

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)*

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).*

PROJECT	
<b>Participant:</b>	The Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania
<b>PIC number:</b>	938247342
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	History- Democracy

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
<b>Event number:</b>	[2]		
<b>Event name:</b>	National Seminar for teachers in Lithuania		
<b>Type:</b>	Seminar		
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<i>In situ</i>		
<b>Location:</b>	Lithuania, Vilnius		
<b>Date(s):</b>	June 19-23, 2023		
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://www.komisija.lt">https://www.komisija.lt</a>		
Participants			
Female:	26		
Male:	5		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Lithuania]:	31		
From country 2 [Poland]:	1		
From country 3 [Romania]:	1		
...			
Total number of participants:	33	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
This 5-day seminar was organised in the framework of the project Knowledge and Critical Understanding of History – A Key Competence for Democratic Culture, coordinated by Catholic University of Valencia (Spain), in partnership with Documenta (Croatia), Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania) and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, co-funded by the European Commission through CERVA			

programme. The seminar was co-funded by TOLI – The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights.

A total of 33 people participated in the event, most of them Lithuanian teachers or museum educators.

**The aim** of the program was to contribute to increasing the quality of Holocaust and human rights education in Lithuania. 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;
- Increase appreciation for innovative, student-centered teaching methods, including extra-curricular activities and partnerships between school 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 are 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 an official session in which the Ambassador of the United States, the Ambassador of Israel, the Vice-Minister of Education and representatives of partner organizations addressed the teachers. The seminar continued with a session in which participants explored the meaning of identity and stereotypes, the role they played during the Holocaust and the role they play today in the relationships between people and in power dynamics.

The second day started with a lecture by Saulius Suziedelis focused on the Holocaust in Lithuania. The session was followed by the recorded testimony of Assia Raberman. After, Oana Nestian-Sandu led a workshop focused on the interdisciplinarity of Holocaust education and human rights education. This workshop highlights 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. Lara Lempertiene presented Jewish customs and traditions, in a session organized around the Jewish calendar. She offered teachers the opportunity to explore Jewish holidays, celebrations, to understand the diversity of the Jewish community and the richness of its culture and heritage. The day ended with a reflection process in which the teachers wrote and discussed about what they learned, what impacted them emotionally and what questions they still have.

The second day started with a session in which Vadim Altskan offered an overview of the Holocaust, addressing the rise of the Nazis to power and taking teachers on a tour of the events in various countries in Europe. This session was followed by what can be easily considered the highlight of the seminar, Silvia Foti, telling the story of how she discovered that her grandfather, Jonas Noreika was a Nazi collaborator. Ms. Foti's story had a great impact on the participants, not only through the proof of the atrocities her grandfather committed, but also through the way in which she relates to the story and the impact of discovering the truth had upon her family. In the afternoon, the teachers were offered a guided visit of the Holocaust exhibition at the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum. At the museum, a good amount of time was dedicated to preparing the teachers for the visit to Ponary. Teachers were informed about the atrocities that happened there and about the efforts to document those events and to further develop the memorial. At the Ponary Memorial, Ingrida Vilkiene guided the teachers, providing details about the various parts and about the journalist who was able to see what happened there from his window and documented everything.

The third day started with a session focused on learning about the ghettos established in the period 1939-1945, in different parts of Europe, offered by Vadim Altskan, accompanied by maps, photographs and testimonies from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The session was followed by a workshop in which Katarzyna Łaziuk shared with the teachers the children's book Lala, by Holocaust survivor Roman Kent, as well as pedagogical approaches and methods to teach with oral and/or written testimonies, according to the children's age. Afterwards, the teachers analyzed various attitudes that people had towards Jews and other groups who were persecuted during the Holocaust. The teachers had the opportunity to reflect upon various degrees of collaboration, to discuss about what it means and what it takes to be an upstander and to make a plan on how they can be better allies of people who are

treated unfairly in the present. Afterwards, the teachers were offered a guided tour of the Jewish Vilna. In the evening a kosher dinner was organized at the Jewish Community. The participants had the opportunity to discover Jewish food, learn about Jewish traditions and listen to klezmer music.

In the last day, Ingrida Vilkiene discussed with the teachers why and how to teach the Holocaust in the classroom and presented the International Commission's recommendations for educators teaching the Holocaust. In the following session the participants worked together to plan educational activities they will implement with their students, based on what they learned in the seminar. In the evaluation part, seminar participants, after completing the relevant questionnaires, shared their thoughts and feelings and discussed the best ways to stay in touch with each other and share resources and approaches that they can use in the classroom.

#### HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).