

The project « W-CHILD: Behind closed doors – Growing up under Totalitarian Regimes / Growing up in Wartime» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

6 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 50 citizens, including 45 participants from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 2 participants from the city of Bucharest (**Romania**), 1 participant from Forlì (**Italy**) and 2 participants from Prague (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)**, from 24/09/2019 to 25/09/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to set up the project through the implementation of the Kick off meeting of "W-Child - Behind close doors - Growing up under totalitarian regimes/growing up during wartime". During the meeting, each partner presented its organization and activities: for Atrium (Italy) was present Ognjen Tomic, Post Bellum (Czech Republic) was represented by Jan Blazek and Marie Janouska, while Fundatia Academica Civica (Romania) participated with Virginia Ion and Andrea Furtos. Haris Calkic, as project manager of Lead Partner organization War childhood museum (at that time Association URBAN), illustrated the project, its objectives and activities to be implemented, providing information on the general project management, programme requirements and financial rules as well. The meeting was also functional to establish and define each partner's role and duties. On the second day, the partners had a meeting with the Bosnian war witness involved in the project and visited the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo and representative places that marked the life of children during the siege.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 49 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 1 participant from the city of Bucharest and 1 from the city of Sighet (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Forlì (**Italy**), 19 participants from the city of Prague and 23 participants Lysá nad Labem (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Prague and Lysá nad Labem (**Czech Republic**), from 14/01/2020 to 15/01/2020

Short description: The aim of the event was to record the interview to Czech war witness Jarmila Kročková and to have the first meeting in between school students and witness from the Bosnian conflict.

On the first day, project partners met in Prague (Czech Republic) and the Post Bellum staff introduced the filming studio of the organization to the filming crew of the War Child Museum (at the time Association URBAN) from Sarajevo, in order to sort out the technical aspects and arrangement for filming the interview with the war witness Jarmila Kročková. On the second day, partners discussed project activities and outputs, visited the Museum of Communism and filmed the interview with witness Jarmila Kročková in Post Bellum's studio.

On the 15th of January 2019, a two-hour debate with Czech pupils and teachers took place in JA Komenského School in Lysá nad Labem, with witness Ognjen Tomic (ATRIUM) speaking with 15 years old students about his childhood in Sarajevo during the siege and his experience as a war refugee in Italy. After

the debate, an informative meeting with the head of the school and representatives of local media took place to present the project activities. In the afternoon, Post Bellum organized a guided tour for partners to Prague's most important architectural venues related to its totalitarian past.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 84 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Bucharest (**Romania**), 60 participants from the city of Sighetu Marmăției (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Bârsana (**Ukraine**), 1 participant from the city of Berbești (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Rona de Sus (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Strâmtura (**Romania**), 2 participants from the city of Vadu Izei (**Romania**), 2 participants from the city of Cluj Napoca (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Petrila (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Bologna (**Italy**), 1 participant from the city of Faenza (**Italy**), 6 participants from the city of Forlì (**Italy**), 1 participant from the city of Leicester (**UK**), 2 participants from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**), 1 participant from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**).

Location / Dates: The event took place online and it was organized by Civic Academy Foundation (**Bucharest, Romania**), from 20/04/2021 to 21/04/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to raise awareness among Romanian citizens, and especially among the young generations, on how wars and totalitarian regimes can affect the life of people, and mainly the life of children, encouraging them to reflect on common values of the EU.

During the first day of the event "Learning from the history of the 20th century. Youngsters from the present meeting youngsters from the past", 9th and 10th grade students from "Dragoș Vodă" National College in Sighetu-Marmăției, coordinated by the history teacher Claudia Dura, had the chance to meet with Marisa Fabbri, an Italian writer, to discuss the story of Antonia Laghi, a witness of the conflicts under the Fascism regime in Italy. A short guided tour of the Museum of the Memorial to the Victims of Communism and to the Anticommunist Resistance was also organized, focusing in particular on the "Pupils in detention" room, to deepen the topic of childhood and war.

