



The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights

TOLI INTERNATIONAL IMPACT GRANT PROGRAM

2023-2024 School Year

Report

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INTRODUCTION

TOLI - The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights offer professional development opportunities for teachers in the United States and in Europe.

In 2012 TOLI started offering yearly seminars for teachers in various European Countries, and in 2016, the Impact Grant Program became available for European teachers.

The TOLI Impact Grant Program provides graduates of TOLI seminars with the opportunity to apply for funding to develop local projects with their students, putting into practice the knowledge and approaches gained during the seminars. Each grant includes financial support of \$250–500, along with guidance in designing and implementing the project. The program encourages educators to take an innovative approach, actively involving students in interdisciplinary learning experiences, based on TOLI's unique methodology that integrates Holocaust, human rights, and intercultural education.

In the period 2016-2024, a total of 814 projects were funded by TOLI in 13 countries.

During the 2023–2024 school year - the period covered by this report - a total of **149 teachers** carried out projects across **Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, and Ukraine**. This report highlights the key activities implemented, which reached over 14,000 students, along with numerous teachers, parents, community members, and partner organizations. Among these initiatives, 38 projects were collaborative efforts between TOLI teachers, adding an important dimension of exchange. These collaborations connected students from different countries - or different regions within the same country - through shared activities such as local research, complemented by online meetings where students introduced themselves, exchanged ideas, and presented their findings.

Teachers designed and implemented activities to deepen students' understanding of the Holocaust, human rights, the local and national history of Jewish communities, Roma culture and history, while also exploring ways to combat antisemitism, anti-Roma racism, and other forms of discrimination and hate.

To achieve these goals, students engaged in a variety of meaningful learning experiences: they conducted research online and in local or national archives, read books, watched documentaries and films, met with survivors or their relatives, connected with members of local Jewish communities, and visited museums, synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries. They expressed their learning through essays, drawings, posters, photo exhibitions, and multimedia presentations, many of which were shared with wider audiences and passed on as educational resources for younger students.

BULGARIA

Art, Music and Holocaust Memory

School: Secondary School Bratya Kanazirevi, Razlog

Duration: Jan-Apr 2024

Lead teachers: Sonya Krancheva, Petar Petrov



Two Bulgarian TOLI teachers focused on teaching about the Holocaust and Jewish culture through art and music. Their students learned about the events of the Holocaust using materials from Yad Vashem. They researched about the lives of several Jewish artists and musicians in Bulgaria, created an ebook with their findings and shared it with their community. Students attended three art workshops where they had the chance to express in visual ways what they learned. They also participated in music workshops where the students learned

traditional Jewish songs. At the end of the project, the students reflected on their learning and shared impressions.

"I took part in both the art sessions and creating the book. It was really interesting for me, and it motivates me to read more and to be critical when I use the Internet. I hope I will have time in summer to buy books about Holocaust in Bulgaria and in Europe and read more about this topic" - Nikol Semerdzhieva, student.

The Saviours

School: Stoyan Zaimov Secondary school, Pleven

Duration: Feb-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Violeta Bozhkova Yordanova

The project focused on researching the history of Jews in Pleven during the Holocaust. The students met Dora Tsemakh, the chairwoman of *Shalom* organization. At this meeting, the students received valuable information and materials about the history of the Jewish community in Bulgaria. They went on to explore the local archives and the regional history museum to access useful resources about the Jewish community and created a report on the history of Pleven's Jewish population. In March, on the Day of the Rescue of Bulgarian Jews students discussed what they learned about the history of Pleven Jews as a way to commemorate the event.



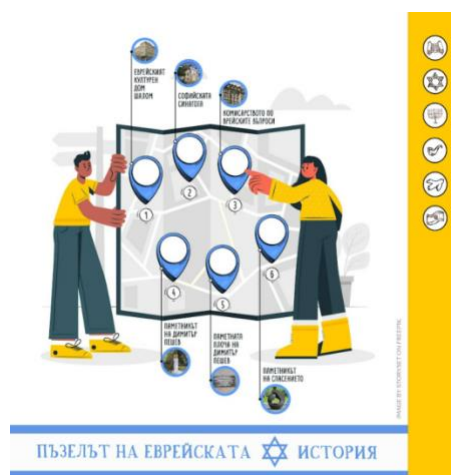
Afterwards, they wrote the scenario and recorded the short film *Fire and Infinity*, which was nominated in the XI International Student Literary Competition *Whoever Saves One Human Life, Saves the Whole Universe*. The film won first place in the Video Story category of the competition, held in Burgas, where students participated in creative workshops with renowned artists. The group of students also visited the Sofia Synagogue, where they learned more about Jewish history and traditions. They were also engaged in reading essays from the almanac *Stories of Darkness and Light*, a collection of works from students who had participated in the previous edition of the International Student Literary Competition.

The Puzzle of Jewish History in Sofia

School: 97 SU Bratia Miladinovi, Sofia

Duration: Oct 23-Jan 24

Lead teacher: Teodora Nikolova



The project took seventh-grade students on an educational tour of significant Jewish historical sites in Sofia. Students began by studying the context of the Holocaust and the importance of each site proposed by their teacher: the Jewish Affairs Commission, Dimitar Peshev's plaque and monument, the Jewish Home, the Synagogue, and the Monument of Salvation. They embarked on a guided tour and identified these relevant locations on an interactive map by placing symbolic stickers, such as the Torah, the Shofar, the Star of David, and the Menorah. After the tour, students reflected on their experiences and created short videos and drawings about tolerance, respect, and human rights. This project involved 87 students, who learned about Jewish history and the Holocaust, fostering a deeper understanding and

appreciation of cultural heritage and human rights.

Light of Hope After the Darkness of the Holocaust

School: First Language School, Varna

Duration: Dec 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Nela Dimova

The project aimed to educate students about the Holocaust and the Jewish community of Bulgaria during WWII. Students began by exploring the Jewish community in Varna during the war, meeting local representatives, and analyzing photos. This led them to write essays, present them to their 11th-grade peers and discuss the role of institutions during the war. Later on, they met with Jewish community members, interviewed specialists, gathered archival materials, and created a film, *The Fate of a Community*, which won first place in a national competition. Some students also visited the neighboring city of Shumen, where they explored historical landmarks



related to Bulgarian history as well as Jewish monuments and documents. Additionally, the students hosted a radio program on the Holocaust and presented their work during the school's open days. These experiences inspired students' reflections on how to incorporate the lessons of the Holocaust in their lives in the 21st century, and the project concluded with the talk *Let This Be a Lesson in How to Be Human*.

CROATIA

Colorful Unity

School: Secondary School, Bjelovar

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Željka Holjević

The project aimed to support students to learn about the Holocaust, as well as to raise awareness about present-day discrimination and ways to counter it. In the beginning of the project, the teacher engaged the students in discussions about diversity of religions, nationalities, and traditions. Students visited the Jewish community Bet Israel in Zagreb and had meaningful conversations with members of the community about the fate of Jewish people during the Holocaust. Students joined the Crocus project, in which they learned more about the Holocaust and planted yellow crocus bulbs in memory of children victims of the Holocaust. The project activities also helped students learn more about Roma history. Students created the film *To Be Human*, featuring interviews with Roma from Bjelovar and collaborating with the Roma organization Kali Sara. They also prepared a presentation, *Life of Jews and Roma during WWII*, showing the deep roots of prejudice to which Roma have been subjected. Students researched famous Roma in history and presented their findings at a community ceremony, attended by Mr. Goran Đurđević, who spoke about his book *History and Customs of the Autochthonous Croatian Roma Lovars*. Guests from Ivan Švear High School also shared insights into Roma life and customs.



Different, Similar but Still Equal

School: Osnovna škola Izidora Kršnjavoga, Zagreb

Duration: Dec 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Sanja Maričević



The project educated primary school students about tolerance, diversity, and the fate of Jewish children during the Holocaust in Zagreb. They visited the house of Lea Deutch, a young Jewish girl who became a symbol of the Holocaust's impact on Jewish children. In front of her house, the students could observe a *Stolpersteine* - a memorial plaque placed on the pavement, which marks the last residence of Holocaust victims of survivors. The students attended several workshops done by their teacher about understanding and appreciating differences among people, in order to develop their empathy and open-mindedness. The project continued with a visit to the local synagogue, where they learned about Jewish religion and culture. They were introduced to the customs, traditions, and rituals of Judaism, and were excited to interact with members of the Jewish community Bet Israel. They listened to personal stories and experiences, which helped them understand the contemporary Jewish way of life. The project fostered a sense of connection and respect among the students regarding Jewish life and history.

The Righteous Among Us

School: School For Economics and Tourism, Šabac

Duration: Jan-Sep 2024

Lead teacher: Tatjana Protulipac

In collaboration with: Tatjana Ćubriilo, Biljana Drobnjak, Darko Kostić, Mirjana Sremčević, Katarina Janošević



In the beginning of the project, the students researched various sources and collected information about Righteous among the Nations from their city, Karlovac. Afterwards, they created scenarios for a graphic novel about the local Righteous among the Nations, focusing on their biographies and the life stories of the persons they saved. When the scenarios were finalized, another group of students created the corresponding sets of drawings, and put together the graphic novel. Students also created posters of the Righteous among the Nations, which were used during further

lectures and presentations. One of the presentations was made to students from Belgrade, Serbia, during an online meeting in which students presented their projects to each other and exchanged their impressions. In the following period, teachers and students promoted the project on local TV, radio, and at different events, like the Days of Jewish Heritage in Karlovac.

Stories of Our Fathers

School: Commercial School Varaždin; NGO Generator Osijek; Medical school Osijek , Varazdin and Osijek

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teachers: Senata Majić; Đurđica Radić; Biserka Zajec

In this collaborative project students from different schools in Croatia, guided by 3 TOLI teachers explored personal stories and testimonies of Jewish people who lived during the Holocaust, focusing specifically on the parental role and sacrifices during this period. Students from Osijek and Varaždin engaged in a series of activities that deepened their understanding of the Holocaust, fostered critical thinking, and encouraged empathy. Teachers held two workshops to introduce students to the basic concepts and history of the Holocaust. Students participated in a film workshop centered on Leah Deutsch's story and learned about it through the artistic film *Leah i Darija*, discussing the Holocaust and the *banality of evil*. In Varaždin, 20 students attended history workshops in which they learned about Croatia's history during the Holocaust. Students attended an online meeting with Holocaust survivor Darko Fisher,

who was a child during the Holocaust. Students asked questions and reflected on the suffering of Jewish families. They researched local Holocaust stories about Jewish parents and discussed their findings with their colleagues. The students took a trip to Budapest where they explored Holocaust-related sites, including the Holocaust Memorial Center, Jewish district, and the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial (in which city/cities?), while documenting experiences through diaries (written, video, or photo). They participated in a critical thinking workshop, discussing human values, resistance to hatred, and contemporary challenges. Upon returning home, students shared their Budapest diaries with peers and participated in group evaluations led by teachers. They reflected on their experiences, discussed the lessons learned, and suggested ideas for future projects.



GREECE

Holocaust Remembrance and Literature

School: 5th General Lyceum, Patras

Duration: Oct 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Maria Dalamitrou

Students celebrated Jewish history and culture through art and education, focusing on Holocaust literature such as *Erika's Story* and *Through Our Eyes: Children Witness the Holocaust*. They worked in groups to prepare a Holocaust Remembrance Day presentation using Yad Vashem materials. After visiting the Jewish Museum of Greece, they participated in a series of workshops in which they learned about Jewish life, stereotypes, and persecution during World War II. The project concluded with a school festival on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, showcasing poetry from various oppressed groups.



Places of Jewish Heritage

School: 2nd High School of Eleftherio Kordelio, Thessaloniki

Duration: Dec 23-Apr 24

Lead teacher: Ioanna Prodromidou



During this project, which lasted for several months, students from the 2nd High School of Eleftherio Kordelio in Thessaloniki, Greece, learned about significant Jewish sites in their city, including the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, the Synagogue of Monastirioton, and the Yad Lezikaron Synagogue. Students spent the first half of February learning about the Holocaust before starting group work. They participated in guided tours, and created articles, presentations, essays, posters, and paintings expressing their reflections and feelings about these sites. Specifically, they

wrote articles about the history and significance of the Yad Lezikaron Synagogue, essays on the architectural and cultural importance of the Monastirioton Synagogue and created posters showcasing the collections and historical artifacts of the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki. Additionally, they produced paintings expressing their emotions about the Holocaust. The students gained knowledge of the history of the Holocaust and the many factors that contributed to it. Two groups of students participated in a video creation competition on the Holocaust of Greek Jews, organized by the Ministry of Education and the Jewish Museum of Greece, one of which received an honorable mention and visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps. The project concluded with a presentation of their work to the school community, reaching 300 people.

Narratives of the Holocaust in Film and Literature

School: 3rd Vocational High School, Patras

Duration: Nov 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Christos Tegas



Students began the project with an introductory talk on Jewish culture and identity and explored historical perspectives using books such as *The Holocaust of the Greek Jews* by Rena Molho and *Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II* by Keith Lowe. Key terms like antisemitism, Holocaust, Shoah, pogrom, genocide, human rights, concentration camps, *Final solution*, ghetto, crematoria, and Righteous Among the Nations were discussed in class and clarified for the students' understanding. The teacher used the interactive exhibitions provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Jewish Museum in Greece to deepen their understanding. The students also watched the film *Schindler's List* and participated in discussions to analyze its themes and historical context. On Holocaust Remembrance Day, students curated a school exhibition featuring posters about the Shoah sourced from the Yad Vashem Museum. During the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, they participated in a Barometer of Democratic Coexistence in Classrooms, a questionnaire designed to assess their democratic attitudes and understanding of tolerance and respect within their school community. As a wrap-up of their learning experience, students received books as gifts, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Five Chimneys*, *If This Is Man*, *A Year in Treblinka*, and *Tracing Jews of Greece*, further encouraging reflection and exploration of the Holocaust's impact. This project reached 200 people, students and community members.

The Holocaust - A Lesson for Life!

School: 1st Epal Sykeon, Thessaloniki

Duration: Sep 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Kyriaki Efraimidou

This project was coordinated by TOLI teacher Kyriaki Efraimidou from Greece and involved two other schools, one from Germany and one from Poland. The project focused on students pursuing thematic tasks related to World War II history and local contexts. Students were invited to examine diaries of young Jewish people who were persecuted during the Holocaust: *Anne Frank's Diary*, *548 Days with Another Name: Salonika 1943. A Child's Diary, an Adult's Memories of War*, and *Renia's Diary: A Young Girl's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust*. Using films from Centropa, students explored the history of the Holocaust and local histories, engaging with interactive content which helped deepen their understanding. They worked in transnational groups to create presentations, poems, mind maps, and word clouds. These collaborative activities not only expanded their knowledge of history, but also fostered cross-border teamwork and creativity. A significant highlight of the project was a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where students participated in a six-hour guided exploration. This immersive experience prompted profound reflection and personal growth among the participants. Throughout the project, students documented their journey through articles on social media, school websites, blogs, and the official website of the Greek Ministry of Education Religious Affairs and Sport, sharing their insights and experiences with peers and parents.



From Yesterday to Today: The Hidden Face of Nazism

School: 8th High School. Ioannina

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Claire Venouziou

In collaboration with: Mihaela Hendres, Romania

This project helped students learn about the rise of Nazi ideology and about its impact in Europe, stressing the need to resist similar orientations and attitudes in the present, as well as the need to protect human rights and humanistic values. Students engaged in class discussions and analyzed excerpts from D. Vlachopoulos's book *Wedding in Flames*, which refers to the burning of Kommeno, a village in the neighboring area of Arta, which the students visited. There, they had the chance to meet the author of the book and have a discussion with him. The students also organized activities to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. They read excerpts from Campanelli's *Mauthausen* and Olga Lengyel's *Five Chimneys*, and told stories about the Righteous Among Nations with information gathered from Yad Vashem. The students visited the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki and presented their findings to Romanian partners from the Emil Racoviță National College, Iași. At the end of the project, the students presented their project and shared their reflections with the entire school community, as well as online.



The Jews of Thessaloniki and Banat: A History That Must Never Be Forgotten

School: 2nd Model Senior High School, Thessaloniki

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Theodora Toli

In collaboration with: Lucian Suci, Romania



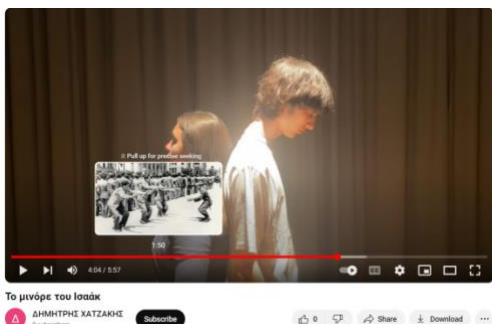
The project was done in collaboration between a school in Greece and a school in Romania. Students began their learning process by defining key concepts such as the Holocaust and antisemitism, learned about the general context of the Holocaust and researched the conditions in Thessaloniki's ghettos and Auschwitz concentration camp. They used collaborative tools like Padlet for brainstorming and shared their initial findings. Later on, they delved deeper into personal narratives by reading and listening to Yaacov Handeli and Ovadia Barouch's testimonies. This activity cultivated empathy among students and deepened their emotional connection to the historical events they were studying. They began preparing presentations based on their research findings and personal reflections. Some of the students created paintings reflecting themes related to the Holocaust, others composed music or wrote poems. Students from Greece learned and performed a Sephardic song, highlighting cultural aspects of Jewish heritage. At the end of the project, students shared their reflections on the Holocaust, discussing common points in the experiences of Jewish communities in Thessaloniki and Lugoj during World War II. They compiled their learnings in a video summarizing the project's key themes and lessons.

Holocaust and Human Rights. A Story of Contemplation

School: 6th Experimental Junior High School of Alexandroupolis, and Mandoulides Schools, Thessaloniki

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teachers: Evgenia Doulami and Dimitrios Chatzakis



Students from Mandoulides Schools and the 6th Experimental Junior High School of Alexandroupolis collaborated on a joint project. They began with team-building exercises and discussions on human rights, then used digital tools such as WordArt, Padlet, and various applications to collect and share information. Dividing into groups, one group focused on human rights history while the other one prepared interactive digital presentations of Olga Lengyel's *Five Chimneys*. Their experiential learning included virtual tours of the Jewish

Museum of Greece and the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, a virtual visit to Auschwitz, and the mapping of Greek Jewish communities. Students further enriched their learning by exploring the narratives of hidden children during the occupation, creating posters to illustrate these personal histories, and engaging in multimedia storytelling through the production of a documentary titled *Saul's Minor*, which detailed the gathering of Jews in Thessaloniki on July 11, 1942. Complementing these activities, they analyzed the film *The Pianist* and read *Hannah's Suitcase*, using digital tools like Canva and Storyboard to link these cultural artifacts to broader human rights principles. The project culminated in student-led presentations shared with their peers and the local community, emphasizing the importance of remembrance, diversity, and human rights education.

