



ESI (Czech Republic), GTF (Slovakia), and UPCE (Czech Republic)

will hold

are organizing

at Křtiny Castle

the traditional Czech and Slovak

JOSEF SYMPOSIUM 2026,

which will include an international scientific conference

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS TO FAMILY DISPUTES

and a two-day series of educational and training workshops and discussion panels.

Introduction

ESI (CZ), GTF (SK), and UPCE (CZ) are pleased to invite you to the traditional Czech and Slovak Joseph Symposium 2026. The event will be held from March 19th to 21st, 2026, at Křtiny Castle. The symposium features an international scientific conference complemented by a two-day series of educational workshops, training sessions, and discussion panels.

Introduction

The world around us is changing radically, driven by geopolitical shifts and unprecedented technological growth. Supercomputers, digital databases, and Artificial Intelligence are penetrating law and justice—fields where, until recently, a pen and paper sufficed. Yet, despite this scientific progress, we still struggle to understand the human being: the body, the mind, our behavior, and our relationships.

As Czech scientist M. Friák, a specialist in quantum physics and quantum computers, notes: "The exact language of mathematics is best suited to describing the quantum environment". Through measurement, we know that in the world of atoms and electrons—a world we cannot see or touch—entirely different rules apply compared to our macroscopic world. In fact, the whole of mathematics was developed solely as a common language for various physical phenomena.

This leads us to vital questions for our field:

What language is suitable for grasping, knowing, and understanding interpersonal relationships?

How can a professional (expert) and their client truly understand each other?

Can we find a common language among experts in interdisciplinary cooperation (e.g., doctor or psychologist – lawyer, social worker – attorney, priest – advocate, etc.)?

What language do interdisciplinary teams speak?

What can modern psychology and its various modalities contribute to the resolution of family disputes?



These questions will shape the atmosphere of this year's symposium, focusing on the prevention and resolution of family conflicts.

The international scientific conference in Křtiny, **held on March 19, 2026, at Křtiny Castle**, will address issues of ethics and societal impacts of conflicts and discord in family relationships in an international and multidisciplinary setting. Practical demonstrations will present innovative methods and approaches to help effectively resolve conflicts and prevent them from occurring.

The conference is being held as part of the **KEGA 033PU-4/2025 project "Creation of an electronic education and communication platform for training in probation and mediation work with an emphasis on cooperation with external institutions in the field"** and the **KEGA 014KU-4/2026 project "Family mediation as an effective tool for promoting family cohesion and constructive conflict resolution,"** which will be presented at the symposium by our Slovak colleagues.

Scientific Committee:

Mgr. Robin Brzobohatý, Ph.D., Silesian University, Faculty of Public Policy in Opava

Mgr. Petr Fabián, Ph.D., Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice

PhDr. Ernest Kováč, Ph.D., MBA, LL.M., Police Academy in Bratislava

Dr. h. c. prof. PaedDr. ThDr. Roman Králik, ThD., MBA, LL.M., Catholic University
in Ružomberok, Faculty of Theology based in Košice

Maj. JUDr. Patrícia Krásná, Ph.D., LL.M., Police Academy in Bratislava

Mgr. Veronika Michvocíková, Ph.D., St. Cyril and Methodius University in Trnava, Faculty of
Philosophy

prof. ThDr. PaedDr. Ing. Gabriel Paľa, PhD., University of Prešov in Prešov, Greek Catholic
Faculty of Theology

doc. PhDr. Martina Pavlíková, PhD., MBA, Vice-Rector for International Relations.
Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

doc. Dr. Jurij Popovič, University of Prešov in Prešov, Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology

Conference Objectives & Content

The conference aims to facilitate a multidisciplinary discussion on the ethical and societal impacts of family disputes. Key areas of focus include:

Trends in Dispute Resolution: Evolution and trends in preventing and resolving family conflicts.

Cross-Border Disputes: Managing international parental disputes regarding children.

Interdisciplinary Sharing: Exchanging Czech, Slovak, and international expertise.

Innovation in Practice: Presenting innovative methods for effective conflict resolution and prevention.

What can you expect?



Conference contributions, moderated discussions, workshops, training sessions, informal meetings

and interviews. The genius loci of an ancient pilgrimage site with a rich history.

Program:

Over the course of three separate and interconnected days, we will focus on topics related to individuals, families, and society from the perspective of complementary and interdisciplinary theory and practice.

The deadline for conference paper submissions is February 20, 2026.

Please send your abstract, photo, and short introduction (profile) for publication on the website to info@esi-cz.eu

Contact person: JUDr. Lenka Šalamoun, Ph.D. – ESI, o.p.s.

Contact: 604 243 674

Call for Papers and Proceedings:

A peer-reviewed conference proceedings will be published following the symposium. We welcome contributions from the academic community (pedagogues, doctoral candidates, and students) as well as practitioners.

Submission Languages: English, Czech, or Slovak.

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026.

Full Paper Submission Deadline: March 27, 2026.

Fee for publication in the Proceedings without personal participation in the conference: CZK 700/EUR 30

Abstracts and titles of contributions: by February 20, 2026, at the latest, to info@esi-cz.eu

Written contributions in the prescribed format by March 31, 2026, at the latest

Contact person: ThLic. PhDr. Robert Mačej – GTF

Contact: robertmacej@gmail.com

Editors:

prof. ThDr. PaedDr. Ing. Gabriel Paľa, PhD., University of Prešov, Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology

doc. Dr. Jurij Popovič, University of Prešov, Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology

Reviewers:

prof. Dr. Iurii Scherbiak, DrSc. - Western Ukrainian National University (Ternopil, Ukraine) (WUNU)

Dr. h. c. Prof. PaedDr. ThDr. Roman Králik, ThD., MBA, LL.M., Catholic University



in Ružomberok, Faculty of Theology based in Košice

Dr. Małgorzata Duda, Prof. UPJPII (Poland), Pontifical University of John Paul II

in Krakow

doc. JUDr. Renáta Šínová, Ph.D., Faculty of Law, Palacký University in Olomouc

Registration and Logistics

Registration: Please complete the electronic application at www.josefske-symposium.cz.

Fees: Participation fees vary based on the duration of attendance and level of active involvement.

Accommodation: Arranged at the participants' own expense.

Select on the APPLICATION page at www.josefske-symposium.cz

Contact person: JUDr. Eva Vaňková, Ph.D. – ESI, o.p.s

Contact: 723 810 825

Organizing team:

Štěpánka Haroková – website administration, +420 723 954 047

Lenka Šalamoun – professional program, tel. +420 604 243 674

Eva Vaňková – administrative and financial matters, tel. +420 723 810 825, info@esi-cz.eu

Robert Mačej – communication and technical support, +421 915 866 922

Michal Vejlupek – communications and technical support, tel. +420 724 787 382

Alena Chýlková – support for accommodation and transport for participants:

alena.chylkova@email.cz

More information at www.josefske-symposium.cz