



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Remember together to understand each other better – Retour
Participant:	Region of Crete, ROC
PIC number:	961026337

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	3		
Event name:	The Battle of Crete		
Type:	in-situ meeting with workshops, experts and visits		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Greece, Heraklion, Chania		
Date(s):	26/09/2022 – 29/09/2022		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.bbag-ev.de/project/retour-remember-together-to-understand-better/?fbclid=IwAR0M2TfNxnCypBo9ntIWGZUBgegTjGXsQ0XTUQdfBgqC2k10z9bCGOkeF10		
Participants			
Female:	13		
Male:	12		
Non-binary:	/		
From country 1 Greece:	7 men and 4 women		
From country 2 Poland:	3 women		
From country 3 Germany:	1 woman and 2 men		
From country 4 Czech Republic:	2 men and 1 woman		
From country 5 Bulgaria:	3 women		
From country 6 France:	1 woman and 1 man		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	6

Description

The participants had the chance to see the key-locations of the battle of Crete. A few kilometres from Chania were Maleme, analyzing the battle extensively. Some of the locations participants visited were the German and British Commonwealth war cemeteries, high spots to have panoramic views and understand everything about the battle on a live map, secret shelters and monuments.

The general historical facts of the battle of Crete are known. In this tour, participants discovered the original details and the unknown stories behind the scenes. Participants had the chance to tour around the places where heroism and hope was a life goal for the Cretan partisans and the Greek, British, Australian and New Zealand troops. The battle of Crete changed the world in many different ways and especially the evolution of airborne warfare.

1. Workshop: “The stories of two children in the storm of World War II”, Konstantinos, Mamalakis, Historical researcher.

Mr Kostas Mamalakis, Historical researcher, addressing to the participants, presented evidence from the Battle of Crete managing in a strongly inclusive way to render the significance of the Battle of Crete, responding to modern contexts and necessities of our time.

It also presented the story of two children (one English and one German) who started as friends and ended up as rivals in the midst of World War II.

2. Workshop: Aspects of Resistance in the Battle of Crete.

The participants learnt how the Battle of Crete Changed the Course of World War II. The Battle of Crete will remain forever in military history as the scene of the largest German airborne operation of World War II. In Greek history, it also serves as yet another chapter exemplifying the bravery and ultimate triumph of the Hellenic spirit.

The Cretans—who only four decades earlier had fought for and attained their independence after 250 years of Ottoman occupation—came out of their homes and challenged Hitler’s forces using whatever weaponry they had at their disposal. It was the first time the Germans had encountered significant opposition from a local population.

The Cretan Resistance was one of the factors that led to the fatal delay of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union while also reducing the number of troops available for missions in the Middle East and Africa.

Despite repeated attacks from the Nazis on local villages and communities, the Cretan Resistance remained active until the Germans surrendered four years later in 1945.

3. Workshop: Visit of WW2 exhibition, listen to information and unknown stories of The Battle of Crete.

The participants discovered the original details and the unknown stories behind the scenes from Historical researchers.

Event Highlights:

- Visit the Maleme airfield from above
- War monuments around the area of the battle
- Explore the WWII exhibitions in museums
- Visit the German and British Commonwealth war cemeteries
- Analytic details about the historical battle of Crete

Results of the meeting:

- Remember the past and transfer the knowledge
- Raise awareness for the past and about a very significant historical event
- Analyse the arrogance and cruelty of power
- Discover the possible motive for civilian population to fight a futile battle
- Intercultural dialogue and exchange
- Promoting European values through exchange, discussion, visits and workshops.

During the meeting in Crete, almost half of the whole group were women, half were men. This equality of men and women was also important during the discussion and exchange about the different topics about historical events.



**Funded by
the European Union**