

The project «MemAct!» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects" Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

Preparatory activities (if applicable): the activities involved 15 participants from Austria (8), Germany (1), Israel (1), Poland (1), Serbia (2), Slovakia (1) and the UK (1).

Location / Dates:

Short description: these activities consisted of

- a) preparatory meetings of the core board
- b) preparatory meetings with the single partners
- c) internal (online) kick-off meeting (11. - 12.11.2020)

Events:

12 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 - Opening Conference Linz

Participation: The event involved 80-100 citizens¹ (peak: 136 online at the same time; 270 registrations accumulated for both days), involving citizens from 17 different countries (76 Austria, 33 Germany, 1 Belgium, 1 Czech Republic, 1 Finland, 1 India, 4 Israel, 1 Italy, 1 Japan, 1 Netherlands, 1 Poland, 2 Romania, 5 Serbia, 1 Slovakia, 1 Sweden, 3 UK, 3 US)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Linz, Austria/online**, from 20/04/2021 to 21/04/2021

Short description: Keynotes and discussions helped to frame the scope of the project, on day one through contributions from scholars Agnieszka Pasieka (University of Vienna/Yale University) and Christer Mattsson (University of Gothenborg), followed by an introduction into participant-centered education and presentations and panel discussions according to the project foci on the second day <https://memact.at/blog/2020/04/08/inaugural-conference/>

Event 2 - Workshop in Hartheim

Participation: The event involved 43 citizens, including participants from Austria (25), Germany (9), Slovakia (1), UK (2), Serbia (1), US (1), Poland (2), Japan (1)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Hartheim/ Linz/ online**, on the 21/04/2021

Short description: As due to the pandemia it was impossible to do the workshop physically in Hartheim, it has been decided to include this topic on the second day of the kick-off conference as panel, where the participants split up in break-out rooms. As the workshop took place in an online format, we could extend the geographical scope of locations to Slovakia (Nitra) and Poland (Krakow), demonstrating participant-centered methods of our partners.

<https://memact.at/blog/2021/04/10/panel-2/>

In addition the team conducted training workshop with the educators, they contained less than 25 participants.

- 14. 3. 2022: Online Workshop of Tal Adler on art based methods of education and exhibition analysis with the guides of Hartheim Castle
- 25.3., 29. 6. 2022: Workshops to introduce the model of observations of the practice/researching the own field; both with around 10 participants each

¹ Numbers are often varying as most of the events were online and people often participating only in parts of the events.

Hartheim has now implemented

- building up and developing a support tool (open resource material)
- starting an intervision/collegial advice
- starting the model of observation

Event 3 - Workshop with ZOOM (Youth center, Linz)

Participation: The event involved 29 citizens, including participants from Austria (27), Romania (1) and Kosovo (1)

Location / Dates: The main event took place in **Linz, Austria**, on the 18/03/2022

Short description: We transferred the workshop to a series of meetings and encounters between the educators before we started to work with young students. This appeared necessary to better understand each other's methods and generate a mutual learning environment. a) meeting with zoom educators - Methods of education: combining methods of "gaming" with learning about social injustice struggles b) meeting at the nordico city museum, Linz; exhibition "the young Hitler"; observation of a school class workshop - Methods: Image analyzing and critical display analyzing; creative writing exercise.

Based on these experiences we conducted – as a main event on the 18/03/2022 – a visit with the young participants from the youth center to the Limonistollen, which used to be an air-raid shelter in Linz in WWII. This visit led to intense discussions with the participants about their family narrative, the way their families approached or avoided the Nazi time and what kind of "myth" were spread about this time.

Event 4 – Workshop /seminar "Teaching the Holocaust in Context"

Participation: The event involved 30 citizens from Poland

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Kraków, Poland**, on 27/07/2021

Short description: The GJM team presented their workshop "Choices faces, decisions made". Based on this experience the GJM partner developed workshop methods analysing reports. This report was discussed within the MemAct team and at the final conference. The event was a training for teacher from Poland on new methods of Holocaust Education. The outcome of these discussions will inform the "toolkit" presented at the Website.

