

# New international exhibition on aftermath of the Great War opens at National Museum of Ireland

*‘After the Great War: A New Europe 1918-1923’, focuses on the history of East-Central Europe during the inter-war period*

*Exhibition prepared by the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity and hosted by the National Museum of Ireland runs to 14 June 2022*

**For Immediate release: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** *After the Great War: A New Europe 1918-1923*, an international exhibition on the aftermath of the Great War, created by the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity and hosted by the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, has officially opened from today.

Prepared by the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS) in cooperation with an international group of historians, the exhibition summarises the tumultuous beginnings of the interwar period, with particular emphasis on the history of East-Central Europe.

Over 200 archive and multimedia materials – pictures, maps, and films – together with individual stories of those who lived then present a complex, yet coherent picture of a New Europe. The main goal of the travelling project is to illustrate the scale of the political changes and their impact on current politics as well as to reveal different national memories.

The exhibition aims to present well-documented facts in an original and refreshing way by highlighting their mutual connections and weaving them into one narrative, considering multiple perspectives.

Today’s opening includes a public panel discussion on ‘A New Europe 1918/1923–2022: Memory and Challenges’, moderated by Prof. Jay Winter of Yale University with the participation of:

- Prof. Robert Gerwarth, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Prof. Piotr Juskiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland
- Dr Olena Palko, Birkbeck, University of London, England
- Dr Jennifer Redmond, Maynooth University, National University of Ireland

**Deputy Lord Mayor Joe Costello said,** “It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to participate in the launch of this exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland- Decorative Art & History, Collins Barracks entitled, *After the Great War: A New Europe 1918-1923*.

The traumatic years that brought so much death and destruction to Europe from 1914-18 must never be forgotten. Neither should the years that followed be forgotten as Europe sought to address the fragmentation of the old order and sought to comprehend the new order that was being created to the East.

I want to compliment the Polish embassy, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity and the National Museum for putting this Exhibition on display in Ireland.”

**Lynn Scarff, Director of the National Museum of Ireland, said,** “The National Museum of Ireland is proud to host this exhibition from the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity. Here in Ireland through the *Decade of Centenaries* events and commemorations we have seen the complexities and varying perspectives involved in commemorating the Great War and the events that followed. I welcome the opportunity for visitors of the museum to learn about this tumultuous period of events from our neighbours’ experiences and perspective across Europe.”

**Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Chairperson, Barbara Walshe said,** ‘Glencree is delighted to partner with the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, (ENRS) and National Museum of Ireland to enable a greater understanding of the forces that shaped Europe as a result of World War I, particularly Eastern Europe, such an awareness is often missing for those of us who live on the periphery of Europe’

Since 2018, the exhibition has been on show in 11 European countries, in cities including Prague, Sarajevo, Bratislava, Verdun, Berlin, Warsaw, Vienna, Vilnius and Tallinn.

More information about the project, team of experts and the exhibition’s European tour can be found: [www.enrs.eu/afterthegreatwar](http://www.enrs.eu/afterthegreatwar)

The presentation of the exhibition in Dublin is co-funded by the European Union and carried out by the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity in cooperation with the National Museum of Ireland, the Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Dublin.

The exhibition will run until the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. Admission is free.

**ENDS**

#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

Photography will be issued from today’s launch by Julien Behal Photography 087 9782542 Julien [julienbehalphotography@gmail.com](mailto:julienbehalphotography@gmail.com)

#### **Requests for further information: Q4 Public Relations**

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#### **About the National Museum of Ireland**

The National Museum of Ireland is the nation’s premier cultural institution and home to the greatest collections of Irish heritage, culture and history. Admission is free.

The National Museum of Ireland has 4 public sites, and a Collections Repository:

National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology (Kildare Street, Dublin)

National Museum of Ireland – Natural History (Merrion Street, Dublin)

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History (Collins Barracks, Dublin)

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life (Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo)

Collections Resource Centre (Swords) (Not open to the public)

Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumofIreland>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NMIreland>

Instagram: @nationalmuseumofireland

### **About Glenree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation**

The Glenree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation works with individuals and groups to transform conflict, promote reconciliation, encourage healthy relationships and build sustainable peace.

We are an Irish-based, independent, non-governmental organisation. Founded in 1974 in response to the conflict in Northern Ireland, Glenree played an important role in the Irish Peace Process, bringing together those in conflict for confidential dialogue and helping to build relationships across divides. As well as our ongoing work on the island of Ireland, our perspective and expertise has been shared in more than ten conflict and post-conflict countries around the globe.

### **About the discussion, 'A New Europe 1918/1923–2022: Memory and Challenges'**

The discussion 'A New Europe 1918/1923–2022: Memory and Challenges' accompanies the opening of the outdoor exhibition 'After the Great War: a New Europe 1918–1923'. The exhibition presents the complicated emergence of a new order in Central and Eastern Europe in the first years after 1918. Many of the topics discussed in the exhibition, which took place a century ago, are also very relevant today – especially after the Russian attack on Ukraine. Thus in order to better understand our times, the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS) would like to discuss the similarities of the situation and the challenges/threats to the new order in Europe around 1918 and now. The discussion will also be devoted to presenting a book that has recently been published: *A New Europe, 1918–1923: Instability, Innovation, Recovery*, ed. by B. Dziewanowski-Stefańczyk and J. Winter (Routledge, 2022) in the book series established by the ENRS and Routledge. The book offers insights into the political, diplomatic, military, economic and cultural circumstances out of which the New Europe was born. It focuses on three kinds of narratives that relate to conflicts and violence; the recasting of civil society through the creation of new structures and institutions; and to remembrance and the representation of these years in the public sphere.

ENRS is funded by:



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*The European Network Remembrance and Solidarity is an international initiative whose aim is to research, document and enhance the public's knowledge of 20th-century European history and the European cultures of remembrance, with particular emphasis on periods with dictatorships, wars and resistance to political violence. The members of the network are Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, with representatives from Albania, Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia and Lithuania present in its advisory bodies. [www.enrs.eu](http://www.enrs.eu)*