

# **Politics of Memory and Research Institutions on Communism in Romania**

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## **Institutionalizing the History of Communism in Romania after 1989**

A network of research institutions:

- The Romanian Academy and its institutes of historical research
- Former ideological academic centers
- Museums
- Universities
- Archives

New initiatives, public or private.

# The Romanian Academy

- *3 main institutes of history: “Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History in Bucharest, “A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History in Iassy, and “George Baritiu” in Cluj-Napoca*
- *Specialized research center: the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism*

## A case study: the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism

- Based in Bucharest
- Founded in 1993 by the Government, but placed under the umbrella of the Romanian Academy
- Director is Radu Ciuceanu, former political prisoner
- Journal: *Totalitarianism Archives*, initially publishing mainly documents from various archives
- Financed entirely by the state budget
- It is the working place for 28 researchers



## **Ideological academic centers under the direct supervision of the former Communist Party**

- Party Academy “Stefan Gheorghiu” rebranded as the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration
- Romanian Communist Party’s Institute of History, dissolved

# Museums

- National Museum of History in Bucharest, in restoration since 2006
- Spring Palace, former residence of Nicolae Ceausescu, opens as an exhibition in 2016
- Tours of the House of the Republic – so-called “People’s Palace”
- The Sighet Memorial
- No Museum of Communism



# Universities

- *Various centers of research*
- *Only one master program exclusively dedicated to the study of the communist regime in Romania, at the University of Bucharest*

# **Archives dealing with the communist past**

- *The National Archives of Romania*
- *The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives*



## **New Initiatives**

- The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Diaspora, founded in 2006, funded from the state budget and placed under the supervision of the Government;
- The Institute for the Study of the Romanian Revolution from 1989, founded in 2004, funded from the state budget and placed under the supervision of the Senate;
- The Romanian Institute for Recent History, a private initiative;
- Private museums/exhibitions etc.