

**New Technologies, Jewish  
History, and Digital Storytelling  
Connecting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Students  
to 20<sup>th</sup> Century History**

**International Seminar for 45 Educators  
and NGO representatives from Ukraine,  
Moldova, Poland and Germany**

**March 30–April 1, 2017  
Lviv, Ukraine**

A project operated by Centropa, SII and Mnemonics

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Federal Foreign Office

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# Imprint

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[centropa.org](http://centropa.org)

## Take away quotes from participants

“The fate of each person is unique. Our students started to bring photos of their relatives, shared information about the childhood of grandparents or great-grandparents, how they worked, served in the army, studied in school, experienced difficult war times. The students could find many similarities in the histories of their families compared to the “Ukrainian Jewish album”. Everyone agreed that it gives a unique opportunity to get to know each other.”

– KATERYNA DANYLOVA, MYKOLAYIV, UKRAINE



“For me it is important that there are enthusiasts who deliver such serious topics to students in an interesting manner. It is the knowledge of our own history, and its tragic aspects that will help future generations to remain humans in any situations, and that will not allow repetition.”

– OLENA KREMER, KYIV, UKRAINE



“Seminars like this one are very important and useful, as they help to develop the creativity of teachers.”

– TETYANA CHERNENKO, NIZHYN



## Executive summary

45 participants from Poland, Ukraine and Germany attended the fourth Trans. History seminar, which took place on March 30-April 1 2017 in Lviv. Over the course of two days, education professionals and civil society actors met to discuss how to teach 20th Century Ukrainian-Jewish History and the Holocaust to 21st Century Students.

Some of the seminar highlights:

- > Lecture by Vladyslava Moskalets, historian from Lviv, on “The Jewish heritage of Galicia.”
- > Presentation of the exhibition “The Ukrainian Jewish Family Album” in Lviv Public School of Eastern languages
- > A Jewish walking tour around Lviv Jewish quarter
- > Professional development workshops run by two education specialists
- > Presentations on Centropa’s educational materials – by veteran teachers and education multipliers from Poland, Moldova and Ukraine
- > Screening of Ukrainian Centropa film “Return to Rivne” on Holocaust survivors from Rivne; followed by group work sessions where participants brainstormed ideas about how to use these materials in educational settings
- > Screening of Centropa’s new film on Moldovan Jewish history to a selected pilot group of teachers
- > Announcement of the winners of Ukrainian student film competition and screening of the winning films.

The seminar was led by Ed Serotta, Director of Centropa, and Fabian Rühle, Director of Education in Europe for Centropa. Seminar logistics were coordinated by Esther Cotoarba, Centropa’s Education Coordinator from Vienna, Society Initiatives Institute, presented by Taras Repytskyi and Viktor Petrov, who coordinated logistics of the seminar. We also thank our partners from NGO Mnemonics – Natalia Ivchik and Petro Dolganov for their assistance in the organization of the exhibition.

Since we believe no one can teach a teacher better than another teacher, a large part of our seminars is spent watching Centropa multimedia films, then brainstorming in small groups about how the teachers can use them in their classes and school programming. We ask the teachers to write lesson plans based on our materials. That way, we give them an opportunity to use their expertise to create the lessons they need for the students they teach, and for three reasons:

- > teachers come to us from different cultures, small towns and large cities, wealthy and poor areas, and each knows what his or her students will respond to;
- > we value teachers, and have seen that when they design lessons they create learning experiences we never would have considered;
- > when teachers create their own lessons, they use them.



By investing in teachers in this way, we build sustainability. When they feel empowered, they become stakeholders and will carry the projects through. After every seminar, we conduct online surveys, and here is what we learned from this one:

- > 95% expressed interest to bring our exhibition to their town (NOTE: after the seminar, 14 participants ordered the exhibition right away)
- > 84% of the participants found it useful to work in international groups and discuss projects with colleagues from Germany and Poland
- > 78% of the participants indicated they will use Centropa's films on Ukrainian Jewish history and the Holocaust in educational settings
- > 82% of respondents found the Jewish walking tour in Lviv very useful
- > 97% of the participants stated that they are or will be using Trans History website's educational materials in their schools or institutions
- > 61% found the lecture on Galician Jewish heritage helpful and applicable to their professional work.

Thank you for reading this report.

