

Description for the general public

Italian Communist Party (ICP) – the biggest communist party in the West. Its history constitutes a broad spectrum of attitudes, processes and events with analogies in all of the history of international communism. This party went through a certain Stalinist period characterized by an iron obedience and discipline. Since the sixties, it developed more pluralistic character drifting more and more apart from the soviet authoritarianism. It got involved in the project of so-called Eurocommunism and approached social-democratic positions. It condemned the Warsaw treaty intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968, soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979. ICP also expressed their opposition regarding the application of the martial law in Poland in 1981. After that, the leader of the ICP pronounced his famous speech about the “exhaustion of the driving force of the October Revolution”. Nonetheless, for the major part of its history, ICP did not renounced on its tradition, rigidly tied with USSR. This ambivalence lasted until party’s dissolution in 1991. The purpose of the project is to tackle the question what was exactly the impact of the chain of events initiated by the carnival of Solidarność in 1980. Did the implementation of the martial law conspicuously contributed to the lethal identity crisis within the ICP? Did polish communists overthrow the communism in Italy? The research will be conducted in the Italian archives (archives of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist party in the Antonio Gramsci Institute in Rome, archives of the Italian General Confederation of Labour and others) and polish archives (archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’s Party, Archiwum Akt Nowych in Warsaw. Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, ecclesial archives and others). Interviews with the members of ICP, PUWP and dissident movements (Solidarność and KSS “KOR”) and Italian and Polish press will be an auxiliary source of data.