

Women in Banking in Central Europe

Financial History Conference

Date: 11–12 November 2026

Conference venue: Congress Hall, National Bank of Slovakia,
Imricha Karvaša 1, 813 25 Bratislava

Wednesday, 11 November 2026

8:30 – 9:00

Registration

9:00 – 9:30

Opening addresses

Reiner Martin, Executive Director, National Bank of Slovakia

Júlia Čillíková, Executive Director, National Bank of Slovakia

Adam Hudek, Deputy Director, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Carmen Hofmann, Secretary General, European Association for Banking and Financial History

Radka Semancová, Secretary General, Živena – the Society of Slovak Women

9:30 – 10:30

Keynote speech

Elena Kohútiková, former Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia

Glass ceiling or sticky floor? Breaking barriers, building the future

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Block I: Women's participation in the labour force: a historical perspective

Chair: Gabriela Dudeková Kováčová, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Birgit Niessner, Austrian Society for Bank Research

Shifting roles: women and work in central Europe and across centuries

Jaroslava Rogul'ová, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Women in the labour market in Slovakia from 1918 to 1948

Libuše Heczková, Charles University in Prague

Women in clerical professions in Czechoslovakia until 1939

Q&A / discussion

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 14:30

Block II: Women's participation in commercial banking: a historical perspective

Chair: Andrej Svorenčík, University of Barcelona

Mátyás Erdélyi, University of Vienna

Women bank clerks in the late Habsburg monarchy (1900–1914)

Gabriela Dudeková Kováčová, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Women in financial institutions in Slovakia around the turn of the 20th century: working conditions, gendered biases, and early pioneers

Q&A / discussion

14:30 – 14:50

Coffee break

14:50 – 15:30

Block II: Women's participation in commercial banking: a historical perspective (continued)

Eduard Kubů – Jiří Šouša, Charles University in Prague

The role of a banker's wife in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Ludovít Hallon, Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Women in commercial banking in Slovakia, 1918–1948

15:30 – 15:50

Discussion and conclusion of the first day's proceedings

16:00 – 17:00

Accompanying programme organised by Živena

Thursday, 12 November 2026

9:00 – 10:30

Block III: Women's participation in central banking: a historical perspective

Chair: Carmen Hofmann, European Association for Banking and Financial History

Claudia Köpf, Oesterreichische Nationalbank

From compliant to combative: women's long road to equality in the Austrian central bank

Lenka Vrchotová, Czech National Bank

Female employees in the central bank of Czechoslovakia, 1919–1945

František Chudják, National Bank of Slovakia

Smiling Slovakia? Women in Slovak central banking in the shadow of two totalitarian regimes, 1939–1989

Q&A / discussion

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Block IV: Women in finance today: progress, barriers and solutions

Chair: Stefania Paredes Fuentes, National Bank of Slovakia

Andrea Weber – Elisabeth Wurm, Central European University

The signal effect of diversity in leadership. Evidence from two gender quota policies in Austria

Beáta Nagy, Corvinus University of Budapest

Women in the financial sector in central and eastern Europe: past and present trends

Mária Valachyová, Slovenská sporiteľňa

How a commercial bank tackles the female underrepresentation in leadership and DEI as such – the case of Slovenská sporiteľňa

Q&A / discussion

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

Audio and video recordings of the event will be made and may be used by the National Bank of Slovakia for promotional and documentation purposes. If you have any questions in this regard, please email them to dpo@nbs.sk.