**Fabian Rühle**  
European Director of Education,  
Centropa Hamburg  
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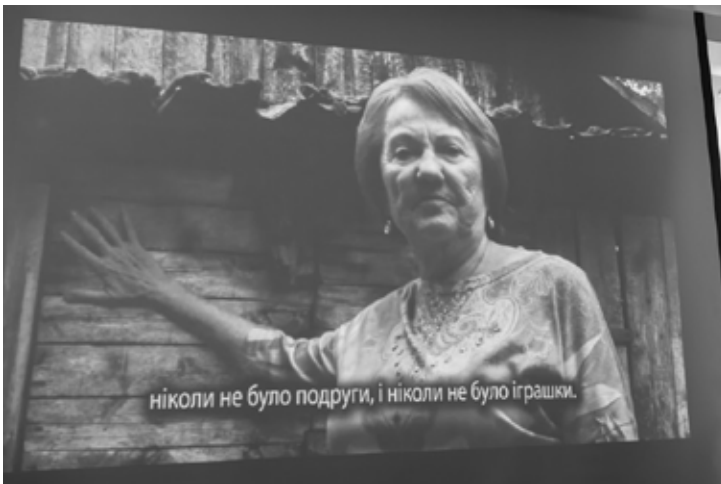
**Ed Serotta**  
Director of Centropa Vienna  
[serotta@centropa.org](mailto:serotta@centropa.org)

## The tools we work with in Ukraine



### Films

Return to Rivne. Shelly Weiner and Raya Kizhnerman live in Greensboro, NC. But these two kindly grandmothers were born in the bustling city of Rivne—then in Poland, now in Ukraine. In 1941 20,000 Jews lived in Rivne, but when the German troops stormed into town, they murders every Jew they could find. How Shelly and Raya survived the massacre is a story they tell themselves, not long after they visited Rivne in 2013. Along with another film in Ukrainian, this film is available on our website, and is being used by dozens of Ukrainian teachers.





## The Centropa Ukrainian Jewish Family Album

In Lviv ,we introduced new participants to our exhibition “The Centropa Ukrainian Jewish Family Album”. On 15 panels, features excerpts from Centropa interviews with Ukrainian Jewish Holocaust survivors. Through photos and stories, our interviewees tell us about their vacations, school, work, and Jewish life. The second section, “In Dark Times” , has panels with stories and pictures of the Holodomor, the Holocaust, Babyn Yar, and evacuation. The interviews and photos are put into context by historical maps and other background information. Until today, the exhibition has been shown in 15 Ukrainian locations. The exhibition is accompanied by a bilingual brochure (see pictures below), which is also available as an online PDF on our website, [www.trans-history.org](http://www.trans-history.org).

# Participants

## Ukrainian participants

Surname	Name	City, Region	Institution	Occupation	Town p.
Mahmudova	Inna	s.Vidradne, Zaporizhya region	Vidradne public school	teacher of History	1 300
Palamarchuk	Evgen	s.Novoselytsya, Chernivtsi region	Department of education of District state administration	Teacher of social and humanitarian disciplines	40 000
Paksytkina	Yuliana	Kyiv		journalist	2 700 000
Volkova	Aliona	s.Petropil, Zaporizhya region	Petropil public school	teacher	
Tymkiv	Vira	Lviv	Center of Urban History	assistant of educational program	860 000
Karimova	Angela	Chernivtsi	Chernivtsi public school #5	teacher of History	264 000
Sydorenko	Tetiana	Gadiach, Poltava region	Gadiach special boarding school	teacher of History	
Kharchenko	Artem	Kharkiv	Kharkiv National technical university	teacher of History	1 400 000
Myronchuk	Petro	Rivne	Rivne school-lyceum #2	teacher of History	250 000
Sheremet	Viacheslav	Dnipro	Dnipro national technical-economical lyceum #61	teacher of History	950 000
Bilchenko	Olena	s. Novokostyantynivka, Mykolaiv region	Novokostyantynivka public school	teacher of History	1 500
Voronetska	Valentyna	Vinnytsya	Vinnytsya humanitarian gymnasium #1	teacher of History	680 000
Kurochka	Inna	Chernihiv	School of foreign languages "Centr Uspikh"	teacher of English and German	
Levchenko	Arina	Drugkivka, Donetsk region	Public school #7	teacher of Ukrainian and Literature	80 000
Pysanets	Maryna	Kyiv	Educational Complex 141 "ORT"	teacher of English	2 700 000
Porohnyak	Nataliia	Ternopil	Galician colledge, gymnasium "Harmoniya"	teacher of English	300 000