Event 5 – Meeting in Kraków

Participation: The event involved 76 citizens, including participants from Austria (8), Belgium (1), Canada (1), Germany (1), Israel (3), Netherlands (1), Poland (44), Serbia (3), Slovakia (1), Ukraine (2), UK (6) and the US (5)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Kraków, Poland**, on the 20/01/2022

Short description: Keynotes and lecture based inputs. The keynote lecture was held by Prof. Jan Grabowski, University of Ottawa on "History vs. Politics" and the input lectures were held by Jakub Nowakowski (director of the GJM), Adam Musial (teacher) on "Holocaust education - school perspective" and Inga Marczyńska (activist and educator). The event focused on teaching of the Holocaust in Contemporary Poland.

Discussions in breakout groups: every breakout group was the same during the whole seminar, so people could have deep conversations and reflections on the subject matters.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/669577140898296>

<https://galiciajewishmuseum.org/en/memact-onlineseminar-teaching-about-the-holocaust-in-contemporary-poland-context-and-narratives/>

Event 6 – Workshop Belgrade / development of lesson model

Participation: The event involved 31 different citizens in sum, including participants from Serbia and Austria, but at the single events were less than 25 participants

Location / Dates: The event was turned into a series of 7 events taken place in **Sombor, Belgrade, Serbia/ Linz, Austria/ online** between the 17/06/2021 and the 22/03/2022.

Short description: The first five events constituted a collaborative seminar with students from the university of Novi Sad (Serbia) and Linz (Austria). The program set up a framework of teachers, teacher trainees, and students in both the Sombor University in Serbia and the PH OÖ (University of Education) Upper Austria to develop, test, and evaluate joint activities regarding Holocaust lesson models and shared past but different histories of Austria and the Balkan region in today's diverse classrooms. Three small transnational groups of Austrian and Serbian participants worked together to each create an activity and meet for this online.

These were followed by two more online sessions, the first one in order to support the students of the University of Education Upper Austria to develop, test, and evaluate joint activities regarding Holocaust lesson models and shared past but different histories of Austria and the Balkan region in today's diverse classrooms; and the second one to raise awareness and question the limits of national boundaries in history education and the challenges of fostering the merits of transnational exchange and collaboration.

Event 7 - Workshop Belgrade, online including report of visiting on "Judenlager Semlin"

Participation: The event involved 78 citizens, including participants from Serbia (53), Austria (9), Bosnia (1), Slovakia (1), Canada (2), France (1), The Netherlands (2), North Macedonia (1), Italia (1), UK (2), Israel (1) and

Poland (4)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Belgrade, Serbia/ online**, on 13/04/2022

Short description: Also this event was split up in two parts:

First, activists visited with young students from the XIII Belgrad Gymnasium the site of the former "Judenlager Semlin"

Method: Participatory observation, walking around, exchanging impressions: what does the site look like? How does it feel? What sounds? What smell?

Based on this observations the students formulated some conclusions on the situation of commemoration politics in Serbia. These conclusions were discussed with the teacher and the MemAct team and will inform the toolkit.

These results were also used in the online event with keynote Efraim Zuroff on "Authentic Holocaust Sites, Holocaust Distortion and Contemporary Antisemitism", where after the Keynote a discussion about the visit of young students at the "Judenlager Semlin" took place.

<https://memact.at/blog/2022/04/07/webinar-dr-efraim-zuroff/>

Methods: Based on keynote speaker small working groups discussing precise questions and connecting the insights with the own practice based experiences.

Event 8 – Stakeholder Meeting in Magdeburg

Participation: The event involved 30 participants from Germany (25), Poland (2), Austria (2) and the UK (1).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Magdeburg, Germany/online**, on 08/07/2021

Short description: The meeting asked, how Holocaust Education can support challenging current and historical manifestations of antisemitism and right-wing extremism. Against the background of right-wing extremist discourse successes, current challenges for memorial work were also discussed. The event presented the opportunity to exchange experiences and reflect as a group on their best practices.