During the second day of the event, partners and students were involved in the public reading of witnesses stories. Romania students read fragments of testimonies of Antonina Laghi and Carlo Flamigni from Italy, of Jarmila Kročková from Czech Republic, of Senad Vrana from Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Voica Potârcă from Romania, whose childhood was marked by the wars and the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century. The reading of the stories was then followed by a discussion with witnesses and historians from the four countries involved, giving students the chance to acquire additional knowledge on the conflicts.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 52 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Bologna (**Italy**), 3 participants from the city of Bucharest (**Romania**), 1 participant from the city of Cesena (**Italy**), 1 participant from the city of Cluj Napoca (**Romania**), 27 participants from the city of Forlì (**Italy**), 1 participant from the city of Faenza (**Italy**), 1 participant from the city of Leicester (**United Kingdom**), 1 participant from the city of Padova (**Italy**), 2 participants from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**), 5 participants from Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 7 participants from Sighetu Marmăției (**Romania**), 1 participant from Turin (**Italy**).

Location / Dates: The event took place online and it was organized by ATRIUM (**Forlì, Italy**), on the 20/05/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to involve young Italian citizens in the project activities to make them aware of the stories of children that lived under totalitarian regimes, passing on the narration of witnesses from all over the European Union, triggering a reflection on democracy and freedom.

During the event, students of G.B. Morgagni High School (Forlì, Italy) that were previously involved W-CHILD, by carrying out interviews with war witnesses identified in the framework of the project, had the chance to present the work done so far together with Associazione Deina and Cooperative organization "UNA CITTÀ", sharing their experience, impressions and points of view on the activities they took part in.

Furthermore, during the event students were divided into smaller groups and had the chance to deepen their knowledge and acquire new details regarding the witnesses, meeting on one hand Mrs. Nicolina Moica and a small delegation of the Romanian students from Dragoș Vodă High school (Romania) to share her story of life under the communist regime in Romania; on the other hand Mrs. Marisa Fabbri and Mrs. Marina

Mengarelli Flamigni, to discuss the stories of witnesses Carlo Flamigni and Antonia Laghi, who lived under Fascism (Italy).

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 68 citizens, including 9 participants from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**), 23 participants from the city of Jindřichuv Hradec (**Czech Republic**), 9 participants from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 4 participant from the city of Bucharest (**Romania**), 6 participant from the city of Sighet (**Romania**), 5 participants from the city of Forlì (**Italy**), 12 participants from the city of Holešov (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place online and it was organized by Post Bellum (**Prague, Czech Republic**), on the 10/11/2021 and on the 18/11/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to present Czech students with further testimonies from war under totalitarian regimes, giving them the chance to hear these stories directly from the witnesses who spent their childhood during conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania.

On the 10th of November, 9th grade ground school students from Studená, in Jindřichův Hradec district (Czech Republic) took part in a debate with Sead Vrana, child witness of Bosnian war as seen from Sarajevo. General historical introduction was given by Jan Blažek from Post Bellum in Czech language; afterward Sead Vrana talked about his experience during the conflict, providing its testimony in English with translation into Czech. A lively debate followed, not only about the war but also about the current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the 18th November, 12 high school students from Gymnázium Holešov (Czech Republic) took part in a debate with child witness of Romanian revolution, Mrs. Nicoletta Giurcanu. At the beginning of the event, Virginia Ion from Memorial Sighet (Romania) gave a short historical introduction, which was followed by the testimony of Mrs. Giurcanu, who spoke about her experience, also depicting the current situation of violence in Romanian society. After the narration of the witness' story, students had the chance to start a debate by asking questions to Mrs. Giurcanu and discussing more in detail her experience and the geopolitical context of the time.

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 120 citizens, including 98 participants from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 13 participants from the city of Forlì (**Italy**), 6 participants from the city of Bucharest (**Romania**), 2 participants from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**) and 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**)

Location / Dates: The event took place online and it was organized by War Child Museum (**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**), on the 7/12/21

Short description: The aim of the event was to hold a meeting and debate with a war witness from Czech Republic, Mrs Jarmila Krockova, involving high school students from the city of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). This was also the final event of the project, therefore a key occasion to share and disseminate the outputs and results of the W-CHILD project. The event was in blended form due to Covid 19 restrictions, meaning that high school pupils from Sarajevo and the Bosnian participants attended the meeting in person, while the other international participants attended the meeting online. At the beginning of the event, project manager Haris Calkic (War Child Museum) introduced the project and the agenda of the session. Following, Mrs Jarmila Krockova presented her story with the support and translation from Jan Blazek from Post Bellum organization (Czech Republic). The meeting was followed by a debate with open questions to Mrs. Krockova, allowing students to deepen their knowledge regarding everyday life under war and totalitarian regimes.