

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	3 - Fondazione Centro Di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea – (CDEC)
PIC number:	938936042
Project name and acronym:	Combating Holocaust Denial and Distortion through Active Citizenship, Remembrance and Education — CARE

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	5		
Event name:	Combating Holocaust Denial and Distortion through Active Citizenship, Remembrance and Education		
Type:	seminar		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Merano, Italy		
Date(s):	25-29 August 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cdec.it/care-un-nuovo-progetto-internazionale-per-il-dialogo-interculturale/		
Participants			
Female:	22		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 Italy:	27		
From country 2 Albania:	1		
From country 3 Croatia:	1		
Total number of participants:	29	From total number of countries:	3
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 <i>Combating Holocaust Denial and Distortion through Active Citizenship, Remembrance and Education (CARE)</i>, coordinated by Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania), in partnership with The Jewish Museum of Greece, Fondazione CDEC (Italy), Documenta (Croatia), The Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, the Big Picture</p>			

Association (Poland) and Terraforming (Serbia), 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.

A total of 29 people participated in the event, most of them teachers from Italy and other educators. Lecturers and trainers from Croatia, Italy, Austria and Romania supported the teachers in their learning process.

The aim of the seminar was to contribute to increasing the quality of Holocaust and human rights education in Italy. The program provided a rich opportunity to integrate national and international approaches in teaching about these topics and in understanding the contemporary relevance of this important part of modern history.

The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Develop teachers' awareness of historical and current dialectical discussions concerning the Holocaust and other instances of social injustice;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the impact of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination at individual, group and society level;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Jewish life before and after the Holocaust;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Roma genocide;
- Develop teachers' competences to identify and counter Holocaust distortion;
- Increase appreciation for innovative, student-centered teaching methods, including extra-curricular activities and partnerships between school and other institutions and organizations;
- Promote an interdisciplinary approach to Holocaust, human rights and intercultural education;
- Develop teachers' competences for democratic culture.

The methodology of the seminar was learner centred, 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, guest speakers, survivors' testimonies, etc.

The seminar opened with speeches by Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, Director of the CDEC Foundation, who welcomed all the participants and the guests; Elisabetta Rossi Borenstein, from the Jewish Community of Merano, who presented the community and highlighted the importance of such seminars about the Holocaust; and Oana Nestian-Sandu, TOLI International Program Director, who explained the aims and mission of TOLI educational programs in Europe. Then, the participants briefly introduced themselves, sharing their background and interests. In the first session, Sabine Mayr gave a lecture about the importance of family stories in Holocaust education and then opened the floor for second-generation survivors Franca Avataneo and Peter Langer, who shared their family stories with the participants. After this session, the participants visited the Jewish Museum of Merano and learned more about the Jewish community in Merano today, Jewish culture, religion, and the Holocaust in the region of Merano.

The second day started with a workshop by Oana Nestian-Sandu in which she focused on the role identity and stereotypes play in intercultural relations, and the ways in which propaganda and biased attitudes can lead to violence and genocide. The second session was dedicated to the presentation of TOLI's interdisciplinary approach, which combines Holocaust education, intercultural education, and human rights education. Participants experienced this approach in a workshop led by Oana Nestian-Sandu, looking at the past and the present through the lens of human rights. The day continued with the lecture by Gadi Luzzatto Voghera on the topic of antisemitism, in which he explained the concept of antisemitism, showed statistics and results of monitoring antisemitism in Italy, and offered suggestions on how to combat antisemitism through education. In the following session, Stefano Gatti presented historical and present-day manifestations of antisemitism through visual sources, explaining to the participants how the same antisemitic tropes have been used in the past and continue to be used today. In the final session of the day, the participants analysed cases of antisemitic acts and created methods on how to combat similar manifestations in their own environments.

The third day was dedicated to visiting several locations and institutions related to Jewish life and the Holocaust in the nearby city of Bolzano. First, the participants visited the Jewish cemetery and learned about Jewish burial practices and traditions. The second location visited was the platform via Pacinotti, Bolzano, from where Jews were transported to different camps in Europe, and where the monument to commemorate these people was erected. Carla Giacomozzi explained to the participants how Jews were arrested in Bolzano, taken to the transport camp, and then via trains transported to the camps. The participants also visited the location where the former concentration camp in Bolzano was situated. Today there is just a wall and a passage, called a Passage of Memory. Apartment buildings have been erected on the site of the former camp. Two local guides shared with the participants how

this exhibition and passage were created and explained how the camp had been organized and how it had functioned during the Holocaust. Afterwards, the participants visited the historical archive of Bolzano. Carla Giacomozzi presented files and documents from the archive connected with the period of the Second World War and the Holocaust. She also tackled the topics of how the archive works in general and how the researchers get the information from primary sources like these. In the last session of the day, Elisabeth Galvan gave a presentation about the life and work of Grete De Francesco Weissenstein, a writer and an antifascist, as an example of an educated and impactful Jewish woman whose work had been forgotten for some time, but is currently being given the attention it deserves.

The fourth day started with a workshop on Holocaust distortion by Oana Nestian-Sandu. The participants learned about various manifestations of Holocaust distortion and discussed ways to recognize and to prevent this phenomenon. The workshop was followed by a walk dedicated to Jewish women in Merano, guided by Antonella Tiburzi. She showed the participants several locations connected with the life of women before and during the Holocaust, sharing their personal stories and experiences of that period. After lunch, Liliana Picciotto gave a lecture about Enzo Sereni, one of the most important Jewish intellectuals who were part of the resistance movement in Italy. The presentation was accompanied by didactic materials developed by Antonella Tiburzi about Enzo Sereni, his life and work, materials that the teachers can use in their work with young people. The last activity of the day was a walk dedicated to Franz Kafka, who spent some years in Merano. The guide, Patrick Rina, took participants to several locations connected with Kafka, his work and life in Merano, combining information from his personal life and his artworks with the history of the city.

The last day started with the lecture by Paola Trevisan on Fascist politics toward Roma and Sinti. In her presentation, Paola explained the terminology used to refer to Roma and Sinti and to the Roma Genocide, and presented the history of Roma and Sinti in Italy before and during the fascist rule. Afterwards, Simonetta Lucchi presented the ethnic and religious minorities in the region and addressed the topic of minorities in education. In the last session of the seminar, Tena Banjeglav presented the TOLI Impact Grant Program. After the presentation, the participants were invited to create action plans for educational activities with their students, based on what they have learned during the seminar. In order to support the teachers, feedback was offered after the action plan presentations. Feedback from teachers was gathered both orally and through a written evaluation form. Teachers expressed their gratitude for having had the opportunity to participate in such a rich program, as well as their commitment to teach about antisemitism, the Holocaust, human rights and to contribute to countering Holocaust denial and distortion.