



**The International Commission**  
for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes

# NEWSLETTER

## THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ABOUT HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



16–18<sup>th</sup> of May, the international seminar for educators from the European Union was organized in Paris. Ingrida Vilkiene, the coordinator of educational programs at the Secretariat of the International Commission, attended this seminar. Lecturers from France presented many lectures on Holocaust in Europe and France. The possibilities of teaching on Holocaust topic in different subjects were presented to participants as well.

Educators visited Drancy Memorial of Shoah. During the Nazi occupation, this place was a transit camp for Jews before deportation to Nazi camps in Poland. The participants also visited the Museum – Memorial with 76,000 wall-engraved names of Jews who were deported from France. Most of them were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the rest at Sobibor, Lublin, Majdanek and Kaunas / Reval camps, between 1942 and 1944.

The organizers of the seminar were the Council of Europe and Memorial de la Shoah in France.



## THE OPERATION OF DEPORTATIONS IN 1948 WAS MEMORIALISED IN VILNIUS

22<sup>nd</sup> of May commemorative events took place in Vilnius and in other places of Lithuania. The Soviet operation “Spring” was organized by the Soviet occupants in 1948. Approximately 40.000 Lithuanians were sent to Siberia.

The witnesses of deportations, politics, teachers and students participated in the commemorative event. Former deportees shared memories about this deportation. R. Racinskas, the Executive director of the International Commission, emphasized the importance of historical memory. The commemorative event was organized by the Union of Former Political Prisoners and Deportees together with partners: The Secretariat of the International Commission and The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania.





## The news from Tolerance Educational Centres

### Alytus (Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre)

- In the beginning of May, 47 students from Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium visited Vilnius. Students had an excursion in the territory of Vilnius Ghetto. They were told of the story of the Holocaust survivor Fania Brancovskaja. Students and their teachers explored the streets and Vilnius Ghetto places based on the publication "Sightseeing tour in Vilnius old city. History through Ghetto witnesses eyes". This publication was released by the Secretariat of the International Commission in 2013. Students also visited The Paneriai Memorial Museum where the biggest part of Lithuania's Jews were killed during the Holocaust.



- At the end of May, the author Arkadijus Vinokuras presented his book "We did not Murder" for teachers, students and Alytus society. The presentation of the book was organized in the city Jurgis Kuncinas library. The author discussed the question of responsibility of those children whose parents participated in murdering Jews. The event was initiated by Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Center.

- In April and May, the project "Let me be myself" was implemented in Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium. The idea of the project is to present the travelling exhibition about Anne Frank. 16 students volunteered as guides of this exhibition. 45 excursions were organized in 2 months and 1087 visitors attended it.



- 16<sup>th</sup> of May two volunteers from Austrian organization "Gedenkdienst" conducted two lessons for students in Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas gymnasium. Together with the students they discussed about the genocide of the Jews during World War II and events in Lithuania during that period. They also carried out an exercise about stereotypes and their impact on the society. The students and the volunteers had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust in an unusual but very effective way.





### Kalvarija (Kalvarija Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre)

- On 20-23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 12 students and 2 teachers from Kalvarija Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Center participated in the international – student exchange project “History Discoveries”. The meeting of Lithuanians and Poles took place in Suchovole, Poland.

The idea of the project was to find out about Jews, Poles, Tatars who lived in Suchovole town before WWII, to know more about traditions, religions and lifestyle.



- Kalvarija Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre became the coordinator of the international project “Growing up to be Democratic Citizens”. The project will be implemented in 2017–2019 with partners from Denmark, Finland, Norway. The idea of the project is to promote democracy, tolerance and understanding.



### Jieznas (district of Prienai)

- Jieznas Gymnasium English teacher J. Staciokaite invited students to clean up the old Jewish cemetery. Being supported by the town authorities students and their teacher worked in the cemetery

for a few days.



### Kupiskis (Kupiskis Povilas Matulionis Progymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre)

- 30<sup>th</sup> of May, the official ceremony of Righteous Among the Nations was organized in Kupiskis Povilas Matulionis Progymnasium. The award was given to relatives of the priest Feliksas Ereminas who saved Richelle Rozenberg during the Holocaust. The priest Feliksas Ereminas is already dead, so his relatives participated in the award ceremony. The event was organized by the Embassy of Israel in Vilnius in cooperation with Kupiskis Povilas Matulionis Progymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre.



- In the beginning of May, a group of students and teachers from Tolerance Educational Center visited the Museum of Genocide Victims. They participated in an educational workshop “Deported children in Siberia”.

## Mazeikiai (Mazeikiai Gabija Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre)

- Two Austrian volunteers Sebastian Redl ir Ganael Dumreicher from Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum visited Tolerance Educational Centre at Mazeikiai Gabija Gymnasium, in the North of Lithuania. These volunteers gave a lecture to students on the Holocaust in Lithuania. They also discussed the prevailing stereotypes, antisemitism and hatred.

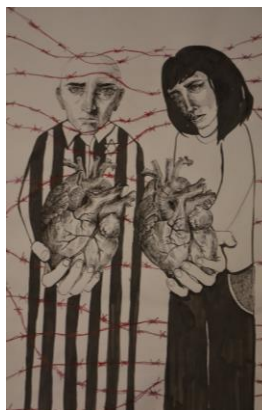


## Panevezys (Mykolas Karka Basic School Tolerance Educational Centre)

- On 16<sup>th</sup> of May, a competition “Deportation and Genocide of the Nation” was organized in Mykolas Karka Basic School Tolerance Educational Center. More than 100 8th and 10th grades students participated in this event.



## Plunge (Plunge Saule Gymnasium Tolerance Educational Centre)



- In the middle of May, the traditional Art competition named after Sir Ronald Harwood was organized by the Tolerance Educational Centre in Plunge Saule Gymnasium. This year the event was held in Plunge Public Library. Students and teachers from various schools presented art compositions (paintings, performances) and participated in active workshops. All the participants visited the Jews mass murder place in Kausenai and honoured the victims of the Holocaust.

## Vilnius (Vilnius Naujamiestis Secondary School Tolerance)

- At the end of May, a group of students from Vilnius Naujamiestis Secondary School visited the Yiddish institute in Vilnius University. They met with Fania Brancovskaja, the Holocaust survivor who has just celebrated her 95th birthday. Fania Brancovskaja told the students about her life before WWII, life in Vilnius and the Yiddish language. Later, students and Fania Brancovskaja visited the area of Vilnius Ghetto.