

55 (04/2022)



# EMORIA

MEMORY • HISTORY • EDUCATION



## LAST DEPORTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST YAD VASHEM ONLINE EXHIBITION

STUTTHOF  
MEMORIAL PROJECT  
"DIESE STADT IST  
JUDENFREI"

'FIGHTING  
ANTISEMITISM  
FROM DREYFUS  
TO TODAY' AT  
WIENER  
HOLOCAUST  
LIBRARY

LOCAL HISTORIES  
THROUGH  
GRAPHIC NOVEL

INTERNATIONAL  
SUMMER  
ACADEMIES AT THE  
AUSCHWITZ  
MEMORIAL - CALL  
FOR PARTICIPANTS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING RELEVANT  
DOCUMENTATION FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH,  
EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE

LAST DEPORTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST.  
YAD VASHEM ONLINE EXHIBITION

STUTTHOF MEMORIAL PROJECT  
„DIESE STADT IST JUDENFREI “

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM FROM DREYFUS TO  
TODAY – A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE WIENER  
HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

“STORIES FROM THE HOLOCAUST”:  
LOCAL HISTORIES THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS:  
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ACADEMIES  
AT THE AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL

We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: [memoria@auschwitz.org](mailto:memoria@auschwitz.org)

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All editions: [memoria.auschwitz.org](http://memoria.auschwitz.org)

# GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Access to Holocaust-related material helps societies deal openly and accurately with the past. The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure overcomes the fragmentation of archival material by connecting sources, institutions and people.

To help archives and researchers, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has published Guidelines for Identifying Relevant Documentation for Holocaust Research, Education and Remembrance.

## **Erasing all traces**

Open access means providing researchers and the public with the ability to find and use Holocaust-related documentation for commemoration, education and research purposes. It helps foster a world that remembers the Holocaust. The Nazis and their collaborators not only murdered Jews, Roma, political enemies and others; they did so with the intention of erasing all traces of their existence. Each and every document pertaining to life before, during and after the Holocaust is therefore extremely valuable.

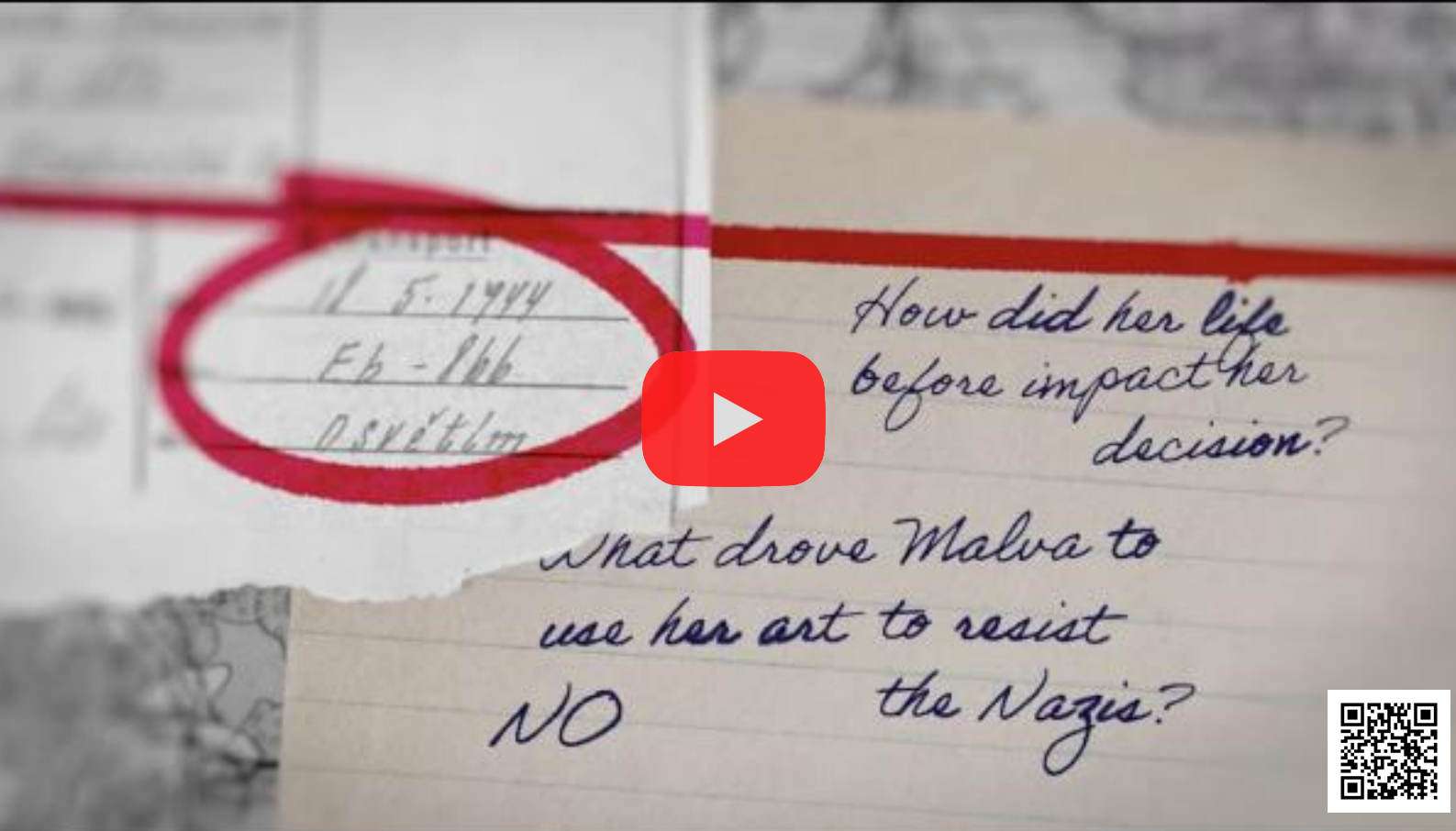
## **Identify Holocaust-related materials**

