

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[Croatian Education and Development Network for the Evolution of Communication] ([HERMES])
PIC number:	[946992086]
Project name and acronym:	Standing up for Remembrance: Testimonies from the Past as Lessons for the Present - Holocaust and Human Rights Education through Oral History — STAND UP

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[7]
Event name:	STAND UP International Youth conference
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb
Date(s):	23-26 April 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://hermes.hr/standup-eds/
Participants	
Female:	34
Male:	14
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Croatia]:	10
From country 2 [Ukraine]:	1
From country 3 [Hungary]:	4
From country 4 [Germany]:	4
From country 5 [Bosnia-Herzegovina]:	6
From country 6 [Serbia]:	4
From country 7 [Slovenia]:	5

From country 8 [Czechia]:	3		
From country 9 [Italy]:	2		
From country 10 [Netherlands]:	3		
From country 11 [North Macedonia]:	4		
From country 12 [Austria]:	1		
From country 13 [USA]:	1		
Total number of participants:	48	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Youth Conference took place from **23 to 26 April 2026**, bringing together 48 individuals, including **41 young people from 11 European countries** (+ 1 from Ukraine and 1 from USA) and 7 organisers, facilitators and youth chaperones. The conference focused on topics revolving around remembrance, Holocaust education, countering antisemitism, promoting inclusion, combating discrimination and prejudice, and raising awareness about the importance of protecting European values. The educational tools presented were designed to help young people address these and other current social challenges within their schools, communities and other peer groups.

Through interactive simulations and practical workshops, participants experienced how the activities can be implemented in practice and developed the skills and confidence to facilitate them in their own local contexts. A dedicated part of the conference was focused on planning participants' follow-up peer educational activities, ensuring that the knowledge, methods, and educational resources gained during the conference would be put into practice after their return home.

The conference agenda was as follows:

On 23 April, participants met in Zagreb city centre before being transferred to Sljeme, hotel Tomislavov dom, the venue of the training workshop. Following a welcome group dinner, they took part in the interactive getting-to-know-each-other activity, which helped them build initial connections, foster a positive group atmosphere, and lay the foundations for successful cooperation throughout the programme.

On 24 April, the programme focused on team building, introducing the Anne Frank Youth Network, and exploring the relationship between contemporary global challenges and history. Participants engaged in a series of interactive ice-breakers, learned about AFYN's activities and opportunities, and took part in a facilitated group dialogue on current world events and the role of history in understanding them. During the afternoon, they worked with AFYN educational toolkit activities addressing historical memory, the Holocaust, and remembrance, before concluding the day with an excursion to Zagreb, including a cable car ride and a guided tour of the city.

On 25 April, participants explored topics of civic engagement, democracy, human rights, and freedom of speech through interactive workshops, group discussions, and practical activities. They exchanged experiences related to educational methodologies, reflected on the importance of active youth participation in democratic societies, and developed plans for follow-up peer education activities to be implemented after the workshop. The programme concluded with a final evaluation, the presentation of certificates, and a farewell celebration.

On 26 April, participants departed home after breakfast.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants were asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire to assess the quality, organisation, and overall impact of the event. The feedback was highly positive, demonstrating an excellent level of participant satisfaction and confirming that the conference successfully met its objectives.

Participants expressed a very high level of satisfaction with the overall organization of the seminar. Nearly **100%** of respondents were satisfied with the accommodation, conference venue, and food.

The seminar successfully met participants' expectations and contributed to their personal development:

- **94%** stated that the seminar contributed to their personal development.
- **94%** reported that the seminar met their expectations.

The most frequently highlighted positive aspects included interactive workshops, the exchange of experiences with young people from different countries, opportunities to meet new people and learn about different cultures, and discussions on democracy, human rights and Holocaust remembrance.

Participants also provided several constructive suggestions, mainly requesting more advanced discussions on certain topics and additional opportunities for active participation. Overall, the evaluation confirms that the seminar was highly successful, with participants expressing a high level of satisfaction with the programme, organisation, and opportunities for learning and international exchange.

One of the participants wrote an article about her experience at the AFYN "Standing Up For Remembrance" Youth Conference in Zagreb. In the article, she reflects on the importance of youth civil engagement, remembrance of historical events such as the Holocaust, human rights, freedom of speech, and the role young people can play in creating positive changes in their communities. She also shares her personal insights from the workshops and discussions held during the conference, highlighting the value of dialogue, empathy, and active participation in society.

The full article is available here: https://masinemisli.substack.com/p/civil-engagement-in-youth-my-experience?utm_source=%2Fsearch%2Fmasinapoezija&utm_medium=reader2

Following the conference, participants organised follow-up activities in schools, community centres, cultural institutions, and other local settings across Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and the Netherlands, covering topics such as democracy, human rights, discrimination, propaganda, and Holocaust remembrance (including Anne Frank's story).

By the beginning of July 2026, **36 Youth Conference** participants had successfully implemented their activities, reaching **over 780 peers**. The follow-up peer education workshops are expected to continue in the coming months, with several activities already planned for August, September, and into the autumn.

After completing their follow-up activities, participants submitted short reports, attendance sheets, and photo documentation of implemented activities. The analysis of the submitted reports revealed several clear patterns and common outcomes: debates and open dialogues consistently generated the strongest engagement, especially on topics like freedom of speech; interactive formats (cards, photos, "step forward" exercises) worked far better than straight presentations; participants were almost always shy at first but opened up as sessions progressed; and personal stories and testimonies proved to be the most powerful tool for building empathy. Time constraints were the most common challenge peer facilitators faced.

A quote from follow-up activity reports that stood out among the reflections shared, from a workshop on democracy in the Czech Republic:

"Democracy had not been destroyed by a single prime minister alone, but by society as a whole - by everyone who supported and voted for that political party... responsibility also lies with those who remain passive and do nothing to oppose the erosion of democracy."

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).