

The project « Democracy on the Brink. Historical lessons from the late 1930s » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

39 events have been carried out within this project:

Preparatory meeting

Participation: The event involved 12 citizens, including 6 participants from the city of Prague (CZ),

2 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL), 2 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK), and 2 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic** from **30/10/2017** to **30/10/2017**

Short description: At the preparatory meeting, the goals of the project have been discussed as well as the possible ways to achieve them. Partners from Prague, Warsaw, Valencia, and Banská Bystrica have been informed about the activity plan, project legislation, and rules that need to be followed as well as plausible outcomes of the research and general-public-focused activities. Participants have been invited for the following day's public workshop and guided walk to see examples of general-public-focused activities.

International workshop

Participation: The event involved 25 citizens, including 19 participants from the city of Prague (CZ),

2 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL), 2 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK), and 2 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **31/10/2017** to **31/10/2017**

Short description: International workshop Democracy on the Brink has been an activity for both the general public and participants of the project's preparatory meeting. The papers were focused on both theoretical (the origin of totalitarianism, the situation in Czechoslovakia in the 1930s) and practical (communication strategies for NGO's, pro-democratic argumentation skills) issues. Participants could improve their communication skills and improve their knowledge about the risks of totalitarianism tendencies in the society of the 1930s and nowadays.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 11 citizens, including 5 participants from the city of Prague (CZ),

2 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL), 2 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK), and 2 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **31/10/2017** to **31/10/2017**

Short description: The guided walk "Refugees from Nazis" has been performed right after the international workshop "Democracy on the Brink". Many participants of the walk have also participated in the workshop. The walk has been presented as an example of the "good praxis" of Multicultural Centre Prague, specifically the Prague Shared and Divided project

focused on this kind of activities before the project "Democracy on the Brink. Historical lessons from the late 1930s." has begun.

Expert meeting vol. 1

Participation: The event involved 6 citizens, including 5 participants from the city of Prague (CZ) and 1 participant from the city of Dortmund (DE).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 25/01/2018 to 25/01/2018

Short description: The expert team has been assembled in December 2017 and January 2018 to perform the research in Prague. The team of experts in different fields was set up to cover a wide range of project-related topics (history, politology, art, educational strategies, cultural and social anthropology, sociology, etc.). At the meeting, the main topics of the research were determined as well as specific strategies. At this point, the most important goal was to collect as many relevant materials as possible for further work with them (creating new topics for the interactive map <http://praha.mkc.cz/?lang=en>, new guided walks, educational programmes, etc.)

Movie screening

Participation: The event involved 32 citizens, including 27 participants from the city of Prague (CZ), 4 participants from the city of Bratislava (SK) and 1 participant from the city of Dortmund (DE).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 05/04/2018 to 05/04/2018

Short description: Screening of the movie "Daleká cesta" (Distant Journey) with a discussion after the movie took place in the Ponrepo Cinema under the film festival Migfilm 2018. The movie has been chosen because of its relation to the "Democracy on the Brink" project's topic and its thought-provoking story allowing fruitful debate after the screening.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens from various EU countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 10/04/2018 to 10/04/2018

Short description: International interactive guided walk in English about the migration in interwar Czechoslovakia and the political changes in the late 1930s connected to this phenomenon.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 24 citizens, including 24 participants from the city of Prague (CZ),

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 19/04/2018 to 19/04/2018

Short description: The guided walk "Prague cafés in the 1930s". Café was not only the place to drink coffee but also the center of social life, important information point and sometimes place where big history was written. That guided walk was focused on such places. We have focused on cafés popular especially in the 1930s. The importance of that places lies in the people who met there - artists, journalists, writers, etc. Many of them were the most important personalities in the anti-fascist resistance a couple of years later.

