

The project « Contested Histories Onsite » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 *"Networks of Towns"*

Measure 2.3 *"Civil Society Projects"*

Strand 1 – *"European Remembrance"*

Preparatory activities (if applicable):

The activity involved 38 participants.

Location / Dates:

CHOS kick off meeting, took place online by Zoom platform on 09.03.2021 from 4 to 6 pm.

Short description:

The kick-off meeting took place on February 9th 2021 from 4.00 to 6.00 pm (CET) by Zoom online platform, and 38 participants attended the virtual event. Staff from MSA and EuroClio were involved in the organization. Attendants were invited from within the MSA's and EuroClio's networks of experts in the field.

The meeting was structured in three parts:

- 1) An introductory session with an overview of the project's objectives and activities, plus the presentation of the partner organizations.
- 2) The second part consisted of a presentation of two experiences on how to organize onsite and virtual tours at contested sites and how to deal with contested narratives.
- 3) Finally, an interactive session with the participants presented their thoughts and ideas about the characteristics of a good tour at contested sites.

Participants were invited to contribute to a virtual board as a brainstorming exercise and these contributions were considered to be supporting material for a first structure model of the project toolkit. Following, the CHOS team organized and grouped the posts into the three categories outlined (characteristics of a good tour, additional comments and challenges) and shared the results with the participants for further reflection and feedback.

• **EVENTS**

4 online events took place between 2021 and 2022 (the project hosted virtual events due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time). The events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1: Warsaw Uprising Museum

Participation: The event involved 144 citizens, including 39 nationalities of participants from 36 countries.

Country	Participants
Albania	2
Argentina	4
Australia	1
Belgium	1
Canada	8
Chile	1
Czech Republic	2
Denmark	1
Estonia	4
Finland	1
France	2
Germany	8
Greece	1
Hungary	1
India	2
Iraq	1
Israel	3
Italy	4
Japan	2
Lithuania	1
Netherlands	21
Netherlands Antilles	1

Poland	8
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
Serbia	1
Slovakia	1
South Africa	1
South Korea	3
Spain	7
Sweden	1
Taiwan	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	17
United States	28

Location / Dates: The event took place in virtual form on July 1st 2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to introduce the Warsaw Uprising Museum as a contested site. The museum is known for its narration of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and its role in deepening the understanding of the violent context of the Second World War's Eastern Front.

A lecture was given by Dr Maria Kobielska (Jagiellonian University's Faculty of Polish Studies) about the origins and agenda of the museum, as well as criticisms of the museum from a variety of perspectives in the 15 years since its opening.

Dr Marcin Napiórkowski (University of Warsaw's Institute of Polish Culture) took the audience on an interactive virtual tour of the site. His tour detailed how the museum creates an immersive experience using the 'time machine' method and sensory stimulation before coming to the controversy and ethics surrounding the cultural site.

Event 2: Bronze Soldier at Tallin

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 25 nationalities of participants from 19 countries.

Country	Participants
Albania	1
Canada	2
Denmark	1
Estonia	3
Finland	1
Greece	2
Hungary	2
Norway	2
Italy	6
North Macedonia	1
Lithuania	1
Netherlands	4
Poland	1
Russia	1
South Korea	1
Spain	2
Turkey	2
United Kingdom	7
United States	6

Location / Dates: The event took place in virtual form on October 14th 2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to analyze the statue of the Bronze Soldier, unveiled by the Soviets in 1947 in celebration of the Red Army reaching Nazi-occupied Estonia. The Bronze Soldier remained one of the longest surviving Soviet monuments in Estonia, occupying a pivotal location in the city center. However, in 2007 protests erupted that caused the statue to be hastily relocated to a military cemetery.

Karsten Brüggemann (Tallinn University) gave a lecture on the historical background and the memory conflict that surrounded the monument from its establishment up until 2007. His lecture outlined the commemoration practices during the Soviet period and explained what happened to the site after 1991 within the broader field of the 'war of monuments' within Estonia and how the events of 2007 have had lasting consequences on the establishment of 'pure' Estonian places of commemoration.

