

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Jewish Museum of Greece (JMG), Greece
PIC number:	937685324
Project name and acronym:	Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy (Remember to Act)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	5		
Event name:	Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights		
Type:	Teacher training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Athens, Greece		
Date(s):	5-8 March 2023		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.jewishmuseum.gr/en/new-eu-programme-quot-remember-the-holocaust-act-for-democracy-quot-with-the-participation-of-the-jmg/">https://www.jewishmuseum.gr/en/new-eu-programme-quot-remember-the-holocaust-act-for-democracy-quot-with-the-participation-of-the-jmg/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	27		
Male:	9		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 Greece:	36		
Total number of participants:	36	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>This 4-day seminar was organised in the framework of the project Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy (Remember to Act), coordinated by Big Picture Association (Poland), in partnership with Documenta (Croatia), Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania), The Jewish Museum of Greece and Fondazione CDEC (Italy), 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 36 teachers from Greece participated in the event.</p> <p><b>The aim</b> of the seminar was to contribute to increasing the quality of education regarding the Holocaust and human rights in Greece. The program provided a rich opportunity to integrate national and</p>			

international approaches in teaching about these topics and in understanding the contemporary relevance of this important chapter 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 the individual, group and societal level;
- Develop teachers' understanding of Jewish life before and after the Holocaust;
- Increase appreciation for innovative, student-centered teaching methods, including extra-curricular activities and partnerships between schools 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 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 a welcome reception for the participants, in the presence of Jessica Copeland, Political Officer of the US Embassy in Greece, Assia Raberman, Holocaust survivor, Mark Berez, President of TOLI and Harry Wall, TOLI board member. The speakers highlighted the need for Holocaust and human rights education in our increasingly polarized societies and the importance of drawing meaningful lessons from the past which help us build fairer and safer societies.

The first full day of the seminar included a presentation of the program and its objectives by Oana Nestian-Sandu, who stressed the importance of contextualizing the history of the Holocaust within the history of the Second World War, as well as within particular aspects of Jewish history, life and religion. She led a workshop focused on unpacking the meaning of identities and stereotypes as well the role they played throughout history, in the relationships between different groups of people and in the distribution of power in various European societies. Participants had the opportunity to work together and identify concrete ways to overcome stereotypes and confront antisemitism in the present

Afterwards, the participants attended a lecture by Radu Ioanid who focused on the European dimension of the Holocaust, in which it was Nazi Germany coordinated the genocide, but other allied states, and also states that took no action, or not enough action to put an end to the situation, contributed to the atrocities. Radu Ioanid discussed with the participants about national myths about the Holocaust that exist in various countries and stressed the importance of challenging nationalist perspectives and looking critically at the historical context in which the Holocaust took place, paying close attention to the degree of local collaboration in each country.

In the afternoon, the program continued with a session focused on exploring the history, identity and ethnogeography of the Romaniote and Sephardic Jews in Greece, based on archeological sources presented by Anastasia Loudarou, followed by a workshop, led by Oana Nestian-Sandu, about teaching human rights and the Holocaust in an interdisciplinary approach. This workshop highlighted TOLI's intersectional methodology which uses the lens of human rights to help teachers and students understand how an event like the Holocaust was possible, how the propaganda functioned and how the rights of Jewish people (and other groups) were taken away one by one. At the same time, it uses the lens of the Holocaust to understand that today we need to take immediate action, when human rights of members of any group living in our societies are violated or at risk of being violated.

The first day ended with the public launch of the Greek translation of Olga Lengyel's book, "Five Chimneys. A Woman Survivor's True Story of Auschwitz", in the presence of the Ambassador of the United States in Greece, George Tsunis and Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Religion, Georgios Kalantzis, both of whom delivered messages of encouragement and support to teachers in Greece who educated their students about the Holocaust and human rights and thus contribute to fighting antisemitism.

The second day started with an interactive reflection process with regards to various attitudes people had during the Holocaust and analysis of the reasons which made people become bystanders,

collaborators, or upstanders. The teachers also reflected on the roles taken by people today when facing injustice and worked to identify concrete ways in which they can become upstanders and allies with actual or potential targets of antisemitism, racism and discrimination.

The teachers had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of Assia Raberman, a Holocaust survivor who was only 11 years old when Second World War started and who joined the seminar to share her testimony with the teachers. Learning from a person who experienced such a tragedy gave participants a life lesson about suffering, dedication and hope for the future.

In the afternoon, JMG's researcher Maria Vassilikou's presentation about the Holocaust in Greece focused on the persecution and murder of the Jews of Greece. In her lecture, she emphasized the aspects which contributed to the fact that different Jewish communities in Greece experienced different rates of losses. She explored stories of betrayal, while also addressing stories of rescue. The day ended with a guided visit at the Jewish Museum of Greece, conducted by Zanet Battinou, Alexandra Patrikiou and Anastasia Loudarou.

The third day of the seminar focused on concrete approaches and methods to teach the Holocaust. The first workshop, led by Maria Vassilikou, addressed the subject of women during the Holocaust. After reading excerpts from Olga Lengyel's book, teachers worked in groups to reflect on certain aspects regarding women's lives in Auschwitz, such as the cutting of their hair, forced labor, interpersonal relations or resistance. The teachers were asked to design lesson plans for their students on these specific topics and describe what other resources they would use (pictures, films, objects, etc.)

In the following session, three TOLI alumni presented their project funded through the Impact Grant Program to their peers, followed by questions and inspirational discussions on the topic. One of the teachers was accompanied by several students, who shared with the participating teachers what they learned during the project.

In the last session of the seminar, under the guidance of Oana Bajka, the teachers worked together to plan educational activities they would implement with their students, based on what they learned in the seminar. In the evaluation part seminar, after completing the relevant questionnaires, the participants shared their thoughts and feelings and discussed the best ways to stay in touch with each other and learn about materials and strategies they can use in the classroom. The seminar ended with a farewell dinner in Athens' Plaka district.