

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	CDEC Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea
PIC number:	938936042
Project name and acronym:	Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy (Remember to Act)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	4		
Event name:	Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy		
Type:	Teacher training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Trieste, Italy		
Date(s):	3-7 September 2023		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.cdec.it/formazione/corsi-e-percorsi-formativi/learning-from-the-past-acting-for-the-future-european-citizens-stand-up-in-front-of-injustices/">https://www.cdec.it/formazione/corsi-e-percorsi-formativi/learning-from-the-past-acting-for-the-future-european-citizens-stand-up-in-front-of-injustices/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	28		
Male:	4		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 Italy:	32		
Total number of participants:	32	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>This 5-day seminar was organised in the framework of the project Remember the Holocaust, Act for Democracy (Remember to Act), coordinated by Big Picture Association (Poland), in partnership with Documenta (Croatia), Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania), The Jewish Museum of Greece and Fondazione CDEC (Italy), co-funded by the European Commission through CERV programme. The seminar was co-funded by TOLI – The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights.</p> <p>A total of 32 high school and middle school teachers from Italy participated in the event.</p> <p><b>The aim</b> of the seminar was to contribute to increasing the quality of education regarding the Holocaust and human rights in Italy. The program provided a rich opportunity to integrate national and international</p>			

approaches in teaching about these topics and in understanding the contemporary relevance of this important chapter of modern history.

**The objectives** of the program were to:

- Develop teachers' awareness of historical and current dialectical discussions concerning the Holocaust and other instances of social injustice.
- Increase teachers' knowledge on the historical debate on fascist anti-Jewish segregation planning and make them participants in today's debate on hate speech in Italy.
- Develop teachers' understanding of the impact of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination at individual, group and society level.
- Develop teachers' knowledge on anti-Semitism in the contemporary age, on the anti-Jewish fascist legislation and on the use of historiographical sources.
- Promote innovative teaching tools and approaches through the use of web resources, didactic drama, visits to places of Jewish memory.
- Offer teachers the opportunity to get in touch with colleagues who work in different schools, with institutions at national level as well as internationally in order to promote contacts and collaborations.
- Promote a multidisciplinary approach on these issues.

**The methodology** of the training was learner centered, based on the principles of experiential learning and a human rights-based approach in education. A variety of methods were used in order to stimulate the engagement of participants, their reflections and a high level of interaction: presentations, analysis, discussions, reflections, group work, videos, visits to places of Jewish heritage, guest speakers, etc.

The seminar offered a rich schedule of lectures and workshops and visits to places of memory, providing the teachers with the opportunity both to acquire or consolidate information and to reflect on how to transfer it into the activities with their students.

During the opening session, participants were welcomed by Patrizia Baldi and Gadi Luzzatto-Voghera (CDEC), Mark Berez and Oana Nestian-Sandu (TOLI), Ariel Haddad, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Slovenia and coordinator of the Carlo and Vera Wagner Jewish Museum of Trieste, and Joel Valifuoco, TOLI alumni and co-organizer of the seminar.

Marco Ius guided the teachers in a process of discovering their identities and reflecting upon the role of identities during the Holocaust, through interactive activities that included poems, drawings and movement. The day ended with a guided tour of the Carlo and Vera Wagner Jewish Museum, curated by Annalisa Di Fant and Ariel Haddad.

The second day started with a session focused on TOLI's interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the Holocaust and human rights. Led by Oana Nestian-Sandu, the teachers used the lens of human rights to understand how an event like the Holocaust was possible, how the propaganda functioned and how the rights of Jewish people – and other groups – were taken away one by one. At the same time, they used the lens of the Holocaust to understand that today we need to take action when human rights are violated or at risk of being violated for members of any group living in our societies. This approach develops teachers' and consequently students' critical thinking and ability to challenge populist messages that are becoming prevalent in the European society (and elsewhere in the world). It motivates them to be upstanders in the face of discrimination, injustice and human rights violations. It raises their awareness about the unfair treatment of various groups in their society and about the need to take action. TOLI Handbook was presented to the teachers.

Tullia Catalan presented the history of hate speech between the 19th and 20th centuries, specifically focused anti-slavism and antisemitism in the Upper Adriatic. After lunch, the participants went to Nova Gorica (Slovenia) where they visited the ancient Jewish cemetery of Valdirose-Rozna Dolina. This visit was followed by the discovery of multiculturalism and multilingualism of Gorizia, in an exhibition presented by Feliciano Medeot. Afterwards, Gadi Luzzatto-Voghera discussed with the participants the ways in which Jewish people are portrayed in history books, revealing inconsistencies, stereotypes and incomplete information. The day ended with a tour of Jewish Gorizia and former ghetto area, guided by Lorenzo Drascek.

On the third day, the participants learned about the history of Jewish emigration through Trieste, skillfully presented by Tullia Catalan and Laura Brazzo. Afterwards, Murilo Cambuzzi engaged the participants in a workshop focused on the spread of antisemitism and conspiracy theories on social media, as well as on ways to combat these forms of hatred by online engagement. After learning from Matteo Perissinotto about the persecutions suffered by Jewish people in Trieste during the Holocaust, the participants went to the Synagogue of Trieste, where they met with Rabbi Alexandre Meloni. Rabbi Meloni gave an insightful presentation about the cycle of life, and Jewish traditions and values. Afterwards, the participants visited the synagogue and discussed with Gloria Pilastro about the Jewish community of Trieste. The participants got to experience Jewish food at the dinner served by the community. The day ended with a workshop on the use of theatre in education.

The fourth day started with a session focused on teaching with testimony, followed by an in-depth analysis of significant speeches by Liliana Segre, a Holocaust survivor named senator for life by the President of Italy in 2018, for outstanding patriotic merits in the social field. Oana Nestian-Sandu led the participants in a workshop focused on understanding present-day manifestations of Holocaust distortion and finding ways to counter it. In the afternoon, the participants visited the Risiera di San Sabba, a former concentration camp memorial and museum. Matteo Perissinotto presented the history of the place and shared with the participants a series of resources that can be used with the students.

The last day of the seminar started with a guided tour of the stumbling stones of Trieste. Guided by Annalisa di Fant, the participants discovered the history of the Jewish community of Trieste and learned about several members of the community and their fate during the Holocaust. The tour also stopped at the stumbling stone for Romano Held, the only stumbling stone in Trieste who commemorates the persecution of a Roma. The second session of the day focused on the persecution of Roma and Sinti. Luca Bravi led an interactive workshop focused on identifying and overcoming prejudices against Roma.

In the last session, the teachers were invited to draft an action plan – how they will put into practice what they learned in the seminar. Teachers were invited to work in small groups to think about individual or collaborative project ideas and then present them in the plenary. Feedback was offered in order to help teachers avoid problematic approaches in teaching the Holocaust and to raise their awareness on risky or sensitive issues, such as using role play as a method of learning about the Holocaust or choosing methods that run the risk of dehumanizing Jewish people, etc. Feedback from teachers was gathered both orally and through a written evaluation form.