Interreligious Chalkida: Rescue and Escape of the Persecuted Jews during WWII

Schools: 1st and 2nd Lyceums, Alimos

Duration: Jan 23-Sept 24

Lead teachers: Aikaterini Athanasiou and Aimilia Makraki

In this project, the students were engaged in interdisciplinary lessons about the Holocaust by their History, Philosophy and English teachers. The project was done in collaboration between two TOLI teachers from the same city and students worked together in a hybrid format. During the online sessions, students discussed Holocaust Remembrance Day, read and discussed the book *Luna*. Students at both schools went on a walking tour in the center of Athens visiting churches, synagogues, mosques and the Holocaust Memorial. They wrote an article about the rescue of the Jews of Chalkida during the Holocaust for the school magazine. With the books bought for the project, students created Holocaust History Corners in their schools and borrowed them to read during their summer break. They exchanged perspectives with their peers from the other school and reflected on the project.



ITALY

Walking Through Memory

Schools: ISITP Innocent Manzetti, Aosta

Duration: Dec 23-Sep 24

Lead teacher: Andrea Camilletti



During the school year, several activities were organized, including a whole compact week dedicated to the theme of the Holocaust, when students read and analyzed text excerpts, watched films and participated in discussions and debates. A collective event in the school auditorium allowed students to present their work and discuss it with their teachers and peers. Additionally, students participated in the event *Walking Through the Resistance, Activating Memory* with a

reflection on the Righteous Among the Nations from the Aosta Valley. They also visited the synagogue in Turin and the Mole Antonelliana, a monumental building originally projected and constructed as a synagogue in the late 19th century, now housing the National Museum of Cinema. Students participated in the regional competition Cesare Dujany, where they were awarded fourth place. The multimedia product is the result of in-depth historical research into the Valdostan cases of people who risked their lives to save and protect Jews during the Holocaust. Through a series of videos, audios, and presentations, students have collected and illustrated stories of courage and altruism that deserve to be known and celebrated. Graphically, they have employed the symbol of the circle (and the spiral) to emphasize the value of the Righteous as the driving force behind choices for peace and the overcoming of divisions. The students showed great interest and shared deep reflections during the activities and at the end of the project. Their impressions were very positive, highlighting a consolidated awareness of historical and current issues regarding respect for human rights and human dignity.

The Way of Human Rights

School: Liceo GD Cassini, Sanremo

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Beatrice Palermo

Throughout the project students engaged in activities aimed at deepening their understanding of human rights issues and the Holocaust. By setting up a classroom observatory on discrimination, students learned to spot the risks of oversimplification and prejudice in audiovisual messages. They studied how films and videos can spread racial hate, focusing on the Roma Genocide. They participated in a film criticism laboratory and helped create a thematic film series called *Who's Monster? Regards Croisés... sur les Droits de l'Homme* in collaboration with the Museo del Cinema in Turin and noted film critics Daria Pall-



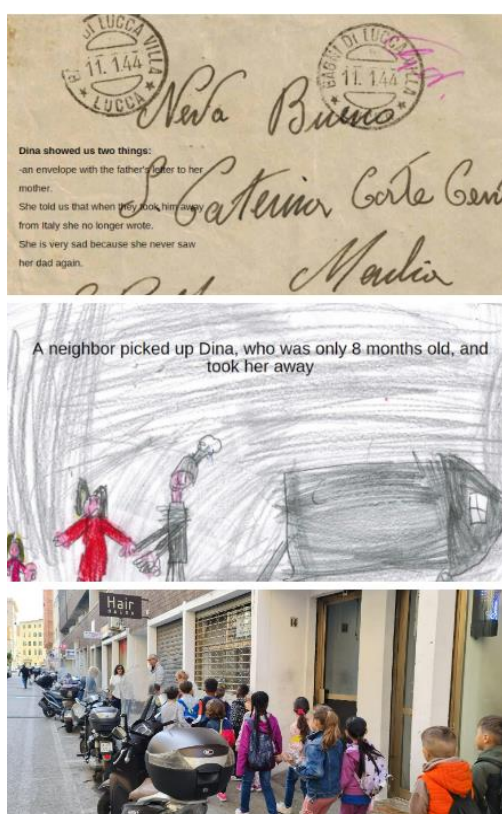
Calinescu and Paolo Mereghetti. This series explored how the idea of monsters can distort human reality and hide the true beauty of diversity. A stop-motion workshop using Burton-inspired puppets and film screenings with discussions were held. They produced educational videos like *Infamia* [Infamy] and *Gli Zingari rubano i bambini* [Gypsies steal children], addressing ideas and values that support human rights and combat discrimination against the Roma. As part of peer education initiatives, students presented their work internationally, including at Science-Po in Menton. They also participated in a cultural exchange trip along La Strada dei Diritti Umani [Human Rights Route], traveling from Munich to Nuremberg. Students contributed to The Stolpersteine Project in Sanremo, recording podcasts on the philosophy of stumbling stones, and created digital books documenting their experiences as Ambassadors of Human Rights.

A Story Not to Be Repeated

School: Istituto Comprensivo Don Roberto Angeli, Livorno

Duration: Nov-Dec 2023

Lead teacher: Maria Vincenza Matteucci



Students of this project had already done activities related to the Jewish life in their town, Livorno, such as visiting the local synagogue and interacting with members of the Jewish community. Since they are primary school students, the activities of this project focused on raising their awareness and building their knowledge about the events of the past in Italy and Europe during the period when the racial laws were in force in Italy. Students watched movies and read books that depicted stories of children living during that time, such as *Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust* and *the Children He Rescued* and more. Students also met witnesses Edi Bueno and her niece Dina and visited the house they used to live in. Edi and Dina shared with the students their experience during the racial laws period in Italy and the beginning of WWII, and showed them family letters. Afterwards, the students drew images to illustrate the Bueno family story. Together with their teacher they created a presentation and shared with their peers. At the end of the project the rest of the school community was inspired to also meet with Edi and Dina and learn about their stories. Students discussed their impressions with their teacher: -What Edi told us made me feel sad because I thought that if it happened to me it would be bad. -Edi could no longer do what she

always did and this is not right. -When Edi told her story it made me feel bad because I thought of me and my little sister.

Suspended Lives. Forms of Memory

School: Liceo Artistico A. Modigliani, Padova

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Antonio Spinelli

The project explored the relationship between the history of the Holocaust, local sources and some forms of artistic representation. More than one classroom worked on this project and shared responsibilities. One group of students researched historical archives about places of internment of Jews in the province of Padova, concentration camps and documents that belonged to the Jewish people who were arrested. Another group of students researched the depiction of WWII in graphic novels and books like *The Drowned and the Saved* by Anna Levi and Eva Ducci and *Il posto delle capre* by Sara Parenzo. All the students came together to share what information they had gathered, and they used it to start working on a graphic novel. In the second part of the project, the students visited the former ghetto of Padova, the synagogue, the Museum of Jewish Padova and discussed the Stolpersteine placed in that neighborhood. The first group continued working on the materials focusing on the analysis, interpretation, synthesis of archival documents and on the preparation of presentations for the other group. The second group worked on drafts of illustrations and short videos. Since their documentation was such a detailed process, the students committed to continue working on the graphic novel in the following school year as well.



We Need to Understand, to Remember, to Act

Schools: IIS A. Volta in Caltanissetta; Liceo Scientifico Statale Archimede in Acireale; IIS Don Colletto in Corleone, Caltanissetta

Duration: Dec 23-Mar 24

Lead teachers: Assunta Gallo Afflitto, Marinella Venera Sciuto, Anna Buscemi



This collaborative project was carried out in three partner schools across Sicily and Southern Italy. The project helped students confront contemporary antisemitism by exploring the historical roots of Holocaust denial, the Italian resistance against fascism, and the history of sports during the Nazi and Vichy regimes. During afternoon sessions, 30 high school students engaged in focused discussions led by history

teachers, while during morning classes they mentored their peers through a series of diverse activities. The students took part in guided tours, attended film screenings - including *Denial* (2016), *Arrivederci ragazzi*, films on Anne Frank, *The Woman in Gold* and *Vite parallele* - and a theatre performance *Il coraggio di dire No* by Alessandro Albertin. On the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they engaged in activities that emphasized the right to protest against human rights violations. One group of students produced a video titled *La libertà è come l'aria* [Freedom is like air], that explored testimonies of Holocaust survivors in Northern Italy. They also studied the history of

Sicilian Italian Military Internees and held a public meeting with the daughter of a Sicilian survivor. As part of their collaborative efforts, the students organized a film forum on antisemitism and guided a public exhibition titled *Sports, Sportsmen, and the Olympic Games in War-Torn Europe (1936-1948)*, which showcased historical documents from the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris. The exhibition was open to the neighboring schools and the general public. It was displayed at Don Colletto school from March 13 to March 20, 2024, and was visited by approximately 700 students and their parents. Students provided peer education by guiding other colleagues and visitors through this exhibition. The opening and closing events of the exhibition were attended by significant local figures, including Enzo Di Mauro, the Cultural Councillor of Acireale, and Gaetano Rizzo, President of the Sicilian branch of the Italian Sports Press Union, who praised the students' work. Complementing these activities, an online student meeting titled *The Relay of Rights* was held, and the students also created a dedicated blog, [The Value of Memory](#), where they reflected on the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and shared chosen protest images of icons like Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, and Jina Mahsa Amini. A special meeting with writer Agata Bazzi, a descendant of a Jewish family, along with musical performances and regional media coverage, further enriched the project. The project concluded with a meeting among students and teachers from the three participating schools, featuring a lecture by Patrizia Baldi, the educational director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Milan, where both students and teachers reflected on the exclusion of Jewish athletes and students under fascist regimes and shared their insights and creative outputs from the entire project journey.

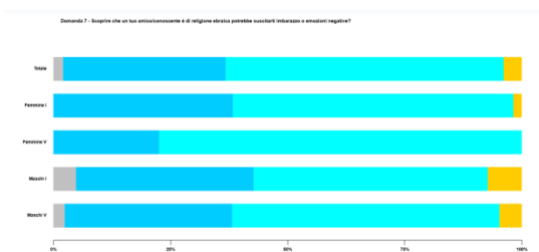


Observatory on Antisemitism

School: Liceo Scientifico Vito Volterra, Ciampino

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Paola Sabatino



Students engaged in training sessions led by experts from Fondazione Progetto Memoria and the CDEC Foundation, analyzing stereotypes, prejudices, and the spread of hate through digital media. As part of their historical exploration, they visited the Synagogue of Rome, the Jewish Museum, and the former Jewish quarter, focusing on the Nazi-Fascist raid of October 16, 1943. Over 250 students attended a preparatory meeting with Holocaust witnesses, Lello Dell'Ariccia and Ugo Foa. Following their training, students designed and administered a questionnaire on antisemitism to first- and fifth-year students, comparing results with previous years' data and submitting their findings to the Progetto Memoria Foundation. They also conducted interviews and wrote articles reflecting on their research. Their analysis provided valuable insights into changing attitudes toward antisemitism and discrimination. Some students who were trained in the previous school year acted as mentors, guiding their peers through the process. Students found the project engaging, particularly the investigative approach and new analytical tools, and their active participation demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering responsible and informed memorialisation.

The Memory Around Us: Places, Words, Voices

Schools: L. Dell'Erba in Castellana Grotte; IIS A. Einstein in Vimercate; Liceo M. G. Agnesi in Merate

Duration: Feb-Jun 2024

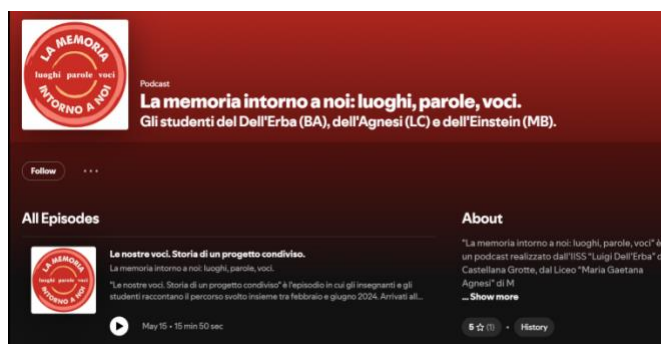
Lead teachers: Genny Catalano, Carla Caccia, Cristina Mazza



This five-month collaborative project brought together three schools in Italy to explore historical memory through research, site visits, personal testimonies, and creative production. The project focused on the Holocaust, persecution under Fascism and Nazism, and the lasting impact of these historical events. After being introduced to the project's themes, the students selected two Holocaust survivor diaries for analysis: *I miei campi* by Silvia Grünfeld and *The diary of Emanuele Artom*.

To facilitate deeper engagement, students were divided into four groups: Narrators, Historians, Geographers, and

Characters, each focusing on different aspects of the texts. They received training on digital textual analysis tools, which they used to examine the diaries in detail. As part of their historical exploration, students visited local sites of memory and took part in specialized learning activities, including a guided tour of the Shoah Memorial in Milan, where they learned about the deportations from Italy, had a workshop at CDEC Foundation Archive in Milan, where they analyzed archival materials related to Jewish persecution and a meeting with Patrizia Baldi, Head of Education at CDEC, where they conducted an interview to gain insights into Holocaust education. The project also addressed contemporary issues of discrimination and antisemitism. Students watched the documentary *A Cup of Tea in Samarkand* to examine how prejudice and hate persist today. They participated in an online lesson on hate speech, shared among the three schools and hosted by CDEC Foundation. Building on their research, students translated two chapters of *Five Chimneys* by Olga Lengyel with the help of their English teachers. They then analyzed these texts using the same digital tools they had previously studied. For the final phase of the project, students worked together to produce a 15-episode podcast, available on [Spotify](#), which features discussions, reflections, and historical insights. They structured the content, wrote scripts, and recorded episodes. In addition to the podcast, they designed graphic materials for display panels that visually represented key aspects of their work. At the end of the project, students presented their work in a special event at Liceo Agnesi, attended by students, teachers, and guests. They later presented their podcasts and display panels to all fifth-year classes at IIS Albert Einstein, sharing their insights with the broader school community. Through this multifaceted approach combining historical research, personal testimony, digital tools, and creative expression, the project fostered a deep and critical engagement with memory, history, and its relevance today.



No One Excluded

School: IIS A. Volta, Caltanissetta

Duration: Jan-Mar 2024

Lead teacher: Laura Cumbo

In collaboration with: Assunta Gallo Afflitto

The students attended several introductory presentations on the history of anti-Judaism, antisemitism, and anti-Roma racism. They discussed with experts about topics such as medieval and modern antisemitism, the history of Jewish ghettos, and the legal protection of human rights. They participated in an online seminar on anti-Roma racism led by Jacopo Re, a university professor. As part of their exploration of historical memory, the students went on a guided tour of the Jewish quarter in the neighboring city of Palermo, visiting historical sites including Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri, which was used by the Spanish Inquisition. In addition to these activities, students from different schools collaborated in key moments of the project.



They took part in the activity *Staffetta dei Diritti (Relay for Rights)*, organized on December 10th, where each school analyzed different historical protest images, with Liceo Archimede focusing on Emmeline Pankhurst's arrest in 1914. They also worked together on a final in-person exchange on May 2nd, when students co-organized the event and presented their reflections on the exclusion of athletes under Fascist, Nazi, and Vichy regimes. Throughout the project, students shared their insights via a shared blog, using it to document and exchange reflections on their learning experiences. The students further developed a questionnaire on antisemitism and anti-Roma racism, which they distributed to their school colleagues. After analyzing the survey results, they discussed their findings with their teachers. They also used a Padlet to document and reflect on their learning throughout the project. Additionally, some students led guided tours for their peers and the broader school community during the historical exhibition on sport and discrimination, which was hosted at Liceo Archimede, open to students from all participating schools.

Connected Memories

School: Istituto di istruzione B. Pinchetti, Tirano

Duration: Nov 23-Oct 24

Lead teacher: Simone Evangelisti

In collaboration with: Deborah D'Auria



Students from several classes of the B. Pinchetti high school in Tirano organized a theatrical performance for their classmates from the Largo Brodolini high school at the Shoah memorial in Milan on the story of the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai and his friend Ruth Hanover who was murdered in Sobibor. The students learned about the story of Ruth and Ludwig (later Yehuda) from an article in The Times of Israel and were inspired to collaboratively build the outline of a theatrical script. Students read a collection of Yehuda Amichai's poetry, and together they selected three poems to incorporate into the script. Music teachers helped students find suitable pieces for

different moments in the story - both tragic and romantic - and to prepare the performance. Three students who study dance in their free time helped select and choreograph two pieces, one depicting the romance between Ruth and Ludwig and another representing Ruth's tragic fate. The play was performed at the Shoah Memorial in Milan, a place from where thousands of Jews were deported, making the experience deeply emotional, especially with students from other schools and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor present.

Between Resistance and Surrender: To Survive Free!

School: IIS Largo Brodolini, Pomezia

Duration: Oct 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Deborah D'Auria

In collaboration with: Simone Evangelisti

The students engaged in training sessions about the Holocaust and Jewish life with experts, historians, and university professors, both in person and online, starting with a seminar at La Sapienza University of Rome on November 20–21, 2023, attended by over 200 participants, including students and teachers from Italy, Germany and The Netherlands. Monthly training courses for both students and teachers followed, led by Deborah D'Auria, Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, Director of CDEC Foundation, and Professor Daniele Susini, historian and expert in Holocaust education. In May, during a visit to the Shoah Memorial in Milan, the students shared their experiences with their peers from the other school, preparing for a reciprocal visit in October to commemorate the 1943 roundup of the Jews of Rome. A key activity of the project was a study trip to Berlin, where 23 students visited sites of memory and institutions dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and resistance. The final student presentations and posters were shared on a dedicated website: <https://resistenzaeresia.it/giorno-della-memoria/>



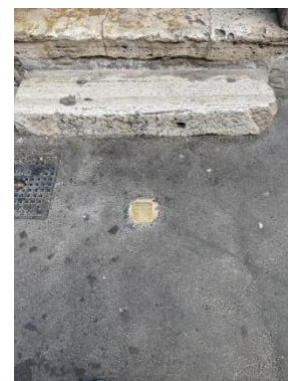
Humans are Alright(s)

School: Liceo Classico Linguistico Scientifico Lorenzo Rocci, Passo Corese

Duration: Jan-Oct 2024

Lead teacher: Alessandra Paris

The project empowered students to actively engage in human rights education and combat racism by fostering awareness and action within their generation. The project began with two preliminary lessons covering key historical events related to the Holocaust and human rights, linking them to January 27th - the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and February 10th - Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Foibe and the Exodus of Italians from Istria, Fiume and Dalmatia. These sessions not only deepened students' understanding of history, but also promoted their civic responsibility, support of democratic values, and developed their linguistic skills. Afterwards, the students conducted group research on Holocaust history in Central Italy and Rome, creating interactive maps of Stolpersteine (stumbling stones) with the help of digital tools like Scribble Maps and StoryMap. In April, they visited Rome's Jewish Museum, the former Ghetto, and the Major Synagogue, using their maps to trace the paths of Stumbling Stones. Between April and June, students recorded and edited four podcast episodes, reinforcing their learning and actively contributing to the fight against discrimination in their communities.



