

Community of
SANT'EGIDIO



**A WORLD
WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

YOUNG EUROPEANS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Young Europeans for a World Without Violence

V International Meeting

Cracow-Auschwitz, 20-24 September 2017

Foreword

The project “Young Europeans for a World without Violence” continues – with its fifth edition – to gather together groups of European youth from Albania, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine to involve them in a reflection on European history.

The project stimulates awareness of the errors of the past caused by nationalism, racism and anti-Semitism, to strengthen cross-cultural ties and promote a responsible sense of European citizenship among the participants.



The visit to the Concentration Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau will be prepared by meetings at a national level and by a plenary assembly in Cracow with the participation of ex-deportees, in order to foster a shared perspective on theme.

The project “Young Europeans for a World without Violence” will become a platform to disseminate and reinforce the importance of preserving memory through the meeting with ex-deportees, through the listening of their witnesses and through the visit at the National Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Community of Sant’Egidio firmly believes that the memory of the Holocaust creates a fundamental element for the construction of the future. It is significant that the new generations know the Holocaust – of which their knowledge is derived exclusively from history books – through a Memorial Pilgrimage and a moment of analysis and cultural reflection. Upon leaving the horrors of the extermination camps, it is possible to undertake a cognitive journey of the history of Europe, above all of its painful turns, in order to deepen the identity thereof, to rediscover the value and the dignity of human life and to live the challenges of the future.

The project is based upon the experience of the previous projects:

“No Future Without Memory. Young Europeans at Auschwitz”, 8-10 September 2008;

“A World without Violence. II International Meeting”, Cracow-Auschwitz, 9-11 September 2010;

“A World without Violence. III International Meeting”, Cracow-Auschwitz, 20-23 September 2012;

“A World without Violence. IV International Meeting”, Cracow-Auschwitz, 17-20 September 2014.

Description of the organizing Association

The Community of Sant’Egidio (www.santegidio.org) has been active in the field of promoting youth education, dialogue and peace at different levels in a number of European and extra-European countries for more than 40 years. Its objectives focus on favoring cross-cultural relations by providing common goals and fostering shared reflection among different groups of the civil

society, in order to further the establishment of a mutual commitment and initiate joint efforts for selected common goals.

The organizers of the project are experienced in fostering the values of coexistence by promoting mutual understanding and education to peace among different sectors of the society (including ethnic minorities, youth at risk, immigrants).

The Community of Sant'Egidio draws from its experience in the field of cross-cultural relations in the European countries interested in the project for the selection of the participants by means of specific national meetings on the themes faced by the project. Its commitment within the civil society enables the Community of Sant'Egidio to integrate in the project youth from all environments. As organizer of the project, it will be involved in the setting up of the event, by providing personnel, expertise and equipment for its implementation.

Preparatory stage

The preparatory stage (November 2016-June 2017) will allow to build a solid foundation for the plenary assembly and the Memorial Pilgrimage to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In the last editions a number of seminars to present the projects was held in Universities and High Schools of several European cities, involving each time approximately 20,000 young people:



- Albania: Shkodër, Tirana;
- Belarus: Minsk;
- Czech Republic: Praga, Brno, Olomuc;
- Georgia: Kutaisi, Tbilisi;
- Hungary: Budapest, Gyor, Monor, Nitetyasa, Pecs;
- Poland: Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz, Poznań, Szczecin;
- Romania: Bucharest, Satu Mare, Timisoara;
- Russian Federation: Moscow, Sankt Petersburg;
- Slovakia: Bratislava, Kosice, Presov, Trencin, Trnava;
- Ukraine: Kiev, Cernovzy, Ivano Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Khmel'nizkij, Lviv, Odessa.

These meetings enabled the young people to approach the themes of the project and particularly the value of memory and intercultural dialogue for the construction of Europe as a land of coexistence.