Public debate

Participation: The event involved 34 citizens, including 31 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK) and 3 participants from Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**, from 24/04/2018 to 24/04/2018

Short description: The first project activity in Banská Bystrica was the public debate

Democracy on the Brink (?) with four invited professional guests. First lecture was focused on the definition of right-wing extremism and its historical and contemporary forms, the second lecture was focused on presenting the results of the research of local history of Banská Bystrica with a focus on anti-fascist resistance. The third presentation was about the manifestations of anti-fascist resistance in art on the Czech and the Slovak scene in the cross-section of the 20.th century. All presentations were linked with the discussions that followed each speakers show.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 9 citizens from various EU countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **27/04/2018** to **27/04/2018**

Short description: International interactive guided walk in English about the migration in interwar Czechoslovakia and the political changes in the late 1930s connected to this phenomenon.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 12 citizens, including 11 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK) and 1 participant from Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**, from **02/05/2018** to **02/05/2018**

Short description: The guided walk "Following the footsteps of the anti-fascist resistance" through the center of Banská Bystrica, which was organized two times. Our lecturers presented the results of the anti-fascist resistance research that was linked to some specific sites, local buildings, and monuments. There were seven stops. We talked about the local history of the town, and the participants learned a lot about the personalities, groups or buildings that were directly connected with the resistance activities. The lecturers put this knowledge into the wider historical context not only of the national but also of the European context, so the participants often even contemplated the interconnected links of national and local history.

Educational program (2 walks for 2 groups of students)

Participation: The event involved 54 citizens, including 52 participants from the city of Pilsen (CZ) and 2 participants from Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **03/05/2018** to **03/05/2018**

Short description: Interactive guided walks for grammar school students from the city of Pilsen focused on the roots of xenophobia, discrimination, and repressions in the late 1930s. The risks of such tendencies in contemporary Europe have been discussed.

Expert meeting vol. 2

Participation: The event involved 7 citizens, including 6 participants from the city of Prague (CZ) and 1 participant from the city of Dortmund (DE).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **11/05/2018** to **11/05/2018**

Short description: The second meeting of the research team in Prague. Collected information and materials have been presented and discussed and new programs for schools, articles to publish on the interactive map, and new guided walks programs were the main outcomes of the meeting. The programs and activities were finalized and realized in the following months.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 27 citizens, including 27 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Valencia, Spain**, from 26/05/2018 to 26/05/2018

Short description: "Ruta por la Memoria Democrática de Valencia" Urban tour guided by Cristina Escrivà Moscardò (a historian and cultural manager, expert in oral sources). The guided walk started at 10:00 am and lasted 2'30hrs. We visited Valencia's most important sites and monuments regarding the period of the Spanish History (1936 - 1937) in which Valencia was designated as the capital of the Second Spanish Republic, a legitimate government voted within democracy. During this period Valencia represented the ideals of democracy and fought with all its means and capacity against the breakthrough of fascism in Spain. People from every class, gender, and age cooperated in what would become Valencia's civil resistance against fascism. The guided walk sought the preservation and promotion of Valencia's historical remembrance. The object: to raise awareness upon the participants regarding the democratic and social spirit that the government of the Second Republic was eager to develop; as well as the life stories of the people that staged the resistance against authoritarianism in Valencia.

Educational program

Participation: The event involved 25 citizens, including 25 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**, from 08/06/2018 to 08/06/2018

Short description: The third project activity in Banská Bystica was an educational program for secondary or elementary schools. Students together with lecturer could learn by an interactive way the context of how the everyday life of Slovak youth changed after the establishment of an independent Slovak state. According to the model of the German organization Hitlerjugend, a new state organization was formed by Hlinka's Youth, which compulsorily associated all children from the age of 6 years. At the age of 16, the youth had to participate a similar paramilitary organization – Hlinka's Guard. At the same time, anti-fascist resistance was also formed between young people, who independently or under the leadership of their teachers at schools engaged in various activities directed against the official policy of the Slovak state. The program was therefore focused on the life of youth in the 1930s, their compulsory association in Hlinka's youth and the resistance activities of young Banska Bystrica inhabitants.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 21 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK) and one participant from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**, from 11/06/2018 to 11/06/2018