The IHRA's Guidelines address a critical obstacle to access: the lack of a unified, openended and always evolving way to identify Holocaust-related materials. Currently, each archive and each state can adopt its own approach to determining access to this documentation. Often, a narrow, technical approach is taken when identifying these materials, like only considering documents from 1933–1945

held in European archives as Holocaust-related. Such narrow definitions can lead to researchers being wrongfully denied access to material that might contribute to Holocaust research. Moreover, the questions researchers ask about the Holocaust and the methodologies they use to find answers are constantly changing. There is therefore a need for a flexible and open-ended tool to help define and identify Holocaust-related materials.

## **Privacy regulations**

This practical tool was developed by IHRA experts, together with heads of individual archives – those who know their collections better than anyone else – and leaders of national and international archival system networks, including people involved in EHRI. The Guidelines offer a unified approach to identifying relevant documentation for Holocaust research, remembrance and education, thereby assisting archives and other entities in assessing their collections and allowing access to relevant documentation. Such an approach also better equips archivists to make sure that privacy regulations, like the GDPR in the EU, are applied prudently where Holocaust documentation is concerned.



#### Share this tool

Ensuring full and open access to Holocaust-related materials is not a niche issue – it is essential to safeguarding the record of the Holocaust.

Share this tool with your network and use it as a guide to help identify which archival

materials can be considered Holocaust related.

The Guidelines and further information on encouraging open access to Holocaust related materials are available on the IHRA's website.

## **IHRA Guidelines for Identifying Relevant Documentation for Holocaust Research, Education and Remembrance**



INTERNATIONAL  
**HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE**  
ALLIANCE

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# LAST DEPORTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST.

## YAD VASHEM ONLINE EXHIBITION

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Transports of extinction: the deportations of Jews during the Holocaust became the central theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022. Stories of the last deportees is the topic of the new online exhibition created by Yad Vashem.

In keeping with the policy of the "Final Solution," during World War II the Germans and their collaborators uprooted millions of Jews from their homes and deported them to their deaths. This meticulously organized operation was an event of historic significance, obliterating Jewish communities throughout German-occupied territory that had existed for centuries. Vast numbers of Jews were sent straight to the extermination sites, while many others were first taken to ghettos and transit camps. Thus, the cattle – or railway – car, the principal mode of Nazi deportation, became one of the most iconic symbols of the Holocaust. Originally a symbol of progress, globalization and human technological prowess during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the railway car warped into the emblem of the backsliding of human values into the abyss of wholesale mass murder on an unprecedented scale

By the summer of 1944, the demise of Nazi Germany seemed inevitable. The German Army suffered defeat after defeat, but despite this, the machinery of extermination relentlessly continued to operate at full strength. While parts of Europe had already been liberated, the last Jews were being deported from areas still under the control of the Germans. This exhibition tells the story of those Jews who were deported in the last months of the war - from June 1944 until April 1945. The Jews were loaded onto freight cars and deported to Auschwitz and to camps in Germany, sometimes just days before the liberators arrived.

