



**"Europe for citizens: Promotion of Active European Citizenship"
I GIUSTI E LA RESISTENZA AL TOTALITARISMO
The Righteous and the Resistance to Totalitarianism**

**'Europe for Citizens' Programme
Action 4 'Active European Remembrance'**

The European Project 'Righteous People and Resistance to Totalitarianism' was introduced by Liceo Scientifico E.FERMI for the Program "Europe for Citizens": Action 4 Remembrance. The Liceo is the project promoter and organizer within the regional network agreement called "History and Remembrance" (www.storiamemoria.it) which is meant to continue the project carried out last year which was called "The Righteous and the Remembrance of Good" and it embodies a further development of the previous one. It lasts one year from October 1st 2008 to September 30th 2009.



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*"Europe for citizens:
Promotion of Active European Citizenship"
Action 4 'Active European Remembrance'*



It is a transnational Project and it includes Italian, Polish, Romanian and Russian (as non-formal partners) authorities, institutions and schools herewith listed:

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Europacheverra magazine (A magazine about future Europe)

<http://www.europacheverra.eu> conference – dissemination press

6- Centrum Dialogu i Modlitwy w Oświęcimiu – Ojciec Jan Nowak

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DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES of the PROJECT

"Remembrance of Righteous People against genocides and crimes against mankind" is part of the memory of our European past, which does not exclusively mean remembering violence, wars, mass exterminations mainly connected to the Second World War's events. It is a form of reminiscence that, like all other forms of recollection, needs **actions of research, dissemination and enhancement carried out by all the participating institutions** in order to be activated and become influent.

Our project originally envisaged and continues to provide a contribution in this direction involving schools and cultural institutions of the participating nations. **The remembrance of the Righteous was defined as 'Memory of Good'. It is a form of memory open to hope and full of responsibility** for those who experience it. It may help solve the conflicts and it undoubtedly shows a great educational value.

The initiatives and activities, that were organized with Poland last year and the introduction of Romania as a new partner this year, will make us reflect and focus on the history of countries that experienced real socialism. This will widen the horizon of our activities so that to include the whole of the European history and not exclusively the history of Western Europe and the devastations of **Nazism and Fascism**. Thus our project is going to include the history of that other Europe that was deeply influenced and molded until recent times by another form of **totalitarian system of the Twentieth Century**, i.e. **Communism**. It is therefore necessary to try to overcome the existing clash between the memory of nazism-fascism and communism in order to reach a common European memory of the evil that we all experienced.

Intended Objectives:

- 1) The Knowledge of Resistance to totalitarian systems (Fascism, Nazism, Communism) in various and different national contexts;
- 2) The knowledge of Righteous People (Italians, Poles, Romanians) to identify common features and traits and/or differences;

- 3) The promotion and implementation of a more accurate historical research on these topics in each different country;
- 4) The enhancement of European awareness through the recognition and appreciation of values that inspire the actions of Righteous People in different national contexts.

KEY WORDS

Dignity, freedom, citizenship remembrance, Righteous, resistance, education, totalitarianism, democracy, gulag, mass extermination, Holocaust.

TARGET GROUPS

The projects carried out by the schools being part of the network 'History and Remembrance' have involved hundreds of students and several teachers that have accompanied their classes through this experimentation defined as 'paths of memory'. The European project has been able to build a wider and more articulated network of cooperation within and without the schools.

The educational program conceived for high school students and its output have created the basis for **a interchange** among **Italian students of various schools** as well as **European students** and they have also build up **connections** with **institutions of civil society** in the participating countries. The work of the reconstruction and retrieval of memory, that we can and must do at school, has ended up playing an important role in the education of **pupils as well as of society** in general.

When this remembrance is the memory of good, the awareness and the energy awoken in young people, who become the new witnesses, represent a factor of renewal for society as a whole.

This is what can be defined as a progress towards active citizenship. The Legislative Assembly of the Emilia Romagna Region approved the bill "**Memory and Responsibility. Promoting and Supporting initiatives for the Remembrance of the Righteous People**" on 21st October 2008..

This bill owes its existence to the joint actions of education and sensitization within the schools of our Network Agreement and Program that have been actively involved towards this goal.

PHASE DEVELOPMENT of the PROJECT

- 1) School projects: October 2008 / April 2009
- 2) Extracurricular drama and film-making laboratories
- 3) Workshop in Poland with Italian Polish and Rumanian experts: February 2009
- 4) Study Journey to Rumania for Italian students: March 2009
- 5) International conference in Bologna : April 2009

The project is financed by EACEA (60%).

INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

- 1) The perspective of the 'Remembrance of Good' for a study of history oriented towards the future.
- 2) Laboratory methodology meant to turn the process of learning into a pragmatic experience.
- 3) School as a research place.
- 4) School promoting and facilitating renewal in civil society.

5) Historic witnessing (given and received) as a tool of education towards civil cohesion.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

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