

# Belgrade

## Contested history in museums

17–19 September 2025

Beograd (RS)

Since the collapse of Yugoslavia, the official interpretation of history in Serbia has changed fundamentally: In socialist Yugoslavia, the heroicised partisan struggle against the Nazis was at the centre of memory. Historical and political conflicts were concealed under the slogan of 'brotherhood and unity' and surfaced in the nationalism of the 1990s. The successor states of Yugoslavia – including Serbia – constructed homogenising national identities and, in some cases, distanced themselves from the idea of Yugoslavia in a historical revisionist manner, which created new conflicts of remembrance. Against this background, museums in Serbia play different roles as identity-forming institutions: They can reinforce, question, or counteract national narratives. During the excursion to Belgrade, we will explore Serbia's contested recent past through city tours and museum visits in dialogue with local experts: Which layers of identity-forming memory are visible in urban space? Which historical events do Belgrade's museums focus on? To what extent do museums resist the uniformity of heterogeneous identities and historical experiences? What place do minorities occupy and demand in the museum landscape? And (where) is there a consideration of the Yugoslav wars in the museums?

With

**Nadja Greku** Program manager at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) (RS)

**Nikola Milikić** Curator at the Istorijiski muzej Srbije (Historical Museum of Serbia) (RS)

**Bratislav Mitrović** Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) (RS)

**Milovan Pissari** Historian at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (University of Belgrade), member of the Steering Committee of the Memorial Center "Staro Sajmište" (RS)

**Aleksandar Stojanović** Senior Research Associate, Institute for Recent History of Serbia (RS)

and with **employees of the following museums:** Muzej devedesetih (museum 90) (RS), Jevrejski istorijski muzej (Jewish Historical Museum) (RS), Muzej Savremene Umetnosti (Museum of Contemporary Art) (RS), Muzej Jugoslavije (Museum of Yugoslavia) (RS), Narodni muzej Srbije (Serbian National Museum) (RS)

Organisers

**Anna Jungmayr** Management team Museumsakademie, Graz/Vienna (AT)

# Program

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

Meeting point: Muzej Jugoslavije (Museum of Yugoslavia)

## YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS BREAKUP

09.30–10.00	Welcome and Introduction
10.00–12.00	Tour and Discussion <b>Muzej Jugoslavije (Museum of Yugoslavia)</b> <i>Museum guide</i>
12.00–14.00	Lunch break and change of location
14.00–15.30	Tour and Discussion <b>Muzej devedesetih (museum 90)</b> <i>Museum guide</i>
15.30–16.30	Break and change of location
16.30–18.00	Tour and Discussion <b>Muzej Savremene Umetnosti (Museum of Contemporary Art)</b> <i>Museum guide</i>
18.30	Optional group dinner

Thursday, 18 September 2025

## SERBIAN NATIONAL HISTORY

09.30–10.00	Recap and Brief Introduction to the Day
10.00–12.00	Walk tour exploring Serbian remembrance sites <b>Through Kalemegdan including monuments and the Vojni muzej (Military Museum)</b> <i>Nikola Milikić</i>
12.00–13.30	Lunch break and change of location
13.30–15.30	Tour and Discussion <b>Narodni muzej Srbije (Serbian National Museum)</b> <i>Museum guide</i>
15.30–16.00	Break and change of location

16.00–18.00      Tour and Discussion  
**Istorijski muzej Srbije (Historical Museum of Serbia)**  
*Nikola Milikić*

18.30              Optional group dinner

Friday, 19 September 2025

NATIONAL SOCIALISM AND MINORITIES

09.00–09.30      Recap and Brief Introduction to the Day

09.30–11.45      City Walk  
**Jewish History and Present / Antisemitism including a visit to the Jevrejski istorijski muzej (Jewish Historical Museum)**  
*Aleksandar Stojanović, museum guide*

11.45–13.30      Lunch break and change of location

13.30–15.45      Guided Tour  
**on the site of the former Concentration Camp Staro Sajmište including a visit to the Memorijalni centar „Staro sajmište“ (Memorial Center "Staro Sajmište")**  
*Milovan Pissari*

15.45–16.30      Break and change of location

16.30–18.00      Tour and Discussion  
**European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), Serbia**  
*Nadja Greku, Bratislav Mitrović*

18.00–18.30      Final Reflection / Feedback Session

19.00              Optional group dinner