The stories told are based on material from Yad Vashem's Archives and various collections: personal documentation, testimonies, photographs, artworks, Pages of Testimony, diaries, documents, etc. The details of the deportations and their routes can be found in the Yad Vashem online research project, "Transports to Extinction".

One of the stories told is of the Benkel family from Łódź.

On 30 August 1944, a deportation train left the Litzmannstadt ghetto bound for Auschwitz-Birkenau. Among the passengers were head of the Judenrat, Haim Rumkowski, his family and some of the ghetto's senior personnel. Avraham Benkel and his 14-year-old son were also on the train.

In 1928, Hinda Hillman and Avraham Benkel got married in Turek, Poland. After the wedding, they moved to Łódź. Avraham made a good living in textiles, and supported his widowed mother and brothers and sisters who had remained in Turek. Hinda and Avraham's son, Shmuel, was born in 1930, followed by another baby boy, Israel-Meir, two years later. The Germans invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, and occupied Łódź approximately one week later. A ghetto was established in the city in 1940. The Benkels left their home and moved to a room in the ghetto, where Avraham managed a fur workshop for the German Army. Hinda fell ill and died in the ghetto in 1942. Two months later, 10-year-old Israel-Meir was abducted during the "Sperre" Aktion, while Avraham





and Shmuel were on the last deportation to Auschwitz, on the same train as Rumkowski.

Avraham described the arrival at Auschwitz:

I was on the same train as Rumkowski, and my son was with me. The Germans addressed us, and said that in Germany too, they would establish a fur workshop and that we would work there in the same way we worked here. Later on, it became clear that this was false, and that they were sending us to Auschwitz, not to Germany... As soon as we arrived at Auschwitz, we heard from the Jews unloading us from the cars that here, people were sent to the crematoria. Those who could still work had a chance of staying alive; those who couldn't work, or children, were doomed... they separated me from my son... I saw him standing on the other side, waving to me. I waved back. I never saw him again.

Rumkowski was on the same side as me. He approached a German and showed him a piece of paper that he held in his hand. The letter he got from Biebow. The German instructed him to sit on the side... Behind Rumkowski stood his wife, her parents, brothers and sisters-in-law, they told them to sit on the side... They took us to a place where Moshe Hassid, one of Łódź's shady characters, was manager... He told us that our Rumkowski had already been taken to the crematoria.

After a few weeks in quarantine in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Avraham was transferred to the Kaltwasser labor camp in Lower Silesia. From there he was sent to various other camps, until he was finally liberated at Theresienstadt by the Red Army on 7 May 1945.

# PROJECT

## „DIESE STADT IST JUDENFREI “

The project "Diese Stadt ist Judenfrei - Holocaust of Polish Jews in Pomerania" is drawing to an end. The project is financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage within the framework of the 'Inspiring Culture' programme. The project, whose beneficiary is the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, is carried out in partnership with the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv and Israeli museums: Yad Mordechai and Mashmout Centre.

The project has resulted in the creation of a large-scale exhibition, an album, a documentary film and a folder, all aimed at presenting the history of the Holocaust of Pomeranian Jews. Study visits complemented the implementation of the key undertakings. In January, the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo was visited by project partners, representatives of the Yad Mordechai Museum and the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv. It was a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss cooperation in the area of education and exhibitions.

Meanwhile, on 1 March 2022, the exhibition 'Diese Stadt ist Judenfrei' - The extermination of Polish Jews in Pomerania - opened at the Yad Mordechai Museum. Its authors are Polish and Israeli historians. They include the staff of the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo: Prof. Bogdan Chrzanowski and Danuta Drywa, PhD. The official opening of the exhibition was attended by a delegation from our Museum, headed by Director Piotr Tarnowski.

The visit to Israel was also complemented by numerous meetings and talks held at the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv and the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, among others. They provided an excellent opportunity to recount the history of KL Stutthof and the fate of its prisoners to the Israeli audience.

Additionally, the time was also used to present the museum's activities, with a particular focus on education.