The Righteous Among the Nations: Past and Present

School: Liceo T. Mamiani, Pesaro

Duration: Nov 23-Feb 24

Lead teacher: Francesca Cecchini



The project explored the role of the Righteous Among the Nations in Albania during the Holocaust, engaging students in historical research, creative expression, and inter-school collaboration. After learning key historical events, including the exclusionary laws of 1938, the Wannsee Conference, and the distinction between extermination centers and concentration camps, the students analyzed genocide definitions, the persecution of people with disabilities, and the *Holocaust by Bullets*, using documentary sources to

deepen their understanding. A major highlight was the *Besa: A Code of Honor* exhibition designed by Yad Vashem, featuring photographs taken by the American photographer Norman Gershman and personal rescue stories of Muslim-Albanian families who saved Jews and were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. The high school students wrote a prose piece and presented it during the January 27th commemoration event, while other students explored Jewish and Muslim food traditions, preparing the inaugural lunch for the exhibition. These efforts culminated in the student-produced film *Codice d'Onore [Code of Honor]*, which won first prize in the *Adopt a Righteous* competition, organized by the association Gariwo - Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide.

LITHUANIA

Shtetl of Jurbarkas

School: Antanas Giedraitis-Giedrius Secondary School, Jurbarkas

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Augustė Vabalienė



Students visited the Regional Museum of Jurbarkas History to research photos and information about Jewish life in the area. Building on this knowledge, they immersed themselves in Jewish culture and food through an educational session at *Sandra's Education Home*, a workshop space in the city, where students made challah and bagels. A tour of Jurbarkas old town followed, guided by an expert who shared insights into Jewish traditions, occupations, and relations with the Lithuanian community, and about the fate of local Jews and Jewish people in general during the Holocaust. Students engaged in discussions and collaboratively created a map of the former Jurbarkas Shtetl, which was displayed on the school's website and social media page, highlighting the project's outcomes. Students were deeply moved by discovering the significant Jewish presence in Jurbarkas before World War II and how integral the Jewish community was to the city's fabric. Many students realized that places they frequent today, such as shops and cafes, once belonged to Jewish owners. Moreover, they gained insights into the effects of World War II and the Holocaust on the present-day societies.

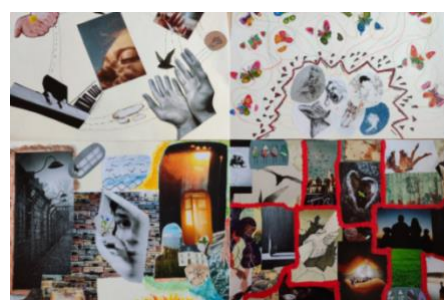
Memory of The Past for The Future

School: Karalius Mindaugas Vocational Training Centre, Kaunas

Duration: Feb-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Evelina Maščinskė

During the project, students and teachers examined human rights issues in the context of the Holocaust. They visited the Kaunas Regional State Archives, where they explored documents such as Jewish passports and records of Kaunas Ghetto residents. During a guided tour of the Amsterdam School Museum in Kaunas, students had the opportunity to learn more about Jewish culture in Kaunas and about the tragic fate of the residents of the house during the Holocaust. Visiting the Sugihara House Museum, students understood the importance of being an upstander, while learning about the contribution of diplomat Chiune Sugihara to saving Lithuanian Jews during the Holocaust. A commemoration event, consisting of a presentation on the topic of rescuers, was organized to mark the Day of Rescuers of Lithuanian Jews, March 15. In order to creatively express what they learned during the project, students participated in collage workshops where they depicted their understanding of topics related to human rights and the Holocaust. The final exhibition at the school's library showcased their collages, and electronic versions were made available for the community. The project not only enriched students' understanding of history but also fostered empathy and sensitivity towards human rights issues.



Traces of Jewish Culture and the Holocaust in Vilnius

School: Žirmūnų Secondary School, Vilnius

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Zita Jackūnienė



The project engaged students in activities of collecting materials and researching about the Jewish community in their region and about Jewish culture. They visited the Samuel Bak Museum, where they toured the new exhibition on the history of the Holocaust and were introduced to the painter's works of art, learning about his life story of survival. Students also visited the Litvak Cultural Center of the Vilna Gaon Museum and participated in a workshop about the life story of the young Jewish poet Matilda Olkinaitė and her family. Another interesting activity in the project was watching the newly released film *Zone of Interest*, followed by a group discussion led by a film teacher.

The students created two presentations, one about the Jewish Cultural Heritage in Vilnius and another about Jewish History in Lithuania, which were shared with the school community. They reflected on the process and planned future activities for the next year.

Saved Lives

School: Naujamiesčio School, Vilnius

Duration: Mar-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Arnoldas Riekumas

The project introduced the history, culture and customs of Jewish people, the Holocaust and human rights to 7th grade students of Vilnius Naujamiescis School. Students took part in lessons about Jewish culture and traditions held at the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History by educator Natalia Heifec. They watched and discussed a movie about the Vilnius Ghetto and Lithuanian Rescuers, during an event organized on the Day of Rescuers of Lithuanian Jews by the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes Committed by the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. They visited the Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum and talked in class about human rights. Older students also joined in for an activity and watched the Centropa film *A World Destroyed, A World to Remember*, about Ronana Malkhanova, a Jewish woman who was rescued. Students used materials from the Yad Vashem Museum to further expand their knowledge about the Holocaust and created presentations to share with their peers.



Maps of Time

School: Panevėžio Juozo Balčikonio Secondary School, Passo Corese

Duration: Jan-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Auksė Sereikienė

During this project, students learned about the Holocaust in Lithuania through activities like mapping the Vilnius Ghetto and creating art. They read I. Mer's *Equality Lasts a Moment* and I. Rudaševskis's *Vilnius Ghetto Diary*, and explored the history of the Vilnius Ghetto. In groups, they created a 'Family Book' comparing Lithuanian and Jewish family traditions, marked significant dates on a timeline, made a documentary, and mapped locations from the books. They visited Vilnius for an interactive tour of the ghetto, which included significant locations such as the ghetto theater, a sewing shop for Wehrmacht uniforms, and the ghetto hospital, and participated in an educational program at the Samuel Bak Museum. Using materials from their trip and Rudaševskis's diary, they verified historical contexts, took photographs, and presented their findings in class. A conference was held featuring literary compositions, creative works, and presentations. Afterwards, students reflected on their activities and discussed continuing the project.



Getting to Know Lithuania's Jerusalem

School: Lapes School, Kaunas

Duration: June 2024

Lead teacher: Irena Butkeviciene



Students from Lapes School participated in an educational excursion to Lithuania's capital city of Vilnius, also known as the *Jerusalem of Lithuania*, where they explored the rich cultural heritage and tragic history of the Jewish community. Through visits to key sites, including the former Vilnius Ghetto, students gained a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and the broader implications of human rights violations in society. The group visited Beigelinė, a shop selling traditional Jewish food, giving students a taste of Jewish culinary heritage. Their visit to a local synagogue included a session with guide Natalija, who presented about Jewish traditions, customs, and roles of women in Jewish communities. Upon returning to school, students prepared and presented slides summarizing their experience and the history they learned, sharing their insights with their peers during history lessons.

Shoah in Šiauliai Region

School: Romuvos Secondary School, Šiauliai

Duration: Jan-May 2024

Lead teacher: Ingrida Saunorienė



The project taught students about the Shoah and its impact on the Jewish community in the Šiauliai region. Students learned about Jewish life in Šiauliai before World War II, exploring Holocaust literature available in the school library and the Šiauliai City Library. They took part in a guided tour highlighting the historical presence of the Jewish community in Šiauliai. They learned about the role of synagogues, visited the site of the former White Swan Synagogue, and discussed the impact of Chaim Frenkel, a key industrialist in the city's history. The students also participated in a workshop that

explored personal stories and historical narratives related to the Holocaust. Moreover, they visited the Holocaust Memorial and mass graves in the neighbouring town of Norutaičiai where over 4000 Jews were murdered in 1941, and the site in the Padarba forest near Kuršėnai, where approximately 200 Jews were killed in 1941. Students were deeply touched by the project activities. They created presentations and shared their experience with their peers. The project concluded with reflections on students' experiences and discussions about future activities.

Stereotypes and Reality

School: Nemunas Secondary School, Kaunas

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Dalia Urzaite

In collaboration with: Maria Vincenza Matteucci

The project began with visits to historical locations where Jewish communities once resided, such as their own city of Kaunas, as well as the neighboring towns of Kėdainiai, and Krakes. They learned about Lea Goldberg, Esther Lurie and Abraham Mapu, three of the most notable Jewish personalities in Kaunas and about their contributions in various fields, such as history, science, culture, and art. Students visited synagogues and the former Jewish School in Kaunas, where they learned about Jewish culture. They also visited memorial sites of mass killings and Holocaust memorials, where they were able to grasp the magnitude of the loss suffered. Educational activities related to Jewish culinary heritage offered the students an opportunity not only to learn about traditional Jewish



dishes related to certain festivals and celebrations, but also to taste some of them and prepare some themselves. They learned about the Righteous Among the Nations by visiting the House-Museum of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat who saved more than 6,000 Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. The project was organized in partnership with a school from Italy. The students from both countries shared their knowledge via online meetings. In a final project meeting the students reflected on the project and on what they learned about the Holocaust in both countries.

Saving One Life Saves the Whole World

School: Kazys Grinius Secondary School, Kaunas

Duration: Dec 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Nijole Grikietyte



At the beginning of the project, the students learned about Righteous Among the Nations and divided into six groups, researched about several Righteous Among the Nations from their city, Kaunas. They collected materials and sources about these persons, conducted archival research, created a report and a presentation with their main biographical data. The students presented the reports to their colleagues, and later to other students of fifth, sixth and seventh grade in the school. They visited the House Museum of Lithuanian musician brothers Mikas and Kipras Petrauskas, and participated in the

educational program *Voices of Hope*, which helped them learn about the story of the salvation of Danute Pomerancaite by the Petrauskas family. Students also visited Vilnius and participated in the educational activity *Survival – Ten Miracles out of Ten*, during which they were introduced to the life of Samuel Bak, a Jewish Lithuanian-American painter and writer who survived the Holocaust as a child. In the final phase of the project, students visited the Fort VII Museum, explored its permanent exhibition on local history and then participated in the educational program dedicated to the history of Jewish people in Lithuania during WWII.

Eitan's Story

School: Juozas Paukštelis Public Library, Pakruojis

Duration: Jan-Oct 2024

Lead teacher: Gitana Maasienė

This project was coordinated by librarian Gitana Maasienė, who organized several educational activities for students from two local schools. Together with two colleagues, Gitana organized a complex activity in the local synagogue. The activity began with the librarians introducing to students the fiction book *Akmenėlis (The Pebble)*, written by Lithuanian author Marius Marcinkevičius, which tells the story of two Jewish children, Eitan and Rivka, who develop a close friendship during their early lives in the ghetto. Afterwards, students watched the performance *You Need to Live, Girl, You Need to Live!*, by the youth drama group from the local Cultural Center, which depicted a teenager's discovery of her Jewish heritage and her family's wartime horrors. The educational activity concluded with a reflection session where students were invited to share what they learned about the fate of Jewish people during the Holocaust, and they were guided to create six reflective stories, which were later exhibited at the synagogue. Afterwards, the students visited Lithuania's oldest wooden synagogue, located in Pakruojis, and participated in the civic initiative Path of Memory to commemorate Holocaust victims. On the Memorial Day for the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews, students retraced the path to the Morkakalnis forest—where over 300 Jews were killed in 1941—lighting candles, placing stones at the mass grave, and reflecting on the lives lost. Discussions on respect, tolerance, and multiculturalism were integrated throughout the project.



Lessons from Past Lives

School: Meilės Lukšienės Education Center, Marijampolė

Duration: Dec 23-Oct 24

Lead teacher: Arune Vaiciunaite-Levuskiene



In February and March 2024, four educational sessions were held in the Marijampolė Choral Synagogue, attended by 115 students and six teachers from four local schools. These sessions introduced students to Jewish culture and history, engaged them in educational and artistic activities through the Yellow Daffodil campaign, and facilitated discussions on the Righteous Among the Nations using Yad Vashem materials. On June 1, during Marijampolė City Days, over 100 students, eight teachers, local government representatives, and community members participated in an orientation game exploring the history of the synagogue, now home to the local Education Center. The project included a commemoration event organized on September 1, which honored the victims of the 1941 Marijampolė massacre. Students and community members marched silently along the *Road of Memory*,

placed memorial stones and candles, and reflected on the tragic events of the past. Students also joined national events, such as the March 15 commemoration of the Day of Rescuers of Lithuanian Jews in Vilnius, featuring a visit to the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History, a visit to the exhibition in the Vilnius Town Hall dedicated to the topic of rescuers, a visit to the Jewish Culture and Information Center, and reading of names of the Righteous Among the Nations. On June 5 students joined the first pedestrian march from Vilnius to the Paneriai Holocaust Memorial, a commemorative march along the old road that the Nazis and local helpers used to drive the victims to the shooting site. On September 23 they participated in the commemoration of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews in Kaunas, by visiting the exhibition at the IX Fort Museum and joining the memorial procession.

The Past Can't Be Changed - What Can We Do Today?

School: Juozo Grušo Art High School, Kaunas

Duration: Dec 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Tomas Pažarauskas

The project aimed to familiarize students with Holocaust history and equip them with necessary competences for preventing human rights violations. High school students engaged in educational activities centered on IX Fort's history—with special focus on the escape of a group of 64 prisoners on December 25, 1944. Guided by an expert, they learned about the historical events and participated in commemoration activities which helped them reflect on their responsibilities towards victims of the Holocaust. Under the theme *The Past Can't Be Changed – What Can We Do Today?* they watched documentaries, listened to survivor testimonies,

and discussed human rights, dignity, and resilience. The project included a visit to Fort IX, where students experienced the environment firsthand, capturing their impressions through photographs and sketches. With guidance from art teachers, and using old, scratched boards provided by school carpenters, they transformed these impressions into artwork that sparked further reflection and discussion, culminating in an art exhibition organized at IX Fort for the local community.



Building Bridges. The Impact of Tolerance and the Horror of the Holocaust

School: Jonas and Petras Vileisiu Secondary School, Kaunas

Duration: Oct 23-Dec 24

Lead teacher: Jūratė Morkūnienė



Students participated in educational activities led by IX Fort Museum educators, held at the school. These activities helped students explore elements of Jewish culture, learn about the context and the causes which made the Holocaust possible, as well as discuss moral and spiritual questions. Students used artificial intelligence to create scenes depicting the lives of Lithuanian Jews. This exercise proved highly beneficial, fostering critical thinking as the history teacher and students analyzed in which ways the generated images aligned with the historical context and in what ways they were historically inaccurate or distorted. This discussion deepened students' understanding of historical authenticity and the ethical implications of representing history. Students conducted research on Jewish history and the Holocaust, preparing materials and organizing an interactive presentation for students in two other schools. This interactive activity included discussions about tolerance, empathy, and historical lessons. IX Fort Museum historians provided expert insights, enriching the seminar's content. An activity particularly appreciated by the students was *Non-Childish Stories of the Ghetto*, which used diary extracts to explore life in the ghetto, highlighting deprivation, restrictions, and social tensions.

Learning about the Holocaust - Strengthening our Collective Memory

School: Vocational Training Centre, Kėdainiai

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Henrikas Vaicekauskas

In the framework of the project, students participated in the educational program *Shtetls and Traditions* organized by the Multicultural Center of the Kėdainiai Regional Museum. The program started with a tour of the former Jewish quarter in Kėdainiai, and provided insight into Jewish life, culture, and history in the region. At the end of the program, the students visited the Jewish Cemetery. On the National Memorial Day for the Genocide Victims of the Lithuanian Jews, students and teachers participated in a Memorial Walk at the mass grave in Daukšiai village, where they paid tribute to Holocaust victims. The students visited the photo exhibition titled *Traces of Kėdainiai Jewish History*, hosted by the Kėdainiai Vocational Training Center. They also read books about the Holocaust and encouraged other students to explore the topic. Students wrote reflective letters and messages to future generations, emphasizing the importance of remembering the Holocaust to ensure such tragedies never occur again.



Let the World Know: Lithuanian and Romanian Students Talk about the Holocaust

School: Secondary School, Lavoriškės

Duration: Nov 23-Aug 24

Lead teacher: Vaidotas Pakalniskis

In collaboration with: Marian Plesa, Romania



This collaborative project between a Lithuanian and a Romanian school focused on Holocaust history, human rights, and the influence of Jewish culture on Lithuanian culture. Students explored Jewish traditions through history lessons and visits to key sites such as the Vilna Gaon State Museum, Paneriai Memorial, and IX Fort Museum. They also participated in a tour of Jewish heritage sites in the neighboring capital city, Vilnius. To deepen their understanding, students also visited historical Jewish shtetls like Šeduva and Ukmergė. They learned about children's rights and analyzed how they are granted today and how they were violated during the Holocaust. They created brochures and drawings as part of a children's rights awareness campaign. Students also discussed ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in Lithuania. In addition, they organized an exhibition to honor Holocaust victims, featuring drawings they created after reading diaries, memoirs and listening to oral history testimonies. A culinary workshop, where they prepared and tasted Jewish dishes, helped students understand Jewish culture better. Students prepared for their peers in Romania a presentation about the mass murder of the Jewish children deported to Lublin Camp, and in turn learned from them about the Holocaust in northwestern Romania. Together, students from both countries participated in workshops on human rights and the dangers of extremist ideologies. Throughout the project, collaborative research, discussions, and online presentations further enhanced their critical thinking, cultural awareness, and teamwork skills.

Exploring Jewish Cultural Life and Tragedy in Simnas District

School: Tomas Norus-Naruševičius Secondary School, Krokialaukio

Duration: Dec 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Aušra Maižiešienė

During this project, students learned about Jewish cultural life in the interwar period and the impact of the Holocaust in the Simnas region in Lithuania. Students collected information on Jewish life before the Holocaust and about mass murder sites in Simnas region. They visited these sites and the local Public Library to review historical materials which enriched their knowledge. An educational trip to the Kėdainiai Synagogue Complex was organized, where students learned about Jewish heritage and participated in educational activities. Additionally, students attended a conference in Ariogala focusing on children during the Holocaust, and engaged in workshops such as *Open the Door of the Synagogue and Meet Adventures*. They also participated in the Yellow Daffodil initiative to honor the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, learned about its history, and watched related documentaries. The Day of the Victims of the Genocide of the Jews of Lithuania was also commemorated. Students prepared a presentation titled *Jewish Cultural Life and Tragedy in Simnas Region*. The project concluded with students offering their presentations to the high school students and the local community, while information about the project was published on the high school's website.



