

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Documenta – Centre for dealing with the past (Documenta)
PIC number:	942095526
Project name and acronym:	Power of Personal Stories in Confronting Oblivion (PPSCO)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP2
Event name:	Advocacy activities
Type:	Round table, study visit for policymakers, study visit and action day for youth, local meetings with policymakers and stakeholders
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Rijeka, Croatia (A3) Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland (A7) Pakrac, Jasenovac, and Stara Gradiška, Croatia (A10) Different locations (A13)
Date(s):	29.04.2024. (A3) 26-29.01.2025. (A7) 07-10.07.2025. (A10) Different dates (A13)
Website(s) (if any):	<u>Power of Personal Stories in Confronting Oblivion - Kultura sjećanja (documenta.hr)</u>
Participants	
Female:	53
Male:	80
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Austria]:	2
From country 2 [Belgium]:	4
From country 3 [Croatia]:	76
From country 4 [France]:	3

From country 5 [Germany]:	9		
From country 6 [Italy]:	11		
From country 7 [Netherlands]:	2		
From country 8 [Poland]:	3		
From country 9 [Romania]:	5		
From country 10 [Serbia]:	1		
From country 11 [Slovenia]:	6		
From country 12 [Spain]:	11		
Total number of participants:	133	From total number of countries:	12

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

WP2 included diverse activities aimed at advocacy and awareness raising, and answered to specific project objectives. The Round-table (A3) aimed at advocating for interdisciplinary approach for promotion of historical facts as an answer to Holocaust distortion. The study visit for policymakers to the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial (A7) aimed at raising awareness about Holocaust denial and distortion among this target group. The study visit and action-day in Stara Gradiška (A19) aimed at promoting visibility and conservation of places of memory, in particular among young people, and to advocate for inclusive commemoration of Holocaust with a focus on women, children, and minority groups. Finally, the meetings with local policymakers and stakeholders (A13) aimed at establishing direct contacts and possibilities for networking and discussing possible next steps to take in countering Holocaust denial and distortion.

A3) Interdisciplinary round-table for memory workers on Holocaust distortion, Rijeka, 29.04.2024.

The Center for Holocaust and genocide research in South Eastern Europe (CHGR), together with the project partners, organized the round-table titled "*Different approaches to interpretations of the history of the Holocaust, genocide and other war crimes from the Second World War*". The round-table was held in the City Library of Rijeka, Croatia, on April 29th, 2024. The event involved speakers with a diverse professional background and educational experiences, including memory workers, university professors, high school teachers, representatives of CSOs, and time-witnesses. One of the speakers in the panel was Oleg Mandić, the last child to leave Auschwitz concentration camp. Mr. Mandić has been for many years active in sharing his story with younger generations and high-school students. Other speakers included Vjeran Pavlaković, university professor, Lovro Kralj, university professor and former director of the CHGR, and Josip Naglić, high school professor. They shared ideas and methods how to approach Holocaust education and remembrance with students in different educational contexts. Among the participants of the panel were also representatives of the partner organizations, who shared their best practices in non-formal education and countering Holocaust distortion in their local communities.

The event included 33 participants.

Please note that among these 33 participants the coordinator did NOT include the project partners, who were already counted in kick-off meeting of the project and listed in the EDS for WP1.

A7) Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau for policymakers, Krakow and Auschwitz, 27-28.01.2025.

On January 27th and 28th 2025, the project partners organized a study visit for policy and decision

makers at the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. On January 27th, on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance Day, the participants took part to the commemoration held on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the camp, organized by the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial. On January 28th, the involved policymakers visited the Museum in Auschwitz-Birkenau and met with representatives of the Jewish Center in Oświęcim. Participants included Vesna Teršelič, Director of Documenta; Tena Banjeglav, coordinator of the program "Public dialogue and public policies" at Documenta; Boris Jaušovec, journalist at the Slovenian newspaper "Večer"; Cinta González Sentís, Secretary general of the Young European Greens; Micaela Bongi, vice-director of the Italian newspaper "Il Manifesto"; Silvia Radoicovici, local councilor of the city of Timișoara, Romania; Boris Pavelić, journalist of Croatian weekly newspaper "Nacional". The visit aimed to gather policy and decision makers from different European countries, to raise their awareness about the importance of WWII remembrance, and the important role they can play in confronting Holocaust denial and distortion today.