Also this year the organizer committee aims to present the project in Universities and High Schools. A training course, prepared by a team of scholars and experts, will be offered through seminars and meetings. Students will also have the opportunity to listen to witnesses of their colleagues, who participated to last editions, in order to share a reflection on the main themes of the project. As experienced in the past, will be central the involvement of hundreds of young

people, whose witness and commitment was an important vehicle for disseminating the memory of the Holocaust.

The preparatory meetings will select a target group following a set of criteria, among others:

- a) identifying a number of people involved in solidarity-oriented local activities;
- b) guaranteeing representation of all social groups;
- c) facilitating the matching of students from different European countries;
- d) promoting among the younger generations the knowledge of European history.

The necessary information for registration will be provided during the preparatory phase. An organizing committee will proceed to the booking of accommodation and to the technical management and logistics of the event in Poland.

The event

“Young Europeans for a World Without Violence”: the Congress of approximately 800 young people from 10 European countries (Albania, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine) will take place on 20-24 September 2017. The selected working method will allow a sincere exchange of experience and physical acquaintance with the places and witnesses of the Holocaust, as key moments for

the process of understanding history. The young people will have the chance to visit sites scarred by the Holocaust, as a way of symbolizing their personal commitment to a Europe and a world without racism, anti-Semitism and violence.

The Congress will climax with lectures of experts and scholars in the field, but also of ex-deportees and witnesses of the Second World War. Simultaneous translation in several languages will be provided.



On the left, Mr Mordechai Peled, a Jew of Romanian origin, an Auschwitz survivor, who participated to the plenary assembly of the IV International Meeting in 2014. “Hatred and revenge are against life – said Mr Peled - at some point you have to say stop to the violence. I don’t feel hatred towards the Germans. The way of peace is forgiveness and reconciliation”. His words sounded charged with highly topical interest to young Ukrainians and

Russians living in the atmosphere of war affecting the eastern regions of Ukraine.



On 22nd September 2017, the group will go to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The participants will spend all the morning visiting the National Museum of Auschwitz I. In the afternoon they will gather in Birkenau, where it will take place a Memorial Ceremony with a walk of remembrance along the tracks of death, leading to the gas chambers.

On last editions, the visit to the Concentration Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau had a great impact on the target group, also for the presence among them of victims of Nazi's racial persecution (on the right Mr Tibi Zeev Ram, who was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau at the age of 14, and Mrs Rita Prigmore, a sinti from Germany who survived to medical experiments).



Experiencing the places of the Holocaust allowed to connect the everyday life in the present days to the experience of European history. The presence of participants from various European countries (including representatives of the Roma and Sinti populations) will be a key condition to make people from different environments share views and grew in the concrete experience of a world where violence and racism are a thing of the past.

After the Memorial Pilgrimage, working groups will be held to focalize theirs attention on some particular points:

1) Memory of the Holocaust

The necessity of understanding the root and the causes of the Holocaust in Europe. The Holocaust made it clear that the Jewish people was not recognized as such by Europe even 150 years after the emancipation's beginning. Far worse, the Jewish people was destined to be destroyed. It did not matter whether a Jews felt attached to the Jewish community or tried to escape belonging to it. Even the most remotely connected Jews in Europe became victims of a collective Jewish destiny during the Holocaust.

2) Young Europeans at service of peace. A reflection on World War II



War is the mother of all poverty. In many situations young people have the opportunity to actively promote work for peace, protecting it wherever it is jeopardised, helping to rebuild it, facilitating dialogue where its thread is lost. The means of this service to peace and reconciliation are the weak instruments of sharing, meeting and dialogue. Where it is not possible to work for peace, it is possible to collect and bring solidarity and humanitarian aid to those who suffer because of war.

