be made of the presentations on the first day and subsequently published on the YouTube channel of the National Archives of Hungary. This will ensure the long-term accessibility and sustainability of the programme and will significantly support adult learners, independent researchers, and future experts who may not be able to attend the event in person. The recordings will also serve as valuable educational resources that contribute to professional preparation, continuous learning, and the long-term dissemination of international best practices in genealogy and archival outreach.

## 16 June 2026 (Tuesday)

**Location: National Archives of Hungary, 1014 Budapest, Bécsi kapu tér 2–4.,  
Conference and Exhibition Hall (Ground Floor)**

### **Morning programme**

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|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00–10:10 | Welcome speech by <b>Zsuzsanna Mikó PhD</b> ,<br><i>Deputy-Director General of NAH</i>                                                                            |
| 10:10-10:30 | <b>Irene Villar</b> ( <i>Archive of the Nobility, Spain</i> )<br><b>Sources for the genealogical research in the Archive of the Nobility (Spain)</b>              |
| 10:30-11:00 | <b>Sindi Časar</b> ( <i>Regional Archives Maribor, Slovenia</i> )<br><b>Hungarian Church and Civil Registers in Slovenia</b>                                      |
| 11:00–11:30 | <b>Thomas Aigner</b> ( <i>Icarus, Austria</i> )<br><b>The MATRICULA experience – Central European Church Registers Online</b>                                     |
| 11:30–12:00 | <b>Martin Motovsky</b> ( <i>Association for Genealogical Research of Lower Land Slovaks, Slovakia</i> )<br><b>Genealogical Database of the Lower Land Slovaks</b> |

### **Afternoon programme**

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:00–13:30 | <b>Thomas Hengst</b> ( <i>FamilySearch, Germany</i> )<br><b>The Role of FamilySearch in Family History Research</b>                                 |
| 13:30–14:00 | <b>Yannis Stoyannidis</b> ( <i>University of West-Attica, Greece</i> )<br><b>Archives Unearthing Family Stories and Memories. Cases from Greece</b> |
| 14:00-14:30 | <b><i>Thematic Discussion</i></b>                                                                                                                   |

## 17 June 2026 (Wednesday)

Location: National Archives of Hungary, 1014 Budapest, Bécsi kapu tér 2–4.,  
Hall of Knights (First Floor)

### **Morning programme**

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00–10:30 | István Hegedűs (NAH)<br><b>Opportunities and Experiences of Digitisation at the National Archives of Hungary</b>                        |
| 10:30–11:00 | Csaba Reisz T. (NAH)<br><b>The Genealogical Relevance of Cadastral Maps and Records and Their Location Database</b>                     |
| 11:00–11:30 | András Simon (NAH)<br><b>Everyone Lived Somewhere: Identifying Geographical Names by Using AI</b>                                       |
| 11:30-12:00 | Ferenc Zotter (MACSE)<br><b>The MACSE Database of Parish Registers and Name Magyarization Records</b>                                   |
| 12:00–13:00 | <i>Light Sandwich Lunch</i>                                                                                                             |
| 13:00–13:30 | Hajnalka Bánszki (NAH Szabolcs-Szatmár County)<br><b>Tracing family Histories Along the Border – Experiences from a County Archives</b> |
| 13:30–14:00 | Attila Csönge (NAH Jász-Nagykun Szolnok County)<br><b>Cooperation Between Genealogists and Archivists in Szolnok</b>                    |
| 14:00-14:30 | Ágnes Szegő (MACSE)<br><b>History and Demography of the Jews of Tiszafüred</b>                                                          |

## **18 June 2026 (Thursday)**

**Location:** National Archives of Hungary, 1014 Budapest, Bécsi kapu tér 2–4.

**Meeting point:** Entrance Hall

### **9:30–10:30 The Archival Building at Bécsi kapu tér as a Historical Space and Public Collection Infrastructure**

Within the framework of the programme, participants will become acquainted with the history, architectural design, and archival functions of the palace of the National Archives of Hungary at Bécsi kapu Square. The palace is the first building in Hungary specifically designed for archival purposes, and its realization was the result of a long institutional development process.

The guided tour will show how the design of the building – by architect Samu Petz in 1912 – was closely aligned with the requirements of modern archival operations. The romantic, historicist-style building was planned so that representative and working spaces were placed in the central part of the U-shaped structure, while the archival storage areas were located in the side wings. This arrangement ensured a balanced functioning of institutional representation, public services, administrative operations, and the practical requirements of record preservation.