Kremer	Olena	Kyiv	NGO "Khalom"	NGO worker	2 700 000
Samohotov	Anatolij	s.Chervona Sloboda, Cherkasy region	Chervona Sloboda public school #1	teacher of History	10 000
Chernenko	Tetiana	Nigyn, Chernihiv region	Chernihiv MAN of student youth	teacher of History	70 000
Tsybulska	Kateryna	Ternopil	School number 30, Gymnasium "Harmony"	teacher of English	300 000
Petrovskyj	Dmytro	s.Vediltsi, Chernihiv region	Vediltsi public school	Director, teacher of history	1 100
Danylova	Kateryna	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv public school #53	teacher of History	500 000
Zasanska	Nadiia	Sambir, Lviv region	Public school #8	teacher of English	40 000
Vitrynska	Olena	Poltava	Poltava national university	teacher of History	300 000
Kadyuk	Viktoriia	Kyiv	Educational Complex № 141 «ORT»	teacher of English	2 700 000
Petrov	Viktor	Lviv	Society Initiatives Institute	NGO worker	860 000
Repytskyi	Taras	Lviv	Society Initiatives Institute	NGO worker	860 000
Sakivska	Svitlana	Kyiv	Educational Complex № 141 «ORT»	teacher of English	2 700 000
Ivchyk	Nataliia	Rivne	NGO "Mnemonics"	History, social studies, NGO worker	260 000
Raucher Osborn	Marla	Rohatyn, Ivano-Frankivsk region	Rohatyn Jewish heritage	NGO worker	9 000
Osborn	Jay	Rohatyn, Ivano-Frankivsk region	Rohatyn Jewish heritage	NGO worker	9 000
Olenenko	Lyudmyla	Kamyanka-Dniprovska, Zaporizhzhya region	Gymnasium "Skifiya"	teacher of History	12 000
Halanyk	Oksana	Lviv	Lviv special boarding school n.a. S. Krushelnytska	teacher of History	860 000
Byk	Hanna	Chervonohrad, Lviv region	Higher professional school #11	Teacher of philosophy	80 100
Dubok	Tetiana	Znam'ianka, Kirovograd region	Znam'ianka Public school #1	teacher of History, Ukrainian language and literature	25 000

Matyashchuk	Valentyna	Lviv	Lviv Regional Institute of Postgraduate Education	NGO worker	860 000
Vinichenko	Olha	Avgustynivka, Zaporizhya region	Avgustynivka Public school	teacher of History	900
Kondratyuk	Anna	Lviv	High school of physical education	teacher of History	860 000
Kolesnikova	Elyzaveta	Lviv	Public school #84	Social pedagogist	860 000
Rudnytska	Nataliia	Zhytomyr	Zhytomyr state university	teacher of History	270 000
Horobchuk	Lydmyla	Korostyshiv, Zhytomyr region	Korostyshiv state gymnasium #1	teacher of History	25 000

## International participants

Surname	Name	City	Country
Becker	Gottfried	Mannheim	Germany
Goncearova	Tatiana	Chisinau	Moldova
Chiurpea	Anna	Chisinau	Moldova
Cojocar	Grigore	Chisinau	Moldova
Kostetskaya	Svetlana	Chisinau	Moldova
Jaros	Jacek	Kielce	Poland
Mieszczynska	Joanna	Olsztyn	Poland
Richter	Silvia	Berlin	Germany
Wawrzyński	Michał	Bydgoszcz	Poland

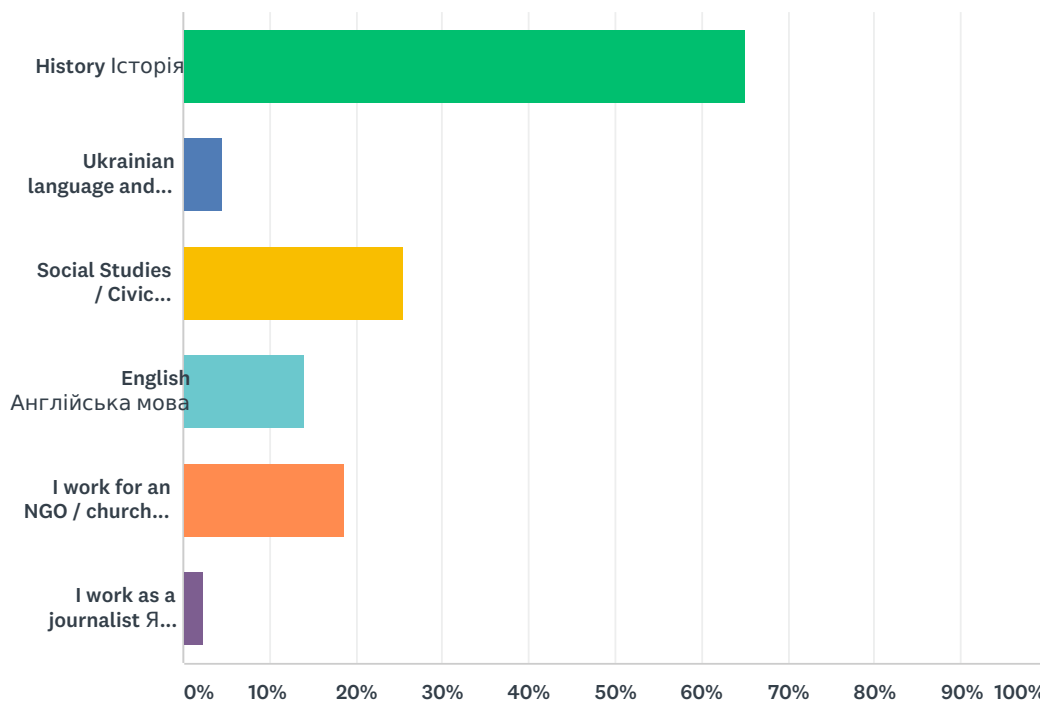
## Centropa staff

Serotta	Edward	Vienna	Austria
Ruehle	Fabian	Hamburg	Germany
Cotoarba	Esther	Vienna	Austria