3) A world without xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism

Europe is increasingly crisscrossed by xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism. These phenomena are present in various countries, especially among the younger generations, fueling a widespread

contempt for ethnic and religious minorities, and sometimes causing serious episodes of violence. In the countries interested in the Project, in recent years, there has been a rise in violence against the weakest sectors of society and ethnic minorities, in terms of indifference and marginalization within the society or in terms of physical and verbal abuse in public locations. The project aims to stimulate reflection on the principles of coexistence, when, as a result of immigration, societies are increasingly characterized by the ethnic, cultural, religious stratification and European citizens are bound to live together.

The bottom-up approach attained through these working groups will foster an active participation with free contributions feeding into to a common reflection.

Dialogue and free debate, inclusiveness, sharing moments of reflection on common values, memory as a means to build the future will be the key tools in recognising dialogue as a means to overcome violence and prejudice.

Common goals of the Project

- **Promoting memory of the Holocaust**, as a means to overcome current prejudices and racism, especially among the youth, whose possibility to meet in person testimony of the Holocaust is decreasing;
- **Enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding between citizens of different nations**: the visit to the Concentration Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau will foster active involvement in raising awareness;
- **Fostering action, debate and reflection**: The methodology used – i.e. preparatory seminars, small groups, each including different nationalities and cultures; group work and round tables – will assure an on-going exchange among the participants;
- **Preventing xenophobia, racism, antisemitism and violence**: The international origin of the participants will promote debate and reflection among different cultures, habits, backgrounds and mind-sets.

Impact of the Project

- Strengthening the commitment against prejudice, ignorance, racism and social deprivation;
- Reinforcing the perception of values, such as the respect for diversity, freedom, mutual solidarity and a historical perspective of Europe;
- Spreading of a sense of responsibility and empowerment among the youth;
- Fostering awareness of the need for stronger coexistence and mutual respect among peoples;
- Diffusion of a sense of belonging to European values, through publication on website of the themes of the project;
- Broadcasting of the themes of the project through publications and audiovisual material in various languages.

Timeline of the Project

The project “Young Europeans for a World without Violence” will follow the timeline below:

- November 2016 – June 2017: preparatory meetings in Universities and High Schools at a national level;
- April – July 2017: registration of the participants;
- 20th September 2017: arrive and welcome of the groups in Cracow, first meetings;
- 21st September 2017: two conferences in Cracow (High School students and University Students) with participation of ex-deportees (Jews and Roma);
- 22nd September 2017: Visit at the National Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp and Memorial Pilgrimage at Birkenau;
- 23rd September 2017: open debate, farewell meeting and concert in Cracow;
- 24th September 2017: leaving of the groups from Cracow.

Project budget

Total amount necessary:	€ 115.000
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Contribution of the participants:	€ 35.000
Contribution of the Community of Sant’Egidio:	€ 15.000
Contribution of private Italian sponsor:	€ 15.000
Amount applied for from German Sponsor:	€ 50.000

For detailed budget, see Annex 3



Memorial Pilgrimage to Auschwitz-Birkenau, 10th September 2010

ANNEX 1

SCHLUSSAPPELL

Wir dürfen Auschwitz nicht vergessen: Es ist der Ursprung des nationalsozialistischen Hasses, der durch den Schrecken des Krieges freigesetzt wurde und sich im Übermaß ausgebreitet hat. In diesem Zusammenhang fand der Genozid von Juden, Zigeunern und weiteren Zigtausenden europäischen Bürgern statt.

Wir sind Jugendliche aus Polen, der Ukraine, aus Russland, Tschechien, Ungarn, Italien, der Slowakei und aus Rumänien und haben uns mit der Gemeinschaft Sant'Egidio versammelt, um auf das Zeugnis derer zu hören, die damals als Kind oder Heranwachsender Opfer geworden sind. Durch ihr Leid und ihre Hoffnung haben wir den einmaligen und unersetzlichen Wert des Lebens eines jeden Menschen verstanden und die Notwendigkeit erkannt, es vor jeglicher Art von Todesvorhaben zu schützen.

Die Schoah, "das große Übel" für das jüdische Volk, oder der Porrajmos, "die große Vernichtung" für die Roma und Sinti, warnen uns vor dem Hass, der auch heute in unseren Städten neu aufkommen kann.