Diaspora in Diaspora - Jewish Emigration from Soviet Lithuania

School: Aušra Secondary School, Kaunas

Duration: Jan-Dec 2024

Lead teacher: Elena Vitkauskienė



The aim of the project was for students to learn about the former Jewish community in the city of Kaunas and to develop their understanding about the value of multicultural societies. In History and Civic Education classes, students learned about the history of the Jewish community in Kaunas, with a special focus on the lives of former teachers and students in their school. One of them was Judelis Beiles, who wrote in 2001 the autobiographical book titled *Judkė: vieno gyvenimo istorija* (*Judke: The Story of One Life*), describing the German occupation in June 1941, the massacres of Jews, in which many

Lithuanians participated, and life in the ghetto. Students read archival material, conducted online and on-site research about other Jewish students and teachers from their school, and shared their experiences with their peers. They visited the National Kaunas Drama Theatre and watched the play *Natanas Išmintingasis* (*Nathan the Wise*) directed by Gintaras Varnas. The play presents an allegory of the three Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - as three brothers who inherit their father's three rings, of which only one is magical and causes the glory of God to fall upon the wearer. By participating in this project, students became more familiar with cultural diversity and with the history of Jewish life in their city, they improved their autonomous learning skills, analytical and critical thinking, linguistic, communication and cooperation skills.

The History and Fate of the Jews from Švėkšna and Žemaičių Naumiestis

School: Vydūnas Secondary School, Silute

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Žydrūnas Mickeliūnas

Students from the 9th and 10th grades visited the neighboring towns of Švėkšna and Žemaičių Naumiestis, where they learned about the towns' history and the local Jewish communities. They visited the synagogue, the local museum, and the Holocaust Memorial in Švėkšna, as well as the Holocaust Memorial located on the outskirts of Žemaičių Naumiestis. Another visit that made an impression on the students was organized in the former Kaunas Ghetto and the Ninth Fort Memorial-Museum, where they participated in an educational program titled *He Who Saves a Life*



Saves the Entire World. Students walked along the *Path of Memory*, paying tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. During the walk, they shared knowledge about the tragic history of the Kaunas shtetl. After the visits, students organized the materials they had gathered and worked collaboratively during activities at the school's club for extracurricular activities to prepare a presentation of their experiences. Their presentation in front of the whole school community took place during the annual school assembly. The project's activities and results were also shared on the school's Facebook page and website.

The Jewish Community in Prienai Region

School: Secondary School, Balbieriškis

Duration: Mar-Sep 2024

Lead teacher: Reda Valanciene

In this project, students learned about the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania and about the Jewish community in their region, Prienai, by visiting a series of neighboring towns. They participated in a guided tour of the local Museum in the town of Prienai, where they also attended a lesson about Jewish customs and traditions. Afterwards, they were guided around the former Kaunas Ghetto by chairman of the Jewish Community in Kaunas, Gercas Žakas, who taught them about the construction and history of the ghetto. The students also learned about the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who saved over 6,000 Jewish lives during the Holocaust, and visited the museum dedicated to him. In the town of Kretinga, the students visited the mass shooting site and participated in an educational activity at the local tourist center, where they learned about the local history of the place. On August 26, the students held a commemoration event in the town of Prienai in memory of the Jewish people who were killed in this town in 1941 and placed stones and candles in their honor. Students also had the opportunity to meet members of Jewish community in Palanga.. On September 23rd, in commemoration of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews, students presented their project to the whole school community. The closing event was attended by representatives of the Jewish community of Kaunas and representatives of the district municipality, the Kaunas Museum, and the press. The project concluded with students participating in the Remembrance Walk, a 2 km march in remembrance of Jews killed in Paneriai forest.



POLAND

IX Days of Jewish Culture

Schools: Ogólnokształcące im. Polskiej High School, Minsk, Minsk Museum, Vocational School no.2, Minsk and Maria Skłodowska-Curie Secondary School, Warsaw

Duration: Oct 2023

Lead teachers: Ewa Borkowska, Magdalena Zygnerska, Justyna Radomska, Ewa Ogorzelska



Students explored and celebrated Jewish history and culture through various artistic and educational activities. Over four days, students - together with local residents - had the opportunity to: meet with Holocaust survivor Guta Tyrangiel, listen to her testimony and ask her questions; discuss with historians and journalists; and learn Jewish dances. Afterwards, students attended workshops in which they created graphic novels about Isaiah Wajner, a young Jewish student living in the city before World War II and crafted cut-outs of Jewish symbols. The project concluded with a poignant concert featuring songs by Vera Gran, a Polish Jewish actress and singer. Throughout the project, students and teachers deepened their understanding of Jewish heritage, of the impact of the Holocaust, and the connections between the past and contemporary social issues. Participants expressed profound emotional responses, particularly to personal

stories and historical reflections.

Białystok - Memory that Needs to be Restored

School: Wistawa Szymborska 10th Senior High School, Białystok

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Małgorzata Sokół

Students explored the history and culture of the Jewish community in Białystok. They visited the Sybir Memorial Museum, hosted in a previous military warehouse, from where, in 1943, the Germans deported Jews from the Białystok ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp. In the Memorial Museum, students also took part in a workshop, which focused on the fate of Jews in Białystok during the two occupations (Soviet and German). They prepared educational materials for the school website, covering topics such as Jewish cuisine, Ludwik Zamenhof the Jewish man who invented Esperanto, and life in the Białystok ghetto. An educational walk through the former ghetto area and further discussions on the topic of World War II history helped students gain a real sense of the impact of the Holocaust in their region. To express their newly acquired understanding, they created artwork focused on Jewish history and culture in Białystok, which they later shared with their peers and the local community.



Dreidels and Hamantaschen

School: John Paul II Primary School No. 1, Sztum

Duration: Oct 23-May 24

Lead teachers: Anna Raczowska



This project took place at an elementary school in the city of Sztum and aimed to introduce students to Jewish culture and traditions. It focused on Jewish holidays, customs, and the history of Jews in Poland, including their local history in Sztum. Learning about these topics led the students to discuss, guided by their teacher, about universal issues: human rights, empathy, respect and other humanistic values, as well as threats to these values, such as antisemitism, xenophobia, exclusion, persecution and other forms of hate. Students visited the Polin Museum in Warsaw, they played an interactive game to learn about Jewish customs and toured

Jewish landmarks in their city, such as the local museum and the Jewish cemetery. They researched information about Jewish holidays like Hanukkah and they happily engaged in preparing Jewish dishes, including challah and hamantaschen. Through these activities, the students were guided to reflect on the richness of Jewish culture and on the lasting influence of Jewish heritage on their local community.

Hello, My Friend

School: Primary School No. 1, Sztum

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teachers: Ludmila Zdziennicka

The project aimed to connect students with stories of young Holocaust survivors. to emphasize universal values such as empathy, tolerance, and human rights. In January and May, students took part in workshops focused on Jewish traditions, Jewish symbols, and the achievements of Jewish women. They read Rutka Laskier's Diary and Anne Frank's Diary, then created their own contemporary diaries inspired by these historical memoirs. As part of their learning journey, students visited the Polin Museum in Warsaw.

They were impressed by the permanent exhibition and expressed their interest to learn more about Jewish life and about the Holocaust. At the end of the project, students presented their experiences to their peers at school.



Piaśnica - We Never Forget

School: Construction School Complex, Bydgoszcz

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Aleksandra Wachowiak



The project aimed to educate students about the Holocaust and the atrocities committed against different groups of people during World War II. Since the students had studied about the Holocaust in detail in previous years, this year the project focused more on Piaśnica, a site of mass executions where Polish intellectuals, as well as Czechs and Germans opposing Hitler's regime were tortured and killed by the Nazis between autumn 1939 and spring 1940. Students began by researching the history of Piaśnica, examining both the Holocaust and the broader context of human rights violations during World War II. They

visited the Piaśnica Museum and Remembrance Place, deepening their understanding of the site's historical significance. Lessons were held across different classes to educate students about the Holocaust, human rights, and the events at Piaśnica. Students then prepared detailed presentations about the information learned, focusing on the victims and their stories. To expand the reach of the project, students also created an online version of the presentations.

From Kalisz to Krakow – Discovering the History and Culture of Polish Jews

School: Economic School Complex, Kalisz

Duration: Oct 23-Apr 24

Lead teacher: Izabella Galuba-Bryja

The project aimed to help students explore Jewish culture and religion, learn about the history of Jews and Poles, and understand how the Holocaust unfolded in Krakow and Poland. To reach these aims, students began by researching various sources to gather information about the history and culture of Polish Jews, with a particular focus on the city of Krakow. With this knowledge, they created a mini-guide to Krakow, a tourist guide featuring the most important sites in Krakow, including the main locations connected with Jewish life in the city. The students also visited the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, where they participated in an interactive



workshop exploring the thousand-year history of Jewish life in Poland, fostering cultural understanding and tolerance through engaging, hands-on activities led by experienced educators. They watched the film *Schindler's List* at school, followed by a discussion. An exhibition titled *My Jewish Parents, My Polish Parents* organized by the Children of the Holocaust Association was displayed at their school to help all students learn about Jewish and Polish history and culture, including personal stories. At the end of the project, students were taken on a trip to Krakow, where they visited the Galicia Jewish Museum, Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory and went on a guided tour of Kazimierz, the city's Jewish district. After the trip, the students organized a presentation for their peers, sharing their new knowledge and photos of the places they visited. The project was evaluated through a quiz and reflected upon through interviews and observations.

Never Again!

School: Youth Sociotherapy Center, Warsaw

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Dariusz Czechowicz



The project increased students' awareness of the history of socially and culturally disadvantaged communities in both contemporary and historical Poland. Students attended a screening of the film *3 Minutes: A Lengthening* followed by a discussion led by Gabriela Sitek, Director of Education at Millennium Docs Against Gravity, one of the largest documentary film festivals in Europe. They also participated in two workshops at the POLIN Museum: one titled *Mechanisms of Propaganda*, which helped them understand how propaganda functions and how it was used by the Nazis, and the other titled *A Story of the*

Uprising, which guided them to learn more about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Commemorative activities were also organized in the project: students distributed paper daffodils to residents in the areas surrounding their school and community center, and laid painted stones around Warsaw, in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. The project concluded with an event where students shared their experiences with the community and presented a commemorative album documenting their work.

Let's Get to Know Our Neighbors

School: K. Makuszyński Public Elementary School, Adamów

Duration: Jan-May 2024

Lead teacher: Katarzyna Wlazłowska

The project introduced students and the local community to Jewish history, traditions, and religion, highlighting their connection with Polish culture. It began with sessions where students imagined a Jewish family moving to their town, sparking discussions about Jewish customs and history. Culinary workshops, in collaboration with the local Women's Village Club, helped students learn how to bake traditional Jewish challah and hamantaschen cookies, using recipes from the POLIN Museum and the Bente Kahan Foundation. Students participated in online discussions and explored multimedia materials from the POLIN Museum. They visited the neighboring city of Kielce for workshops at the Jan Karski Association, focusing on Janusz Korczak's story and his pedagogy. They also visited the Provincial Public Library, where they had the opportunity to learn about Yiddish language. They participated in



the Daffodil Campaign, commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and in the Crocus Project, honoring the memory of the children killed in the Holocaust. Inspired by their lessons and trips, students created art pieces influenced by the art of Jewish-Russian painter Marc Chagall.

Do Not Be Indifferent!

School: Unit of Technical and Vocational Schools, Mysłowice; Regional In-Service Teacher Training Centre „Metis” in Katowice

Duration: Mar-Sep 2024

Lead teachers: Anna Ciach, Anna Dzięgiel and Tomasz Wojtasik



This collaborative project began with an introductory activity titled *School of Dialogue*, in which students learned about the Holocaust in Poland and about ways to commemorate it. Afterwards, they participated in a study visit to Wrocław, which included several activities focused on learning the personal stories of prominent Jews who lived and worked in the city. The first stop was the house of the philosopher Edith Stein, where students also visited an exhibition about her life. Then, they a guided educational walk through the city of Wrocław, during which they learned about important historical figures: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Protestant

theologian and pastor who actively resisted the Nazi regime and was executed for his role in a plot to assassinate Hitler; Katharina Staritz, a Protestant vicar in Wrocław who supported Jews during the Nazi era and suffered persecution herself for her solidarity; and Rabbi Benno Jacob, a Jewish theologian and scholar who fought against antisemitism and was known for his deep moral conviction and dedication to Jewish-Christian dialogue. Their third stop was the White Stork Synagogue, where the students had the opportunity to learn about Jewish religious traditions and visit the exhibition *The Jewish Life Cycle*, which broadened their understanding of Jewish traditions. At the synagogue, they met Bente Kahan, second-generation Holocaust survivor and initiator of the Foundation carrying her name. Bente shared the story of her family, originally from Norway, and how they ended up in Wrocław. She also talked to the students about the work of her Foundation, which is committed to furthering mutual respect and human rights. At the end of the project, the students explored the online exhibition *Unfinished Lives*, which focuses on famous Jewish artists, and was created by Bente Kahan Foundation.

Gastronomy of Our Neighbors

School: Arkadego Fiedlera Elementary School, Zbaszyn

Duration: Dec 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Anita Rucioch-Golek

This project helped 11-year-old students explore the Jewish culinary traditions through hands-on activities. Students conducted research and learned about traditional Jewish foods, made connections with Polish cuisine, baked *challah*, a bread made for Shabbat, and *hamantaschen*, cookies eaten during Purim. Starting from gastronomy, the teacher was able to introduce other topics to her young students, such as traditional cultural and religious practices of Polish Jews, thus deepening students' understanding of Jewish heritage and traditions and helping them understand how Jewish and Polish cultures are intertwined. Students reflected on the importance of honoring heritage and embracing diversity, and expressed the curiosity to learn more about Jewish culture.



Known - Not Forgotten

School: Municipal Public Library, Koronowo

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Beata Radtke



At the beginning of the project, a conference with experts on Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the local Jewish heritage served as a starting point for students' learning about these topics. In the following weeks, students met with experts in different fields (historians, sociologists, specialists in local history and heritage), who shared their knowledge and expertise on topics such as local Jewish history, antisemitism, and invited students to reflect on various dimensions of the ongoing discrimination and hate in our societies. Afterwards,

students explored locations in their town of Koronowo connected with Jewish life and history, starting from the place where the first synagogue used to be, continuing with the Jewish district and the Jewish cemetery. After visiting these locations, students conducted research and gathered more information about them over the following months. They were then able to create a historical walking route which included these locations. During the walk, students took photos which were later used to prepare an exhibition. Additionally, a survey on prejudices and stereotypes was conducted during the project, and its results were presented at the final event, alongside the other activities and results of the project. The survey, based on the Bogardus Social Distance Scale, showed that while students saw themselves as tolerant, their responses revealed unconscious biases. This surprised the students and highlighted the need for continued education on prejudice and antisemitism, not only in schools but also involving families, as home environments shape young people's attitudes.

Meeting Life and Death

School: Primary School No. 1 named after the Cavaliers, Nysa

Duration: Apr-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Anna Palczewska

In this project the students explored the culture and traces of the Jewish community in Nysa and its surroundings and developed their respect for other cultures. The students participated in a walk connecting historical sites relevant for the local Jewish community and visited a museum displaying archaeological finds from Jewish life in Nysa. They also visited a memorial site at the Polish Central Prisoner of War Museum in Łambinowice, where they were able to observe Hebrew inscriptions on the monuments. While participating in these visits, students took photos, shared reflections, and engaged in discussions about the value of every human life, the dangers of hatred, and the importance of fighting discrimination. The experience helped them understand that historical heritage is connected to the present, and that they need to cultivate empathy and respect for human rights, and to be open and respectful toward people from different backgrounds.



The History of the Jewish Community in Mysłowice

School: 1st Secondary School T. Kościuszki, Mysłowice

Duration: Feb-Sep 2024

Lead teacher: Sylwia Plewa



The project started with a series of online meetings led by the educational staff of the POLIN Museum. These meetings introduced students to the basics of Jewish culture, tradition, and religion, explained the process of the Holocaust, discussed the exclusion of Jews in the 1930s, and prepared the students for their visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. To commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the school organized the *Daffodil* action, which included a screening of the film *Maying before God* and a workshop on the Uprising. Students prepared yellow paper daffodil flowers that were placed on the walls of the school in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Two groups of 30 students visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and took part in a workshop which helped them understand different aspects related to women's lives inside the camp. Inspired by the workshop and the visit, the students created posters to express their impressions about what they learned. The creative workshop was followed by two others: one focused on Jewish life and religion, the other on extermination as part of Operation Reinhard. To learn more about the Jewish community in their city, students participated in a guided tour of locations connected with Jewish life and religion and explored biographies of prominent Jewish residents. Students also visited the city of Krakow, including the Krakow former ghetto and Jewish neighborhoods. Finally, they had the opportunity to visit the *Life Preserved* exhibition, which was brought to their school, and which deepened their knowledge about the rescue of Jews and on the Righteous Among the Nations in Poland. The exhibition was presented in the school auditorium, where the entire school community could see it. Afterwards, reflection workshops were organized, during which students shared their feelings and observations about Polish-Jewish relations during the occupation.

Multi-Dimension. The Richness of Diversity

Institution: The Praga Museum, Warsaw

Duration: May 2024

Lead teacher: Aleksandra Karkowska-Rogińska

The project was designed as a series of three connected workshops organized for the same group of students. The first workshop focused on the multicultural history of their city, Warsaw. Students participated in a guided tour, visiting Jewish locations, as well as a Catholic cathedral, an Orthodox church, and sites relevant for other minorities that lived in the city in the past. The second workshop focused on anti-discrimination. The session began with a discussion on human rights, and continued by exploring how students perceive human rights and why they are important. In the final workshop, students learned the basics of graphic design and created various products, such as t-shirts, tote bags, and patches, with designs, ornaments and messages inspired by what they saw and learned throughout the project.



To Know Is to Grow

School: Primary School No. 92 of Jan Brzechwa, Warsaw

Duration: Sep 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Justyna Łazor



The main aim of the project was to deepen students' knowledge of the local history of Warsaw and locations connected with Jewish history. First, the students visited the old Jewish district, participated in outdoor educational games to further explore the city, and visited an archeological site where Mordechai Anielewicz, the leader of the Jewish Combat Organization during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, had been hidden during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Students also attended a movie screening on the topic of World War II and the Holocaust. After watching the movie, the school's Ethics teacher conducted a workshop on prejudices, stereotypes, and emotions. The students commemorated the victims of the Holocaust through The Daffodil Action. They also participated in a series of workshops led by the educational team at the POLIN Museum, focusing on the history of Polish Jews, Jewish identity, and culture. The project concluded with a visit to Treblinka, where students learned more about the history of Warsaw Jews who lost their lives in the camp. The teachers decided to focus specifically on Janusz Korczak. At the end of the visit, teachers and students planted a red maple tree in the school garden as a symbol of remembrance.