Following this lecture Mare Oja, lecturer of History and History Didactics at Tallinn University, and Linda Kaljundi, professor at the Estonian Academy of Arts, offered an interactive workshop focused on introducing and discussing the different perspectives on the Bronze Soldier monument that explores the dynamics of this contested site of memory. They illustrated the potential of contemporary art as a medium for memory debates and raised the broader reflection of how to deal with such contested memory sites in history teaching.

Event 3: The Bas Relief of Bolzano

Participation: The event involved 78 citizens, including 36 nationalities of participants from 31 countries.

Country	Participants
Austria	2
Belgium	2
Brazil	1
Canada	1
China	1
Colombia	2
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	1
Finland	1
France	2
Germany	12
Greece	2
Hungary	2
India	2
Ireland	1
Italy	9
Lithuania	2
Netherlands	3
North Macedonia	1
Norway	1
Philippines	1
Poland	2
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
South Africa	1
Spain	2
Ukraine	1
United Kingdom	5
United States	13

Location / Dates: The event took place in virtual form on January 26th 2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to explore the representation of fascism in Southern Europe and the ways in which historical narratives are woven to suit contemporary political agendas. In recent years public attitudes towards Fascist Heritage in Italy were at the center of a heated debate that from the academic world reached the press and social media. The debate posed questions on the fate of Fascist monuments in Italy and whether the country had yet come to terms with its Fascist past.

Dr Flaminia Bartolini, a Classical Archaeologist and Heritage specialist from the University of Cambridge, gave a lecture on the Bolzano Frieze. She looked specifically at how the debate over Fascist monuments in Italy has been reflected in the iconography of Mussolini and the heritage sites in Bolzano. Her presentation also questioned whether public perception of these sites have changed over time and considered how their recent transformation into heritage sites or exhibitions signified a shift from the post-war interpretation.

Dr Hannes Obermair, a curator and senior Researcher at the European Academy of Bozen, offered a virtual tour of the site. With the rise of Italian fascism, Bolzano became sort of a laboratory of the violent attempts carried out by the fascist regime especially within the border regions. The architectural legacy of the dictatorial past is still visible today, mainly the Monument to Victory erected in 1928 and the new “Grande Bolzano” urban quarters with a monumental bas relief showing a triumphant Mussolini. Only in the 2010s the still existing traces of dictatorship have been reframed and re- semantized in order to create common memorial grounds for today’s civil society.

Event 4: Valley of the Fallen

Participation: The event involved 90 citizens, including 34 nationalities of participants from 26 countries.

Country	Participants
Albania	1
Australia	3
Belgium	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Brazil	1
Canada	2
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	2
France	2
Germany	8
Greece	4
India	1
Italy	5
Netherlands	4
Poland	2
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
South Africa	1
Spain	10
Sweden	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	16
United States	17

Location / Dates: The event took place in virtual form on April 20th 2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to introduce the Valley of the Fallen, considered by many memory scholars to be Europe’s most controversial monument.

Dr Marije Hristova, an Assistant Professor of Hispanic Cultures and Literature at Radboud University Nijmegen, described the Valley of the Fallen within the wider Francoist politics of remembrance. As such, the Valley is part of a constellation of sites and places of memory marked by National Catholicism and its necropolitical culture of martyrdom. She focused on the meaning of the Valley of the Fallen before 1975, that is, before it became known as 'Franco's grave.'

Following this lecture, Dr Francisco Ferrándiz, a tenured researcher and Senior Advisor in the State Secretariat for Democratic Memory, gave a virtual tour of the site. Based on long-term ethnographic research on contemporary exhumations of mass graves from the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), his presentation explored the controversies taking shape over the Valley of the Fallen as it is the most conspicuous Francoist monument in contemporary Spain. In the last few years, the Valley has come under close scrutiny and criticism, and he described these controversies together with the institutional project to significantly re-signify it, including the exhumation of the former dictator from its Basilica in late 2019.