

## ABSTRACT:

Master thesis “*M. R. Štefánik and Slovak-French relations since the year 1993*” focuses on the second life of a historical personality M. R. Štefánik and his remembrance in Slovak-French relations between the years 1993-2020. Štefánik spent a significant part of his life in France, where he achieved success in science, military and diplomatic field and he obtained French citizenship. Štefánik is a shared historical character of both countries. The aim of the thesis is to answer how is Štefánik represented in France, how it has been referred to his legacy in Slovak-French relations, and what parts of his personality have been emphasized the most. Thesis analysis if and how the historical person can help to build bilateral Slovak-French relations. Master thesis uses analyzation of monuments (*lieux des mémoires*) commemorating Štefánik in France in combination with thematic content analysis of the public discourse of statesmen on Slovak and French side. Štefánik appeared to be a symbol to which it has been referred continually, coherently, and without ideological misuse. Mostly emphasized part of his personality in public discourse is a correlation with his Slovak belonging, science and military success, and anchoring Slovak-French relations in history. Štefánik’s sites of memory in France were in most cases initiated by the independent Slovak Republic, without primary interest from the French side. However, based on the sites of memory the mutual cooperation, sister cities, and associations were gradually established. The positive image of independent Slovakia was not constructed abroad either automatically nor easily. It has been indicated, that Štefánik can, in a longer time scale, be a contributing and strengthening factor in the improvement of mutual bilateral relations. To a certain extent the asymmetrical effort is noticeable as the Slovak side endeavours to commemorate the message of Štefánik more than the French one.