



PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITY REPORTS

Project managers are requested to present interim and final activity reports in the following way:

I INTRODUCTION

1. Title and reference number of project: **BEING A MINORITY IN THE 21st CENTURY, CBM(2004)08**
2. Link with other projects supported by Confidence-building Measures Programme: NO

II PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

1. Title of activity: **training session for teachers and students (also opened to experts, academics, public figures, journalists etc.), designed to help them confront the negative national past – particularly the Holocaust**

2. Date and place of activity: **May 10-12, 2004, University of Bucharest (Goldstein Goren Center)**

3. Programme of activity including times, topics, speakers

Monday, May 10, 2004

- 9:00 Opening remarks by the representatives of the organizers (IDEE, Goldstein Goren Center, Romanian Institute for Recent History)
- 9.15 Interactive workshop for identifying and overcoming stereotypes/prejudices about the national past (Razvan Paraianu, CEU Budapest, Hungary)
- 10.45 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 Neighbors: Relations between Romanians and minorities in the past (Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, South Eastern Europe Cooperation Initiative, Vienna, Austria)
- 12.00 Questions and answers
- 13.00 *Lunch break*
- 14.00 Traditional and modern forms of anti-Semitism (Leon Volovici, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
- 15.00 Holocaust denial (Michael Shafir, Radio Free Europe, Prague, Czech Republic)
- 16.00 Questions and answers
- 17.00 Cocktail

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

- 9.30 Evolution of fascism and Nazism in Europe and in Romania: influence on minorities (Mihai Chioveanu, IRIR/ Goldstein Goren Center, Bucharest)
- 10.30 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 How do we teach the Final Solution issue? (workshop with Ephraim Kaye, Yad Vashem expert, Israel)
- 12.00 Questions and answers
- 13.00 *Lunch break*
- 14.00 Romanian attitudes to the Holocaust – past and present (Andrei Oisteanu, Goldstein Goren Center, Bucharest)
- 15.00 The Romanian chapter of the Holocaust (Liviu Rotman, Tel Aviv Univ, Israel)
- 16.00 Questions and answers
- 17.00 Cocktail

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

- 9.00 A survivor's memories – visit to the Museum of the Federation of Jewish Communities, including discussions on the spot with members of the Association of Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust (Oliver Lustig and Liviu Beris)

- 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.30 Competing martyrology (Holocaust vs Gulag) in post-communist Eastern Europe (Dragos Petrescu, IRIR, Bucharest)
- 12.30 Questions and answers
- 13.00 *Lunch break*
- 14.00 Fate of Jews during WWII (Carol Iancu, Montpellier III Univ, France)
- 15.00 Attitudes of the Christian Churches to the Holocaust in Europe and in Romania (Gina Pana, Center for the History of Romanian Jews, Bucharest)
- 16.00 Questions and answers
- 17.00 Cocktail

4. Number and type of participants: 43
 19 history teachers (of which 10 from outside Bucharest)
 13 students
 7 academics and researchers
 2 representatives of Jewish organizations
 1 representative of the media
 1 representative of the Council of Europe Information Center

5. Description of activity (conclusions, media coverage)

The seminar was organized by IDEE Association in cooperation with the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies of Bucharest University and the Romanian Institute for Recent History (IRIR) and with the logistic support of Yad Vashem, Israel. It was advertised through a press release in April 2004. Information on the program appeared in *Revista 22* and *Observatorul Cultural*, two of the main Romanian cultural magazines. The event was also announced through the Ministry of Education and the County School Inspectorates, which supported their organization by informing the teachers, allowing them to miss classes during the duration of the event and recognizing the certificates issued by the organizers attesting to their training as trainers in Holocaust education. Posters advertising the event were put on the board of the Faculties of Letters, Philosophy, Foreign Languages, Political Sciences and History.

The participants were given a set of documentary materials designed to assist them in their teaching and research activities: the volume « The Holocaust and Romania : History and Contemporary Significance » published by the Institute for Political Studies of Defence and Military History together with the Goldstein Goren Center of Bucharest University and the Diaspora Research Institute of Tel Aviv University and an interactive CD on the Jewish Cultural Heritage in Romania.

The session was extensively covered by three cultural magazines: *Revista 22*, *Observatorul Cultural* (both also available on the Internet) and *Realitatea Evreiasca*, and by an Israel based on-line Internet journal: *Buna Dimineata, Romania*.