During the presentation of the building's decorative elements, interior spaces, and historical layers, participants will become familiar with the exterior stone sculptures, the roof tiles produced by the Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory, as well as the role of interior decoration and wall paintings in expressing institutional identity and national historical narratives.

The professional aim of the visit is to help participants understand how architectural heritage, institutional history, collection preservation, research services, and public outreach functions are integrated within an archival building. Using the palace at Bécsi kapu Square as an example, it becomes clear that archival infrastructure is not merely storage capacity, but also a physical space for the long-term preservation, accessibility, and public presentation of documentary heritage.

### **10:30–11:30 Rare Archival Treasures and Storage Areas**

As part of the programme, participants will also take part in a repository visit, offering insight into the closed professional collection spaces of the National Archives of Hungary. The visit is complemented by a special document presentation, showcasing some of the archive's most significant historical sources.

Among the materials presented are the Royal Books (Királyi Könyvek) and the records of the 1828 national census, both of which constitute important reflections of the social and administrative conditions of their time.

These records are significant not only for their content but also for their visual appearance: handwritten entries and original bindings bring the historical sources tangibly close to the world of the past. During the presentation, participants will also learn how these documents can be used in genealogical research, and how they help uncover personal and local historical connections.

The programme thus offers both a professional insight into the world of archival work and an experiential encounter with outstanding pieces of Hungarian historical heritage.

### **11:30 – 12:30 1945 Crossfire: Archival Sources and Digital Storytelling in the Permanent Exhibition of the National Archives of Hungary**

Within the framework of the programme, participants will visit the exhibition 1945 – Crossfire, held in the Bécsi kapu Square palace of the National Archives of Hungary. The exhibition was created to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 1945.

The exhibition was realized through the cooperation of the National Archives of Hungary, the Military History Institute and Museum of the Ministry of Defence, and the Military History Archives of the Ministry of Defence. Through archival records, artefacts, personal stories, research findings, and digital solutions, it presents the military occupation of Hungary in 1944–1945, the siege of Budapest, and the civilian and military consequences of the war.

The exhibition is also connected to a broader research and documentation programme aimed at examining death registers between the spring of 1944 and 1952, identifying victims, and processing and mapping settlement-level data related to wartime events.

The professional aim of the programme is to demonstrate how archival documents can be transformed into exhibition content that is accessible, interpretable, and visually engaging for the public. Participants will gain insight into the exhibition practices of the archives, including the selection and contextualization of sources, their integration with material artefacts, and the ways digital technologies support the presentation of the spatial and human dimensions of historical events.

The exhibition is based not only on the archival holdings of the National Archives of Hungary, but also on contributions from military history institutions, museums, and research partners. This provides an opportunity to demonstrate how different public collection competencies can be coordinated, including archival source exploration, the interpretation of material collections, historical research, digital processing, and public engagement practices.

### **12:30 -13:30 Lunch Break**

### **13:30-15:00 Consultation between the National Archives of Hungary and the Association for Genealogical Research of low-land Slovaks**

Topic: Professional consultation on the transfer and further utilization of the genealogical database developed and maintained by the association, as well as on the future support and development of database-building processes through the integration of artificial intelligence-based tools.

The National Archives of Hungary undertakes to provide professional and technical support for the application of artificial intelligence, as well as training for members of the association, in order to facilitate the effective integration of modern digital methods into the association's data-processing practices.

The aim of the meeting is to explore and jointly establish the framework for long-term cooperation and deepen the collaboration between the two organizations.

### **19 June 2026 (Friday)**

Location: Hungarian Money Museum & Visitor Center

1122 Budapest, Krisztina körút 6.

#### **11:00-13:00 Guided tour at the Museum**

A visit to the Pénzmúzeum is highly relevant from a genealogical perspective. The museum provides valuable insight into the historical monetary systems and economic conditions that shaped the daily lives of our ancestors, helping researchers better understand the value of money, wages, property, and inheritance recorded in historical documents. It also offers important context for reconstructing the social and economic status of families across different periods. Furthermore, the museum's presentation of economic crises, inflation, and financial transformations helps explain migration patterns, occupational changes, and other major decisions that influenced family histories over generations.







Az Európai Unió  
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