Short description: The fourth activity in Banská Bystrica was a guided walk through the center of Banská Bystrica, which was organized two times. Our lecturers presented the results of the anti-fascist resistance research that was linked to some specific sites, local buildings, and monuments. There were seven stops. We talked about the local history of the town, and the participants learned a lot about the personalities, groups or buildings that were directly connected with the resistance activities. The lecturers put this knowledge into the wider historical context not only of the national but also of the European context, so the participants often even contemplated the interconnected links of national and local history.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 14 citizens from various EU countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 20/06/2018 to 20/06/2018

Short description: A guided walk "The Jewish quarter Vinohrady" for the international

group of people focused on the history of the Jewish minority in Vinohrady quarter in Prague. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Vinohrady was a quarter resided by many Jewish families and many other families were moved there several years or months before they were moved to concentration camps where many of them were murdered. The quarter in that times was a ghetto without walls, how it is often called.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 25 citizens from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **25/06/2018** to **25/06/2018**

Short description: This guided walk took place in another Prague's quarter with a high density of Jewish population in interwar Czechoslovakia (and centuries before that) called Libeň. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Libeň was another quarter where many restrictions have been applied, especially but not exclusively against Jews. Many people living in this quarter have been murdered in the concentration camps. The walk focused on the restrictions against Jews and anti-jewish propaganda on one hand and anti-fascist resistance and pro-democratic activities on the other.

Public debate

Participation: The event involved 39 citizens from various EU countries, including 30 participants from Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **10/09/2018** to **10/09/2018**

Short description: Public debate called "I used to be a Nazi" with the main guest from Germany Christian Ernst Weissgerber who used to be an active member of Neonazi organization and now tries to support tolerance and respect among people and other democratic value. This public debate has been organized together with other organizations: Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung and Deník Referendum. Because of the threats from the far-right oriented people, previous registration was required to be allowed to attend the debate and several policemen have been presented to prevent any possible disorders.

Educational program

Participation: The event involved 20 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **19/09/2018** to **19/09/2018**

Short description: An interactive guided walk for the students of one of the elementary schools in Prague focused on the roots of xenophobia, discrimination, and repressions in the late 1930s. The risks of such tendencies in contemporary Europe have been discussed.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 14 citizens, including 14 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **23/09/2018** to **23/09/2018**

Short description: A historical walk "Political Violence in Pre-War Warsaw" in Warsaw, which told the story of the escalating political violence in the 1920s and 1930s. The walk featured places such as: the place of the assassination of the President Gabriel Narutowicz, the place of fights between opposing student militias, places of socialist youth' actions against right-wing organizations.

Educational program

Participation: The event involved 8 citizens, including 8 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **24/09/2018** to **24/09/2018**

Short description: Educators' workshop "How to Read the Past in the Context of the Present?" designed specifically for educators, with the purpose of giving them specific methodological and pedagogical tools, which would enable them to use historical knowledge in their activities. The workshop consisted of two parts, each featuring one theme transformed into a lesson. In the end, the participants could consult their own lesson/workshop scenarios with the trainers.

Public debate

Participation: The event involved 25 citizens, including 25 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **24/09/2018** to **24/09/2018**

Short description: The debate "What can we learn from the 1930s? Interwar Poland in Education" featured acknowledged Polish historians dealing with the 1930s and practitioners (teachers, educators), who together discussed what is missing in the program of teaching the history of the 1930s in schools in Poland. The debate touched upon issues of the militarization of history, the lack of social history in school teaching, the difficulty of teaching history in a relevant way, the systemic restrictions.

Movie screening

Participation: The event involved 14 citizens, including 14 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **25/09/2018** to **25/09/2018**

Short description: Screening of the celebrated film "The Death of the President" (1977), directed by Jery Kawalerowicz, which tells the story of political radicalization, which led to the assassination of the Polish President Gabriel Narutowicz (1922). The screening was followed by a public discussion around the issues of political violence, right-wing movements, and the lessons we might learn from pre-war history.

