

The project «Srebrenica: Drawing Lessons from the Past through Theatre Imagination» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

In 2020-2023, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Documenta-Center for Dealing with the Past (Croatia), Tuzla National Theatre (Bosnia and Herzegovina-BiH), and the International Partnership for Human Rights (Belgium) jointly implemented project „Srebrenica: Drawing Lessons from the Past through Theatre Imagination”. **The project connected more than 840 people from four European countries** in learning from history in order to draw lessons for today and the future. Among them were civic activists, journalists, intellectuals, academics, students, artists, book publishers, young people, and a large number of ordinary people

Through a unique theatre play about the genocide in Srebrenica, inclusive discussions about the civic responsibility to preserve peace in Europe, art masterclasses for young people, and a broad media campaign, the project succeeded to 1) unpack the correlation between extreme forms of nationalism and basic rights abuses, 2) discuss shared European legacy of crimes, 3) engage youth in keeping the memory of Europe’s tragic past alive, and 4) recommend measures for increasing resilience to violent tendencies. The action also paid tribute to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide. As such, the project contributed to understanding the impact of extremist ideologies on democracy, rule of law, and intercultural relations, thus enabling Europeans to learn from the past and join forces in building a safer future for all.

With the purpose of achieving these goals, **16 events** were held, including:

Premiere of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up”

Participation: The event involved 164 citizens of the city of Belgrade (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Center for Cultural Decontamination (Belgrade, Serbia) from 24/09/2020 to 26/09/2020, and consisted of the premiere and two post-premiere performances.

Short description: The aim of the event was to shed the light on how the stigmatization and exclusion of one group of people from another can lead to grave human rights abuses; to spark discussion about the role of citizens in preventing such violent scenarios; and empower citizens to recognize and confront similar tendencies in their surroundings. Author and director of the play is Zlatko Pakovic, and it was produced by the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia.

Replay performances of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up”

Participation: The event involved 72 citizens of the city of Belgrade (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Center for Cultural Decontamination (Belgrade, Serbia), from 10/06/2021 to 11/06/2021, and consisted of two performances.

Short description: The aim of the event was to enable more citizens to watch the play and participate in discussions about human rights, civic responsibility, solidarity, and lessons from the past.

Performance of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up” in Zagreb

Participation: The event involved 120 citizens, including 100 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia), 10 participants from the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia), and 10 participants from the cities of Tuzla and Sarajevo (BiH).

Location/Dates: The event took place at the Kerempuh Theatre (Zagreb, Croatia) on 02/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to enable more citizens to watch the play and participate in discussions about human rights, civic responsibility, solidarity, and lessons from the past, as well as to broaden the discussion to the notion of the shared European past and the prospects for future.

Performance of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up” in Novi Pazar

Participation: The event involved 202 citizens of the city of Novi Pazar (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Cultural Centre (Novi Pazar, Serbia), from 05/07/2021 to 06/07/2021, and consisted of two performances.

Short description: The aim of the event was to enable more citizens to watch the play and participate in discussions about human rights, civic responsibility, solidarity, and lessons from the past.

Performance of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up” in Tuzla

Participation: The event involved 100 citizens, including 80 participants from the city of Tuzla (BiH), 10 participants from the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia), and 10 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the National Theatre of Tuzla (Tuzla, BiH), on 08/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to enable more citizens to watch the play, participate in discussions about human rights, civic responsibility, solidarity, lessons from the past, and shared European past and future, as well as to bring the play closer to the victims of the crime thematized in the play.

Commemorative performance of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up”

Participation: The event involved 65 citizens of the city of Belgrade (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Dorćol Platz (Belgrade, Serbia), on 11/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to mark the 26th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica and pay tribute to all victims of this crime that shook the whole of Europe.

Screening of the theatre play “Srebrenica: When We, the Killed, Rise Up” in Brussels

Participation: The event involved 50 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 10 participants from the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia), 5 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia), and 5 citizens from the cities of Tuzla and Sarajevo (BiH).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Cinema Galleries Theatre (Brussels, Belgium), on 16/12/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to reach out and engage the European public and relevant political and cultural actors in discussions about human rights, civic responsibility, solidarity, lessons from the past, and shared European past and future.

Masterclasses for young people “Why Theater is a Political Art in itself?” in Serbia

Participation: The event involved 23 citizens, including 16 participants from the city of Novi Sad (Serbia) and 7 participants from the city of Novi Sad (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Hotel “Visoki” (Novi Sad, Serbia) on 16/06/2021 and in the Cultural Center (Novi Pazar, Serbia) on 06/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to empower young people to seek intercultural understanding and equip them to employ art in building a culture of peace, to create and disseminate anti-xenophobic and humanistic narratives, and to oppose misusing culture for political purposes. The masterclass was held by the theatre director Zlatko Paković.

Masterclass for young people “Why Theater is a Political Art in itself?” in Zagreb

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens, including 9 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia), 3 participants from the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia), and 1 participant from the city of Tuzla (BiH).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Zagreb Youth Theater (Zagreb, Croatia) on 02/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to empower young people to seek intercultural understanding and equip them to employ art in building a culture of peace, to create and disseminate anti-xenophobic and humanistic narratives, and to oppose misusing culture for political purposes. The masterclass was held by the theatre director Zlatko Paković.

Masterclass for young people “Why Theater is a Political Art in itself?” in Tuzla

Participation: The event involved 21 citizens, including 18 participants from the city of Tuzla (BiH) and 3 participants from the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the National Theatre (Tuzla, BiH) on 09/07/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to empower young people to seek intercultural understanding and equip them to employ art in building a culture of peace, to create and disseminate anti-xenophobic and humanistic narratives, and to oppose misusing culture for political purposes. The masterclass was held by the theatre director Zlatko Paković.

Masterclass for young people “Why Theater is a Political Art in itself?” in Brussels

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens, including 7 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 2 participants from the cities of Belgrade (Serbia), 2 participants from the city of Sarajevo (BiH), and 2 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia).

Location/Dates: The event took place in the Hotel “Radisson Collection” (Brussels, Belgium) on 16/12/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to empower young people to seek intercultural understanding and equip them to employ art in building a culture of peace, to create and disseminate anti-xenophobic and humanistic narratives, and to oppose misusing culture for political purposes. The masterclass was held by the theatre director Zlatko Paković.

