PROJECT FACTSHEET

Funded by the European Union

Strengthening Remembrance and Education on the Holocaust in the former Yugoslavia



Duration: 01.01.2025 - 31.12.2027

Countries:
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

EU contribution: € 1 500 000

Total budget: € 1 500 000

Implementer:
Developed jointly by the six successor states of the former Yugoslavia—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia

Website(s): unesco.org/en/articles/strengthening-remembrance-and-education-holocaust-former-yugoslavia

Project description:

The 'Strengthening Remembrance and Education on the Holocaust in the former Yugoslavia' project supports the creation of a travelling exhibition and an accompanying educational programme, derived from the joint permanent exhibition in Block 17 of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Developed jointly by the six successor states of the former Yugoslavia - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia - the exhibition commemorates the victims from the region who perished in Auschwitz.

At the intersection of culture and education, the initiative places strong emphasis on Holocaust education as a powerful means of promoting reconciliation, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion. It seeks to engage youth, educators, and communities in reflecting on the region's shared history, while strengthening good neighbourly relations and supporting the European perspective of the participating countries. Since 2011, UNESCO has supported the six states in re-establishing the permanent exhibition, ensuring coherence with educational goals and the preservation of this World Heritage site.

Reaffirmed through an Agreement signed at UNESCO Headquarters in January 2024, with UNESCO as the depositary, the project aims to extend the reach of the Auschwitz exhibition through a travelling format. By bringing remembrance and education together, it fosters mutual understanding, respect for diversity, and a culture of peace across South-Eastern Europe.

Expected results:
•Travelling exhibitions delivered – 120 exhibitions (20 per country) organised in museums, libraries, and cultural centres, reaching at least 250,000 visitors and fostering public engagement with the Holocaust and its regional dimensions.
• Educational resources developed and localised – Two toolkits, targeting policymakers and educators respectively, are produced and adapted into local languages to support integration of Holocaust education in formal and informal learning settings.
• Capacities of educators and policymakers strengthened – 30 policymakers and at least 300 teachers/teacher-trainers/educators are trained to use the educational toolkits, enhancing teaching and learning about the Holocaust and related human rights themes.
• Youth engagement achieved – At least 30,000 students and young people to acquire knowledge through the travelling exhibition and education programme, fostering critical reflection and dialogue.
• Civil society and public engagement strengthened – At least six cross-border projects supported through small grants, complemented by three high-level events and social media outreach reaching 2 million people, fostering local ownership, Holocaust remembrance, and tolerance.