

Partner Search Form

Identification of the applicant	
Name of the organisation	Film and History
Registered address (street, city, country)	Donnerova 17, 841 04 Bratislava, Slovakia
Telephone / Fax	00421 905 462038
Website of the organisation	
Name of the contact person	Dusan Hudec
Email/Telephone of the contact person	dusan.hudec14@gmail.com 00421 903 652580
Short presentation of your organisation (key activities, experience)	<p>Producer, editor, screenwriter and director have worked on many documentary films dedicated to the Holocaust and racial harassment and persecution during World War II. Some of these films (Love Thy Neighbor, Messengers of Hope) have been used by secondary schools as supplementary material for seminars.</p> <p>The goals of our civic organization include the following:</p> <p>Supporting projects that examine sensitive and forbidden historical events that highlight acts of courage of the civilian population;</p> <p>Contributing to the promotion of the ideas of freedom and the protection of democracy against the threat of totalitarian regimes;</p> <p>Calling attention to expressions of anti-Semitism, intolerance and racism in society; and</p> <p>Organizing seminars, symposia, courses, presentations, exhibitions and workshops.</p>
Description of the project	
Action, Measure in the framework of „Europe	European Remembrance

for Citizens” Programme	
Timetable of the project	1.9..2017 – 31.1.2019
Short description of the project, including its aims	<p>In early January 1945, the German Einsatzkommando and members of the Slovak pro-Nazi Hlinka Guards murdered hundreds of people in a lime kiln in the village of Nemecká.</p> <p>Most of the victims were Czechoslovak, Polish, German, Austrian and Hungarian citizens of Jewish religion as well as partisans, enemies of the regime, protestant ministers and others.</p> <p>The murdered were supposed to vanish without a trace, as if they had never existed. It wasn't possible to identify them, as only personal items that were not completely destroyed by fire were left behind. Even today, we don't know about their fate. There was no interest in investigating and uncovering the facts. Perhaps it was because the Hlinka Guards were more involved than was originally reported.</p> <p>The first group was taken to the kiln on January 4, 1945. The Germans began the killing, but gradually the Hlinka Guards got involved and took over. The space around the kiln was surrounded and protected by machine guns. The victims were ordered to turn over all material possessions and to undress down to their underwear. After being shoved to the edge of the kiln and forced to kneel, they were shot in the back of the head and fell into the flames of the boiling lime. In some cases, even the living were thrown into the fire.</p> <p>The fire was continually tended by the Hlinka Guard and the locals thought that they were burning lime. In order to avoid attracting attention, they added tar to the fire to neutralize the smell of burning flesh.</p> <p>The ash and unburnt bones were dumped in the Hron River. They wanted to completely cover up their acts and prevent the victims from being</p>

identified.

Day and night for seven days they shot and burned the victims. One of the groups of the doomed included 5 French partisans. Sensing their impending execution, they tried desperately to escape. They jumped from a moving truck and ran towards the Hron River. But the Hlinka Guards cut them down with machine guns and threw them into the insatiable fire of the kiln with the others.

The Guards typically killed entire families, including women and children; they didn't want to allow a family member to survive who might later avenge the deaths.

The exact number of victims is impossible to determine. Many were not accounted for. The Guards also captured them as they raided the surrounding villages, hiding places in the mountains and trains. They were taken directly to Nemecká where they were executed without trial. It is estimated that from 500 to 900 people died in the flames.

In 1958, a trial was held for 15 Guards who had participated in the murders. Five were sentenced to death and the others were given long prison sentences. They were just doing the dirty work of their commanding officers, most of whom fled to Argentina with their looted gold and silver.

The kiln in Nemecká is known as the 47th oven of Auschwitz. Despite the fact that a horrible massacre took place there, the events associated with it have been inadequately examined and remain shrouded in mystery.

How is it possible that the Guards were able to show such hatred toward their fellow men while thinking that they were acting in the name of God and in defense of their homeland? When did their Christian love for others die? At the trial, one of the Guards admitted that before shooting a young

	<p>woman he “reminded her” to bless herself.</p> <p>The story of the men, women and children who were murdered in Nemecká will be a model situation for uncovering the entire mechanism, the system of persecution and repression, the background and reasons for the hate, the activities of and the relationship between the German and Slovak soldiers, as well as the role of the Church and its priests.</p> <p>Above all, we will try to reconstruct the personal stories of the persecuted men, women and children, and experience their futile battle to survive in the mountains where they were hunted down like animals by the German and Slovak Hlinka Guards and their captivity leading up to their deaths.</p> <p>For the surviving Jews, these murders by incineration represented a multiple trauma. The death of their loved ones wasn’t enough; they also suffered the impossibility of burying the bodies, which is one of the most important duties within the Jewish community, as it was believed to be a guarantee of life after death. The worst possible curse uttered by a Jew is <i>Yimakh shemo</i> (may your name be obliterated). Thus, without a gravestone that bears a name and represents a place to visit, the deceased are “erased from memory”.</p>
<p>Role of the partner organisation in the project</p>	<p>We will provide our project partners with films and the archive photos and documents at our disposal. The role of the partners will be to assist us in the organization of exhibitions of documents and/or related seminars for students and historians in order to inform them of the fate of those who were murdered in Nemecká and to appeal to young people to reject the new wave of neo-Fascism in Europe.</p>

Comments from the applicant	Through our film, we would like to pay our respect to all of the victims of Nemecká in these times in which we are witnessing a new wave of neo-Nazism, hate and xenophobia. Those who spread this hate, misuse God in their desire to lead a new war in his name.
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