The event included 12 participants in total.

A10) Study visit and Action Day in Stara Gradiška, Croatia, 07-10.07.2025.

From the 7th to the 10th of July 2025, Documenta and its partners organized the Study visit and Action Day in Stara Gradiška, Croatia. Used as a prison during the 17th and 18th centuries, the site officially became a concentration camp under Ustaša control during WWII. In the camp were imprisoned mostly women and children of Serbian, Jewish and Roma origin, as well as families of antifascists captured during anti-Partisans actions. The site was then converted into a prison for political opponents during the Yugoslav period. During the wars in the 1990s, the site was used as a concentration camp under control of Serbian paramilitary forces and Yugoslav army to intern captured soldiers and other perceived enemies. Because of the complex history of this site, the participants engaged with the topic of multi-layered places of remembrance, and the challenges they pose, and became more familiar with the neglected remains of the Stara Gradiška site, and their potential for advocacy. During the activity, the participants visited the Jasenovac memorial site and the remains of the Stara Gradiška camp, and discussed questions and different challenges connected to cultural heritage, conservation of memorial sites, and their connection to Holocaust remembrance. They also engaged in dialogue about responses to historical revisionism in different countries, reflecting on possible answers and solutions. The participants were involved in a local commemoration and had the chance to meet the descendants of victims and survivors of the Stara Gradiška camp.

The event involved 44 participants in total.

A13) Encounters with local policymakers and stakeholders, all partner countries

During the implementation of the project, all partner organizations held meetings with local policy and decision makers, and other relevant stakeholders.

In Croatia:

The first meeting organized by Documenta was held on 29.04.2024, and involved three representatives of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County: Zlatko Komadina, County Prefect, Vojko Braut, Deputy County Prefect, and Ermina Duraj, Head of the Administrative Department for the Affairs of the County Prefect and the County Assembly. The participants discussed next steps for the protection of WWII sites in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, and the possibilities for implementing field trips to places of memory for local elementary and secondary schools, and for universities. The visit to Lipa, held in the context of the project on April 30th, was presented as possible good practice to be repeated through the years.

The second meeting held by Documenta was organized on 14.05.2024 with Charlotte van Baak, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands. The meeting focused on the risks of the rise of historical negationism, the need for further protection of sites related to WWII in Croatia and the Netherlands, and the possibilities for promotion of study visits among the two countries.

The third meeting organized by Documenta was held on 29.10.2025, and involved Klaudio Ćurin and

Ivan Vrdoljak, lawyers, Aleksandar Maršavelski, Professor of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, Zoran Pusić, President of the Antifascist League of Croatia, and Ranko Britvić, President of the Association of Croatian War Veterans and Antifascists (VeDRA). The discussion focused on judiciary, and aimed to address and define responses to the growing rise of revisionism in Croatian society, as well as to discuss how to introduce and enforce stronger legislation against hate speech and Holocaust denial.

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Research in Southeast Europe (CHGR) also organized different meetings with stakeholders, among them are:

Meeting with Renato Stanković, Councilman in the city of Rijeka, held on 12.11.2025. During the meeting, representatives of CHGR and Mr. Stanković discussed the role of social media in distortion and denial of the Holocaust, and other WWII genocides, as well as good practices of the EU in terms of reaction to denial and distortion connected to AI. The participants also addressed the importance of cultural heritage protection for Holocaust remembrance, and the possibility of using video tools in Holocaust education.

