

Field Museum Public Relations

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New Field Museum Exhibition Exploring Rise of Power in Ancient Europe will feature cultural items from 11 countries

Jewelry, weapons, and armor in First Kings of Europe shown together for first time



Left: Rendering of a gallery in *First Kings of Europe* © Field Museum
Right: Gold crown of a Thracian king, 375–325 BC © Field Museum, Ádám Vágó

CHICAGO – Eleven European countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia – are represented in the Field Museum’s *First Kings of Europe* exhibition, with more than two dozen lending institutions working together to make the show happen.

“One of the most unique and special things about this exhibit is the international collaboration occurring to create *First Kings of Europe*,” says Bill Parkinson, curator at the Field Museum and of *First Kings of Europe*. “The exhibition was made in partnership with 11 countries, plus the United States and Canada, and 26 different museums. Many of the cultural items have never been on display outside of the countries of their origin, and some have never been on display - ever! *First Kings of Europe* is a unique opportunity to see these cultural items side by side.”

First Kings of Europe, which will open at the Field on March 31, explores how ancient farming villages led to the earliest tribal kingdoms in Europe. The more than 700 cultural items in the exhibition date back to the Neolithic, Copper, Bronze, and Iron ages. Highlights include some of the oldest gold treasures in the world from the cemetery of Varna, the gold crown of a Thracian prince, masterpieces of swordmaking and armor, weapons, jewelry, and more.

The exhibition is broken down into different chapters that focus on different chronological eras. For example, the Bronze Age section explores the emergence of the warrior class and features weapons, helmets, and shields. Visitors will also see an ancient bronze breastplate (1200–1100 BC) that was found at the bottom of the Danube River. This section also includes the armor and weapons that warriors would use in Southeast Europe when the warrior class was emerging.

First Kings of Europe opens on March 31, 2023. More information on the *First Kings of Europe* can be found [here](#). A digital press kit and images are available [here](#). For more information, contact press@fieldmuseum.org.

First Kings of Europe was organized by the Field Museum. *First Kings of Europe* has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Field Museum Major Sponsor: Discover

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Institutions participating in the *First Kings of Europe* exhibition are:

- The Archaeological Museum/Institute of Archaeology, Albania
- National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- National Museum of History of Bulgaria
- Varna Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria
- Ruse Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria
- Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Croatia
- Hungarian National Museum
- Budapest History Museum, Hungary
- Déri Museum, Hungary
- Móra Ferenc Museum, Hungary
- Koszta József Museum, Hungary
- Szent István Király Museum, Hungary
- Munkácsy Mihály Museum, Hungary
- National Museum of Kosovo
- Museum and Gallery of Podgorica, Montenegro
- Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage and Museum of Bitola, North Macedonia
- National Institution Museum of Gevgelija, North Macedonia
- Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage and Museum of Prilep, North Macedonia
- National History Museum of Romania
- Buzău County Museum, Romania
- National History Museum of Transylvania, Romania
- Museum of Oltenia, Romania
- Museum of Gumelnița Civilisation, Romania
- Neamț County Museum Complex, Romania
- National Museum of Serbia
- National Museum of Slovenia

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