# Survey results

## What do you teach?

**💬 If you are a teacher: What do you teach? If you are a multiplier, please tell us in the “Other” field what you do!**



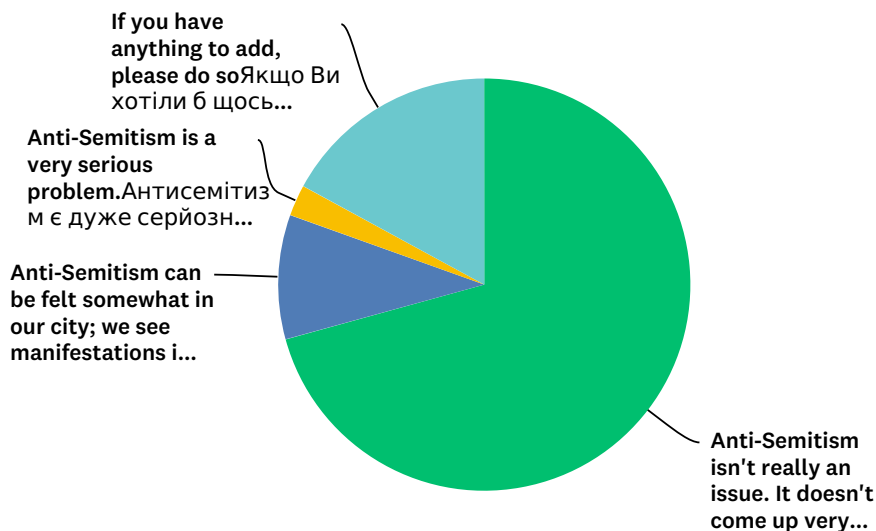
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
History Історія	65.12%	28
Ukrainian language and literature Українська мова та література	4.65%	2
Social Studies / Civic Education Соціальні науки/Громадянська освіта	25.58%	11
English Англійська мова	13.95%	6
I work for an NGO / church Я працюю в громадській організації/церкві	18.60%	8
I work as a journalist Я працюю журналістом	2.33%	1
Total Respondents: 43		

## Seminar goals

Centropa stories and the connected educational materials focus on how Jews lived before the Holocaust, as well as how they rebuilt their lives after the war - in other words, we expand teachers' understanding of what it means to teach the Holocaust by including Jewish life before and after those terrible events. With the following set of questions we wanted to know if our seminar changes how teachers think about 20th century Jewish history, and whether our materials can be useful in combating intolerance, anti-semitism and promoting civil society.

Attitude towards the level of anti-semitism in local context:

### How would you describe anti-Semitism in your town today?

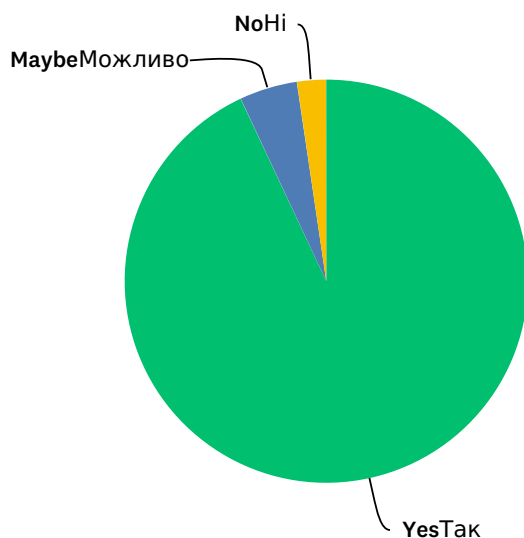


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Anti-Semitism isn't really an issue. It doesn't come up very much. Прояви антисемітизму незначні. Це трапляється вкрай рідко.	70.73%	29
Anti-Semitism can be felt somewhat in our city; we see manifestations in the press and as graffiti. Прояви антисемітизму трапляються в нашому місті - в пресі та графіті.	9.76%	4
Anti-Semitism is a very serious problem. Антисемітизм є дуже серйозною проблемою.	2.44%	1
If you have anything to add, please do so Якщо Ви хотіли б щось додати, напишіть	17.07%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>41</b>

Most of the respondents expressed the attitude, that anti-semitism is not an issue in Ukrainian society. However, some of the respondents agree, that the issue of anti-semitism is still present on domestic level.

## Watching Centropa films

On Friday, we showed the Centropa film “Return to Rivne” in English with Ukrainian subtitles. The film tells the story of two Jewish girls who were born in the 1930s in Rivne, when around 25,000 Jews lived there. When the Germans invaded in 1941, they murdered every Jew they could find. Shelly and Raya, however, were saved by their Ukrainian non-Jewish neighbors. Do you think you will use this film? Please tell us how! If you do not plan to use, please tell us why.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YesТак	93.02%	40
MaybeМожливо	4.65%	2
NoHi	2.33%	1
TOTAL		43

“This film is necessary for using both in the classroom and in extracurricular work. The story of Shelly and Raya, who were rescued by Ukrainian family, showed that even in the in the difficult times of war, people were not deprived of humanity, compassion, empathy towards neighbors. These values are necessary to be brought up in the younger generation. The material of this film is quite important and relevant in present times.”