In mid-March, a trilingual, richly illustrated publication in Polish, English and Hebrew entitled 'Diese Stadt ist Judenfrei' - the extermination of Polish Jews in Pomerania. It complements the exhibition and is an attempt to present this issue comprehensively.

The project's final phase consisted of a visit to the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo by representatives of the Ministry of Education of Israel and the most important museum institutions dealing with subjects related to World War II and the Holocaust. The delegation comprised, among others, the staff of Yad Vashem Institute, Menachem Begin Center, Ghetto Fighters Museum, Moreshet - Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial and Association of Holocaust Guides in Israel. During the nearly week-long stay, the delegation visited the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, the Katyn Museum, the Jewish Historical Institute, the Museum of the Second World War and the Żuławy Historical Park. The highlight of the visit was a meeting with members of the Jewish Religious Community in Gdańsk.

During the project, intensive efforts were undertaken to develop and deepen contacts between Polish and Israeli





institutions. The Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, as the project's host institution, gained new experience and a better understanding of the direction of the changes being introduced. Most importantly, however, the staff of the

Museum met friends who share a similar view of history and the significance of educating future generations following the passing of the generation of witnesses to history.

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# FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM FROM DREYFUS TO TODAY – A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

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The Wiener Holocaust Library's new exhibition, *Fighting Antisemitism from Dreyfus to Today*, has been curated partly in response to worrying trends in contemporary antisemitism, including the rise in harassment of Jews in recent years, and the spread of conspiracy theories online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Security Trust (CST) Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021, published in February 2022, shows 2,255 anti-Jewish hate incidents reported across Britain in 2021. This is the highest annual total that CST has ever recorded and is a 34% increase from 2020.

Antisemitism continues to pose a very real threat to Jews in Britain, Europe and around the world.

The Library's important exhibition reveals the history of the fight against antisemitism over the last century in France, Britain and Germany. Through unique and never seen before documents from the Library's collections, and striking photographs from CST's archives, we spotlight the stories of the individuals, organisations and campaigns that have fought against antisemitism since the time of the Dreyfus Affair in 1890s France.

The exhibition shines a light on the various strategies that those fighting against antisemitism have taken over the last one hundred years and more, from publishing pamphlets refuting antisemitic ideas, to gathering evidence about the activities of antisemites, to street fighting and the infiltration of fascist groups.

The Library seeks to help educate visitors on the complex history of antisemitism, and be inspired by the rich history of anti-antisemites. By learning from the past, we can better recognise instances of antisemitism and challenge it where it is found.



**STOP THEM**

**NOW**

**GERMAN MASS-MURDER OF JEWS IN POLAND**



*With a Foreword by Lord Wedgwood*



# "STORIES FROM THE HOLOCAUST": LOCAL HISTORIES THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS

EHRI partner, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, organizes an innovative educational and remembrance project, encouraging young generations and general audiences to discover the histories of the communities they are living in.

Six different outdoor graphic novel exhibitions, created by the research team of the "Elie Wiesel" Institute, in partnership with high-school students from the cities that host the exhibitions, present the (hi)stories of Jews and Roma who lived in those regions more than eight decades ago.

By Roxana Popa, The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust In Romania

"Stories from the Holocaust. Local histories" is a project that frames Holocaust memory in Romania by emphasizing local specificities and boosting local awareness. The programme encourages awareness that the Holocaust is not a story of a distant place but has regional specificity as both the victims and the perpetrators walked the streets of the cities that host the exhibition. Consequently, their story pertains to local history and needs to be acknowledged as such. Taken to a local level, remembrance becomes an active process, and it creates a sense of common belonging with the victims, which nurtures empathy and solidarity.

Another aspect of the project is that it offers tools that highlight the diversity of Holocaust victims and the multiple ways discrimination and extermination were perpetrated under Romanian authority. Therefore, the illustration's topics cover the Holocaust period in a local frame, and present categories of victims (Jews and Roma), and categories of events (forced

labor, deportation to Transnistria, pogroms, curfew rules, confiscation of property, local camps).

The role and link between education and Holocaust remembrance in Romania  
Securing a democratic society, where solidarity, diversity, and multicultural dialogue are primary values, lies in being aware of the past and knowing the history of the community we are living in. Keeping the memory alive plays a significant role here, and enhancing remembrance can be made through the provision of accurate information and formal and informal education on various levels.