The session works were filmed by a specialized team and a documentary film is going to be made based on it, to be used as resource material for future reference and for developing other similar events. Several shots were already assembled in a sample short film (sent to the CoE by snail mail).

Papers presented during the session will be published in a volume – a specially designed issue of *Studia Hebraica*, the annual review of the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies, to be printed in December.

ACTIVITY 2

1. Title of activity: **Information seminar on the condition and role of minorities in the national past**

2. Date and place of activity: **May 6-8, 2004, University of Bucharest (Goldstein Goren Center)**

3. Programme of activity including times, topics, speakers:

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Section 1: Multiculturalism, interethnic and inter-religious dialogue

Moderator: Dr. Liviu Papadima

- 9.00-9.30 From the Jewishness of Europe to the Europeanism of Jews (Liviu Rotman, Tel Aviv Univ, Israel)
- 9.30-10.00 A viable multicultural society – the case of Banat (Victor Neumann, Western Univ, Timisoara)
- 10.00-10.30 *Coffee break*
- 10.30-11.00 Romanian tolerance to minorities: between myth and reality (Andrei Oisteanu, Goldstein Goren Center, Bucharest)
- 11.00-11.30 Elementary morality: Swabians and Romanians in Transylvanian villages (Vasile Morar, Bucharest Univ)
- 11.30-12.00 Debates

12.00-14.00 *Lunch break*

Section 2: Jewish identity in the 21st century

Moderator: Dr. Liviu Rotman

- 14.00-14.30 Jewish contributions to Romanian culture: Moses Gaster (Mariuca Stanciu, Goldstein Goren Center, Bucharest)
- 14.30-15.00 Image of the Israelite elite in the obituaries of *Egalitatea* (Jewish newspaper) during 1925-1930 (Anca Ciuciu, Center for the History of Romanian Jews, Bucharest)
- 15.00-15.30 Usage of the "Judeo-bolshevism" thesis by the Romanian press during WWII (George Voicu, Bucharest Univ)
- 15.30-16.00 Condition of the Jews in the Arab countries following WWII (1945-1955) (Cristina Toma, Bucharest Univ)
- 16.00-17.00 Debates
- 17.00 Cocktail

Friday, May 7, 2004

Section 3: The Holocaust as a defining trait of Jewish identity

Moderator: Andrei Oisteanu

- 9.00-9.30 Theologia gloriae and modern anti-Semitism. Voltaire, Wagner & Hitler (Gina Pana, Center for the History of Romanian Jews, Bucharest)
- 9.30-10.00 Holocaust education (Felicia Waldman, IDEE, Bucharest)
- 10.00-10.30 *Coffee break*
- 10.30-11.00 The Holocaust in recent European culture (Mihai Chioveanu, Romanian Institute for Recent History/ Bucharest Univ)
- 11.00-11.30 Public space, symbolic history and perception of the Holocaust in post-communist Hungary (Michael Shafir, Radio Free Europe, Prague, Czech Republic)
- 11.30-12.00 Debates
- 12.00-14.00 *Lunch break*

Section 4: Special section for students and graduates

Moderator: Drd. Mariuca Stanciu

- 14.00-14.30 Image of the Jew in the Nazi propaganda (Ioana Surpateanu)
- 14.30-15.00 Image of the Jew in the Triod (Anca Harnagea)
- 15.00-15.30 Anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, anti-racism during the second Intifada (as reflected in the French press 2000-2003) (Alina Punga)
- 15.30-16.00 Genesis of negationism in the European space (Ana Barbulescu)
- 16.00-16.30 Racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia: freedom of communication on the Internet (Stefania Nalbant)
- 16.30-17.00 Debates
- 17.00 Cocktail

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Section 5: Cultural heritage of national minorities – case studies

Moderator: G-ral. Mihail Ionescu

- 9.30-10.00 Participation of Hungarians in post-1989 Romanian political life (Anton Niculescu, Dmocratic Union of Hungarians in Romania)
- 10.00-10.30 The Armenians (Varujan Vosganian, Union of Armenians in Romania)
- 10.30-10.45 On the International Commission for the Study of the Romanian Holocaust (G-ral. Mihail Ionescu, Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History, Bucharest)
- 10.45-11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.00-11.30 The title of the Jewish community in Alba Iulia – reference point for its evolution (Ana Maria Caloianu, Babes-Bolyai Univ, Cluj)
- 11.30-12.00 The "Romanian Jewish Heritage" Project (Alexandru Florian, Spiru Haret Univ, Bucharest)
- 12.00-12.30 The Roma people in Samudaripen (Holocaust) (Petre Petcut, Aven Amentza, Bucharest)
- 12.30-13.00 Debates
- 13.00-14.00 *Lunch*