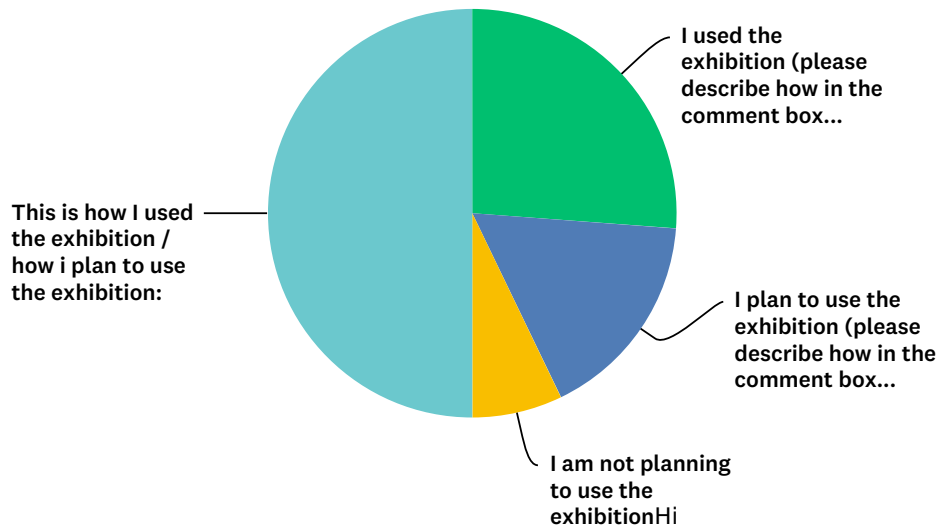
– TETIANA DUBOK, ZNAM’IANKA, KIROVOGRAD REGION, UKRAINE

“I have used this film in History class in the grades IX and XII while teaching the theme ‘The specific characteristics of the Holocaust on the Romanian territory.’ We also developed the didactic project of the integrated lesson of History and Civil Education (in co-working with Svetlana Kostetskaya) in the IX grade.”

– TETIANA GONCEAROVA, CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

## The Centropa Exhibition “The Ukrainian Jewish Family Album”

On Saturday, Centropa Director Ed Serotta, and several of our Ukrainian teachers, guided participants through the English-Ukrainian Trans. History exhibition, “The Ukrainian Jewish Family Album”. The exhibition is divided into 16 panels and two sections: While the first section covers Jewish family stories from the 20th century in general, the second section, “In Dark Times”, covers the fate of Ukrainian Jewry during WW2, as well as the Holodomor. Please tell us below how you have used the exhibition, or how you plan to use the exhibition (either digitally or if you brought / plan on bringing it to your town, the physical exhibition).



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I used the exhibition (please describe how in the comment box below)Так	26.19%	11
I plan to use the exhibition (please describe how in the comment box below)Можливо, однак... (заповніть поле нижче)	16.67%	7
I am not planning to use the exhibitionHi	7.14%	3
This is how I used the exhibition / how i plan to use the exhibition:	50.00%	21
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>42</b>

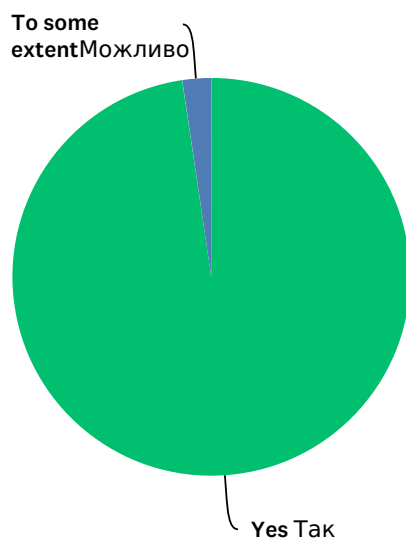
When asked whether the seminar participants learned something by looking through the exhibition and its accompanying brochure, we discovered the true success of the exhibition.

“Touching stories about the destinies of people, who went through many difficulties during the war, interesting numbers and dates, viewing maps.”