Er trägt die Züge der Gleichgültigkeit, wird genährt durch Ignoranz gegenüber dem anderen und wird zur Verachtung und schlägt dann zu. Schließlich wird er zur Gewalt gegen Zigeuner, Flüchtlinge, Ausländer oder Immigranten auf der Suche nach einer besseren Zukunft, gegen Juden, die noch immer mit feindseligen oder gleichgültigen Blicken angeschaut werden. Die Gewalt verschont die Menschen in unserer Mitte nicht, die schwächer sind: alte Menschen, Behinderte, Obdachlose.

Auch wenn in unseren Ländern die Angst verbreitet ist, sind wir von Hoffnung erfüllt. Deshalb sagen wir gemeinsam "Nein" zu Antisemitismus, Antiziganismus und jede Art von Rassismus, die Gedanken krank machen und den Weg zur Barbarei bereiten. Wir möchten alle und insbesondere die Jugendlichen von dieser Saat befreien.

Mit der Intelligenz der Kultur und der Kraft der Liebe wollen wir eine gewaltfreie Welt aufbauen. Ausgehend von Auschwitz zeigt sich ein neuer Horizont der Menschlichkeit für unsere Länder! An diesem Ort nimmt eine Bewegung der Herzen ihren Ausgang, die andere Menschen unseres Alters anstecken möchte, um besser zu sein und unsere Länder in einem Europa des Friedens menschlicher zu machen!

Auschwitz-Birkenau, 21. September 2012

ANNEX 2

ESTIMATE PARTICIPANTS - SEPTEMBER 2017

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS	GROUPS' GUIDES
Albania	10	1
Belarus	10	1
Czech Republic	80	7
Georgia	10	1
Hungary	130	10
Poland	130	10
Romania	70	6
Russian Federation	70	6
Slovakia	100	8
Ukraine	130	10
	740	60
TOTAL	800	

ANNEX 3

BUDGET

n°	Items	Quantity	Days	Cost x Unit	Grand Total	Subtotal	% tot
1	Personnel					6.300,00	5,48%
	Coordinator (August-September 2017)	1	60	70,00	4.200,00		
	Auditor (November 2017)	1	30	70,00	2.100,00		
2	Visit of Auschwitz-Birkenau					3.130,00	2,72%
	Guides at the Museum	30	1	75,00	2250,00		
	Headphones	800	1	1,10	880,00		
3	Stationery					5.600,00	4,87%
	Printing materials for participants	800		6,50	5.200,00		
	Posters	200		2,00	400,00		
4	Technical equipment					19.920,00	17,32%
	Rental and set-up conference spaces in Cracow	1	3	1.500,00	4.500,00		
	Translators' booths	8	3	80,00	1.920,00		
	Sound system (mixer, audio recording, loudspeakers, amplifier, microphones, screens for interpreters, beamers)	1	3	2.700,00	8.100,00		
	Lighting (for stage and speakers)	1	3	200,00	600,00		
	Wireless infrared receivers with headphones	800	3	1,50	3.600,00		
	Technical staff	4	4	75,00	1.200,00		
5	Accommodation					39.900,00	34,7%
	Participants at the congress	800	4	12,00	38.400,00		
	Speakers	5	3	100,00	1.500,00		
6	Meals					35.800,00	31,13%
	Participants at the congress	800	4	11,00	35.200,00		
	Speakers	5	3	40,00	600,00		
7	Travel Costs for Speakers					2.200,00	1,9%
	1 business class return ticket	1		1.000,00	1.000,00		
	2 economy class return ticket	3		400,00	1.200,00		
8	Production of a video					2.150,00	1,9%
	Audio-video operators	2	3	75,00	450,00		
	Editing of the video	1	1	1.700,00	1.700,00		
GRAND TOTAL					115.000,00	115.000,00	100%

Comunità di
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