More information: https://padlet.com/Pascal_Begrich/lk99unmi1an4nk3a

Event 9 – Workshop in Bratislava

Participation: The event involved 53 citizens, including participants from Austria (36), Italy (2), UK (3), Slovakia (9), Poland (4), Serbia (3), Germany (2), France (1).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Bratislava, Slovakia/ online** on 21/03/2022

Short description: https://memact.at/blog/2022/03/16/conference_slovakia/

The online conference "Complexity of Complicity - Holocaust education and Holocaust distortion" was focusing on contemporary examples of holocaust denial and distortion, formal and informal education in the Slovakia. The key note lecture was presented by Martin Korčok (Head of the Sereď Holocaust Museum) and part of his lecture was a projection of the documentary film "The Pandemic is not the Holocaust". The film showed contemporary comparing of the Holocaust and the Pandemic Covid-19. The second part was focusing on Holocaust education in Slovakia. There, examples of formal education in Slovak schools were presented (Martin Chudík, high school principal from Nitra) and informal education realised through an NGO (Michaela Danišová, educator Post Bellum SK) and the educational approach of the Sereď Holocaust Museum was presented (Matej Beránek, educator and historian, Sereď Holocaust Museum).

Methods: MemAct! project contributed to the film and exhibition done by the EDAH team. Part of the film was watched together and discussed in small working groups.

Event 10 - Workshop in Bratislava with school class

Participation: The event involved 26 citizens, including participants from Slovakia (24) and Austria (2)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Bratislava, Slovakia/ online** on 22/03/2022

Short description: This event was dedicated to practical examples of the combination of formal and informal education. Students of the High school in Nitra participated in the EDAH workshop. The content of the workshop was focused on events that happened 80 years ago in Slovakia, namely deportation of Jews from Slovakia in 1942. Students were actively participated on workshop and the main aim was to compare view of the propaganda presented by Slovak State and true reality presented by testimony of Holocaust survivors. The EDAH partner conducted a lesson model about Nazi propaganda and Holocaust in Slovakia with young students. MemAct! core team members Wolfgang Schmutz and Karin Schneider were present via zoom sessions; they asked questions, observed the situation and discussed the findings with the partners. These experiences informed the final conference.

Event 11 – Testing of lesson Model in Linz

Participation: The event consisted of 2 events, the first one included 26 students and educators from Austria, the second 25 citizens, from Austria (7), Hungary (1), US (5), Poland (3), France (3), Israel (5), BiH (1)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Linz, Austria**, on the 05/05/2022 and 12/07/2022

Short description: We conducted a "Memory Walk" and invited young students as well as a group of

international holocaust education professioners to research the city of Linz asking what history is told by her, what is visible and what is denied?

With the school class we expanded the topic to work on “antisemitism” and conducted a guided tour in the synagogue.

Methods: Participatory observations, working with original sources; discussions in working groups; guided tour in the synagogue

The testing was done twice, once with a partner school (05/05/2022, in collaboration with the Zoom youth center), age 14-18 mainly from migrant background, and on the 12/07/2022 with educators in the context of the CLAIMS conference.

Event 12 – final conference

Participation: The event involved 101 citizens, including participants from Austria (34), Germany (18), Slovakia (2), Serbia (9), US (7), UK (2), Canada (3), Australia (1), Poland (8), Italien (1), Netherlands (1), Israel (2), Ukraine (2), New Zealand (1), Hungary (2), India (1), China (1), Romania (2), South Africa (1), Turkey (1)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Magdeburg, Germany/ online**, from 25/04/2022 to 26/04/2022

Short description: The conference focused on three challenges for Holocaust education that MemAct! met on its journey: (1) how do we connect the past and the present without instrumentalizing the Holocaust? (2) what is the role of the learner in historical education?, (3) how do hierarchies of knowledge between teachers and students hinder learning processes?

The methods applied included lectures, reflections, panel discussion, talks, and participant centered collaboration on whiteboards and open files to inform discussions during the conference and collect insights for the toolkit.

<https://memact.at/blog/2022/04/14/memact-concluding-conference/>