Meeting with Ivan Šarar, former head of the Department of Culture in the city of Rijeka, held on 13.11.2025. During the meeting, representatives of CHGR and Mr. Šarar discussed challenges imposed to Holocaust remembrance by the current political situation in Croatia, that sets the breeding ground for the rise of fascism and negationism. The participants also addressed the systemic need to counter denial and distortion of the Holocaust and other WWII genocides and crimes, in particular on social media.

In Germany

Representatives of the partner organization Max Mannheimer Study Center (MMH) held a meeting with relevant policy and decision makers on 25.11.2025. The meeting was lead by Felizitas Raith, Head of Education at the Max Mannheimer Study Center, and focused on importance of Holocaust education, implementation of policies to counter Holocaust denial and distortion, and the further development of educational visit for German schools to the Study Center and the Memorial site of the Dachau concentration camp. The meeting also addressed the current project, with a focus on its advocacy and educational activities. Policymakers who took part to the meeting include: Florian Hartmann, Mayor of the City of Dachau; Stefan Löwl, Administrator of the District of Dachau (Landrat); Ludwig Gasteiger, Managing Director of the KJR Dachau (District Youth Council) and Member of the District Council; Philipp Seitz, President of the Bavarian Youth Council; and Martin Gruber, Head of Department/Permanent Secretetary of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs.

In Italy

Representatives of the organization Topografia per la storia (TpS) held the following meetings with policymakers and stakeholders:

Meeting with Francesco Verducci, Senator of the Republic of Italy, held on 09.02.2025. The meeting aimed at discussing the "*Law on the Memory Map of Italian Concentration Camps*". This law, definitively approved at the Italian Chamber of Deputies on November 4th 2025, aims to map the system of prisons, internment, and concentration camps of the Fascist regime, in Italy and occupied territories. The law provides funding for historical research, cultural events, exhibitions, and educational visits for students. The law was drafted with the support of the director of TpS, in line with the research done by the organization since its foundation, highlighting the need to map and inform about the fascist internment system.

Meeting with Vittorio Gazale, Director of the Asinara National Park, held on 08.08.2025. The meeting was organized in the context of a commemoration held by the Ethiopian community, at the Asinara, aimed at remembering the victims of fascist deportation during the 1930s. Yewinshet Beshawured, who was deported with her mother and brother when she was 6 years old, was among the time-witnesses and survivors who participated in the commemoration. Her story is also included in the

Digital Biographies created in the context of the project. During the meeting, representatives of TpS and Mr. Gazale discussed the need to further remember the deportation of Ethiopians and their internment on the island of Asinara, and the perspectives for future similar commemorations.

Meeting with Maurizio Cianfrocca, Mayor of Alatri, held on 19.09.2025. The meeting aimed at discussing possibilities for the creation of a memorial at the former fascist concentration camp and displaced-person camp "Le Fraschette", located in the town of Alatri. Representatives of the organization discussed with the mayor the steps done in the past in this direction, and intentions for future actions for the conservation of the buildings of the former camp. The meeting was held in the context of the study visit and photographic workshop for youth organized in the project, and the activity was presented as a possible good practice, which can be repeated with local and international groups of students.

Meeting with Maria Novella De Luca, co-founder of the Association "Il Campo", held on 19.09.2025. The meeting aimed at discussing the lack of visibility of the "Le Fraschette" camp, and the need to intervene to urgently advocate for conservation and remembrance of the location, through photographs and personal stories. Maria Novella De Luca shared her experience as a photographer and reporter, who has documented "Le Fraschette" through the years, and conducted interviews with the internees, their families, and the local people who experienced the life of the camp. Also this meeting was held in the context of the study visit and photographic workshop, organized during the project.

Meeting with Vanni D'Alessio, Professor of Contemporary History at the Federico II University of Naples, held on 11.11.2025. The meeting aimed at discussing opportunities for cooperation in the field of digital history, one of the lectures taught by prof. D'Alessio. The representatives discussed the possibilities to further involve students enrolled in the course in the digitalization of documents, maps and biographies for the website campifascisti.it, as well as in the creation of Digital Biographies based on the archival materials collected by TpS.