– CHIURPEA ANNA, MOLDOVA

## Trans-History website

**🗨️ We introduced our website ([www.trans-history.org](http://www.trans-history.org)) to you, which provides education materials on Holocaust education, Jewish history, and on promoting civil society – all of these materials are available in English, Ukrainian, Polish and German. Is this website useful to you?**

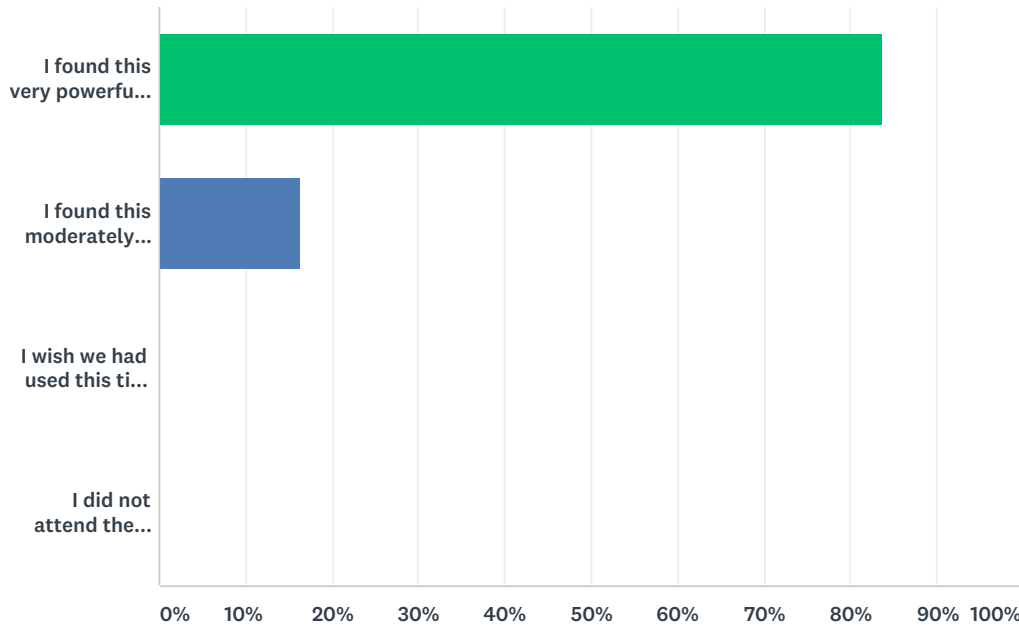


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes Так	97.67%	42
To some extentМожливо	2.33%	1
No Ні	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43</b>

“Students create educational projects, reviewing the history of specific individuals. They learn to analyze and correlate the facts and events of life of individual families, draw conclusions, learn to empathize, take wisdom from the stories of films and stories. They learn to understand that is not the main thing, what is nationality and faith, the important thing is that everyone is special, has a view of life, their history. For example, stories on the site, they write the story of their friends, relatives, history of primary sources, learn to think, to live.”

– ANGELA KARIMOVA, CHERNIVTSI, UKRAINE

**In order to acquaint you with Lviv’s Jewish history, we organized a walking tour of Jewish Lviv on Saturday morning. Please let us know what you thought about this activity.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I found this very powerful, and will share it with my students and colleagues. Ці події були дуже цікавими, і я ділитимуся враженнями зі своїми учнями/студентами та колегами.	83.72% 36
I found this moderately interesting.Я вважаю цей захід частково цікавим.	16.28% 7
I wish we had used this time differently, i.e.Я хотів би використати цей час по-іншому.	0.00% 0
I did not attend the event.Я не був присутній на заході.	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>

Centropa stories and the connected educational materials focus on how Jews lived before the Holocaust, as well as how they rebuilt their lives after the war - in other words, we expand teachers’ understanding of what it means to teach the Holocaust by including Jewish life before and after those terrible events. With the following set of questions we wanted to know if our seminar changes how teachers think about 20th century Jewish history, and whether our materials can be useful in combating intolerance, anti-semitism and promoting civil society.

“Not only students but also teachers are sometimes anti-Semitic, not explicitly but enough to betray a certain hostility towards Jews. Often this attitude is formed on the basis of false information about Jewish history, and sometimes due to ignorance. Centropa materials enable us to explain in simple terms to anyone that the history of the Holocaust - is part of the history of Ukraine, just like the Holodomor”

