



CHISINAU SEMINAR

"Connecting Moldovan students with 20th century Jewish history – and with their neighbors."

International training seminar for 45 Moldovan, Ukrainian and German educators and Official opening of the exhibition "The Moldovan Jewish Family Album"

November 15-17, 2017 in Chisinau, Moldova

Underwritten by the German Foreign Office

A Centropa seminar in partnership with International Center for Training and Professional Development (ICTPD)

Take away quotes from participants

"Centropa's Trans.History project aims at keeping the memory of the past by focusing on the development of tolerance in the present and future."

— ANDRIY TIMOFEYUK, KYIV

"Trans.History enables educators to teach teenagers to be not indifferent, compassionate and tolerant."

— TAMARA KAZAK, CHISINAU

"Trans.History brings together like-minded people from different countries. They don't believe in "chalk and talk" but instead give educators the opportunity to present, compare, analyze, exchange experiences. Centropa's short movies "live", are comprehensible and convey the history of the city, the country, enable to experience Jewish life stories. Up to now, there are no such projects at my school. I am eager to fill this gap."

— OLEKSANDRA HOLOVKO, CHERKASY

"This unique project contains a wide range of methods and materials that help educators imparting Jewish life and history in the classroom."

— VERONICA SIRBU, FALESTII NOI

"The materials are fantastic: they are structured in an accessible format that can be translated into the educational context. The teaching materials and films allow us to establish a transnational approach that contributes to the formation of critical thinking and a balanced culture of memory."

— SERGIY KUTYNETS, ZALIZNYTSYA

"Centropa projects are encouraging, versatile and challenging, consistent and purposeful. Collecting interviews, creating online photo albums and describing life stories of Holocaust survivors is invaluable, as it preserves Jewish memories who otherwise would have been lost forever. For Moldova the work by Centropa is even more precious, as no organization before carried out these activities consistently and determinately. Without Trans.History these precious memories would be lost for Moldovans."

— SVETLANA KOSTETSKAYA, CHISINAU

I always come out of Centropa seminars full of new information and new ideas having seen numerous project presentations, having met interesting people who are keepers of memory in their regions. Trans.History is a very important memory-keeping project. It raises tolerance and civil engagement, and interest of your country's diverse history."

— TATIANA GONCHAROVA, CHISINAU



Executive summary

From November 15-17, 2017 Centropa and its Moldovan partner, the International Center for Training and Professional Development (ICTPD), conducted their second Trans.History training seminar in Chisinau, Moldova for 45 Moldovan, Ukrainian and German educators on "Connecting Moldovan students with 20th Century Jewish History – and with their neighbors". Our participants discussed and shared experiences on how to teach 20th Century Moldovan-Jewish History and the Holocaust to 21st Century students creatively and worked in small groups on creating lesson units and concepts for school projects. The seminar also featured historical lectures, workshops and presentations of best practice examples on 20th Century Jewish history by veterans of the Centropa teacher network.

Seminar highlights included:

- > Premiere of Centropa's two Moldovan educational short films about two Moldovan Holocaust survivors – Ivan Barbul and Tamara Koblik
- > Workshop on "How to turn students into active citizens outside the classroom" by Dr. Holger Köhn and Christian Hahn of Bureau of Memory Culture in Babenhausen, Germany.
- > Opening of the new Centropa exhibition "The Moldovan Jewish Family Album" at the National Museum of Ethnography and National History in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Education and Research, the German embassy in Chisinau, and the local Jewish community, as well as members of the Moldovan Parliament
- > Presentation by Michael Heitz, English teacher from Eppingen, Germany, on how to turning a Centropa exhibition opening into a cultural event and gaining attention in the regional media, with a discussion on how to bring the Moldovan Exhibition to schools and libraries.
- > Historical lecture on "How NGOs form collective memory in Ukraine" by Maksym Gon from our Ukrainian partner NGO Mnemonics in Rivne.
- > Presentation on the use of Centropa's film "Return to Rivne" in class by Tatiana Goncharova, teacher from Chisinau.
- > A guided tour of Chisinau's Jewish quarter and Jewish cemetery by Irina Shikhova.

The seminar was led by Fabian Rühle, Director of Education in Europe for Centropa (Germany) and Irina Shikhova, coordinator for Centropa educational activities in Moldova. Seminar logistics were coordinated by Esther Cotoarba with additional support by Maximilian von Schoeler, and our partner organization in Moldova, the International Center of Training and Professional Development, represented by its director, Galina Cargher, and financial director, Roman Odesskii. We also thank the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History for their assistance in the organization of the exhibition and the German Embassy in Chisinau for catering the exhibition opening.

We asked participants of our Trans.History seminar in Chisinau to share their feedback with us in an online survey after the seminar. Here are the most important survey results:

- > 100% of respondents find the Trans.History websites useful for their educational work.
- > 77% of the participants indicated they will use Centropa's new films on Moldovan Jewish history and the Holocaust in educational settings.
- > 81% of the respondents considered the presentation by Tatiana Goncharova from Chisinau, on the use of Centropa's Ukrainian film "Return to Rivne" in the classroom, as very useful, and 77% of the respondents stated they will use this film and share their lesson plan with Centropa.
- > 80% of the respondents found the two workshops by the three invited German experts useful.
- > 60% of the respondents expressed interest to bring our exhibition "The Moldovan Jewish Family Album" to their town. After the seminar the exhibition schedule was already booked for the months January to March. Another 34% of the respondents want to show the exhibition but cited logistical matters as obstacles (administrative difficulties, lack of space or experience).
- > 96% of the respondents found the historical lecture by Maksym Gon on "How NGOs form collective memory in Ukraine" useful.
- > All respondents considered the guided tour of Chisinau's Jewish quarter and the Jewish cemetery useful.
- > 85% of the respondents found it very useful to work in small groups and discuss, develop and share projects with their colleagues.



Thank you for reading this report.

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