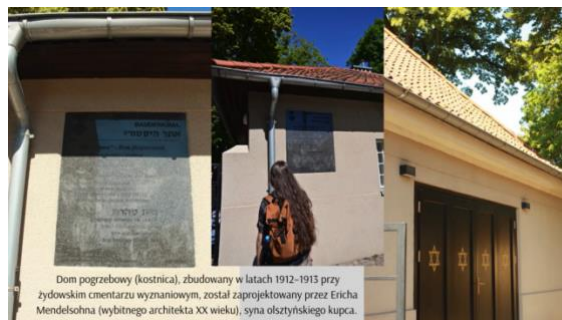
Disappearing Communities

School: J. Sniadecki Chemical and General Education School Complex, Olsztyn

Duration: Jan-Oct 2024

Lead teacher: Anita Sokulska

The students participated in historical trips where they explored the multicultural history of their own city, Olsztyn, visiting Jewish heritage sites such as the Bet Tahara funeral home and the Jewish cemetery, as well as the synagogue in the neighboring town of Barczewo. They also studied the history of the Warmia Jewish community, which left the region after World War II due to discrimination. During these trips, students documented their visits through photographs and engaged in discussions about the events that led to



discrimination of Jewish people and the Holocaust. The photographs and historical insights gathered during the trips were curated into a photo exhibition, which focused on three main aspects: showcasing the remnants of Jewish heritage in the region of Warmia and Masuria, the displacement of the Warmia Jewish community, and the broader themes of multiculturalism and discrimination. The exhibition included explanatory texts prepared by the students with the support of their teachers. It was presented around the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, and it aimed to foster reflection on the consequences of prejudice and the importance of preserving cultural diversity. The event was attended by TOLI educator Marcin Cielecki, who also conducted a session on the extermination of patients at the Kortowo hospital. Through these activities, students reflected on the mechanisms of propaganda, the power of narratives during times of persecution, and the importance of commemorating historical events and protecting cultural diversity.

Multicultural Borderland

School: Gen. N. Sulik School Complex, Dąbrowa Białostocka

Duration: Dec 23-Sept 24

Lead teachers: Jolanta Konstańczuk and Dorota Budzińska



A group of 20 students from Dąbrowa Białostocka High School, participated in a series of educational activities in their town and in a study visit focused on human rights, multiculturalism, and historical memory in the city of Sejny and its surroundings. The project began with cleaning the local Jewish cemetery while learning about the Jewish community of Dąbrowa Białostocka. Students analyzed tombstones and explored key historical and cultural sites in their town, deepening their understanding of the region's Jewish heritage. Visiting the city of Sejny, students engaged with Jewish heritage by visiting the White Synagogue, the Jewish cemetery, and the former Jewish school, now home to the Borderland Foundation. Through lectures, workshops, and hands-on activities, students gained a deeper understanding of Sejny's diverse past, the history of its Jewish community, and the legacy of Nobel laureate poet Czesław Miłosz, who was very active in aiding Jews during the Holocaust, through an underground socialist organization called *Freedom*. Students also visited memorials connected to anti-communist resistance in their region, learned about forced migration and reflected on the need to respect and protect human rights today. The project fostered awareness of modern migration challenges, emphasizing the importance of cultural dialogue and human rights in today's world.

Diaries as a Source of Information About the Life of Youth During World War II

School: FREYA Foundation, Wrocław

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Małgorzata Czaicka-Moryń

Throughout the project, students embarked in an exploration of the theme *Reflection of Ghettos in Diaries of Young People*, connecting historical and contemporary narratives of marginalized communities. The project began with readings of diary excerpts of Anne Frank's and Rytka Laskier's diaries, where students highlighted passages that evoked strong emotions in them. They engaged in discussions on what these accounts revealed about life in ghettos, focusing on themes of hope, survival, and the power of personal stories. These discussions evolved into reflective sessions, where students connected the readings to their own experiences of belonging and exclusion. To deepen their engagement, the teacher organized creative writing workshops, where students were invited to write their own diaries. Guided by carefully crafted prompts, they reflected on isolation and resilience in their own contexts. Through this process, they not only expressed their empathy, but also discovered the emotional depth of personal narratives. The project culminated in an exhibition held at the school, where students presented their work - an insightful collection of reflections, writings, and artistic interpretations that captured their journey through history, literature, and self-exploration.



People Have Done this to People

Schools: 7th and 8th Secondary Schools, Bydgoszcz

Duration: Apr-Jun 2024

Lead teachers: Aneta Plewa and Marzena Wolschlaeger



In this project, students from two collaborating schools worked together to learn about the history of World War II concentration camps and the impact of hatred and intolerance in our past and present societies. They attended workshops which helped them understand how concentration camps were created, they learned about Nazi ideology and examined historical documents. A key part of the experience was a visit to the former Ravensbrück concentration camp, where students gained a firsthand understanding of life in the camp through guided tours and interactive workshops. The students learned about life stories of prisoners, discussed issues such as guilt and justice, and created artworks and presentations to express their reflections. They also examined how historical accounts align with film portrayals, planted flower bulbs to commemorate Holocaust

victims, and engaged in activities that deepened their understanding of human rights and the importance of empathy. By working together on creative projects and sharing their insights, the students not only expanded their historical knowledge of the Holocaust, but also developed stronger teamwork, communication, and reflective skills.

Memory Weaving

School: S. Żeromski High School, Żyrardów

Duration: Jan-Sep 2024

Lead teacher: Bożena Gąsiorowska

Throughout the project, students explored the local Jewish history of their city, Żyrardów, beginning with source collection and research. The project culminated in the organization of a memorial unveiling ceremony—a Matzevah commemorating the victims of the Żyrardów ghetto—carried out with the support of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum and local authorities. During the event, students read letters from Jewish descendants of survivors who could not attend the commemoration. They shared excerpts from the *Book of Remembrance* and participated in symbolic gestures like releasing white balloons. Workshops on intercultural communication and an online discussion with Roni Lipszyc enriched the students' understanding of Jewish heritage and fostered personal connections with the descendants' stories. In addition to the unveiling of the memorial, students organized the *Daffodils – Connecting*



Us in Memory event. They explored commemoration practices during a visit to the city of Lodz, where they visited the synagogue, and learned stories of the victims through stumbling stones, commemorative plaques, and other memorials. Students also guided descendants of Holocaust survivors on tours of Żyrardów and prepared a memorial walk for future visitors. As part of their artistic contribution, they also planned an installation titled *Memory save...*, drawing inspiration from other artworks of remembrance.

PORTUGAL

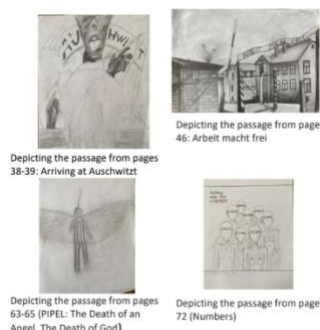
Holocaust and Human Rights through Art

School: Pedro Nunes Secondary School, Lisbon

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Maria Isabel Nuno da Silva Taxa de Araújo

In collaboration with: Alina Tomi-Satmar, Romania



The project encouraged students to connect deeply with history by reading, discussing, and creatively expressing their thoughts and feelings about the Holocaust, especially through passages from Elie Wiesel's book *Night*. Students participated in a variety of activities to build their understanding. They began with a civil rights game and watched videos about human rights, which laid the foundation for their learning about the Holocaust. Later, they created an *ABC Booklet* focused on human rights keywords and set up a Padlet board to share their progress, drawing inspiration from similar projects by students in Romania. As part of commemorating the memory of Holocaust victims, they watched moving video testimonies from survivors, engaged in discussions and

reflections and took part in a remembrance exhibition organized in the framework of the school's photography club, enhanced by a concert featuring Jewish music. The students attended a lecture on the topic of the Holocaust and refugees and began reading the preface and initial passages of *Night*. They expressed their emotions through drawings, poems, and photographs. Continuing their creative journey, students produced acrostic and visual poems that reflected on the darker aspects of human nature as described in the book. The project culminated in a final exhibition, *Holocaust through Art – Never Again*, held in the school library and shared online on the school page, where the students' creative projects were showcased to a wider community. This project was done in collaboration with a teacher from Romania, allowing students from the two countries to share their Padlet boards and ideas. Reflecting on the project, both teachers and students noted how transformative the experience had been. Students expressed that engaging with such powerful themes through art and discussion helped them process complex emotions and inspired them to advocate for tolerance and justice.

ROMANIA

The History Next to Us: The Holocaust

School: Secondary School 16 Marin Ionescu Dobrogianu, Constanța

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Gabriela Daniela Niță

The project helped students learn about World War II events, about the Holocaust and about intercultural societies. Students explored the destructive effects of totalitarianism, focusing on racism and antisemitism. The activities commenced with a Holocaust knowledge questionnaire, sparking students' curiosity and critical thinking. Afterwards, students engaged in thought-provoking discussions based on readings of Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl and the film Anne Frank: The Whole Story. They also learned about the Holocaust and Roma Genocide in Romania and researched about the historical contributions of the Jewish and Roma communities to the development of Constanța, the city they live in, by analyzing historical sources and bringing cultural and culinary traditions to life through collages and presentations. They explored significant local landmarks such as the historical Allean House, which belonged to a prominent Jewish person, and the ruins of the Sephardic Temple. Students also participated in a trip to the capital city of Romania, Bucharest, where they visited the Coral Temple, the Holocaust Memorial, and the Palace of Parliament, this latter building sparking discussions about the contrast between totalitarian regimes and modern democratic values. Students also put their learning into action by cleaning the local Jewish Cemetery in Constanța, paying their respects to the victims of the Holocaust and offering their support to the contemporary local Jewish community. The project culminated in an exhibition at the National Museum of History and Archaeology in Constanța, where students' artworks were displayed, showcasing their understanding and reflections on the topics of the Holocaust and human rights.



For a More Beautiful and Better World

School: Secondary School No. 2, Tețchea; Aurel Lazar High School, Oradea

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teachers: Luminița Maria Ilea and Livia Ghiurcuța



This was a collaborative project implemented by two teachers in two neighboring towns in Romania. Students from the two schools explored the history of the 20th-century and especially the Holocaust through a series of activities. They began by conducting research about human rights, the Holocaust, genocide, antisemitism, and intercultural values. Students watched Holocaust-themed films in their school and at the Multicultural Center. They worked in teams to create reports, presentations, essays,

and drawings. They collaborated with their peers from the other school to create messages of friendship, tolerance, and peace through drawings, posters, and literary works, which were displayed in the schools' festive halls. At the end of the project, students from both schools visited together the Jewish Museum and the Sion Neolog Synagogue in Oradea. They were very excited to finally meet each other and to share presentations, drawings, photos from the project activities and impressions on what they had learned.

A Manifesto for Peace

School: Children's Creative Club, Iași

Duration: Nov 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Carmen Stadoleanu



Throughout the project, students explored the history of the Holocaust in Europe and in Romania. Individually, and in small groups, students read books about the Holocaust and discussed them during weekly meetings in their local Creative Club for Children. Inspired by the stories they read, students expressed their reflections through art works using various media, such as drawings, paintings, or papier-mâché. One of their most powerful artworks was a cardboard version of Anne Frank's hiding annex and replica of her diary. Every Saturday, students gathered for workshops at their club, where they engaged in meaningful discussions about the contents of the books they read. At the end of the project, the students curated an exhibition of their artworks and displayed it at the local Creative Club for Children, presenting their experience to the wider public. The books acquired during the project were used to establish a permanent library in the institution, thus giving future students access to

these important stories as well. A reflection questionnaire encouraged students to express their experience in writing. Some of the aspects they mentioned were: *I learned not to judge people based on stereotypes; It was a sad experience, but also beautiful and educational; I enjoyed the project because I was able to draw a lot and interact with many people; I appreciated the opportunity to express my thoughts through art and I felt grateful that I didn't live during those times.*

We Promote Diversity. Jewish Heritage from Our City

School: Maria Rosetti Secondary School, Bucharest

Duration: Nov 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Silvia Nicoleta Baltă

This project used dynamic non-formal methods of teaching and learning to immerse students in gaining knowledge about the Jewish history and heritage in their city, Bucharest. One of the project highlights was a guided tour of the Jewish quarter in Bucharest, where students explored significant landmarks, including the Jewish Cemetery, the Great Synagogue, the Coral Temple, the Jewish State Theatre, and the Jewish Museum. Students learned that the Jewish communities have been part of Bucharest since the 16th century and understood the difference between Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews. They also read about the 1941 pogrom during the Legionary Rebellion, gaining insight into the barbaric treatment of the city's Jews. To deepen their engagement, students used an online platform called LearningApp, where they created leaflets with quizzes about each site visited during the tour. They also added resources useful for further learning. As a final step, students translated the online leaflets to English and French. They received diplomas and books about the Holocaust and reflected on their learning experience.



The Jewish Community in Sibiu and the Memory of the Holocaust

School: Samuel von Brukenthal National College, Sibiu

Duration: Oct 23-Apr 24

Lead teacher: Cătălin Lazăr



The project aimed to engage students in meaningful dialogue with descendants of Holocaust survivors, to consolidate democratic values and counter Holocaust denial. Activities included viewing the film *Țara moartă - The Dead Nation*, a documentary about the rise of antisemitism and the Holocaust in Romania, followed by presentations on the impact of the Holocaust on Romanian Jews. During a visit to the local synagogue, students were welcomed by Ms. Rebeca Deutsch, Secretary of the Jewish community, who discussed the local Jewish community's history and cultural contributions. Additionally, students participated in cleaning the local Jewish Cemetery, with support from the German Forum in their city and help from the municipal waste service. The project resulted in the publication of the volume *Paper Travelers*, consisting of six interviews with descendants of Holocaust survivors. These interviews, carried out by the students and their teachers, fostered reflections on personal and collective trauma and enhanced students' understanding of Jewish history

in Romania. The project taught students about the importance of connecting with the past in respectful ways and preserving the Jewish community's cultural heritage.

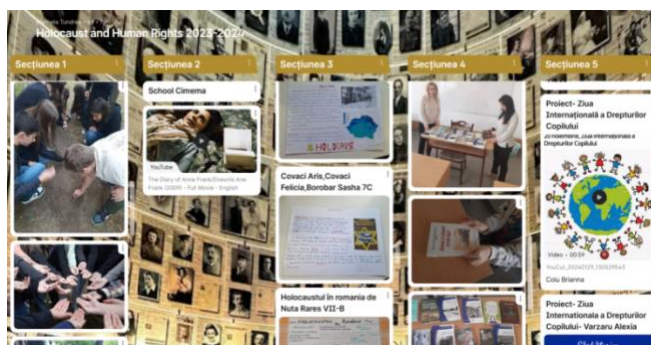
Human Rights and the Holocaust

School: Secondary School 7 Saint Mary, Timișoara

Duration: Oct 23-Mar 24

Lead teacher: Marinela Țundrea

Students engaged in diverse activities to learn about the Holocaust through the lens of human rights. They started by planting crocus bulbs in the school garden as part of the Crocus Project, commemorating the children who were killed in the Holocaust. The students watched *The Diary of Anne Frank*, sparking discussions on personal stories about the Holocaust. For National Holocaust Commemoration Day, marked on October 9, they created presentations focused on the Holocaust and the Roma Genocide in Romania. The students organized a reading club, exploring Holocaust literature to refine their understanding of the historical and social impact of the Holocaust. On International Day of Tolerance - November 11, and on Human Rights Day - December 10, they shared short videos they created with messages about promoting tolerance, respect, acceptance, peace, human rights, and combating antisemitism, racism, and discrimination. In February, students creatively expressed their reflections through drawings and paintings. The project culminated in March with an exhibition on Jewish life before the Holocaust, featuring photos of the Jewish community in Timisoara.



The Jews of Thessaloniki and Banat: A History That Must Never Be Forgotten

School: Iuliu Hasdeu High School, Lugoj

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Horatiu Suci

In collaboration with: Theodora Toli, Greece



The project was done in collaboration between two schools: Iulia Hasdeu High School in Lugoj, Romania and the 2nd Model Experimental Lyceum in Thessaloniki, Greece. The students learned about specific topics related to the history of the Holocaust, such as the fate of Jewish children during WWII, antisemitism, and prewar Jewish culture in Greece and Romania. As part of their learning process, they watched historical documentaries, analyzed visual and written testimonies,

and conducted research projects, guided by their teacher. They investigated Romania's involvement in the Holocaust, including antisemitic legislation under the Antonescu regime, the Bucharest and Iași Pogroms, the fate of Jews in Northern Transylvania and the deportations to Transnistria. Students also created posters and educational materials, which were later used in a school-wide exhibition marking Holocaust Remembrance Day. They deepened their understanding of Jewish culture by visiting synagogues in Lugoj, Timișoara, and Alba Iulia, and by speaking directly with members of the local Jewish communities. These activities helped them connect historical knowledge with tangible cultural heritage and living memory. The students from the two countries have collaborative learning sessions using Zoom, as well as online meetings in which they share with each other the information they learned during the project. The project culminated in students creating educational posters, fostering a deeper understanding of the topics through research and active discussions.

The Jewish Community of Caracal: A Part of the Local Community

School: No. 2 Secondary School, Caracal

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teachers: Florina Bățăgui and Răzvan Costel Bățăgui

Through this project, students explored the significant role of the Jewish community in the history of Romania, Jewish contributions to regional and European development, and Jewish cultural heritage. The activities included visits to synagogues and monuments in their town, Caracal, where students gained firsthand insights into Jewish traditions and history. Students conducted online research, engaged in discussions with their grandparents and parents, and created presentations, posters, and collages related to Jewish culture and



notable Jewish figures who contributed to society. They traveled to the capital city, Bucharest, to visit the Coral Temple and the Memorial to the Victims of the Holocaust in Romania, guided by representatives from the Elie Wiesel National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania. These visits were followed by an exhibition created for their school community. The project concluded with a dissemination activity and an evaluation session, where students reflected on the project's impact and discussed the importance of human rights today. They filled in questionnaires to assess their participation and express their views.

Let's Prepare for the Future, Remembering the Lessons of the Past!

School: National Pedagogical College Spiru Haret, Buzău

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Felicia Elena Boşcodeală

The project aimed to address the Holocaust while emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights. Students participated in presentations and discussions about Holocaust history and the implications of Holocaust denial. They watched the mini-series *Children of the Holocaust* in class, guided by their teachers, watched and discussed survivor testimonies, and reflected on the significance of commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz. Students also learned about Roma history and watched testimonies from Roma survivors speaking about their deportation to Transnistria during the Holocaust, a fate they shared with Jewish people. Afterwards, students were invited to reflect on their own identities, the role of identity during the Holocaust, and the link between identity and stereotypes. They learned about how stereotypes reinforce discrimination and understood that Jews and Roma were persecuted based on their identity. The students created posters through which they shared the information gathered with the rest of the school community. Using the TOLI Handbook, the teacher engaged students in an interdisciplinary learning process that combined Holocaust education, human rights education, and intercultural education, ending with a reflection session which offered students the opportunity to become aware of the competences they developed during the project.



Respect for Different Cultures

School: Simion Stolnicu High School, Comarnic

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Cristina Ilincuța

In collaboration with: Cristina Iuliana Gîlă, Romania



High school students were engaged in an exciting learning process of exploring Jewish holidays, focusing on their religious significance, culinary traditions, music, and observance practices. Students used digital tools to create lively presentations, which they shared with their classmates. They visited the Choral Temple and the Holocaust Memorial in the capital city, Bucharest, together with their peers from Constantin Brătescu National Pedagogical College în Constanța. They read historical sources and presented to each other text excerpts which impacted them, focusing on the experience of Jewish

adolescents during the Holocaust. The project included two joint activities between the two schools: the visit to relevant Jewish heritage sites in Bucharest and a letter exchange, which facilitated interactions between the students and sharing what they learned. An exhibition in the high school library featured drawings on the topic of *Adolescence in the Holocaust* and students received more books to deepen their learning on the topic. They filled in questionnaires and project diaries to reflect on their learning. Their reflections showed increased respect for diverse cultures, empathy for Holocaust victims, and personal growth.

