

- Titre général (pas celui du projet: effort pour trouver un titre attrayant mettant directement en lumière ce dont il est question) // - General title (not the project title: find an attractive title which directly referred to the theme Black Whitsuntide

- Eventuel sous titre précisant les choses // Possible subtitle stating things: The Bărăgan Deportations (1951-1956)

L'histoire // history

(1 ou 2 paragraphes, 200-300 mots) // (1 or 2 paragraphs, 200-300 words)

The deportations from the Banat and Mehedinți in the summer of 1951 were one of the most bestial of all the numerous social purification projects invented by the communist regime during the Gheorghiu-Dej period, at the height of Soviet domination. As a result of a plan prepared with diabolical precision for three months, more than 44,000 people were taken from their homes without prior warning during the night of 18-19 June 1951, beginning with women and men of working age and continuing with their families, including elderly people of up to the age of eighty-five and children of all ages, in one case a baby just two days old. After a drawn-out journey of two days, locked inside cattle trucks, the deportees were deposited in a number of train stations in the Bărăgan Steppe, whence they were transported by truck to eighteen different points in the desert. Abandoned under the open sky, in the blazing summer sun, at first they were forced to build themselves rudimentary shelters beneath the ground. In the years that followed they built themselves houses and turned up the virgin soil. In this way they managed to provide food for themselves and their domestic animals, overcoming poverty and isolation, surviving like twentieth-century Robinson Crusoes. Five years later, in 1956, the deportees returned to their homes, but many found them occupied by the regime's profiteers and for a second time they were forced to rebuild their lives from scratch. One thousand six hundred of them, including one hundred and seventy-five children, had died on the steppe and their bones were soon to be ploughed under, together with the villages they had built.

L'impact // The impact

(Evocation synthétique des principaux résultats atteints et des publics atteints) //

(Summary evocation of the main outcomes achieved and the interested public)

The Project 'The memory of the Romanian Deportations' had an impact over the initial expectations. Through the activities organised within the project we succeeded to involve the representatives of the generations of the deportation survivors, of the victims of the totalitarian communist regime, but also representatives of the young generation, those who had to build and consolidate a society based on the democratic values promoted by the European Union. Altogether, the events organised by us have been described in the written and audio press, proving that the chosen theme was one with a great impact.

The itinerant exhibition 'The Black Whitsuntide: The Bărăgan Deportation' – reached the locations in Bucharest, Timisoara, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Sighet, Braila and had an impact much over expectations. This exhibition was visited by over 18.000 visitators. The exhibition had a very good presentation in the written and audiovisual press. 'Remembrance Day' Conference at Sighet took place with the attendance of over 200 persons, and had as main discussion theme – The deportation in Romania. Alongside the survivors there have been present members of their families, many highschool students, also the representants of the local and national press.

The deportations from June 1951 have meant one the greatest tragedies in the recent history of Romania, marking the destiny of thousands of people. By the activities developed in the project 'The Memory of the Romanian Deportations' we bring an homage to the victims of the totalitarian communist regime. The participation of the survivors to the actions of the project, and especially the dialogue created among them and the young generation, have been the most important achievements of the project. The young people have understood how important are the human rights and the liberty, and how they have been violated by the totalitarian regimes. By the implementation of this kind of project it opens debates over important themes of recent history, and the young people understand how important are the values of a democratic society. In the post-communist countries, where there

has been a nostalgia of the communism, it is extremely necessary that the young generation may be able to analyze critically the recent past.

The project was largely described in the mass-media. There have been television and radio broadcasts, written articles published by the specialized press as a reaction to the events organised during this project. A press review about all these events can be consulted on the section [Memoria deportărilor din România, Ecouri în presă](#).

http://www.memorialsighet.ro/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1048%3Aecouri-in-pres&catid=61%3Amemoria-deportrilor&Itemid=168&lang=ro

The two partners have widely presented on their websites the events organized in the project. A very good way of communication and dissemination of the informations has been the official website of the Sighet Memorial on the socialnetwork Facebook. Each and every activity of the project has been disseminated by several hundreds of people.

Over the initially programmed disseminations we have succeeded the following events:

The encounter of the deportations from June 1951 survivors with 51 pupils from the highschools in Bucharest on 13.04.2011, occasion on which there has been presented by the organisers the exhibition "Black Whitsuntide: The Bărăgan Deportation".

'The Black Whitsuntide: The Bărăgan Deportation' Exhibition, opened on 9th November 2011 in Bucharest, in the European Public Space of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, it had a great number of visitors, so although it has been initially scheduled to remain open until 22nd of December, the exhibition remains open until February 2012. Following some discussions with the representatives of the School Inspectorate in Bucharest, there have been organized visits of the students from Bucharest and encounters with the deportations survivors. According to the recorded data, the exhibition has been visited so far by 505 persons only in this location, in November and December 2011. In 2012, the exhibition will be itinerated in many cities from Romania and abroad, which permits further dissemination of ideas promoted in the project. This exhibition will be available to different museums that have events related to this theme, in Romania and abroad (Germany).

Le(s) témoignage(s) // Witness

Citation du porteur du projet et/ou d'un des partenaires. // Quote of the project leader and / or partners

Eu inteleg aici prezentare in trei cuvinte a celor 2 organizatii – FAC si FCM – tot din cererea de finantare

Faits et chiffres // Facts and Figures

*Titre du projet // Project Title: **Memory of the Romanian Deportations***

Porteur du projet // Project leader: Civic Academy Foundation

Partenaires // partners: Memoria Foundation

Durée // Duration: 12

Financement du programme Europe pour les Citoyens // Financing from Europe for Citizens program:

Decision no 511921, 51234.88 EURO

Pour en savoir plus // For more information

(Liens utiles pour approfondir la connaissance du sujet traité ou pour compléter l'information sur le projet) // (Links to deepen the knowledge of the subject or to complete the project information)

http://www.memorialsighet.ro/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=61&Itemid=168&lang=ro