In Romania of today, the Holocaust under Romanian authority is still underrated. National surveys conducted by the "Elie Wiesel" Institute show that a significant part of the respondents (65%) still externalize the Holocaust perpetrated under Romanian authority toward Germany as the main responsible of the Holocaust in Romania. This could be explained by several causes: the silence that surrounded the topic during the communist period or the multiple facets of the Holocaust in Romania. This proves the need for constant information, and Holocaust education, focusing on local specificities.

Being an active promoter of Holocaust remembrance and constantly investing in Holocaust education, the "Elie Wiesel" Institute responds to these needs by developing projects such as the graphic



vel exhibition. The project brings together the local story of the Holocaust with the racist and xenophobic stance exhibited by the Romanian authorities of the time.

By doing so the exhibitions emphasize the dangers that prejudice, dehumanization, and intolerance have for fueling crimes against humanity. This way, the targeted groups are encouraged to become more sensitive to the risks posed by social stereotyping and exclusion; the project linking the past with problems that are still present within contemporary Romanian society.

How does it work?

The process starts with interactive workshops with the students and educators where the history of the Holocaust in

Romania and local specificities are presented. It follows the documentation of the microhistories of the individuals and communities in the six regions (Bacau, Suceava, Galati, Vrancea, Dolj, Argeş) using primary sources and creating the storylines of the exhibitions that are ultimately illustrated by professional artists.

Therefore, the students and educators are not simply spectators, but become content creators, and their work is publicly acknowledged. This user-generated content strategy stimulates engagement, curiosity and a better understanding of the subject.

The format chosen (graphic novel) also responds to the needs, and interests of the targeted audiences, and the open outdoor



# POVESTIRI DIN HOLOCAUST. VRANCEA

În anii 1930, România avea **756.930 cetățeni evrei**. În ianuarie 1938, guvernul Goga-Cuza a promulgat Decretul-Lege nr. 169 în urma căruia un sfert din evreii români și-au pierdut cetățenia. Între septembrie 1940 – august 1944 conducătorul statului român a fost Ion Antonescu. După septembrie 1940, evreii sunt excluși din Armată, din Barou, din Colegiul medicilor, din teatrele naționale etc. Elevii, studenții și profesorii evrei sunt excluși din școlile publice și mutați în școlile comunității evreiești. Până la 31 decembrie 1941, angajații evrei din economie au fost concediați. Evreii au fost evacuați din zonele rurale, iar proprietățile lor au fost expropriate și trecute în administrarea statului. Bărbații evrei au făcut muncă obligatorie, de multe ori în condiții foarte grele și departe de casă.

În 1941, au fost două evenimente de violență majoră: Pogromul din București (ianuarie, 125 de evrei uciși) și cel din Iași (iunie, aproximativ **13.000** de victime).

La 22 iunie 1941, România și Germania au atacat Uniunea Sovietică. Trupele au pătruns în Basarabia și Bucovina de Nord. Din primele zile, armata și jandarmeria au făcut masacre împotriva populației evreiești. Populația civilă a fost încurajată să acționeze împotriva vecinilor evrei. Documentele de arhivă arată că în 1941 între **45.000 - 60.000** de evrei au fost uciși în Basarabia și Bucovina de Nord. Cei care au scăpat au fost deportați în Transnistria.

Aproximativ **180.000** de evrei au fost deportați și ghețoiți, iar între 105.000 și 120.000 dintre aceștia au murit din cauza foametei, frigului sau a bolilor, precum și a execuțiilor în masă. În plus, între **115.000 și 180.000 evrei ucraineni** au fost uciși sub ocupație românească, cu precădere la Odessa și în districtele Golta și Berezovca.

În iunie - septembrie 1942 au fost deportați în Transnistria **25.000 de romi**, dintre care 11.000 au supraviețuit.

În mai - iunie 1944 aproximativ **132.000** evrei din Transilvania de Nord au fost deportați la Auschwitz de autoritățile maghiare, coordonate de Germania nazistă. Foarte puțini au fost cei care au supraviețuit.



