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Active Telling, Active Learning (EFC European remembrance)

- Project aims and activities

Due to various socio-political processes such as Brexit, today many Union's citizens feel EU becomes an intangible idea. EU "achievements in terms of peace and stability in Europe [...] have not always led to a strong feeling among citizens of belonging to the EU" (Council Reg.390/2014). One of the main reasons it happens is that citizens, especially younger generations of EU citizens, are not fully aware of EU history and its achievements, thus take them for granted. Project "ACT" is focused on commemoration of one of the core & most important events in modern European history that touched every European country and millions of senior citizens – the WWII. ACT activities involve citizens from 5 EU countries, targeting mainly youths by the WWII-commemorative events: creative workshops, guided visits to historical places, debates, Human Library (HL) events in each partner country.

The HL method turns people into "living Books": from a 'catalogue' people in small groups can choose to "read a book", turning the pages of its real life in a face-to-face discussion. The invited Books are the survivors, ex-partisans, victims' relatives, history teachers, professors, researches of the WWII History. Via discussion The 'readers' will be able to "turn the pages" of books' lives and so of the EU History developing active ownership on common EU values throughout learning about their common past.

The HL method, recommended by CoE, will enhance intergenerational dialogue among youth and direct and indirect witnesses of the WWII, and will empower the witnesses to play an active role in raising awareness on the EU core values in the aftermath of WWII. By reflection on the contemporary democratic achievements, ACT will foster collective memory of the citizens & their feeling of belonging to EU community.

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Project Activities

ACT work programme is based on a holistic approach that includes different activities based on the principles of non-formal education and active participation. The work methods applied are in the framework of NFE and follow the CEDEFOP guidelines for effective structuring the activities and validating the learning process. We chose HL as the method for main activity because it is able to sensitize and activate younger citizens (the readers) on the core values deriving from the Union's citizenship. The activities plan is thus structured as stepping stones, it includes preparatory phases and activation phases we believe are the most appropriate for achieving projects' aims and objectives. ACT is structured in 3 main phases:



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- Preparation and training: International training of trainers on HL method (ToT) and public event (workshop on gamification in history teaching) - in Croatia
- Implementation: Human Books' selection and books training in each country;
- HL events in each country;
- Dissemination in each country: Video-Books production and distribution;
- Handbook production and distribution;
- Urban trekking in WWII remarkable places;
- Final international conference in Italy: commemoration/share the results/setting the ACT network followed by public debates on historical revisionism;
- Commemorative dissemination events in each country.

The key method used for commemoration is the HL. It is an effective method to engage and spread testimonies through direct telling, while reaching two diverse target groups – WWII witnesses (the Books) and younger generations (the Readers). After choosing a Book from the catalogue, the reader can speak with direct/ indirect witnesses in small group (1-3 people). The public will be composed mainly by youths thanks to schools involvement, so that youngsters can develop sense of ownership and motivation to build together a tighter-knit EU based on fundamental rights.

The Books share their experience also during the others commemoratives activities run in each country involved: urban trekking – guided visits to places linked to the WWII and crimes associated to it; video books creation, dissemination events.

The video-Books will preserve oral testimonies, while the handbook supports reuse good practices for youth workers, teachers and public bodies focusing on incorporating HL and other non-formal learning methods also in formal history education. The final conference fosters cross-sectoral cooperation and lays the basis for the establishment of holistic network on EU remembrance that can invest further in elaborating innovative and creative methods for citizenship education and bridge the gap between formal and non-formal learning sectors. The local dissemination events will encourage local audience, the stakeholders to broader the horizons of history & citizenship education on national level throughout using innovative & creative techniques and fostering intergenerational dialogue – a crucial and demanding point for WWII education due to tearing disappearance of witnesses generation.

ACT involves actively not only those who have already taken part in HL but also those previously not active: e.g., organizing urban trekking that being an open event outside can engage meanwhile also passing-by public, people living in the neighborhood or tourists. The local dissemination events will encourage local audience & stakeholders to broader the horizons of history & citizenship education on international levels.