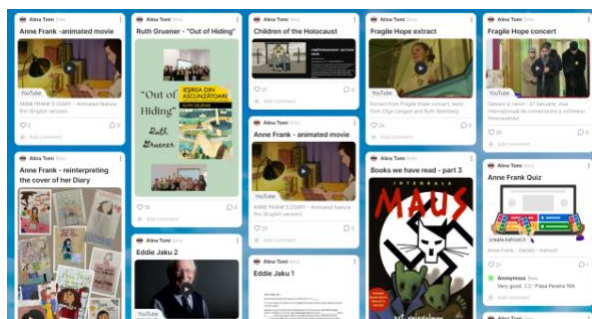
Never Again: Holocaust Lessons in a Transdisciplinary Context

School: Tudor Jarda Music High School, Bistrita

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Alina Tomi-Satmar

In collaboration with: Isabel Taxa, Portugal



The project educated high school students about the Holocaust and human rights, featuring a series of monthly activities. These included visits to the Jewish History Exhibition *Muzeon* in Cluj-Napoca, reading Holocaust-themed books, such as Elie Wiesel's *Night* and Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl*, and engaging in creative endeavors like writing letters to Holocaust survivors and designing book covers. Students also participated in a commemorative concert with the *Mazel Tov* band from the neighboring city of Cluj-Napoca,

performing monologues and musical pieces inspired by Jewish music and Holocaust survivors' writings. Their educational journey continued with visits to synagogues in Bistrița, Cluj-Napoca, and Sighet, as well as the Elie Wiesel memorial house in Sighet. Further reading of *The Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse and *Maus* by Art Spiegelman inspired students to create drawings of their own. They documented the steps of the project in a padlet that was shared with their peers. The project concluded with an international online symposium, where teachers exchanged best practices in Holocaust education. The students consistently reflected on what they learned about the Holocaust, as teachers encouraged critical thinking about human rights and the importance of intercultural respect across disciplines like History, Literature, Music, and Art. The project culminated in the preparation of *Fragile Hope*, a book compiling the students' drawings, literary works, and reflections.

Those Who Don't Remember the Past Are Condemned to Repeat It

School: Emil Racoviță High School, Vaslui

Duration: Feb-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Valentina Ionela Leparda

The project began with class-wide readings of three Holocaust related books: *White Bird* by R.J. Palacio, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Five Chimneys* by Olga Lengyel. These reading sessions were followed by group discussions in which students explored the complexity of the Holocaust. They created notes summarizing key ideas from the books and left messages in the books for future readers, sharing their thoughts on the themes or the books overall. They visited the Iași Pogrom Museum and learned about the history of the local Jews and their fate during the Holocaust. In small groups, students prepared presentations about what they learned and shared them with their classmates and other students in their school.



Echoes from the Past: A Lesson for Today's Teenagers

School: Moise Nicoara National College, Arad

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Sergiu Duma

In collaboration with: Alina Popescu, Romania

This project enhanced students' knowledge about the Holocaust and human rights. Students from two classes began by visiting the local synagogue, where they met representatives of the local Jewish community. They discussed the historical context of the Holocaust and participated in a lesson about stereotypes and fundamental values in the contemporary world, focusing on combating xenophobia, antisemitism, and discrimination. Students also had the opportunity to conduct individual research, using resources recommended by their teachers. Working in groups, students selected Holocaust-related movies, created a shared Padlet to document their learnings, and later presented brief descriptions of their findings to their peers. Building on the films they watched, students engaged in discussions with their teachers to identify stereotypes related to antisemitism during that period, examining how well the films adhered to historical truth or challenged stereotypes about Jews. Some project activities were done in collaboration with another TOLI teacher from the same city, Alina Popescu. Students compiled information from their activities and created an e-book to share the project results with the broader school community. The students also shared their progress on a Padlet. The project concluded with a roundtable discussion where students presented their findings and reflections.



Students and the Remembrance of the Holocaust

School: National College Emil Racovita, Iași

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Mihaela Hendreș

In collaboration with: Claire Veniouziou, Greece



In this collaborative project students learned about the Holocaust and explored historical propaganda from Nazi Germany, Romania and Greece. Students in Romania analyzed antisemitic propaganda from Nazi Germany and Romania through various media, including cartoons, posters, and films. They learned about Jewish culture and visited significant Jewish community sites in their city, Iași, while older students with more experience conducted guided tours for younger students visiting from Galați. They held online meetings with the Greek students featuring presentations and discussions on the Holocaust in their countries and in Europe. A classroom exhibition showcased students' works on Jewish

traditions and Holocaust history. This collaboration fostered a cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and perspectives. The two groups of students reflected together on the information learned and expressed their wish to continue their collaboration after the project, with the aim of visiting local historical sites related to the Holocaust in each country.

The Holocaust: The Tragedy of the Past, the Lesson of the Present

School: Tudor Vladimirescu Elementary School, Târgoviște

Duration: Oct 23-Apr 24

Lead teacher: Claudia Loredana Horjea

In this project, students saw the exhibition titled *Images from the Past: The Holocaust in Romania*, which presented facts about the Holocaust, Roma deportations, and Jewish history in their region. They also attended the presentation of the book *Jewish Cemeteries in Târgoviște, Găesti, and Câmpina*, where they engaged with the author by asking questions about local history. As part of the Crocus Project, students planted yellow crocus bulbs in their school yard to commemorate the children victims of the Holocaust. They also read and discussed books about the Holocaust, such as



Anne Frank's Diary and *The Book Thief*. Students learned about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, discussing each article with their teacher and analyzing how these rights are respected - or not - in today's society. They deepened their understanding of democracy by analyzing texts, images, and situations related to human rights violations, emphasizing the responsibilities society has in upholding these rights. Using the IWitness platform developed by the USC Shoah Foundation, they watched survivor testimonies and engaged in online educational activities designed to help develop their commitment to promote human rights and counter antisemitism. The students visited the unique International Ecumenical Center in Europe located in the nearby town of Vulcana Băi, which includes a synagogue, a mosque, and an Orthodox church, representing the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Throughout and after the project, students reflected on the knowledge they gained and its impact on their understanding of history and human rights.

Jewish Galați

School: National High School Vasile Alecsandri, Galați

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Sorin Langu



The project started with activities focused on learning about the local Jewish history of Galați, about anti-Jewish actions during WWII and about local Jewish personalities. Together with their teacher, the students prepared written materials on these topics, which became the content of a book titled *Jewish Galați*. After their research and the elaboration of the texts, students created drawings which were also featured in the book. Students also read Anne Frank's Diary and wrote essays about it. They watched movies such as *Schindler's List*, *The Pianist*, *La vita e bella* and *Conspiracy* and testimonies about the Holocaust and about the deportation of Roma to Transnistria. The students also

had the opportunity to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. After their visit, they were encouraged by the teacher to write their reflections, which were also added in the project book.

Keeping the Memory of the Past to Build the Future

School: National Pedagogical College Constantin Brătescu, Constanța

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Cristina Gîlă

In collaboration with: Cristina Ilincuța, Romania



The project aimed to explore local Jewish history while fostering active citizenship and democratic values. The students researched the Jewish community in Constanța using archival documents, newspapers, and landmarks, with support from teachers. Group work at the County Library led to presentations on Jewish history, traditions, and heritage. Students gathered oral histories from family members, learning about Jewish merchants, craftsmen, and schoolmates.

Their findings were showcased in *Echoes of Memory*, an exhibition featuring student drawings, followed by a roundtable discussion on Holocaust testimonies. A study trip to Bucharest included visits to the Holocaust Memorial, the Choral Temple, and the former Jewish Quarter, along with a discussion with Marius Cazan, researcher at the Elie Wiesel Institute about the 1940s Jewish community and the Bucharest pogrom. În Constanța, students mapped the former Jewish Quarter, examined historical buildings, and petitioned for synagogue restoration. They also created presentations on Jewish traditions, which they displayed in an online exhibition. Writing letters to Holocaust victims and exchanging them with a partner school was a particularly moving activity. The students also had the opportunity of meeting online with Peninah Zilberman, President of the Tarbut Foundation from Sighet and second-generation survivor, who shared about Jewish traditions and culture. Throughout the project, as well as at the end of the activities, students reflected on their learning experiences and expressed their commitment for promoting human rights and combating antisemitism.

The Past As Seen in the Present through Teenagers' Eyes

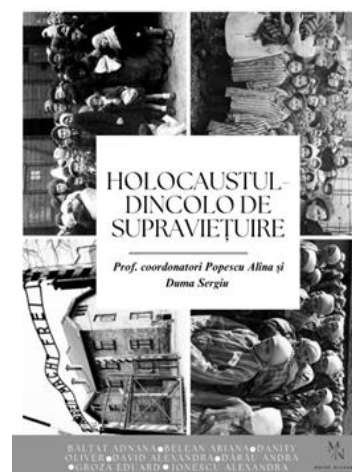
School: Moise Nicoară National College, Arad

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Alina Popescu

In collaboration with: Sergiu Duma, Romania

The main goal of the project was the development of students' critical thinking and ability to identify attempts to deny and distort the Holocaust. Students made presentations on the theme of the Holocaust, antisemitic legislation from the interwar period in Nazi Germany and Romania, the first anti-Jewish measures in Germany and Romania, pogroms and deportations, the "Final Solution", concentration camps and more. The materials were presented during a roundtable discussion coordinated by their teacher. Working in groups, students watched Holocaust related films, wrote their observations and further researched the events that took place between 1935 and 1945. Some project activities were done in collaboration with another TOLI teacher from the same city, Sergiu Duma. The students shared and compiled information from their individual activities and created a common ebook to disseminate the project's results with the broader school communities.



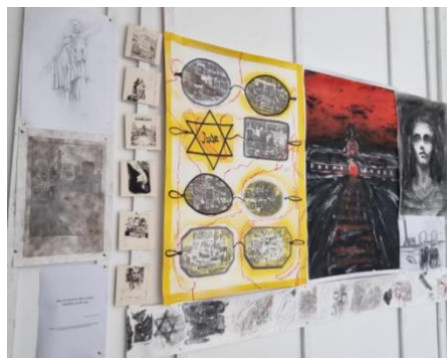
Discovering Human Value through the Impact of the Local Jewish Community

School: Art High School, Baia Mare

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Alexandra Chira

The project began with workshops led by Robert Cotos, president of the Maramureș Heritage Association, who educated students about the history of the Jewish community in Maramureș. Students learned not only about the size and structure, but also about cultural aspects and about the Jewish community's socio-economic impact on the city of Baia Mare. To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, students organized an exhibition titled *Shoah – How Was It Humanly Possible?* utilizing materials from Yad Vashem. They also visited the Maramureș Heritage Association's exhibition *We Won!* and conducted open history lessons focusing on Holocaust survivors in Maramureș. In February, students were assigned research on the economic impact of the Holocaust, culminating in an open workshop led by Professor Diana Cristea. This session explored how the Nazi regime exploited Jewish labor to boost the economy and the subsequent failures of these measures. A field trip to the nearby city of Sighet included visits to the Old Synagogue and the Elie Wiesel Memorial. At the Old Synagogue, Jewish community members shared with the students the history of Jews in Sighet and their perspectives on current events. The Elie Wiesel Memorial provided insights for the students into the daily lives of Jews in Sighet before and after the Holocaust. The project's final activity was a discussion at the local History and Archaeology Museum done in collaboration with the Maramureș Heritage Association. It addressed the significance of the Holocaust for the community and the responsibility of remembering these events, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the first deportations of Jews from Maramureș. The project concluded with an art exhibition created by the students, titled *The Holocaust Seen by Today's Youth*. The artwork reflected the students' personal reflections about what they learned during the project, about the Holocaust and its impact on local communities and on them personally.

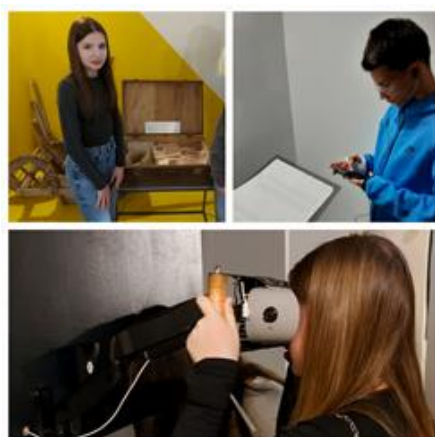


Debate, Reflection, Creation - Learning about the Holocaust

School: Iuliu Hațieganu Secondary School, Cluj-Napoca, Bontida Secondary School

Duration: Jan-May 2024

Lead teachers: Ioana Alexandra Morar and Elena-Lavinia Buda



Students from two schools in Romania explored the Holocaust through a variety of activities, including reading books, watching documentaries, and visiting the *Muzeon* exhibition, the History Museum in Cluj-Napoca, and the local synagogue, where they heard firsthand accounts from the local Jewish community. They reflected on Jewish traditions, culture, and the impact of genocide, through historical research, discussions, artistic and literary creations. Collaborating both online and in person, students shared ideas, built friendships, and worked in groups to create projects, essays, and interactive presentations. The project concluded with a joint exhibition at the Iuliu Hațieganu Secondary School, showcasing their artistic and literary works, along with a session of essay presentations.

Holocaust and Human Rights

School: National College Mircea Eliade, Reșița

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Ghiorgă Fercea

The project aimed to unite teachers, students, and parents in a collaborative exploration of Holocaust history and its lessons. It began on the International Day of Combating Fascism and Antisemitism, November 9, when students watched a film about Kristallnacht and survivor testimonies. This was followed by a debate on discrimination, racism, and tolerance. Guided by their teacher, students researched various Holocaust-related topics using both online and physical resources. Younger students expressed their reflections through drawings, while others analyzed photographs, discussed children's rights and responsibilities, and created postcards and posters to illustrate these themes. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, students shared with their peers insights from Holocaust-related books they had read. They also met with the President of Nevo Parudimos association, who discussed the deportation of Roma people from Romania to Transnistria during the Holocaust. The project continued with students visiting online museums and monuments related to Holocaust history. Students also visited the synagogues in their town, Reșița, and in the neighboring city of Lugoj. They watched testimonies collected from relatives of Holocaust survivors in Reșița and discussed with Mr. Ivan Schnabel, the President of the local Jewish Community, about the values that guide individuals toward a dignified life. They watched documentaries and researched additional materials beyond their history textbooks about the Roma Genocide. They also learned about the Righteous Among the Nations and created a school exhibition to showcase their findings. The project concluded with a public presentation of a digital brochure detailing the project, its activities, the students' work and reflections, emphasizing that tolerance and helping others are virtues rather than obligations.



Learning Holocaust History for the Present and the Future

School: Technological High School, Costești

Duration: Oct 23-Aug 24

Lead teacher: Violeta Drăguț



In the beginning of the project the students watched videos about the Holocaust and wrote essays expressing their insights. Afterwards they participated in the Crocus project, planting yellow crocus bulbs in a local park and in their school yard, in commemoration of the children killed during the Holocaust. On January 27, students created drawings on the topic of the Holocaust, which were later displayed in their school's hallway, for the other students and

teachers in the school to see. They also studied about the post-Holocaust economic struggles and the Jewish communities' role before and after WWII, presenting their findings through drawings and presentations in teams. As part of their work, students created a school magazine, titled *Little Journalist - Learning Past History for Present and Future: The Holocaust*, and a brochure compiling all the materials they had developed during the project activities. They also participated in a workshop

titled *Stop Violence! Stop Discrimination!*, where they discussed with a psychologist who talked about the effects of violence and discrimination. They created a poster of a tree and, using post-it notes, they filled the tree with the causes, factors and effects of violence and discrimination. Afterwards, the students discussed and answered questions about the activity in order to reflect on its impact. On *Heroes' Day*, students researched heroic historical figures who contributed to stopping violence and promoting non-discrimination. They analyzed both national and local historical figures, and each team of two students created their own collage, featuring their chosen personality. During the schools' Open Doors Day, the students shared their work and what they learned about the Holocaust with neighboring schools. They made presentations about the Holocaust in Romania, Jewish history and human rights. All the activities were also shared on the school's Facebook page.

The Holocaust - Lessons for Today

Schools: Theoretical High School Avram Iancu and Ion Creangă Middle School, Cluj-Napoca

Duration: Oct 23-Oct 24

Lead teachers: Daniela Cistelecan and Cristina Oltean

The project was implemented in collaboration between two TOLI teachers from Cluj-Napoca working in two different schools. It involved students in task-based activities to help them learn about the Holocaust and its lessons for the present. During the activity called *Holocaust Around the World and*



Children's Rights in the Contemporary Era, students from both schools took part in online workshops held by their teachers to learn facts about the Holocaust and human rights. Students read *Concentration Camp Dictionary* by Oliver Lustig and got even more familiar with the history of Jews in Europe. The students then artistically illustrated 20 articles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and discussed them in connection to the life events of Jewish children during WWII. Students participated in a conference session focused on *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Each school collaborated on a thematic micro-project connected to the conference title. Students presented their papers to each other, with top works submitted to a literary and historical conference organized by Avram Iancu High School in Cluj Napoca held to showcase the project activities to the local community and share the students' experience. In the last activity, the students learned to become guides of their city's local Jewish history. The students visited *Muzeon* and where they saw exhibits showcasing the life of Jewish people from Cluj Napoca before, during and after the Holocaust. All throughout the project, students were also invited to read books about the Holocaust from the school library.

"The visit at Muzeon was a wonderful, unforgettable experience, where I managed to find out new things. I realized that Jewish life during WWII was much harsher than I had thought before. In addition, I liked the use of digital tools, by replacing the human guide, which introduced us to a virtual world with video and audio sources. I got sad from hearing Iulia's family story. After I learned about the courage that Iulia demonstrated, I realized it's good not to brag about meaningless things. I hope things like that never happen again."

The Holocaust Seen Through the Eyes of a Child

School: Secondary School Petru Rareș, Galați

Duration: Oct 23-Jun24

Lead teacher: Lucian Suci

In collaboration with: Mihaela Hendreș, Sorin Langu and Charlotte Barbu, Romania



The project was done in collaboration between three TOLI teachers and involved a total of six schools from two cities in Romania. The project focused on *Anne Frank's Diary* and brought different students together in interdisciplinary activities meant to teach them more about the Holocaust and combating discrimination. Students watched *A Class Divided*, the documentary about the Elliot Experiment, and discussed alongside it about personal manifestations of discrimination encountered in their daily life. They took a trip to

Bucharest where they learned about the 1941 Pogrom. They filled in activity sheets and noted the landmarks they observed visiting the Holocaust Memorial. After returning to school, students watched the movie *Freedom Writers* and analyzed it in writing, focusing on the topic of discrimination in schools. They continued their activities by reading *Anne Frank's Diary* and wrote an essay to express their feelings, also touching on historical facts. The students visited the city of Iași where their peers from the partner school acted as tour guides to relevant Jewish sites around the city, helping their colleagues learn about the Iași Pogrom and other important historical landmarks. While in Iași, students watched testimonies at Casa Muzeelor, a cultural institution that hosted the former Police headquarters where Jews were being rounded up during the Holocaust. Upon returning to their city, students created presentations and artworks to describe their trip and creatively express the knowledge gathered. The students participated in classroom discussions and had the chance to reflect online together with their peers from the other schools at the end of the project. The project was also presented in a symposium about the Holocaust for other teachers and their students.