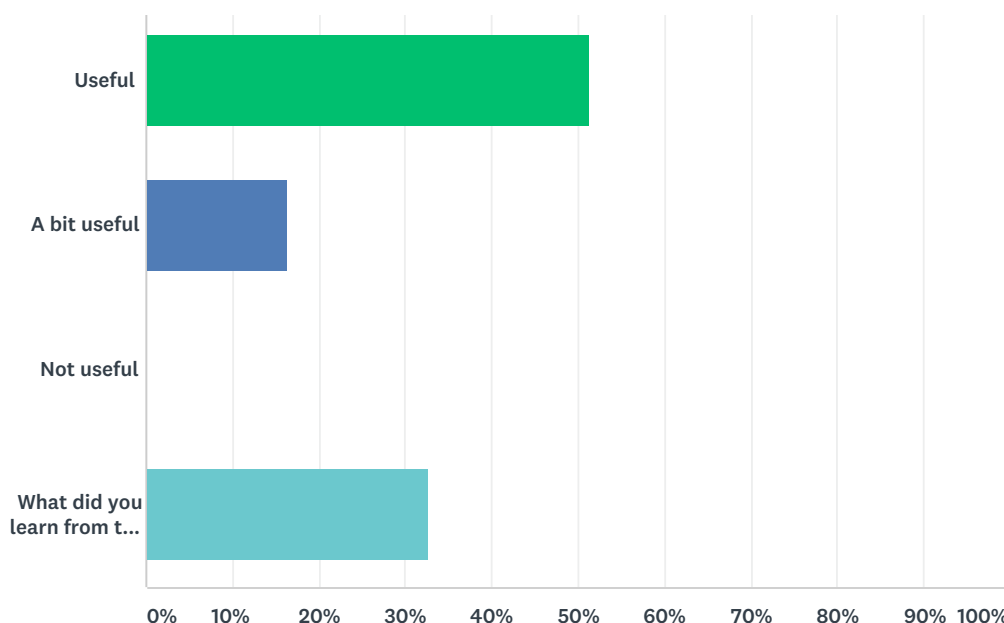
– IRYNA LEVCHUK, RIVNE, UKRAINE



## Lectures about Jewish life and the Holocaust

During the seminar, we had Ukrainian historian Vladyslava Moskalets give a lecture to help our participants expand their knowledge on the history of the Holocaust and Remembrance Culture in Western Ukraine. The below graphs show that the overwhelming majority of participants found the lectures and the ceremony very interesting and useful, and they will share their experience with their students.

**During the seminar, the historian Vladislava Moskalets gave a lecture on the Jewish heritage of Galicia. Please rate this lecture, and tell us the most important thing you learned.**

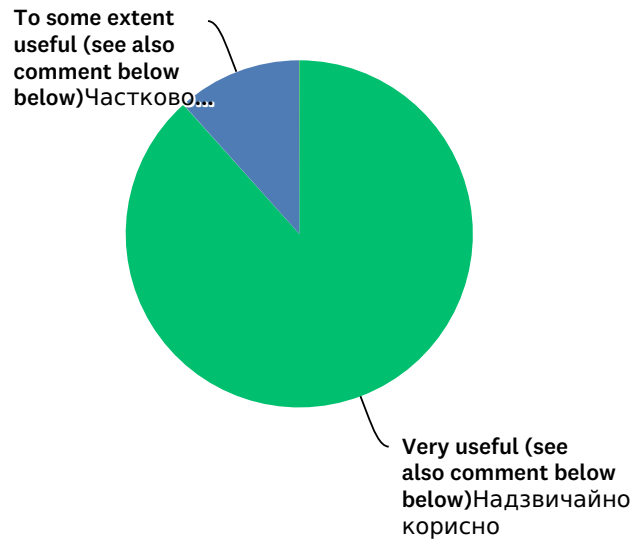


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Useful	51.16%	22
A bit useful	16.28%	7
Not useful	0.00%	0
What did you learn from this lecture?Що нового Ви дізналися після прослуховування лекцій?	32.56%	14
TOTAL		43

## Making lesson plans, engaging teachers

The most important part of Centropa seminars is when teachers work in small groups and come up with ideas about how **they** would use our materials. During this seminar teachers worked on different kinds of lesson plans, and they are going to teach them in their classrooms. Teachers design these lesson plans using the Centropa films available on our website, our traveling exhibition, and our “My Town’s Jewish History” video project. In conclusion, as the below chart indicated, that during the two days of intensive workshops, teachers “absolutely” found these sessions useful and got a lot of ideas and practical knowledge.

**🗨 We asked you to work in small, international groups and develop ideas on how to use the film “Return to Rivne” in class. Tell us what you thought of this activity.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very useful (see also comment below below)Надзвичайно корисно	88.37%	38
To some extent useful (see also comment below below)Частково корисно	11.63%	5
A waste of time (see also comment below below)Марна трата часу	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43</b>

“The work was productive, useful. I liked the ideas – practical work with materials on local history, involving children in research. Using the film promotes empathy, forms critical thinking, analyzing crime totalitarian regimes as they affected the lives of the people.”

– KATERYNA DANYLOVA, MYKOLAYIV, UKRAINE

## Learning from colleagues

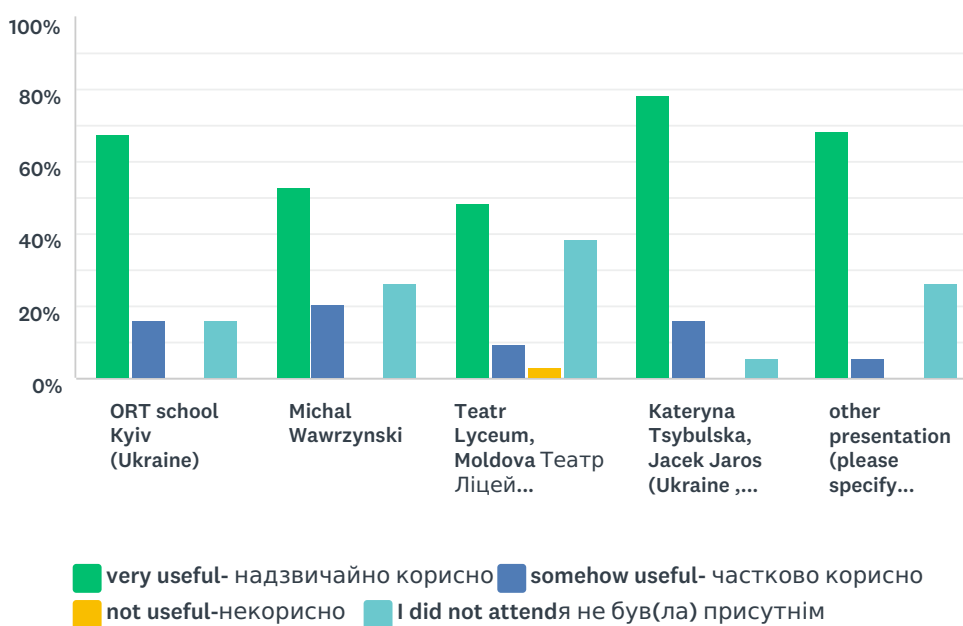
Teachers actively participate in our seminars in two ways:

