

# NEWSLETTER

## ***Seminar at Yad Vashem opened up many possibilities for teachers' professional practice***

From 2 to 11 August, a group of educators from Lithuania participated in a seminar in Israel at Yad Vashem, the International School for Holocaust Studies.

The long-standing experience of the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies provided the Lithuanian educators not only with knowledge, but also with methods for teaching students about the Holocaust and intolerance.



20 Lithuanian teachers and educators participated in the 2023 seminar/internship. Since 2003, Lithuanian teachers have participated in international internships in Israel as part of the cooperation agreement between Yad Vashem and the International Commission.

*Read more:*

<https://www.komisija.lt/en/seminar-for-lithuanian-educators-opened-up-a-wide-range-of-options-for-professional-activities/>.





## ***Teachers explore historical sites in the North of Lithuania***



The second day of the seminar was spent in Skaudvilė, where the participants learned about the history of the Jews of Skaudvilė and the sites commemorating the crimes against humanity of the Soviet occupation.

The two-day seminar on learning history was attended by teachers and museum staff from the Tolerance Education Centres.

More information:

<https://www.komisija.lt/en/teachers-explore-historical-sites-in-the-north-of-lithuania/>



On 18-19 July, a group of Lithuanian teachers and museum staff participated in the seminar "Getting to Know the historical sites and cultural heritage of Northern Lithuania."

On the first day of the seminar, the group visited Baisogala, which has a Tolerance Education Centre in its cultural center. The following site was Pakruojis: the educators learned about the town's history, visited the Pakruojis Firemen's Shelter Museum, and learned about the unique symbols used to decorate synagogues in the Pakruojis wooden synagogue. Later, the seminar participants visited Linkuva, and the last site of the day was Šeduva, where the old Jewish cemetery and the monument to all the Jews of Šeduva by Romas Kvintas, located in the center of the town, were visited.

## ***Lithuanian educators participated in the international Centropa Summer Academy (CSA) from 4 to 12 July***



The international event for teachers and educators, "The History of European Jewry in the 20th Century, the Holocaust and the Cold War," took place in two countries, Austria and the Czech Republic. Seventy teachers and educators from 17 countries took part in the event. Lithuania was represented by 3 participants: 2 history teachers from Kalvarija gymnasium and Paberžė gymnasium (Vilnius district) and an Education Programme Coordinator from the Secretariat of the International Commission.

Read more: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/lithuanian-educators-participated-in-the-international-centropa-summer-academy-csa-from-4-to-12-july/>.



# ***International seminar for teachers and educators on human rights violations and the Holocaust***

An international seminar on "Learning about Human Rights, Social Justice, and the Holocaust" was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 19–23 June, with the participation of 30 teachers and educators from all over Lithuania.

During the seminar, lectures were given by Lithuanian and foreign lecturers; participants took part in active methodological workshops and deepened their knowledge of teaching about the Holocaust.



The seminar was organized by the TOLL Institute (USA) in cooperation with the International Commission on the Evaluation of the Crimes Committed by the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, in partnership with the Lithuanian Jewish Community, and within the framework of the project "Knowledge and Critical Understanding of History - a Core Competence for a Culture of Democracy," funded by the European Union under the CERV (Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values) program.

It was the fifth seminar organized by these institutions for teachers and educators in Lithuania.

Read more:

<https://www.komisija.lt/en/international-seminar-for-teachers-and-educators-in-vilnius-2/>.

## ***NEWS OF TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTERS:***

### ***Commemorative events in Kėdainiai – commemorating the destruction of the Jewish community of Kėdainiai***

On 29 August, events were held in Kėdainiai to commemorate the destruction of the local Jewish community in 1941. The presentation of the book about the Holocaust, "Notes from the Valley of Slaughter" by Dr. Aharon Pick, took place at the Multicultural Centre of Kėdainiai. The book was presented by translator and journalist Andrew Cassel (USA) and moderated by Simonas Strelcovas, Director of the Vilnius Gaon Museum of Jewish History.

The book launch was followed by a ceremony for the victims of the Holocaust in the village of Daukšiai at the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, where 2076 Jews from Kėdainiai were murdered on 28 August 1941.

More information on events in Kėdainiai: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/commemorations-in-kedainiai-commemorating-the-destruction-of-the-jewish-community-in-kedainiai/>.





## Commemoration of the Holocaust victims murdered in Prienai 82 years ago



On 25 August, a memorial service was held in Prienai to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust who were murdered 82 years ago.

The commemoration began with a historical reflection on the Jews from Prienai and the surrounding towns who were marched to this place and the brutal killing that took place on 26 and 27 August 1941. Approximately 1100 people were shot in two days. Among the speakers at the event were the director of the Prienai Regional Museum, the chairman of the Kaunas Jewish Community, and the chairman of the International Commission, Emanuelis Zingeris.

The event is held annually at the site of the Holocaust victims in Prienai.

Read more:

<https://www.komisija.lt/en/commemoration-of-the-holocaust-victims-murdered-in-prienai-82-years-ago/>.

## New sign commemorates the synagogue in Balbieriškis

On 23 August, the day of the Baltic Way Day in Lithuania and the signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact by the two dictatorial regimes, an event was held in Balbieriškis to commemorate the synagogue and the large Jewish community that once lived in the town.

According to Paula Kuzmickienė, Chair of the Historical Remembrance Commission of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact changed not only the fate of Europe and Lithuania, but also the history of the small town of Balbieriškis.

The unveiling ceremony was attended not only by the local community, foreign diplomats residing in Lithuania, members of the Lithuanian Jewish community, politicians, and museum staff from the Prienai Regional Museum, but also by teachers from Tolerance Education Centres in other towns, such as Putinų and Adolfo Ramanausko-Vanago gymnasiums in Alytus, Ariogola, Kalvarija and Simnas gymnasiums in the Raseiniai region.

More information: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/new-sign-commemorates-the-synagogue-in-balbieriskis0/>.







## **Lithuanian representatives participated in 14th European Workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence. Invitation to Extend Perspectives in Oswiecim, Poland**



On 11-16 of August, the *European Workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence. Invitation to Extend Perspectives* was held in Oswiecim, Poland.

This year, the Lithuanian participants were Lina Kasparaitė-Balaišė from Kaunas IX forth and Vaida Jankūnienė, the history teacher from Radviliškis Lizdeikos gymnasium.

### **Open letter on incitement to anti-Semitism**

Members of the Commission, scholars, and educators have issued an open letter expressing their position on the public anti-Semitic statements made by Remigijus Žemaitaitis, a Member of the Seimas.

Read more: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/open-letter-on-incitement-to-anti-semitism/>.



**MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.KOMISIJA.LT/EN](https://www.komisija.lt/en)  
2023**