Movie screening

Participation: The event involved 22 citizens, including 14 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **26/09/2018** to **26/09/2018**

Short description: The second screening of the celebrated film "The Death of the President" (1977), directed by Jery Kawalerowicz, which tells the story of political radicalization, which led to the assassination of the Polish President Gabriel Narutowicz (1922). The screening was followed by a public discussion around the issues of political violence, right-wing movements, and the lessons we might learn from pre-war history.

Public debate

Participation: The event involved 33 citizens, including 32 participants from the city of Valencia and 1 participant from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Valencia, Spain**, from **27/09/2018** to **27/09/2018**

Short description: "Valencia Contra el Odio" Public debate hosted by Ca Revolta a popular site in Valencia known for gathering a variety of cultural events and political debates. The Public debate's object was to create a space for collective reflection on the identification and

fight against racism, especially institutional racism from the perspective of Rita Bosaho (the first black woman to become deputy in the Spanish Parliament, known as well for her deep involvement in activism against racism). We also invited Toni Gisbert from Acció Cultural del País Valencià who introduced a really interesting topic which generated an enriching discussion: discrimination for cultural and language reasons and in connection with current manifestations of neo-fascism in Valencia.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens, including 13 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **29/09/2018** to **29/09/2018**

Short description: A historical walk "Pre-War Warsaw through the Eyes of Minorities and Disadvantaged Groups" in Warsaw, which concentrated on the plight of the poor and disadvantaged sector of the Polish society during the interwar years, especially minorities (the Roma, LGBT communities, women). The history of such groups has been hidden from public view and is not widely known, so venturing into it was an addition to the historical knowledge of the participants.

Educational program (Group 1)

Participation: The event involved 30 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **03/10/2018** to **23/11/2018**

Short description: The educational program was a long-term engagement with two high school classes (9 lectures and one guided walk), focused on the different themes emerging from the history of the 1920s and 1930s, and its relevance to today's world. The program featured a historical walk prepared within the frame of the project "Democracy on the brink" and 8 separate workshops for the youth. Among the themes discussed in the program were: the ethnic, religious, and linguistic differentiation of pre-war Poland; the theorizations of "Us vs. Them" and "The Other" in the society; the situation of women in inter-war Poland and voting rights. Each group consisted of about 30 young people, in their 3rd year of high school. The program finished with projects done by students: maps of Warsaw or short films about pre-war Warsaw.

Educational program (Group 2)

Participation: The event involved 24 citizens, including 24 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from **03/10/2018** to **23/11/2018**

Short description: The educational program was a long-term engagement with two high school classes (9 lectures and one guided walk), focused on the different themes emerging from the history of the 1920s and 1930s, and its relevance to today's world. The program featured a historical walk prepared within the frame of the project "Democracy on the brink" and 8 separate workshops for the youth. Among the themes discussed in the program were: the ethnic, religious, and linguistic differentiation of pre-war Poland; the theorizations of "Us vs. Them" and "The Other" in the society; the situation of women in inter-war Poland and voting rights. Each group consisted of about 30 young people, in their 3rd year of high school. The program finished with projects done by students: maps of Warsaw or short films about pre-war Warsaw.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 10 citizens from the city of Pardubice (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Pardubice, Czech Republic**, from 20/10/2018 to 20/10/2018

Short description: This interactive guided walk has focused on refugees from Nazi Germany and the relations between Czechs and minorities (esp. Germans, Jews, and Roma people) in the years 1918-1945. These relations changed due to political events and the power of propaganda.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 19 citizens from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 27/10/2018 to 27/10/2018

Short description: The guided walk "Refugees from Nazis" performed for the participants of the "Na prahu nové doby" (On the edge of a new era) conference as an example of the "good praxis" of Multicultural Centre Prague. Conference participants could implement such activities in their own organizations.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 28 citizens, including 28 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, from 27/10/2018 to 27/10/2018

Short description: A historical walk "Pre-War Warsaw through the Eyes of Minorities and Disadvantaged Groups" in Warsaw, which concentrated on the plight of the poor and disadvantaged sector of the Polish society during the interwar years, especially minorities (the Roma, LGBT communities, women). The history of such groups has been hidden from public view and is not widely known, so venturing into it was an addition to the historical knowledge of the participants.

