



Newsletter

October, 2015

THE INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION WILL MEET IN VILNIUS ON 17-19 OF MARCH, 2016

The Chairman of the International Commission Emanuelis Zingeris had several consultations with the chairmen of sub commissions Prof Saulius Suziedelis and Dr Arvydas Anusauskas and the other members of the Commission and decided to summon the sittings of both sub commissions on 17-19 March 2016 in Vilnius. The Executive Director of the International Commission Ronaldas Racinskas and the Secretariat is responsible for the organisation of the sitting.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HOLOCAUST FOR EDUCATION WORKERS FROM 10 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and UNESCO convened the Conference for International Holocaust Education in Washington, DC from September 26 to October 2, 2015. The conference aimed to gather education managers from Chile, Hungary, India, the Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda and Turkey. The conference participants had a unique opportunity of taking a deep look into the Holocaust Memorial Museum exposition, listening to expert lecturers and meeting the Holocaust witness from Hungary, listening to the museum workers' advice on the museum material usage for the Holocaust and genocide education.

The conference organisers provided a team-oriented, project-based approach to developing a Holocaust and genocide education project relevant to each participating country's historical and cultural context. The projects are going to be implemented in all 10 countries conference participants in 2016.

Lithuania was represented by the team of experienced educators: Roma Diktaraite, History teacher and Tolerance Education Centre (hereafter TEC) coordinator, Utena Aukstakalnis Progymnasium, Rita Juskeviciene, school principal and English teacher, Baisogala Gymnasium, Zilvinas Bieliauskas Vilnius Jewish Public Library Director, Ingrida Vilkiene, the coordinator for Education projects of the International Commission.



SEMINAR FOR THE TEACHERS

“INTRODUCTION OF THE HOLOCAUST RESEARCH IN EUROPE. FACTS FROM LITHUANIA”

1 October Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum's Tolerance Centre hosted a seminar for the teachers “Introduction of the Holocaust research in Europe. Facts from Lithuania.” The seminar was attended by teachers and educators and TECs from Vilnius and Kaunas. The seminar was co-organised by Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum, Yahad-in Unum Organisation (France), and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania.

A new TEC in Kaunas: an agreement of cooperation was signed between the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania and **Kaunas “Santara” Gymnasium**. The 108th TEC joined the network of Lithuanian TECs!

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTRES

REPRESENTATIVES OF GARLIAVA JONUCIAI GYMNASIUM TEC VISITED OSWIECIM



Some representatives of Garliava Jonuciai Gymnasium of Kaunas district TEC visited Oswiecim, Poland. Several days spent visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum and listening to the stories of different prisoners whose destiny after getting into the concentration camp became equally horrible elicited students to express their thoughts:

“The most painful is a sight of children shoes, toys. It’s a great shame that so many people were killed without any reason.”

“Only after this trip I was able to perceive the extent of

The Holocaust and people suffering. Until now it was only a word for me, well maybe several hundreds of Garliava Jews who are lying on the bank of the Jiesia. But it is a global tragedy.”

“It’s horrific to think how many people perished.”

“Maybe after the trip I have more questions than answers. I think that I have to study deeper the history of that period.”

“I understood that a human being might be extremely vile or highly dignified. From total ruthlessness to unconditional sacrifice; and human helplessness against the brutal annihilation system, where the responsibility is shared, and you may deny your guilt by saying: I only told... them to undress, only separated children from their mothers... only opened the tin of Zyclon.”



KALVARIJA GYMNASIUM

9 October some representatives of Klavarija Gymnasium TEC visited Vilnius. The teachers and the students by the guidance of a publication “History through the eyes of Ghetto Witness” had a sightseeing tour in the territory of Vilnius Ghetto and learned Fania Brancovskaja’s life and survival story.



ARIOGALA GYMNASIUM

16 October Ariogala Gymnasium, Raseiniai district held an event where the cognitive path route on the resistance war was introduced. During the event the participants could visit the dugout restored by Ariogala Gymnasium community, some education tips on history and civics lessons were given in the authentic environment.

The event was organised by Ariogala Gymnasium TEC.



DRUSKININKAI “ATGIMIMAS” SCHOOL

16 October Druskininkai “Atgimimas” school hosted the 7th traditional international Dzukija partisan song festival “The Way of Freedom”. Student song groups from Latvia, Lithuania and Poland took part in the event. The participants recalled both partisan songs and the dramatic way of Lithuanian freedom eternalised in songs.

The event was co-organised by “Atgimimas” school TEC and Druskininkai Resistance and Exile Museum.



PANEVEZYS “VYTURYS” PROGYMNASIUM

23 October Panevezys “Vyturys” Progymnasium was celebrating its 35th anniversary. According to the school principal Vitalija Dziuriciene “the school was given a name of skylark not in vain, students like birds fly away but return home to celebrate the jubilee.”

The TEC was established in “Vyturys” Progymnasium 11 years ago.



PANEVEZYS “SAULETEKIS” PROGYMNASIUM

23 October Panevezys “Saulėtekis” Progymnasium was celebrating the 40th anniversary. The school principal Algirdas Gedeikis was delighted by good school atmosphere, sufficient number of students. In his speech he gave a definition to the school community: “My party is school, and the members of my party – students and teachers.”

“Saulėtekis” Progymnasium established a TEC several years ago. The TEC is actively participating in the education programme implemented by the International Commission “Teaching about the Holocaust and Crimes of Totalitarian Regimes, Prevention of Crimes against Humanity and Tolerance Education Programme.”

