



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	REmember TOgether to Understand each other better (RETOUR)
Participant:	Stowarzyszenie Europa Iuvenis, (Europa Iuvenis)
PIC number:	935665687

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	5
Event name:	In-situ meeting in Opole
Type:	In-situ meeting with debate, workshop, experts and visits
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Opole
Date(s):	01-03/02/2023
Website(s) (if any):	www.facebook.com/retour.remembrance.project https://www.bbag-ev.de/project/retour-remember-together-to-understand-better/ https://www.europaiuvenis.org/en/projekty/retour-remember-together-to-understand-better/
Participants	
Female:	15
Male:	12
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 Germany:	2 men, 1 woman
From country 2 France:	2 men, 1 woman
From country 3 Bulgaria:	2 men, 1 woman
From country 4 Greece:	2 men, 1 woman
From country 5 Czech Republic:	1 man, 2 women
From country 6 Poland:	3 men, 9 women
Total number of participants:	27
From total number of countries:	6
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	



Event focused on execution of the program of physical meeting in Opole. All participants receive detailed program and infopack regard the meeting in advance.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES:

31/01/2023:

- Arrival of participants from Czech Republic – due the late time of arrival, check in included 31st of January.

1/02/2023:

- Arrival of participants from Germany, France, Greece and Bulgaria.
- Gathering during dinner to get to know each other better by informal way.

2/02/2023:

- Welcome in the Center of Civic Dialogue with the authorities and decision-makers of Opole city, emphasized 50 years of Potsdam-Opole cooperation.
- Debate with invited guests on "Communism - influence on society and international relations". Guests: Arkadiusz Wiśniewski - President of Opole City, Aleksander Iszczuk - Head of Education Department of Opole City, Dorota Piechowicz-Witoń - Head of Center of Civil Dialogue of Opole City, Magdalena Matyjaszek - Head of Culture Department, Tourism and Foreign Cooperation of Opole City, Paulina Klag – Youth Council of Opole City and Youth Strike for Climate Opole.
- Workshop: make a statement - filming current common postulations inspired by real events - 21 postulations from August Agreement (1980) and #postulaty2020 social media action, presentation of inspirational historical initiatives of Roman Kirsten Foundation – educational methods and approaches.
- Visit at the Solidarity Memorial Chamber created by Roman Kirsten Foundation and city administration, guided by museologist Urszula Zajączkowska.

3/02/2023

- Visit at Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War and Archives – visit at former Gestapo prison, national memorial site and exhibition dedicated to “Lamsdorf Camp”, exchange with workers PhD Piotr Stanek and Kamil Kalinowski, movie screening about former prisoners and presentation about their further activities in communism period.

Link to preview of movie (original screened with EN subtitles):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghAvFZiEa5o>

- Visit at Museum of Opole Silesia and Rent Tenement House - to understand history of Opole, multiculturalism and live of Opolskie inhabitants before, during and after wars. The ethnography of the Opolskie region; changes due to massive population displacements, resulting from military operations and international agreements. Daily live of inhabitants in years 1890–1965, five original styled apartments including flat from communism time.
- guided tour by University of Opole historian Tomasz Musiał: “Opole, which no longer exists”, historical context of city, visiting among others: Square of Freedom, memorial site of burned Synagogue, destroyed castle and communist administration building.
- Visit at Piast Tower – former prison, symbol of the city.
- Visit at Museum of Polish Song - artists and culture during communism period of time, music and art against system.
- Evaluation of meeting. Participants shared their feedback by using tool “Game on emotions cards”. Additional, all participants receive by email the link to survey evaluation.

4/02/2023:

- Due to late hours of program, flight connections and public transport schedule, participants stayed one more night and departure in early morning.



Results of the meeting and project:

- promoting a better and mutual understanding of historical turning points and changes in Europe in the 20th century (especially communist period in Poland) by visits on memorial sites, exhibitions, attending to debates with historians and invited guests,
- knowing and learning how teaching about these historical events in an interactive way (exchange of pedagogical methods and tools, especially from Roman Kirstein Foundation),
- looking for connections in history of nations, as well exploring the local history of places and its contribution to development of common history (especially by visit at Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War and Museum of Opole Silesia),
- raising awareness among European citizens of their common history (from 6 different EU countries), cultural heritage and values through dialogues, discussions and participative activities (see above)
- video and graphics as results of statement creation workshop.

Meeting was almost gender balanced. The different perspectives of men (12 in total) and women (15) citizens were taken into account and different point of views could be exchanged and discussed (e.g. how was the situation especially for women, their activities and rights in the past).