

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Documenta
PIC number:	942095526
Project name and acronym:	Remeber the Holocaust – Act for Democracy (Remember to Act)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	6
Event name:	Remember the Holocaust – Act for Democracy
Type:	International conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Zagreb, Croatia
Date(s):	26-28 April, 2024
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://kulturasjecanja.documenta.hr/hr/aktivnosti-i-javni-dogadjaji/odrzan-medjunarodni-seminar-pamtimo-holokaust-djelujemo-za-demokraciju/">https://kulturasjecanja.documenta.hr/hr/aktivnosti-i-javni-dogadjaji/odrzan-medjunarodni-seminar-pamtimo-holokaust-djelujemo-za-demokraciju/</a>
Participants	
Female:	27
Male:	6
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Croatia]:	7
From country 2 [Romania]:	7
From country 3 [Bulgaria]:	2
From country 4 [Lithuania]:	3
From country 5 [Estonia]:	1
From country 6 [Portugal]:	1
From country 7 [Serbia]:	3
From country 8 [Greece]:	2
From country 9 [Italy]:	3

From country 10 [Poland]:	2		
From country 11 [Spain]:	1		
From country 12 [Georgia]:	1		
Total number of participants:	33	From total number of countries:	12
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>This 3-day international conference was organised in the framework of the project Remember the Holocaust – Act for Democracy (Remember to Act), coordinated by Big Picture (Poland), and implemented in partnership with the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, Fondazione CDEC (Italy), Documenta (Croatia), The Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania) and The Jewish Museum of Greece, co-funded by the European Commission through the CERV programme.</p> <p>The conference was co-funded by TOLI – The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights.</p> <p>A total of 33 teachers and other education professionals from 12 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Serbia) participated in the event.</p> <p><b>The aim</b> of the seminar was to create an environment for teachers and other education professionals in Europe to exchange experiences, discuss about their common history and common future and to design effective ways of ensuring that the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity are taught in meaningful ways.</p> <p>The methods used during the seminar included presentations, workshops, group work, sharing of experiences, reflections, analysis, discussion, visits to Jasenovac and Ustica memorials and a guided tour of Holocaust-related places in Zagreb.</p> <p>The seminar opened with speeches by Ognjen Kraus, president of the Jewish Community in Zagreb and president of the Coordination Committee of the Jewish communities of the Republic of Croatia; Tena Bakšaj from the cultural department of the Serbian National Council; Vesna Teršelič, director of Documenta and Oana Nestian-Sandu, TOLI International Program Director. Afterwards, the participants introduced themselves, sharing about their teaching experience and their motivation to teach about the Holocaust and human rights.</p> <p>The first session was dedicated to upstanders, heroes, and regular people. Oana Nestian-Sandu invited the participants to reflect on the roles and motivation of people who, in the face of incredible atrocities chose to be upstanders, resisters and who became inspiring s/heroes for all of us. The participants shared their understanding of what it meant to be a s/hero in the past and what it means to be one in the present, concluding that s/heroes are not highly competent persons who fear nothing and have all resources necessary at all times, but rather regular people who decide to act for social justice, with bravery, in the right moment, despite fear and risks, sometimes alone and sometimes in cooperation with other like-minded people.</p> <p>In the next session, Oana Bajka focused on antisemitism and led the participants in discovering, analysing and deconstructing the main myths and prejudices about Jews and Judaism that have been present in our societies throughout history, as well as their present-day manifestations.</p> <p>The day continued with a session on the history and remembrance of the Holocaust throughout Europe, led by Tena Banjeglav. The teachers had the opportunity to discuss in small international groups about the Holocaust in their countries, focusing on historical events, but also analysing who were the people who were persecuted, who were the perpetrators in each of their countries, and what are the main forms of memorialization and remembrance nowadays. In the second part of the workshop, participants were invited to imagine versions of dignifying memorials, which could be created nowadays to honour the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.</p> <p>In the final session of the day, dedicated to the topic of Holocaust distortion and led by Oana Nestian-Sandu, the teachers learned about different forms of manifestation of Holocaust distortion, their prevalence in different countries in Europe, and their connection to antisemitism. They also reflected on how to prevent and counter Holocaust distortion, with a focus on human rights.</p> <p>On the second day, the participants visited the Jasenovac Memorial Site and Roma Memorial in Uštica, which was also a part of the Jasenovac camp system. Martina Barešić, the curator of the Jasenovac</p>			

Memorial, made a presentation on the Holocaust in the Independent State of Croatia, focusing mostly on the pre-war period and the development of the Ustashe movement. The teachers participated in a guided tour through the memorial site, visiting the most important parts of the former Jasenovac concentration camp, as well as the Jasenovac Memorial Museum. A visit to the Roma Memorial in the nearby village of Uštica gave teachers the opportunity to learn more about the persecution of Roma during the Second World War in the Independent State of Croatia. The day ended with a group reflection on the visit and about using visits to memorial sites as meaningful educational methods.

The third day started with a guided tour of Jewish Zagreb, led by Tena Banjeglav. The tour included several locations in the city connected with Jewish history and the contribution of several Jewish people to the city, as well as places connected with the Holocaust, and the resistance movement. The day continued with the participating teachers presenting some of their recent projects and educational activities as good practice examples in Holocaust and human rights education. These presentations provided inspiration and new project ideas for teachers and sparked motivation for further networking and international collaboration among the participants in the future, thus contributing to the building and consolidation of a European network of educational professionals, schools and organisations focused on Holocaust education and democratic competences.

In the final part of the conference, participants were invited to reflect on the power of using the concept of human dignity as a lens in Holocaust education, in order to ensure a dignified commemoration of the past and instil in students respect for human dignity in the present and future. The event ended with an oral and written evaluation session. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. They highlighted the importance of connecting and sharing experiences with peers from all around Europe, they appreciated very much the focus on human dignity as ultimate value acting like a guiding light in the field of Holocaust and human rights education, and they appreciated the visits to former camp sites as powerful educational tools.