In Romania

Representatives of the Intercultural Institute of Timisoara (IIT) held the following meetings with policymakers and stakeholders:

Meeting with Izabela Fulau, project manager at the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, held on 17.03.2025. As the "Elie Wiesel" Institute is in charge of the development of the future National Holocaust Museum of Romania, the meeting addressed the setting-up of the museum, and the importance of including a "person-centered" perspective in its design.

Meeting with Sarah Keating, Head of Division for Formal and Non-Formal Education in the Education Department at the Council of Europe, held on 28.05.2025. The meeting focused on the importance of promoting social education, including intercultural education, in Romanian school system. During the meeting, representatives of IIT presented the project, focusing on its educational dimension.

Meeting with Cosmin Hoge, Deputy General School Inspector for the Timiș County school inspectorate, held on 08.09.2025. The meeting focused on the promotion of innovative approaches to teaching, and the importance to include minority perspectives in history teaching. Project results were also presented as examples of good practices.

Meeting with Simona Fit, Coordinator of policies in the fields of education, culture, youth and minorities at Timisoara Municipality, held on 09.09.2025. The meeting focused on the importance of cooperation between policymakers and civic society organizations in preserving the diverse cultural and historical heritage of Timisoara. The partners also addressed the need to improve awareness-raising on antisemitism and anti-Roma racism in the Municipality.

Meeting with Francisc Halasz, Deputy General Inspector in Timis County Schools Inspectorate, held 08.09.2025. and 29.10.2025. Mr. Halasz oversees education in national minority languages in Timiș County and is one of the leaders of the Hungarian community. Because of his role, the meeting

addressed the perspective of the Hungarian minority on how to preserve and promote the memory of local history to present generations, and the importance of teaching of history in the schools in national minority languages.

In Slovenia

Representatives of the Synagogue Maribor held a total of five meetings with policymakers and relevant stakeholders. During the meetings, Boris Hajdinjak, Director of the Synagogue, presented the project, including its goals, how they were achieved, what activities had already been carried out, and what still needs to be done before the end of the project, to his interlocutors. He also highlighted the target groups, both those actively involved in the project and those who will benefit from the project results. The final part of the meetings was devoted to the exchange of opinions, ideas, and proposals among the participants on the possibilities for developing new related projects and programmes, with an emphasis on the active participation of all stakeholders in efforts to promote learning about the Holocaust and preserve the memory of its victims. Policymakers involved in the meetings included: Janez Magyar, Mayor of Lendava municipality (7.10.2025); Vojko Kunaver, Advisor and Head of the Subject Group for History at the National Education Institute of Slovenia (12.10.2025); Špela Spanžel, Director-General of the Cultural Heritage Directorate of the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia (12.10.2025); Oto Luthar, Director of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (12.10.2025); Nina Kirbiš, Head of the Office of Culture and Youth at the Municipality of Maribor (23.10.2025).

In Spain

On October 11th, 2025, representatives of EUROM organized a meeting within the CERV programme framework in Barcelona. The meeting aimed at bringing together representatives of civic society organizations receiving the CERV Programme Operating Grants for the Remembrance Framework. The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthen cooperation and build a common platform for influencing European policies on memory. The discussions addressed essential topics such as the fight against antisemitism, the preservation of Holocaust memory, and the need to link these efforts with the defense of human rights, anti-fascism, and freedom of expression. Participants emphasized the urgency of developing joint strategies to counter historical revisionism and narratives that undermine democratic values. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on how to expand outreach to civil society and communicate more effectively the significance of memory work. The meeting involved the following policy and decision makers: Marco González, Director of Yahad In Unum; Jérôme Lefèvre, International relation Assistant at Mémorial de la Shoah; Srd Kisevic, Deputy Head of the CERV programme at the European Commission; Rafal Rogulski, Director of ENRS.

The meetings with policymakers involved a total of 44 participants, including the mentioned policymakers and representatives of the partner organizations.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).