

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Documenta - centre for dealing with the past (Documenta)
PIC number:	942095526
Project name and acronym:	Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy; Remember to Act

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Learning from the Past – Acting for the Future. Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights
Type:	Teacher training
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Zagreb, Croatia
Date(s):	17-21 November 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://kulturasjecanja.documenta.hr/en/projects/remember-the-holocaust-act-for-democracy/
Participants	
Female:	21
Male:	6
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Croatia]:	24
From country 2 [Romania]:	2
From country 3 [Netherlands]:	1
Total number of participants:	27
From total number of countries:	3
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 “Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy”, coordinated by Big Picture (Poland), in partnership with Documenta (Croatia), Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania), CDEC Foundation (Italy) and The Jewish Museum of Greece, co-funded by the European Commission through CERV programme. The seminar was co-funded by TOLI – The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights.</p> <p>A total of 27 people participated in the event, most of them Croatian teachers and other educators.</p>	

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 an interdisciplinary approach of Holocaust Education and Human Rights Education.

The methodology of the training was learner centered, based on the principles of experiential learning and a human rights-based approach in education. A variety of methods were 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 opened with short welcome speeches by Ognjen Kraus, President of Jewish Community Zagreb and President of the Coordination of Jewish Municipalities of Republic of Croatia, Nikola Puharić, Serbian National Council; and Vesna Teršelič, Documenta Director and Oana Nestian-Sandu, TOLI International Program Director. The speakers addressed the importance of teaching the Holocaust in these troubling times, protecting the historical truth and empowering students to be active citizens who stand up in front of antisemitism and other manifestations of hatred. The first session, led by Oana Bajka, addressed the topics of identity, stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination the role they played in leading to the Holocaust, and how they work in today's societies. The teachers reflected on concrete approaches to address and eventual counter stereotypes with their students.

The second day started with a session about antisemitism in Europe. The participants worked in smaller groups to discover, analyze and deconstruct 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. The day continued with a workshop led by Tena Banjeglav on the topic of the Holocaust in Europe, in which the participants learned about how the Holocaust started in various European countries and how the process of arresting, deporting, and killing Jews during the Second World War took place. The participants also had the opportunity to analyze various national myths related to the Holocaust. The seminar continued with a session about the Holocaust in Croatia, led by Lovro Kralj, who discussed about antisemitism in the Ustashe movement before the war and the events of the Holocaust in the Independent State of Croatia. The last session of the day was of a workshop about upstanders and bystanders, led by Oana Nestian-Sandu. The session aimed at helping the teachers to reflect on various roles people took during the Holocaust and their possible motivations, as well as to inspire them to be active citizens and to work on developing democratic values, attitudes and behaviors among their students. The day ended with an individual and group reflection.

On the third day, a study visit was organized. The teachers first visited the Roma Memorial Center in Uštica, part of the former Jasenovac system of the concentration camps, where they learned about the Roma genocide in the Independent State of Croatia. Afterwards, the participants visited the site of the main camp of the former Jasenovac concentration camp system – camp III Brick Factory, where they had a guided tour and visited the memorial museum. After the visits, the participants reflected on what they learned and on what they felt everybody should know about the Holocaust. As part of the reflection, they were also invited to write a letter to their students, with the topic "What lessons can we learn from the Holocaust?".

The fourth day started with the testimony of Darko Fischer, a Holocaust survivor who shared his life story with the participants. Darko Fischer was born in Osijek in 1938 in a Jewish family. When the Second World War started, his father escaped to Hungary, and soon afterwards, 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. Firingier was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations in 2020. As part of his presentation, Mr. Fischer also offered the teachers a historical context and information about Jewish life before and during the war. The seminar continued with a guided tour to several locations in Zagreb connected with Jewish history, the history of the Holocaust, and the resistance during the Second World War period in Zagreb, including several

stumbling stones. The participants also visited the Jewish Community in Zagreb and learned about its history, traditions, and culture, as well as about the functioning of the community today. The session after lunch was dedicated to understanding and countering Holocaust distortion. Teachers learned about present-day manifestations of Holocaust distortion and discuss ways to address it with their students. In the last session of the day, dedicated to the topic of Holocaust and human rights education, Oana Bajka presented TOLI's interdisciplinary methodology which combines these two approaches, and invited the teachers to reflect in small groups about human rights violations during the Holocaust and in present times. TOLI Handbook was presented to the teachers and they were encouraged to use it with their students. At the end of the day, the teachers reflected upon what they learned and how they can use their newly developed competences in order to create meaningful educational activities with their students.

The last day of the seminar, started with a presentation by Oana Bajka on methods, approaches and recommendations on teaching about the Holocaust. Afterwards, two TOLI alumni presented their impact grant projects and other interdisciplinary projects they had implemented with their students. Kristina Dilica presented the project she implemented together with colleagues teaching different subjects in the week around January 27th and the impact it had on the students. Sanja Maričević presented the project she implemented with young students (8-9 years old) on the topic of the Holocaust. Her project focused on the story of Lea Deutsch, a famous child actress, who was deported together with her mother and brother to Auschwitz, where they were killed.

In the last session of the seminar, Tena Banjeglav presented the TOLI Impact Grant Program and invited the teachers to work in groups to create an action plan for educational activities with their students, based on what they have learned during the seminar. In order to support the teachers design and organize meaningful educational activities on the topic of the Holocaust, feedback was offered after the action plan presentations.

At the end of the session, there was a short oral evaluation round, in which the teachers offered very positive feedback for the seminar, including that it exceeded their expectations and it motivated them to work more with their students on the topics addressed in the seminar. The teachers were also invited to fill out a written questionnaire and certificates were distributed.