



Group One Roundtable Discussion Report

Summarized by Otto Ruehl, Denmark

The group first expressed that they all were very pleased by the initiative of the Italian Presidency of the EU-Council and Yad Vashem, and were very satisfied with the fact that 27 of the EU-member states had accepted the invitation to come to Rome.

In group 1 at least 12 European member states were represented – among them Malta which for the first time took part in a conference like this.

Richelle Budd Caplan of the International School of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem raised the question as to whether we as Holocaust-educators should consider employing etwinning platforms (see <https://listserv.eun.org/mailman/listinfo/etwinning-newsletter-de>), or Erasmus + (see http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/llp_en.htm) and or other EU educational platforms.

We then presented ourselves and already during this presentation we learned about interesting projects: There were in fact teachers who already took part in Comenius-projects – so Angel Yanchev from Bulgaria, Otto Rühl from Denmark and more of the participating Italian teachers. But also other kinds of cooperation between EU-countries were mentioned – so could Lena Jersenius from the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism tell about cooperation with more European countries about testimonies from Holocaust-survivors that had had support from the EU. Otto Rühl told about a project with Yad Vashem, the Terezin Memorial and DIIS in Denmark having a teacher's seminar in Theresienstadt and another seminar in Theresienstadt with British teachers in cooperation with the Holocaust Education Trust in London.



YAD VASHEM
The International School for Holocaust Studies



Presidenza Italiana
del Consiglio
dell'Unione Europea



Ministero dell'Istruzione,
dell'Università e della Ricerca

Some Italian schools work together with Memorial de la Shoah

in Paris. Italian teachers explained about the great engagement in Holocaust-education among teachers in Italy and also were very interested in more European cooperation on the subject.

Marjan Verplancke from Kaserne Dossin in Mechelen, Belgium, reported about the education in the Museum – also for younger children and Jean-Louis told about using art in Holocaust education at Le Camp de Milles.

Anna Piperno from the Italian Ministry of Education and Research requested that we submit some ideas about the curricula in our respective countries – and maybe also send examples of textbooks. We could also use the list of participants that Yad Vashem prepared for us for this meeting – maybe also have the email-addresses of the participants and more information about projects we are doing at home in the schools. Participants expressed their wish to obtain the presentations of Shulamit Imber from Yad Vashem and Paul Salmons from the Institute of Education at the University College London uploaded.

Anna Piperno and Richelle Budd-Caplan focused on ways how we may consider preparing projects between European Union member states. Themes such as Art in the Holocaust was mentioned and the Italian teachers explained how some subjects now had to be taught in other languages – this could also open for cooperation with other European Schools.

There was an interest in involving younger students in Holocaust-education – could we consider the creation of a “Think-Tank” on this theme ? We agreed on sharing



knowledge about teaching younger children and were reminded of the EU-motto: The right of the child to know! Richelle Budd Caplan raised the question as to whether the teachers are ready to teach in an age-appropriate way – even if the children are ready to learn. Namely, are the teachers in Europe equipped to introduce the topic of the Holocaust to younger aged students in an age-appropriate manner?

We concluded that we all agreed to learn more about using the European tools when we make common projects – 2015 with the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and the end of World War 2 probably would make the EU more open for applications.

We also agreed that it was important to help teachers to avoid certain classroom activities in teaching about the Holocaust, such as role-playing. Best practices should be circulated among our network.

We were happy to learn that the Italian EU-chairmanship was in good contact with the coming EU-chairs – Latvia and Luxembourg – about the idea of establishing a European Teaching Network on Holocaust Education.