- > those who have used Centropa share their ideas and lessons, including an assessment of what worked and what didn't;
- > as mentioned above, teachers collaborate on lessons, working together in small groups to develop ideas for using Centropa resources in their classes.

For our Trans.History seminar in Lviv, we invited educators from Poland, Moldova, and Germany to present their projects. In addition, thanks to a grant by ODIHR we invited 6 educators and museum workers from Poland, Slovakia, Macedonia, and Serbia to the seminar to present during a one-day workshop their tools and methods on how to use Centropa materials, and exhibitions, in the classroom to combat anti-semitism and intolerance.

As the graphs below show, more than three fourth of all Ukrainian participants found these presentations by our foreign participants to be very useful.

**During the Marketplace of ideas, several participants - educators and NGO representatives from Ukraine, Germany, Poland and Moldova - shared how they promote civil society while teaching Jewish history in their countries. Please rate each of these presentations, and tell us if they gave you new ideas on how to teach your students on the values of tolerance and non-discrimination. If any of the presentations inspired you to achieve these goals please let us know more about it in the "Other" field.**



# Program

## 31 March 2017 (Friday)

- 11:00-12:00 Registration at Taurus Hotel (5, Kn. Sviatoslava sq.)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:50 Welcome remarks by Ed Serotta, Director of Centropa, and our Ukrainian partners
- 13:00 Icebreaking activity – participants from Ukraine and delegations from Moldova, Germany and Poland split up in small groups to share expectations and experiences
- 13:30 Fabian Rühle, Centropa's European Education Director, and Svetlana Sakovska, English teacher from Kyiv, will introduce the Trans.History website and its educational resources for Ukrainian and Moldovan teachers
- 13:50 Ed Serotta introduces the Centropa film "Return to Rivne". Shelly Weiner and Raya Kizhnerman live in Greensboro, NC. But these two kindly grandmothers were born in Rivne—then in Poland, now in Ukraine. In 1941, 20,000 Jews lived in Rivne, but when the German Wehrmacht and Waffen SS stormed into town, they planned on murdering every Jew. How Shelly and Raya survived the massacre is a story they tell themselves, not long after they visited Rivne in 2013.
- 14:20 Marketplace of ideas: Teachers from Ukraine and Moldova will present their projects how they have used this film and other Centropa projects
- 15:20 Coffee break
- 15:45 Keynote lecture by Vladyslava Moskalets on "The Jewish heritage of Galicia."
- 16:15 Q & A
- 16:30 Participants split in small groups. New Ukrainian teachers develop lesson plan ideas on how to use the "Return to Rivne" film.  
Veteran teachers meet separately with Centropa staff for social media workshop, where we will develop strategies on how Ukrainian and Moldovan teachers can actively network with each other
- 17:15 Participants check in at Taurus hotel
- 17:45 We will walk to local synagogue where we will attend Friday evening Shabbat service (4, Brativ Mikhnovskykh str.)
- 19:30 Welcome dinner at restaurant (18, Kleparivska str.)
- 21:30 Return to hotel

## 1 April 2017 (Saturday)

- 08:15 Walking tour of Jewish Lviv with local historians. Group photo
- 09:45 Participants visit our exhibition on 20th Century Ukrainian Jewish history. Three Ukrainian participants who have used the exhibition will be the tour guides for the rest of the group, and share how they used the exhibition in their towns.
- 10:30 Return to hotel
- 10:45 Working in small groups: Participants discuss how to use the exhibition in combination with the "Return to Rivne" film, and work out project ideas (Coffee and tea will be available).
- 11:45 Presentation of Centropa's new Moldovan film. Introduced by Ed Serotta, who wrote the script for this film.
- 12:30 Lunch at hotel
- 13:30 Short final presentations by each group
- 14:00 Fabian Rühle and Nataliia Ivchik will announce winners of Ukrainian student film competition. Winning films will be shown. We will invite students from the winning school of each competition for the award ceremony.
- 14:30 Participants fill out printed survey.
- 15:00 End of seminar