Let the World Know: Lithuanian and Romanian Students Talk about the Holocaust

School: Secondary School nr.18, Timișoara

Duration: Nov 23-Aug 24

Lead teacher: Marian Pleșa

In collaboration with: Christina Mazza, Lithuania

This was a collaborative project between a school from Romania and one from Lithuania. In Romania, the project started with 5th and 8th grade students doing research about the Holocaust and children's rights, followed by presentations and discussions on these topics. A Pyramid of rights was created and exhibited in the school hallways on World Children's Day. Students from 7th and 8th grades read books about the Holocaust that the teacher had acquired in a previous TOLI project. They wrote book reviews and presented them to their peers. Students also took part in the Crocus project and planted 200 yellow crocus bulbs in the school yard to commemorate the children killed during the Holocaust. After part of the students visited



Auschwitz-Birkenau, they prepared new materials and presentations about the Holocaust in Europe and in Romania and shared them with their peers from Lithuania during online meetings. Another joint event was an online history conference where Romanian students presented facts about the

Holocaust in Romania and the history of Jewish communities. During a last common meeting, students from the two schools shared aspects of the Jewish local cuisines and traditions. The students reflected on the experience and expressed their interest for further collaboration with peers from Lithuania and other countries.

Holocaust and Human Rights Education. Jews from Oradea

School: Ady Endre Theoretical High School, Oradea

Duration: Oct 23–Jun 24

Lead teacher: Ardelean Klementina



In this project, students explored the rich history of the Jewish community in Oradea and learned about the Holocaust and human rights through a variety of interactive activities. They began by watching films such as *Schindler's List*, *La vita è bella*, and *Ray of Sunshine*, and then joined reading circles where they discussed powerful accounts like *Eva Heyman's Diary*, *Anne Frank's Diary*, and *The Book Thief*. Through these activities, students created reading cards, answered quizzes, and wrote letters addressed to

historical figures, deepening their personal connection with the events. The students also participated in hands-on workshops that focused on Jewish symbols and traditions. In painting sessions, they explored the meaning of symbols like the Star of David, Menorah, and Torah, and later produced portfolios and digital presentations that showcased their research on topics such as Jewish customs, religious holidays, and gastronomy. Round table discussions and debates provided a platform for students to explore the complex issues of justice, discrimination, and the importance of human rights, encouraging them to compare different historical documents and discuss ethical questions. Beyond the classroom, the students visited local Jewish museums, synagogues, and cemeteries, taking part in historical walks that helped them identify key Jewish landmarks in Oradea. These visits were paired with activities such as creating artworks and compiling portfolios. This active learning approach allowed them to organize their knowledge chronologically and develop critical thinking and collaborative skills. At the end of the project, students reflected on their experiences and shared how these activities enriched their understanding of the Holocaust and the significant contributions of the Jewish community to Oradea's development. They expressed that the project not only deepened their historical knowledge but also inspired a strong commitment to empathy, tolerance, and the protection of human rights, helping them see the importance of learning from the past to build a more just future.

The Holocaust - Never Again

School: Secondary School nr. 1, Galați

Duration: Sep 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Claudia Delescu

Students participated in commemorative events on October 9, the National Holocaust Remembrance Day in Romania, and January 27, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The events included presentations, artistic creations, film screenings of survivor testimonies, and discussions about books such as *The Diary of Anne Frank*. These activities helped them learn more about antisemitism, discrimination, and the personal impact of historical events. A visit to the neighboring city of Iași, at the Jewish Cemetery and the Pogrom Museum, facilitated learning about the Iași Pogrom and the broader Jewish history of the region, and making the connection between their historical knowledge and the locations of events. Throughout the school year, students engaged in regular reflection activities, creating essays, posters, collages, and portfolios that were showcased in exhibitions, combining formal and non-formal education methods. Holocaust-related topics were integrated into the curriculum and elective courses, enhancing interdisciplinary learning and developing essential 21st-century skills, such as teamwork, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The project also included community engagement through the distribution of resources like books, personalized bookmarks, and certificates, alongside publications and exhibitions that made the students' work visible locally and nationally. Through these experiences, students not only acquired historical knowledge but also developed reflective thinking and became active participants in promoting Holocaust remembrance and human rights awareness. The project was shared with the local community through articles in the school magazine.



The Holocaust - A Lesson about the Value of Life

School: National Economic College Theodor Costescu, Drobeta Turnu Severin

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Nicolae Șerban



As a starting point of their learning journey, students read *Anne Frank's Diary* and took part in a discussion on how the Holocaust impacted children's lives. Working in small groups, they selected a specific day described in Anne Frank's diary and analyzed how the Holocaust influenced her thoughts, behavior, and relationships. In each group they made a poster describing how a specific human right was violated during the Holocaust. Each group presented their poster to the others and explained why the respective right is important today and how we can protect it. Accompanied by their teachers, students visited the synagogues in two neighboring cities, Timișoara and Lugoj. They had

the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Jewish communities who talked about Jewish heritage and about the importance of the contribution of the Jewish community to the development of the cities of Lugoj and Timișoara in the modern era. The reflection activity with the students took place at the end of the project in the form of a round table discussion. The students completed an anonymous questionnaire, and the results and impressions were discussed together. The teacher encouraged students to talk about what they learned in the project and about the values and attitudes they developed by participating in the project's activities.

The Holocaust - Memory and Tolerance

School: Ion Luca Caragiale Secondary School, Tulcea

Duration: Oct-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Anca Spunoae

Students started learning about the Holocaust and WWII by watching films such as *Where is Anne Frank* and *My Best Friend Anne Frank*. Guided by their history teacher, they compared historical facts from Anne Frank's Diary to the films' portrayals. As part of the Crocus Project, they planted yellow crocus bulbs in their schoolyard to commemorate the children murdered during the Holocaust. For the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, students created presentations on the significance of the day and worked in groups to analyze survivor testimonies. They compiled their insights into joint presentations and held a reflective moment, lighting candles in memory of Holocaust victims. On February 20, marking the Abolition of Roma Slavery, students watched a film on the history of Roma in Romania and discussed it together with their teachers. School inspector Gabriel Stoica moderated a discussion with students on Roma traditions, societal perceptions, tolerance, and human rights.

Using the IWitness platform and TOLI Handbook, students analyzed survivor testimonies to create digital presentations, posters, and essays. The school library acquired 29 Holocaust-related books, which students used to organize a literary symposium for the local community. They wrote book reviews, designed posters and drawings, and prepared presentations. Their artwork was later displayed in an exhibition. At the end of the project, students received diplomas and reflected on their experiences, emphasizing the importance of remembrance, tolerance, and historical awareness.



SERBIA

We Should Not Forget

Schools: Miroslav Antić Secondary School, Odžaci; Vuk Karadžić Secondary School, Deronje; Branko Radičević Secondary School, Odžaci; Marko Orešković, Bački Gračac

Duration: May-Jun 2024

Lead teachers: Mirjana Mičić, Marija Stojanović Andjelić, Brankica Božanić



The project, a collaboration between three TOLI teachers in Serbia, brought students closer to the history of the Holocaust and local Jewish heritage through immersive activities. In the beginning of the project, students took a study trip to the nearby city of Novi Sad, where they were welcomed by representatives of the Terraforming association, dedicated to strengthening Holocaust remembrance culture. They guided students to visit the *Family*

memorial on the Danube riverbank, dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Novi Sad Raid, as well as the Svetozara Miletića Street in Novi Sad, where many Jewish people were killed in 1942. The students' experience deepened when they met Olga Andrašić, a curator, historian, member of the Jewish community in Novi Sad and a second-generation Holocaust survivor. Olga Andrašić presented to the students the Novi Sad Synagogue and discussed the Holocaust as portrayed in the synagogue exhibition. Inspired by the meeting with Olga and other experiences from the visit, upon returning to school students continued learning about the Holocaust through graphic novels and books. - They also visited the monument dedicated to Polak Mirko in the town of Odžaci, together with Olga Andrašić. Polak Mirko was Olga's father, a Holocaust survivor and prisoner of several German labor camps. They watched the film *Porajmos* about the suffering of Jews and Roma in Sombor. Afterwards, Olga Andrašić shared the life story of her family with the students, engaging them in meaningful dialogue. A panel discussion followed, in which students presented the work they did on analyzing graphic novels on the topic of the Holocaust created by Terraforming association. In the end of the project, students channeled their knowledge and emotions into artistic expressions and literary reflections that were put together in a joint exhibition.

The Story Behind the Name – Jews in Pozarevac

School: Kralj Aleksandar I Secondary School, Požarevac

Duration: Oct 23-Oct 24

Lead teacher: Slavica Prpa

The project introduced 7th and 8th-grade students to the history, traditions, and culture of Jewish people. To begin, students created a virtual project space using Padlet, where they introduced themselves, shared their expectations of the project and completed a survey to assess their initial knowledge of the topic. Each participant then researched one of three subjects: key facts about Jewish history and culture, the suffering of Jews, or famous Jewish figures. Afterwards, they presented their findings to their peers. Using workbooks created by Terraforming about addressing antisemitism, the students gained more knowledge and expanded their understanding of Jewish history and discrimination. As part of the project, the students watched *Life is beautiful*, *Anne Frank: The Whole Story* (2001) and *Anne Frank Remembered* (2009), then created a mini-exhibition of portraits of Anne Frank. Students also participated in workshops on stereotypes and prejudice, aimed at enhancing their media literacy and critical thinking.



They read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and researched information about Jews in Belgrade. Their research led them to also explore Jewish history in their hometown, Požarevac. They discovered that Požarevac has one memorial dedicated to Jews murdered during the Holocaust, located on Čačalica Hill. A group of students visited the memorial to document and record the names inscribed on it. Another group of students visited the Požarevac City Archive and found out where the local synagogue once stood. They attempted to artistically reconstruct its appearance and visited the old site to photograph it. Some students conducted interviews with experts from the archives, as well as with history professors Violeta Miletić Nikolić and Živojin Ivković, who clarified certain doubts they had regarding Jewish history and culture. One of the project participants, who has strong artistic skills, decided to process his impression through art and therefore translated his findings into a mosaic with a synagogue motif. At the end of the project, the participants repeated the survey they had completed at the beginning of the project. The final results showed a significant improvement in their knowledge of Jewish history and culture. They also became familiar with the memorial places in their town. During the final reflection conducted in the form of a discussion, most students stated that they had greatly improved their research skills, critical thinking, and public speaking abilities. Additionally, they expressed a desire to visit other Jewish memorial sites across Serbia in the future.

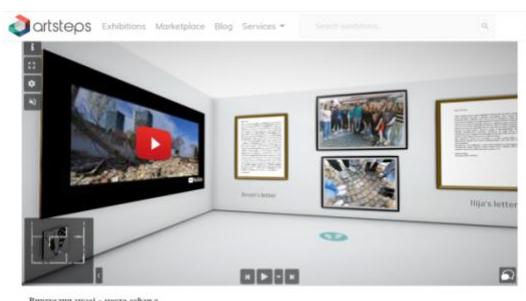
Virtual Museum – Remembrance of the Victims

School: Jovan Dučić Secondary School, Belgrade

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Vesna Kostić

This interdisciplinary project engaged students in learning about World War II and the Holocaust, connecting History, Literature, Science and Technology to deepen their understanding of the past. In History classes, they examined the war and their ancestors' experiences, using oral testimonies, documents, medals, monuments, and lists of camp inmates. A visit to the former concentration camp Staro Sajmište highlighted the importance of remembrance of the war's victims and events. In Literature classes, students read *Anne Frank's Diary* and *Hilda Dajč's Letters*, written by a young Jewish woman who died after volunteering to help inmates at Staro Sajmište. Inspired by her story, students wrote letters to Hilda, letters which later won awards in a literary competition. Their educational journey continued by visiting the Dajč family's former home, where they made a short film about her life. In Chemistry classes, students debated Nobel laureate Fritz Haber's controversial justification for using chemical weapons during wartime. Collaboration with neighboring Mladost Secondary School fostered peer learning, leading students to produce educational films and research papers on war's impact on human health and the environment.



A visit to Belgrade's Military Museum, provided hands-on learning about the Enigma machine and the consequences of war, prompting the students to create another short film on the topic. In Math, students encoded messages of peace for their peers to decipher. These messages, along with other student contributions, became part of the Virtual Museum, where students not only showcased their reflections but also guided their younger peers through the Museum content. The project culminated on April 22, the National Day of Remembrance for Holocaust, Genocide, and Other WWII Victims, when students presented their work to the local community, showcasing how their research and collaboration shaped a deeper understanding of remembrance and peace.

Do You Know Who I Am?

School: 22nd October Secondary School, Surčin; Dušan Vukasović Diogen Secondary School, Bečmen

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teachers: Tatjana Čubrilo and Katarina Janošević

In collaboration with: Biljana Drobnjak, Darko Kostić and Mirjana Sremčević from Serbia, and Tatjana Protulipac from Croatia



The project, led by two primary school teachers in Serbia, empowered students to think critically about democracy, stereotypes and prejudices. It began with a workshop on democratic competences and critical thinking, equipping students with the tools to recognize and challenge stereotypes and prejudices. Students attended the commemorative event *Never Again is Today*, organized by the Terraforming association and the Belgrade Jewish Youth Club, at the Jewish Cultural Center in Belgrade. Inspired by this experience, they created an exhibition reflecting their insights on building a culture of remembrance. By

participating in a series of workshops, students delved into Roma history, culture, and challenges brought by present-day anti-Roma racism, using interactive activities to connect concepts with images and real life stories. With support from guest educators, students explored the importance of education in addressing prejudices. Their collaboration led to the creation of educational materials, resulting in a mini-guide for peer learning on the culture of remembrance. Two field trips enriched their understanding of Holocaust history: One to Novi Sad, where they traced the history of the Novi Sad Raid, visited monuments, and heard the testimony of second-generation Holocaust survivor Olga Andrašić; The second one to Topovske Šupe, where there used to be a camp for Roma and Jews during WWII. Guided by one of the leading researchers on Roma Genocide, Milovan Pissari, students explored how the culture of memory is preserved in the community. On April 22, students took the role of educators leading a peer session titled *Stories: Three Boys Who Survived*. Through the narratives of a Roma boy, a Serbian boy, and a Jewish boy, they highlighted shared emotions and experiences of teenagers during wartime. This session included an exhibition of student-created materials and a guestbook for reflections. A virtual exchange with schools from Serbia and Croatia provided a platform for students to discuss their experiences and ideas on memory culture, to gain confidence and inspiration for future projects. The project was wrapped up with an exit survey and the development of peer-education materials, reflecting students' growth in knowledge and motivation.

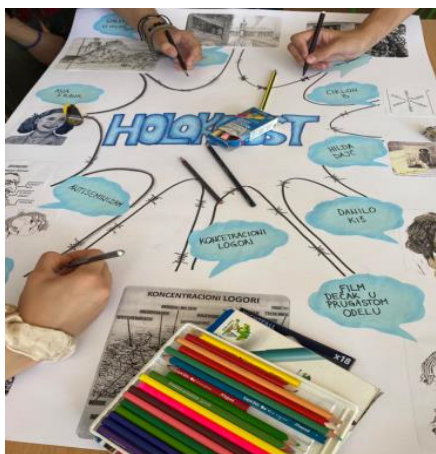
Learning for Yourself and Others

Institutions: The Heritage Club of the Municipality of Šid, The Sava Šumanović High School, Šid

Duration: Mar 24-Sep 24

Lead teachers: Radovan Sremac, Gordana Pavlović

The project started with a psychological creative workshop, designed to address prejudices and deepen students' understanding of human rights and their violations. A presentation on the history of the local Jewish community and the Holocaust followed, providing relevant historical context and highlighting the devastating impact of the Holocaust on the Jewish community and on the entire society. In April, the students conducted research exploring the experiences of the Jewish people in their town during World War II, as well as the suffering of Serbian families, including their own grandparents. In May, the students organized and delivered presentations on these topics in all schools in Šid, sharing their findings and raising awareness about the Holocaust and human rights



violations among their peers. Students were further engaged by participating in a creative competition on the visual representation of knowledge about human rights and the suffering experienced by local families during the war. This encouraged reflection on personal histories and its connection with broader human rights issues. As the project was nearing its end, the students gathered for final discussions, sharing how the experience had shaped their perspectives and inspired them to take action. The culmination of the project was an emotional artistic performance, symbolizing the results of the students' work and their journey. Candles were lit on stage for each child from the Šid municipality who perished during World War II, a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering the victims and continuing to promote human rights today.

What Would We Miss, Part 3

School: III Belgrade High School, XIII Belgrade High School, XIV Belgrade High School

Duration: Dec 23-Nov 24

Lead teachers: Zorana Matićević, Dušica Biševac and Maja Keskinov

This multi-year project was developed in cooperation between three Belgrade high schools. The first project concluded with a mobile exhibition consisting of 14 roll-up banners with short biographies of 12 Jewish people who survived the Holocaust and who significantly influenced the culture, art and science of contemporary Serbia. The project included the research of biographies, the design and printing of panels, the training of students to be exhibition curators and the realization of three mobile exhibitions. In the second year, the teachers designed workshops for middle school students, which were realized together with the older students and guests after visiting the exhibition. The workshop outlines were printed in brochures that serve as teaching material for teachers of social and humanistic subjects. In the third year, the project was presented internationally at events in Croatia, Romania, Macedonia, Spain, and in the IHRA *My Hometown* Conference, where it earned wide recognition. To broaden the projects' impact, the key materials - the exhibition, the materials connected with it and the brochure were translated into English, printed, and shared widely, including on platforms like Histolab. To enhance public engagement, an Instagram profile was created and updated weekly, featuring posts and short films. Students were prepared as curators, and regular coordinator meetings ensured smooth project implementation. A video about the project was created and posters complemented the IHRA Conference presentation. A musical program by music school students enriched exhibition openings.



Let's Meet! Let's Learn! We don't Forget!

School: Momčilo Živojinović Secondary School, Mladenovac

Duration: Apr-Sep 2024

Lead teachers: Stanislava Blagojević and Milijana Rajić



The project included a series of activities designed to foster students' understanding of the Holocaust and antisemitism. It began with an introductory presentation on the Holocaust, and a screening of the short film on antisemitism, *Antisemitism. Past and Present Explained*, produced by Anne Frank House, starting discussions for the in-depth understanding of the topic. On April 13, Holocaust survivor and former president of the Jewish Community in Belgrade, Aleksandar Nećak, visited the school. He shared his powerful testimony with students and educators, leaving a profound impact on them. Inspired by the previously gathered knowledge and especially by Aleksandar Nećak's story, students worked in four groups and created artworks and accompanying texts on assigned themes, with the purpose of publishing a brochure. Over the summer, the final touches were made, with approval from Aleksandar Nećak before publication. By mid-August,

brochures were printed. After returning from the summer vacation, students organized a school exhibition with their artwork, which was attended by the entire school community.