Educational program (3 interactive seminars for 3 groups of students)

Participation: The event involved 44 citizens, including 42 participants from the city of České Budějovice (CZ) and 2 participants from Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from 16/11/2018 to 16/11/2018

Short description: The school programme "Sport at the service of a nation" is one of the direct outcomes from the effort of the project's research team. It is an interactive seminar lasting around 45 minutes. The seminar was introduced on grammar school Educanet in the city of České Budějovice. We have worked with three different groups of students. Our goal was to discuss the concepts of nationalism and nation, as well as the influence of different sport organizations on these concepts.

Movie screening

Participation: The event involved 27 citizens, including 27 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Valencia, Spain**, from 20/11/2018 to 20/11/2018

Short description: "Documental Operación Stanbrook" On November 20th, Jarit hosted the screening of Stanbrook's documentary and the later discussion about the film. The vessel Stanbrook carried out the last evacuation of republican refugees from the port of Alicante on March 28th, 1939, (four days before the end of the Spanish Civil War) toward Argelia. We counted with the participation of Laura Gassó, daughter of an expat pilot at the Stanbrook. History teaches us that Spain is a state with a recent past of intense emigration. It is easy to find parallelisms between the causes of the migratory movements that took place at the end of the civil war with the motives that underlie the migratory movements nowadays. It is now when Spain receives migrant population from North Africa and we must remember that not

long ago our grandparents and grandmothers were the ones forced to emigrate fleeing from war, repression and fascism in search of a worthy life.

International workshop

Participation: The event involved 28 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Prague (CZ), 3 participants from the city of Warsaw (PL), 2 participants from the city of Banská Bystrica (SK), and 3 participants from the city of Valencia (ESP).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **29/11/2018** to **29/11/2018**

Short description: The workshop "Democracy on the Brink" was the final meeting and presentation of the project's results of all the partner cities in Prague. During the morning program, research outputs and activities realized in partner cities were presented by the partner's organizations delegates. Afternoon part consisted of a presentation of interesting and surprising facts and recommendations for similar projects in the future. Panel discussion at the end allowed experience sharing and answering questions to the presented topics.

Educational program

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens, including 13 participants from the city of Prague (CZ).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from **07/12/2018** to **07/12/2018**

Short description: This new guided walk designed primarily (but not exclusively) for school groups is another direct outcome of Prague's research team. Osvobozené divadlo (The Liberated Theatre) is one of the most important symbols of civic anti-fascist resistance and the guided walk follows not only the places where the authors and actors performed their plays but participants also discuss the ideas of the plays.

Guided walk

Participation: The event involved 25 citizens, including 25 participants from the city of Valencia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Valencia, Spain**, from **12/12/2018** to **12/12/2018**

Short description: "Ruta Educativa por la Memoria Democrática de Valencia" A guided walk around Valencia's democratic History for 25 high school students. The tour was developed from a pedagogical and entertaining approach, designed according to the methodology of meaningful learning. The participants came from 2 different 12th grade classes from a High School centre in Valencia (IES Music Marti i Soler). Educational goals and purposes:

- Know important places related to the period in which Valencia was the capital of the Republic and its history.
- Promote cooperative work among the participants.
- Encourage critical awareness in young students
- Motivate knowledge in the non-traditional educational sphere from a pedagogical and entertaining approach

This tour was extracted and adapted for the target group (High School students). Most of the sites and the period comprised are the general public's guided walk ones. "