4. Number and type of participants: 36

5 history teachers

12 students

10 academics and researchers

2 representatives of Jewish organizations

2 representatives of German organizations

2 representatives of the media

2 Israeli diplomats (including the Ambassador)

1 representative of the Council of Europe's Information Center

5. Description of activity (conclusions, media coverage)

The seminar was organized by IDEE Association in cooperation with the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies of Bucharest University and the Romanian Institute for Recent History (IRIR). It was advertised through a press release in April 2004. Information on the program appeared in *Revista 22* and *Observatorul Cultural*, two of the main Romanian cultural magazines. The event was also announced through the Ministry of Education and the County School Inspectorates, which supported their organization by informing the teachers, allowing them to miss classes during the duration of the event and recognizing the certificates issued by the organizers attesting to their training as trainers in Holocaust education. Posters advertising the event were put on the board of the Faculties of Letters, Philosophy, Foreign Languages, Political Sciences and History.

The seminar was extensively covered by three cultural magazines: *Revista 22*, *Observatorul Cultural* (both also available on the Internet) and *Realitatea Evreiasca*, and by an Israel based on-line Internet journal: *Buna Dimineata, Romania*.

Papers presented during the seminar will be published in a volume – a specially designed issue of *Studia Hebraica*, the annual review of the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies, to be printed in December 2004.

ACTIVITY 3

1. Title of activity: **international round table on the current condition and role of ethnic minorities and their relevance in the social and political field, organized under the title “Minorities’ Problems as Reflected in the Romanian Public Space”**

2. Date and place of activity: **November 12, 2004, University of Bucharest (Goldstein Goren Center)**

3. Programme of activity including times, topics, speakers: **17.00 – 19.30**

Moderator: Andrei Oisteanu

Speakers:

Leon Volovici (Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

Raphael Vago (Professor, Tel Aviv University, Israel)

Jean Ancel (Senior researcher, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel)

Liviu Rotman (Researcher, Tel Aviv University, Israel)

Michael Shafir (Coordinator, Radio Free Europe, editor in chief East European Perspectives, Prague, Czech Rep.)

Michele Sarfatti (Director, Center for Jewish Documentation, Milan, Italy)

Victor Neumann (Professor, Western University, Timisoara)

Vasile Ionescu (President, Roma Center for Public Policies, Aven Amentza, Bucharest)

Zoltan Tibori Szabo (Romanian correspondent of daily NEPSZABADSAG of Budapest)

William Totok (Political analyst, Berlin, Germany)

George Voicu (Professor, National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest)

4. Number and type of participants: 60

20 academics and researchers/experts

15 students

10 journalists

6 representatives of the civil society (NGOs)

5 representatives of Jewish organizations

2 representatives of Roma organizations

1 representative of the German minority

1 representative of the Hungarian minority

5. Description of activity (conclusions, media coverage)

The round table was organized by IDEE Association in cooperation with the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies of Bucharest University. It was advertised through a press release at the beginning of November 2004. Information on the program appeared in *Revista 22* and *Observatorul Cultural*, two of the main Romanian cultural magazines. Posters advertising the event were put on the board of the Faculties of Letters, Philosophy, Foreign Languages, Political Sciences and History.

The round table’s program included 11 speakers. After the speakers’ interventions participants were invited to present their own comments and views, which resulted in an interesting and vivid debate on the condition and role of minorities in Romanian society today, from a comparative perspective. The debate revealed that ethnic minorities face at the same time very similar but also very different problems in their relations with

the majority. This has to do both with local historical developments and with stereotypes (positive as well as negative) deeply embedded in popular mentalities, which are not always grounded in reality. On the other hand, the special emphasis laid by many speakers on the memory of the Holocaust (which in Romania involves – on different sides and to various extents, of course – Jews, Gypsies, Hungarians, Germans and even Armenians) shows that today, 60 years after World War II, identity is still shaped by reference to that cataclysmic event of the 20th century.