Roma - Suffering and Memory

Schools: Stana Milovanović Economic School, Šabac Grammar School, Dr Andra Jovanović Medical School, Šabac

Duration: Nov 23-May 24

Lead teachers: Darko Kostić, Biljana Drobnjak and Mirjana Sremčević

In collaboration with: Tatjana Čubrilo and Katarina Janošević from Serbia, and Tatjana Protulipac from Croatia.

The project brought together students from three high schools in Šabac, to foster tolerance, combat discrimination, and preserve the memory of the Roma community's suffering. Between February and April 2024, students participated in a series of educational activities. The project started with a peer led workshop on tolerance, where students explored the concepts of stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination. In March, two workshops titled *Who Violates Rights* and *In the Jaws of Prejudice* addressed the topics of anti-Roma racism, hate speech, and the pyramid of hate. During an educational walk in Serbia's capital city, Belgrade, accompanied by Milovan Pissari, a leading researcher on Roma Genocide, students retraced the experiences of Belgrade's Roma during World War II. Their exploration continued through research on Roma culture,

language, religion, and historical persecution, both locally and across Europe, culminating in a public presentation of their findings. April activities included an online project presentation involving collaborating schools and a commemoration of the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Fascism, featuring lectures on the Holocaust, the Blood March, and the Kladovo transport. Peer education sessions further deepened students' understanding of the Holocaust in former Yugoslavia and the Roma community history, culture, and suffering, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.



SPAIN

Call to the Future

School: Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia Secondary School, Valencia

Duration: Nov 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Andreu Romero i Alcayde



In this project, students explored the origins of the Jewish community in Valencia and the rise of antisemitism in the region, with a focus on the 1391 pogrom against the Jews of Spain. In the beginning, the students mapped the Jewish Quarter and created informational posters, which were placed at key historical sites, such as the neighborhood gates, synagogues, market, and the birthplace of Joan Lluís Vives, humanist whose family converted to Catholicism. Their findings were shared with students from other classes, and they sent a letter to the mayor, requesting permanent use of the posters. Broadening their study of persecution and memory, students attended a lecture by Amical de Mathausen on Valencians who perished in WWII death camps and some of them participated in the Montserrat Roig literary contest on this topic. Students also researched the anarchist pedagogue Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, studying his historical context, biography, and philosophical influences. They produced an exhibition to present their findings to the school community. Hands-on

learning continued with a visit to the Valencia Museum of Prehistory and a workshop at the Museum of Ethnology, titled *2238: Paterna, Place of Perpetration and Memory*. A reflection session led by Tono Vizcaíno, an alumnus of the school, deepened their engagement with the topic. Further activities included researching family memory from the Spanish Civil War, reading and discussing the book *Anne Frank's Diary*, and learning more about the Holocaust using materials from Yad Vashem. For Book Day, the school hosted *EX·IL Exiliats Il·lustrats*, an exhibition on the topic of the 1939 Republican exile, featuring artworks by both illustrators and students. Students presented skits, art, and recitations on war and exile, with the exhibition open to their families. Reflection on the role of historical memory culminated in focus group discussions and self-assessments on competences for democratic culture. The project concluded with a visit to the Struthof-Natzweiler former concentration camp, where students gained a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and WWII.

Shooting Stars

School: Santo Domingo School, Navia

Duration: Oct 23-May 24

Lead teacher: Liliana García García

In the first phase of the project, the students learned about the history of the Holocaust in Europe and about Jewish life and traditions. Afterwards, the teacher presented to the students biographies of Jewish people who contributed to science, arts, philosophy and other fields. Each student selected one biography that they researched further. Using the Johari Window technique, the students analyzed different roles and perspectives people had during the Holocaust: victims, bystanders, and perpetrators, fostering critical thinking and empathy. After finalizing the research, students engaged in a symbolic act of remembrance: they created cardboard stars, writing on them the names of Jewish individuals whose biographies had resonated with them - both historical figures and victims from the Yad Vashem database. Afterwards, the students wrote letters to one of these people, expressing their emotions, reflections, and thoughts about their life stories. The project culminated in an exhibition, where students displayed their stars, the research findings, and the letters, sharing their insight with the school community. The project ended with reflection on the entire project experience.



UKRAINE

History in the Memory of Generations

School: School No. 2 Chervona Sloboda, Cherkasy

Duration: Feb-Mar 2024

Lead teacher: Tetiana Zavalko

After an initial lesson about the Holocaust the students visited the Local Museum in Cherkasy, where they learned about Jewish life before and after the Holocaust. They participated in a thematic lesson on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, watched a film about the Holocaust in Ukraine, and explored books that relayed the events of the Holocaust. On January 27, students had the opportunity to listen to the firsthand memories of Zira Pylypenko, a witness to the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. They



visited the State Archive of the Cherkasy Region, where they examined archival documents and discussed the critical role of documentation in preserving memory. A lecture on the history of the Jewish community in Cherkasy, the pogroms in the region, and the local acts of resistance, deepened their understanding of the topics. To share their knowledge and insights with their peers, the students designed a thematic stand, titled *The Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. Older students took a more active role in knowledge dissemination by creating videos about the lives of Babyn Yar victims and visiting the local Jewish cemetery. They learned about individuals honored as Righteous Among the Nations and visited a memorial plaque for Oleksandra Shulezhko - a Ukrainian teacher who courageously sheltered dozens for Jewish children. The project fostered dialogue through an online meeting with peers from Poland, where students exchanged research results and discussed their projects. A final video captured key project moments and the discussions with the Preparatory School in Baligrod, Poland. To ensure the long-lasting impact and to share the results with the larger community, all the project activities were documented on the schools' [website](#).

Paths of the Jewish Communities of Volodymyrets

School: Secondary School, Stara Rafalivka

Duration: Feb-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Svitlana Lutay



In this project, students explored the history of the Jewish communities in the neighboring village of Volodymyrets through the study of historical literature from the school's history library, as well as through fiction books on the Holocaust acquired for the project. They engaged in discussions on key topics and watched relevant films. Their research culminated in the creation of a documentary titled *Jews of Rafalivka: Memory Through the Ages, Preserving the Stories of the Past for Future Generations*. In addition to their research, the project enriched the school library by acquiring Holocaust-related literature, ensuring ongoing access to valuable resources for future learning. Students also participated in an excursion to the Volodymyrets Local History Museum and visited significant Jewish heritage sites in the area, which deepened

their connection to the region's history. During the second half of May and early June, the students focused on finalizing the documentary, which was later presented to the school community, showcasing their research and the outcomes of their learning.

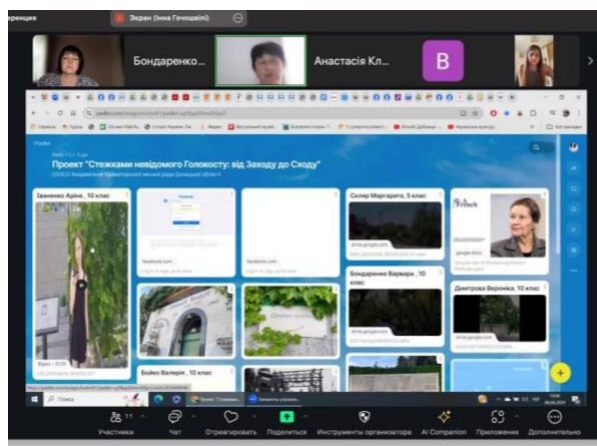
Paths of the Unknown Holocaust: From West to East

School: School No. 2, Chervona, Secondary School, Zhovkva and Academic Secondary Educational Service, Kramatorsk

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teachers: Inna Gochoshvili, Mykhailo Skrypka and Yuliia Varlamova

The project brought together TOLI teachers and their students from different parts of Ukraine to explore the history of the Holocaust. The initiative began with an online meeting held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, when students formed research teams and shared their expectations for the project. They worked in three groups, each focusing on a different area of study: the Holocaust in the city of Dnipro, the Holocaust in Pavlograd (located 45 km from their village), and the Jewish history of the region. In order to research these events, the students visited the Central Library, interviewed local historians, including Nina Serhienko, director of the local history museum and collected testimonies from Soviet-era officials, such as Ivan Lutai, who served as the 2nd Secretary of the District Committee during the 1970s–80s. Furthermore, students made use of online materials from the Dnipro archive, which allowed them to deepen their understanding of the impact of the Holocaust. Students also participated in online lectures delivered by older peers, watched multimedia presentations, including the one created by fellow student, Iryna Nozhykhina, who produced the short film *Stumbling Stones*. Peers from the Academic School in Kramatorsk showcased their own videos on Holocaust history, focusing on cities such as Stryi, Bila Tserkva, Medzhybizh, and Sokal. In a further intercultural exchange, project leader Inna Gochoshvili introduced students to Holocaust remembrance practices in Nice, France, and highlighted the legacy of Simone Weil, a key figure in French Holocaust commemoration. The students from Petropavlivskyy No. 2 High School presented their final research on the Holocaust in Dnipro, Pavlograd, and Petropavlivka, outlining both the key results and the challenges they faced during the research process. Meanwhile, students from Zhovkva created engaging presentations and the informative blog *Zhovkva's Multicultural Studios (First Half of the 20th Century)* about the Holocaust in their region. Exploring history firsthand, they visited the museum at Zhovkva Castle and took a trip to Lviv. They translated the testimonies of two women from Zhovkva, Esther Born and Anna Tempelmann. At the end of June, their work culminated in a book presentation at the local library, which brought together community members, librarians, and other interested individuals. That same month, upon the invitation of the city's cultural department, students led a guided tour of Jewish sites in Zhovkva for internally displaced persons. As a result of the project, libraries in the community received copies of the translated testimonies, ensuring that these powerful stories remain accessible to future generations. The project concluded with a reflection session, where students shared personal impressions and the insights they gained through their participation.



Discover History

School: Ozhyany High School, Ozhenyn

Duration: Mar-Sep 2024

Lead teacher: Tetiana Hushchuk

The project aimed to educate students about the Holocaust and human rights through in-depth exploration of historical sources. With guidance from their teacher and using the recommended resources, students explored historical and local literature from the school library, as well as online materials about the Holocaust. The students analyzed the selected materials, including photos, documents, testimonies, and quotes. To mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, students watched and discussed excerpts from the film *Sobibor*. Building on their research, they created presentations on various camps, such as Belzec Majdanek, and Sobibor. These presentations were then showcased to the school community, fostering broader awareness of the project topics. Recognizing their value, educational materials were subsequently incorporated into the high school curriculum. As a reward for their active participation, students took part in an excursion to Lviv, where they further engaged with historical learning. To ensure lasting impact, a presentation about the project was published on Facebook, reaching a wider audience. The project concluded with a reflective discussion, giving students the opportunity to revisit each stage, summarize the outcomes, exchange thoughts and feedback, and share their overall impressions.



From the Past to the Present

School: No. 11 High School and Velikomolodok Gymnasium, Zvyagel

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Oksana Leonidivna Andriychuk



As part of this project, students connected online and collaborated in groups to research World War II and Holocaust-related events in their hometown using the oral history method. This approach not only sparked their interest in history but also provided them with the opportunity to engage with locals, bringing the past to life through personal stories. Their research culminated with two in-person meetings, where students conducted guided tours based on their findings and participated in training sessions led by their teachers. During these meetings, students presented their research to one another, fostering peer learning and collaboration. The students from Velykomolodkivska Gymnasium even prepared a video to showcase their work. Additionally, students came together for a joint trip to monuments related to WWII, further enhancing their understanding of the subject. The students expressed great enthusiasm for the project, continually asking when the next meetings would take place.

Together on the Same Land

School: No. 12 School, Kamyanske

Duration: Jan-Jun 2024

Lead teacher: Valentyna Vasylivna Chyrva

Students involved in this project explored places related to the history of the city's Jewish community, gaining insights into its rich multicultural heritage. With guidance from the representatives of the local *Beit Baruch Charitable Center*, the students learned about Jewish history, traditions, religion, and cultural contributions, while also confronting the tragic side of the community's past. The visit to the Museum of Remembrance of the Jewish People and the Holocaust in the neighboring city of Dnipro was especially emotional, as interactive exhibits allowed students to engage deeply with history and empathize with the suffering of those who lived through it. To mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, students learned about the Righteous Among Nations from their city and attended the screening of a documentary film about the tragic fate of the ghetto residents in Sosenki, which was followed by a discussion. In their reflections, the students were very empathetic towards the victims' stories and fate. To preserve and save their research, students created a Padlet with the information gathered during the project to share it with a wider audience.



The Holocaust: Remember to Prevent

School: No. 29 Secondary School, Mykolaiv

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Yevhen Moroz



This project engaged students, teachers, and the wider school community in a year-long exploration of human rights, with a central focus on Holocaust education. Students and their parents visited the Mykolaiv Regional Museum of Local History for an in-person tour focused on local Jewish history. This allowed students to connect personally with the impact of the Holocaust in their region and to learn about the richness of Jewish life before the war. Sixth-grade students participated in a discussion linking Ukraine's modern European aspirations to historical struggles for dignity and freedom, such as the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity. This helped contextualize the Holocaust within a broader conversation on democracy, civil rights, and the cost of freedom. A legal knowledge quiz energized students, encouraging them to learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and broader human rights. This fun and collaborative activity fostered a sense of empowerment and awareness. Students contributed to enriching the school library with books on human rights and history, increasing access to Holocaust-related educational materials for their peers. They collected and prepared care packages for soldiers as a gesture of gratitude and solidarity, applying the values of empathy and community learned through their studies. At the end of the project, students shared their reflections, noting that the experience deepened their understanding of history, promoted tolerance, inspired teamwork, and sparked a genuine interest in exploring difficult chapters of the past.

Exploring the Past to Preserve the Future

School: Rafalivka Lyceum, Rafalivka

Duration: Oct-May 2024

Lead teacher: Natalia Petrovna Sovgut

Students started their journey into the history of the Holocaust in Ukraine with a meeting at Rafalivka Lyceum, where they were welcomed by Maria Volodymyrivna Oshurko, Deputy Head of the Rafalivka Community. Their first stop was the obelisk on the Rafalivka-Sukhovolya roadside, where student researcher Daria Antoniuk detailed for her peers the three restorations of the monument over the years. Students honored Holocaust victims while stopping at the memorial site at Bakhova Hill, and afterwards they headed to the museum at the neighboring Starorafalivka Lyceum, where history teacher Svitlana Vasylivna Lutai guided them through an exhibit on the village's Jewish history and screened a documentary on the Holocaust in Starorafalivka. The students then traveled to the town of Volodymyrets, where they visited the former synagogue building on Independence Square, now marked with a memorial plaque. At the Volodymyrets Historical Museum, historian Valeriy Kotsar presented a banner exhibition titled *Ukraine's Second World War*. Students also met history teacher Halyna Volodymyrivna Bereziuk and her students, who shared their research on the Holocaust in the area. Continuing their journey, the group visited a memorial at the site of the Jewish cemetery and another roadside obelisk on the Volodymyrets-Zhovkyni road, commemorating Holocaust victims. Their educational trip concluded at Smolyarnya Ravine, a site of mass executions, where they paid tribute to those who perished. Returning to Rafalivka, students turned their fieldwork into research projects. Because of security reasons, they presented their findings in the school's bomb shelter. They ended the initiative with a volunteer cleanup at Bakhova Hill, where, with support from the Rafalivka local government, they painted fences and planted flowers at the memorial site. The project ended with a reflection session over tea, as students shared their experiences, highlighting their newfound understanding of history and commitment to preserving historical memory of the Holocaust.



History and Culture of Jews from Antiquity to the Present

School: Scientific High School of International Relations, Dnipro

Duration: Oct 23-Jun 24

Lead teacher: Vladyslav Rublenko



As part of this year-long project, students explored the history of the Jewish community in Kryvyi Rih, researching and compiling historical and cultural materials for use in history lessons, civic education, and extracurricular activities. Their learning journey began with selecting key aspects of Jewish history in Kryvyi Rih, guided by primary sources and academic studies. Over a period of six months, they analyzed various informational materials, often encountering discrepancies that required further verification, which did not discourage them but rather strengthened their

critical thinking skills. Working in small groups, students transformed their findings into multimedia presentations, informational booklets, and visual case studies. These materials became the foundation for a series of group discussions and exhibitions under the theme *History and Culture of Jews in Kryvyi Rih from Antiquity to the Present*. Through these activities, the students reflected on the facts learned and the impact they can have today.

CONCLUSIONS

Across Europe, TOLI educators are transforming classrooms into spaces of deep learning, reflection, and civic engagement. Through a remarkable variety of approaches and creative methods, they have helped students connect with the history of the Holocaust in meaningful ways, fostering awareness of human rights and strengthening efforts to counter antisemitism. While most initiatives focused on middle and high school students, a few projects also thoughtfully adapted their content to reach younger primary learners - demonstrating the flexibility and inclusiveness of the TOLI approach.

The themes explored by these projects are as diverse as they are powerful. Some centered on uncovering the lost histories of local Jewish communities, while others tackled broader narratives of the Holocaust, always with a strong emphasis on empathy and moral responsibility. By highlighting the stories of survivors, rescuers, and upstanders, these projects encouraged students to reflect on the meaning of solidarity, the importance of taking action, and the role they themselves can play in challenging injustice. These layered perspectives gave students not only a deeper understanding of history, but also a richer awareness of the human experience—during the Holocaust and in the world today.

The formats of the projects were equally varied and dynamic. Some were woven into history lessons, others emerged through interdisciplinary collaboration, and many thrived as extracurricular initiatives. Activities ranged from visits to concentration camps, museums, synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries to guided tours of former Jewish neighborhoods. Students engaged in historical research, watched films, read survivor testimonies, and participated in thoughtful reflection exercises that encouraged critical thinking and emotional insight.

What united nearly all these projects was the commitment to **creating meaningful outputs** - student-led exhibitions, essays, journals, podcasts, graphic novels, and more - that were shared with school communities and beyond. These works not only gave students a voice, but also extended the reach and impact of the learning process.

The results are both moving and measurable. Students frequently spoke of gaining a deeper understanding of the complexities of history, feeling more empathy toward Jewish individuals and communities, and recognizing the relevance of Holocaust lessons to their own lives. Many expressed a renewed sense of responsibility to stand up against antisemitism and other forms of hate. And while some outcomes can be counted in numbers, much of the true impact lies in the changed perspectives, increased awareness, and personal growth of the students involved.

At the core of these initiatives are the educators - teachers who approach their work with passion, dedication, and a strong sense of purpose. They empower their students to think critically, act responsibly, and engage with the world around them. Supported by TOLI through resources, training, and ongoing guidance, these teachers are making a lasting impact on how the Holocaust and human rights are taught and understood across Europe. Their efforts are not only inspiring - they are vital.