



Europe for Citizens
Programme

Projects from Latvia in EU programme „Europe for Citizens”

To remember not to happen again

Applicant: Association "Shamir" (LV)

Partners: Religious community and association "Shamir" (LV)

Support measure: Active European Remembrance

Project realisation year: 2007/2008

Grant awarded: EUR 66 550

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Project web page: www.shamir.lv

Description:

The project aims were to create deeper understanding about the Holocaust as a tragedy for the whole Europe and to foster tolerance and respect; to raise awareness and promote understanding about Jewish culture, traditions and history, to preserve memorial and to foster intercultural dialogue.

Main activities included:

- * preparation and publication of lectures on the Jews extermination as reference materials and teaching aids for schools and translation into English, French and German to distribute the materials to wider society, to other EU countries, tourists and stakeholders.
- * establishment of 50 libraries (information source corners) at the Latvian museums and libraries, which contain full information package (books, maps, DVDs etc.) on the Jews history and Holocaust to raise awareness on this theme, develop the information network and provide access to this kind of information to wider geographical area.
- * 2 seminars for teachers, history museums' and libraries' staff. Total amount of 129 participants has had 2 days of intense deepening into Holocaust issues including lecturers by acknowledged historians, visits to Holocaust memorials and getting known with Jewish traditions.
- * preservation of Jewish cemetery has been done as an exemplary restoration and conservation heritage in Latvian rural area, which is going to be used as a place of cultural and educational interest for visitors. The site is accessible to the general public.

Impact:

- * the participants of the seminars are educated of the Holocaust issues
- * the librarians and museum workers have got new socially significant literature to promote among the visitors
- * citizens of Jaunjelgava are aware of the history of their city and have the cemetery cleaned and preserved
- * visitors of the website are aware of the project and its results

The Association "Shamir" is the NGO entity with assigned charity and scientific institution status. It acts in the field of research, study and preservation of Jewish history and heritage in Latvia with particular focus on pre-war community and the Holocaust.

Suggestion from project team:

Be sure that you are able to carry out all your ideas of the project, because all stages of the project have to be done exceptionally well. Moreover, it is very important to use and to improve the acquired experience and to exchange of practice during all further activities.

*Rabbi Menachem Barkahan,
chairman of the board*