The round table was covered by the main news agencies (*Rompres*, *Mediafax*, whose representatives attended it), by newspapers *Ziua*, *Cotidianul*, *Divers* and *Realitatea Evreiasca*, and by an Israel based on-line Internet journal: *Buna Dimineata, Romania*.

The transcript of the round table was included in a specially designed issue of *Studia Hebraica*, the annual review of the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies.

ACTIVITY

1. Title of activity: **Evaluation meeting**

2. Date and place of activity: **December 22, 2004, IDEE Association**

3. Programme of activity including times, topics, speakers: **16.00 – 18.00**

Present: Felicia Waldman (Project manager), George Tudor (project assistant), Bogdan Mireanu & Victoria Timofte (PR assistants), Ion Dogeanu (accountant); partners – Mihai Chioveanu (IRIR), Mariuca Stanciu (“Goldstein Goren” Center); speakers from the 3 events – Gina Pana, Andrei Oisteanu, Oliver Lustig; participants: Didona Didea, Iosif Mogos (history teachers)

4. Number and type of participants: **12 (organizers, partners, guests, participants)**

5. Description of activity (conclusions, media coverage)

The evaluation meeting was held on the premises of IDEE Association, in the presence of all those involved in the project: project manager, project assistant, PR assistant and accountant. We also invited representatives of our two partners: the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies of Bucharest University and the Romanian Institute for Recent History (IRIR), 3 speakers and 2 participants.

Discussions were focused on the successes and weaknesses of the three events and on manners to improve the organization of similar manifestations. The cooperation between the partners but also with the speakers and participants was found to be excellent and plans were made for future joint projects. Participants in the meeting evaluated the project’s impact on the target group but also on the media and found the results satisfactory. The first two events were extensively covered by 3 important Romanian publications and an Israeli one and the third event was covered by 2 press agencies, 4 Romanian papers and an Israeli journal.

A change has been detected in the general attitude towards minorities – with a special emphasis on the recognition of the Holocaust – during the last months, to which this project has contributed to a visible extent, by bringing forward the view of international experts in the field and by allowing representatives of the various national minorities to speak up about their experience.

ACTIVITY 4

1. Title of activity: **Press conference: presentation of the specially designed issue of *Studia Hebraica*, including the works of the seminar and training session and the transcript of the round table interventions**

2. Date and place of activity: **January 31, 2005, University of Bucharest (Goldstein Goren Center)**

3. Programme of activity including times, topics, speakers: **17.00 – 19.00**

HE Rodica Radian Gordon, Israeli Ambassador to Romania

HE Svante Kilander, Swedish Ambassador to Romania

Felicia Waldman, Project Manager, IDEE Association

Dr. Liviu Papadima, Director of the “Goldstein Goren” Center

Liviu Rotman (contributor)

Andrei Oisteanu (contributor)

Alexandru Florian (contributor)

Mihai Chioveanu (contributor)

Mihail Ionescu (contributor)

Mariuca Stanciu (contributor)

4. Number and type of participants: 55

20 experts

10 media representatives

10 representatives of NGOs

5 representatives of minorities – Jewish, Hungarian and Roma

10 students

5. Description of activity (conclusions, media coverage)

The press conference was held on the premises of the Goldstein Goren Center. It was organized in cooperation with the Center and with the Israeli Embassy in Romania.

The speakers referred to the results of the project materialized in *Studia Hebraica*, underlining that knowledge is the best way to ensure the improvement of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations. It is through projects like this that the various minorities have the opportunity to meet and share experience but also to build bridges towards the majority, thus promoting Council of Europe values such as tolerance.

Copies of *Studia Hebraica* are being distributed to institutional audiences which include: the Romanian Presidency, relevant ministries and agencies (Foreign Affairs, Education, Culture, Cults, etc.), universities, public libraries, minorities' organizations, NGOs dealing with inter-ethnic relations, international organizations, publications, etc. The project results will thus reach over 200 key opinion leaders.

The event was covered by Radio Delta – Radio France International (interview with the project manager), Radio Romania Cultural (presentation of *Studia Hebraica*), the International Division of the Romanian Television (interview with the project manager), Radio Romania International (interview with organizers and contributors), the Cultural Division of the Romanian Television (interview with contributors), OTV (a local TV network which filmed the event), *Mediafax* press agency, publications *Divers*, *Cotidianul*, *Realitatea*, *Evreiasca* and *Buna dimineata, Israel* (press cut attached).

III CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter, project managers are requested to provide their own evaluation of the successes and weaknesses of the project (i.e. to what extent the objectives of the project have been reached).

Successes:

Extent to which objective I was achieved:

- a total of 20 different teachers, 22 students and 15 other experts were given accurate and extensive information on the history and cultural heritage of Romanian ethnic minorities, with an emphasis on Jews and the Holocaust as a particularly sensitive case, and were turned into resource persons trained to identify and overcome stereotypes, confront the negative past and understand the condition and role of ethnic minorities in the national past;

- **the target group was clearly extended by the round table which managed to gather together – besides academics, experts and students – a number of 20 opinion leaders representing the media and civil society**

- 10 teachers and 3 students were from outside Bucharest, thus ensuring a wider geographical coverage of the project;

- participants were of Romanian, Jewish, German, Hungarian and Roma ethnic origin

Extent to which objective II was achieved:

- the target group was trained on Council of Europe values, particularly in the fields of human and minority rights, interethnic dialogue and intercultural relations and were taught to overcome intolerance, xenophobia, stereotypes and prejudices.

- the target group was largely increased by the press conference and the dissemination of the project results to about 200 opinion leaders (public figures, politicians, journalists, NGO representatives, academics) and to most of the main institutional audiences.

Weaknesses:

- Due to various reasons (communication with the Ministry of Education, timing of the event) the organizers did not manage to gather the intended 15 teachers for the information seminar; however, this shortage was counterbalanced by the fact that the training session was attended by 19 teachers, of which 10 came from outside Bucharest. Also, the participants received the volume including the seminar works (*Studia Hebraica* 4/2004) thus gaining access to the information they missed.

- The evaluation questionnaires filled in by the participants revealed that they would have welcomed an even stronger emphasis on teaching methodologies
- **The round table showed that vivid debates are the best way to ensure a true exchange of views and experiences and a wider coverage in the media ; therefore a heavier accent should be put on these type of events in the future**

Information should be provided about the results of questionnaires, interviews or surveys carried out by project managers or independent third parties during or after the implementation of the project.

Questionnaires were given to all participants during both events and they were duly filled in. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the maximum) all questionnaires graded both events between 3 and 5. The speakers' contribution, the information obtained during the events and the new perspectives brought on the subjects in discussion were mostly evaluated at 5, while the extent to which the events contributed to the improvement of the participants' teaching skills was evaluated at 4 and 3. Thus, future similar events shall have to consider a stronger emphasis on new teaching methodologies.

Interviews carried out by the project manager but also by some of the speakers with various participants revealed that they found the events highly useful because thus they gained access to information and perspectives otherwise unavailable in Romania at the moment. Many had no prior background in the subjects at all, although they are supposed to teach them.

A survey carried out by the project manager one month after the events in Craiova County, where one of the participants is the History Inspector within the County School Inspectorate, revealed that he was already acting as a trainer, using the information and the materials received during the training in meetings he organized with local history teachers. He expressed his satisfaction for the opportunity to take part in the events and his willingness to prove that he was a good investment.

The survey carried out among the participants by the Ministry of Education in view of identifying the best projects resulting from their training showed that many of them were among the most impressive in the country, leading to their selection for a special course at Yad Vashem.

Information should also be provided about possible follow-up projects under preparation or currently being implemented within or outside the budgetary framework of the Confidence-building Measures Programme.

Follow-up projects (all outside the budgetary framework of the CBM programme):

Romania has chosen October 9 as the National Holocaust Remembrance Day, but also as the Holocaust Remembrance Day in schools. **All 20 history teachers who took part in the training came up with follow-up projects consisting in activities designed to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.** Some of them are even considering longer and wider follow-up projects, such as "school circles" and optional classes on the topics approached by the training session, encounters with Holocaust survivors and visits to minorities' museums, drawings exhibitions and essays contests related to inter-ethnic relations. Teachers provided reports on the evolution of their respective projects. **The survey carried out among them showed that their projects for the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Romania were used as an example for many other teachers, thus proving the success of this project, which has managed to turn them into resources persons. So impressive were their initiatives that some of them were reflected by the national media (press cut attached).**

IDEE is already preparing a new project designed to use the experience accumulated so far. The new project will put a heavier accent on teaching methodologies and on round tables and media campaigns as a tool to influence public opinion on inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations.

**The total length of the activity report should be no more than 5 pages.
No appendices should be attached. Project Managers should send their reports on e-mail.**