

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Documenta, Croatia
PIC number:	942095526
Project name and acronym:	Knowledge and Critical Understanding of History – A Key Competence for Democratic Culture (History-Democracy)

EVENT DESCRIPTION		
Event number:	1	
Event name:	Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights	
Type:	Seminar	
In situ/online:	in-situ	
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb	
Date(s):	17-21 November 2022	
Website(s) (if any):	https://kulturasjecanja.documenta.hr/hr/	
Participants		
Female:	28	
Male:	4	
Non-binary:		
From country 1 Croatia:	28	
From country 2 Romania:	2	
From country 3 Greece:	1	
From country 4 Estonia:	1	
Total number of participants:	32	From total number of countries: 4
Description		
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>		
<p>This 5-day seminar was organised in the framework of the project Knowledge and Critical Understanding of History – A Key Competence for Democratic Culture, coordinated by Catholic University of Valencia (Spain), in partnership with Documenta (Croatia), Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania) and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, co-funded by the European Commission through CERV</p>		

programme. The seminar was co-funded by TOLI – The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights.

A total of 32 people participated in the event, most of them Croatian teachers.

The aim of the program was to contribute to increasing the quality of Holocaust and human rights education in Croatia. The program provided a rich opportunity to integrate national and international approaches in teaching about these topics and in understanding the contemporary relevance of this important part of modern history.

The objectives of the program were to:

- Develop teachers' awareness of historical and current dialectical discussions concerning the Holocaust and other instances of social injustice;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the impact of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination at individual, group and society level;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Jewish life before and after the Holocaust;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Roma genocide;
- Increase appreciation for innovative, student-centered teaching methods, including extra-curricular activities and partnerships between school and other institutions and organizations;
- Promote a blended approach of Holocaust Education and Human Rights Education.

The methodology of the seminar was learner centered, based on the principles of experiential learning and a human rights-based approach in education. A variety of methods are used in order to stimulate the engagement of participants, their reflections and a high level of interaction: presentations, analysis, discussions, reflections, group work, videos, visits, guest speakers, survivors' testimonies, etc.

The seminar started with short speeches of the special guests – Gary Koren Ambassador of Israel in Croatia, Sanja Zoričić-Tabaković representative of the Jewish Community of Zagreb and representative of the Jewish minority in the Zagreb city council and Vesna Teršelič, the director of Documenta, the local partner, moderated by Oana Nestian-Sandu, Intercultural Institute/TOLI. The seminar continued with the first session about identity, stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination, about the role they played in leading to the Holocaust, and about their role in today's societies.

The second day started with a lecture on antisemitism in Europe, by Stephanie Leecesne. She presented the history of antisemitism from ancient times through the Middle Ages until today, explaining and deconstructing the main myths and prejudices about Jews and focusing on present-day manifestations and ways of combating them. The second session of the day was a lecture by Radu Ioanid, historian and Ambassador of Romania in Israel, who discussed the Holocaust in various European countries, focusing on the region, how the process of arresting and deporting Jews happened. He also addressed the national myths with regards to the memory of the Holocaust. After the lunch break, the seminar continued with the session about educational approaches based on human rights and the explanation of how the denial of basic human rights led to the Holocaust. The day closed with a guided tour in the city of Zagreb, where the participants visited several locations connected with the Holocaust and antifascist resistance, learning about the events that happened there and reflecting on the ways they are (or are not) remembered and commemorated today.

Ivo Goldstein opened the third working day with a lecture, in which he explained the historical facts and processes that happened in Croatia during the Holocaust. He focused on the Jews in Zagreb, sharing also some examples of personal stories, as well as original documents from the Second World War period. Afterwards, Nataša Mataušić explained the special cases of children camps or shelters for the orphans in Jastrebarsko and Sisak, that existed during the WWII in Croatia, as their role and functioning are still controversial and often misused and instrumentalized. Daniel Vojak presented to the teachers the history of Roma in Croatia and focused on the Roma genocide. Roma history is still not known and not well researched and this presentation offered relevant references for the teachers. In the last session of the day, Calin Rus presented the Model of competencies for democratic culture, and invited participants to work in groups and apply the model to Holocaust education.

The fourth day started with the testimony of Holocaust survivor Darko Fischer, who shared his story with the participants. Darko Fischer was born in Osijek in 1938 in a Jewish family. When the war started, his father escaped to Hungary, and soon after Darko, who was five years old at the time, went into hiding

with his mother and sister, first to Bosnia and Herzegovina, then to Hungary. His father was killed a few days before the liberation of Budapest, but Darko and the rest of the family survived the war. The person who helped them escape, Mr. Firinger, was named Righteous among the nations in 2020. Besides his personal story, Mr. Fischer offered the teachers a historical context and other information about Jews and their position and way of life in the Independent State of Croatia. After the testimony, Gadi Luzzatto Voghera presented "Memories of Salvation", the CDEC's collection of interviews with Jews who survived the Holocaust in Italy. He also discussed with the participants the challenges with oral history and how to use testimonies and interviews as historical sources for the students. After the lunch break, Noha Khatib from Ghetto Fighter's Museum House in Israel presented the Center for Humanistic Education (CHE), which works within the museum, focusing on education about the Holocaust and on work with youth from Palestine and Israel, bringing them together and starting a dialogue. In the following session, she presented practical methods and workshops CHE is conducting with the youth from different nationalities, and engaged the teachers with some of those methods which they will be able to implement with their students, as well.

The last day started with a visit to the Jewish community in Zagreb, where Saša Cvetković, representative of the Community, presented to the teachers the history of the community, as well as the traditions of the Jews in Croatia. He also showed the participants the building of the community, especially the synagogue. After that visit, Oana Nestian-Sandu engaged the participants in a workshop about upstanders and bystanders, showing the participants that there were different roles of the population during the Holocaust and motivating them to be active citizens and to work on democratic values with their students. In the final session, the TOLI Impact Grant opportunity was presented to the participants. They were divided into small groups with the task to create an action plan, a project they can implement with their students, based on what they learned in the seminar. At the end of the session, there was a short evaluation round and the certificates were distributed to the participants.