6 septembrie 1941, ora 10.15, Ședința Consiliului de Miniștri condusă de mareșalul Ion Antonescu:



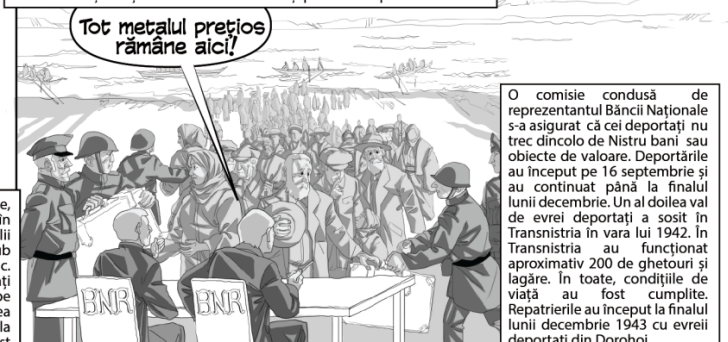
După-amiază, duminică 29 iunie 1941, curtea Chesturii de Poliție din Iași, str. Vasile Alecsandri.



Ordinul de exterminare a evreilor din Basarabia și Bucovina de Nord a fost dat de Ion Antonescu, fără vreo presiune din partea germanilor. La execuții au participat efective ale Armatei române și ale Jandarmeriei sprijinite uneori de Armata a 11-a germană și Einsatzgruppe D. Evreii au fost executați în propriile case, în clădiri publice sau în afara localităților de baștină. Uneori au fost obligați să își sape propriile morminte.



În toamna lui 1941, au început deportările evreilor din Basarabia și Bucovina. **180.000** de oameni au fost obligați să își părăsească locuințele, să își lase în urmă propria viață și să pornească către un loc necunoscut. Deportările au fost violente și mulți au murit sau au fost uciși pe drumul spre Transnistria.



character of the exhibitions facilitates the general public's access.

## More about the project

"Stories from the Holocaust. Local histories" is a project developed within the "Local

History" programme, financed by the EVZ Foundation, organized with the support of the local authorities, and in collaboration with educators and students from various cities in Romania. The project started in the autumn of 2021 with two exhibitions in



Atachi, 13 octombrie 1941

Unde...  
suntem?

Domnule doctor! Cum a fost posibil să mă gonească din Suceava? M-am născut acolo acum 90 de ani. Am trăit și am muncit acolo. Am preluat magazinul tatălui meu și l-am condus cinstit vreme de 60 de ani. Am fost consilier imperial, consilier comunal, fruntaș al Comunității. Nu m-am certat niciodată cu nimeni și în tinerețe, ca și la bătrânețe, am fost iubit și stimat de toți. Trebuie să îmi promiți că vei adresa imediat un memoriu către toate autoritățile competente, în care să pomenesci tot ce ți-am spus acum și să ceri să fim trimiși înapoi, pentru că suntem doi oameni bătrâni. La Suceava avem pregătite și mormintele pentru amândoi. Nu trebuie decât adăugat pe piatră ziua morții. Să ne lase să murim acolo, sau dacă nu se poate la Suceava, să ne trimită la Fălticeni, orașul unde s-a născut soția mea și care a fost pentru noi totdeauna o a doua patrie. Nu mai doresc altceva decât să fim înmormântați în pământul patriei.

Șargorod, noiembrie 1941

Am avut noroc cu bătrâna Roza. Ne-a primit și pe noi și familia Rosenbaum. Tatăl meu nu a mai rezistat. A murit la trei zile după ce am ajuns aici.

Era de-un leat cu bătrânul Langer. El a murit la Atachi.

Evreii deportați din Suceava au ajuns inițial la Moghilev iar de aici s-au îndreptat către alte localități din Transnistria: Șargorod, Copaigorod, Djurin, Murafa etc. Peste tot au trăit în ghetouri până în primăvara lui 1944.

Mai avem doar 4  
cartofi. Ce-o să  
facem?

Am vândut tot.  
Dacă îmi mai dau și  
bocancii, nu mai pot  
ieși să caut  
de lucru.



Foundation  
**EVZ**  
Remembrance  
Responsibility  
Future



SCAN ME!

illustrator: Anghel Șerban

Bacău and Suceava presenting the stories of local Jewish communities and the deportation to Transnistria.

end of the year, the last will follow.

The exhibitions are also accessible online.

Recently, on April 8 and April 9, two more exhibitions were inaugurated, and by the

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# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ACADEMIES 2022 AT THE AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL

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The International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust will organize two editions of the International Summer Academy in 2022 – the 1st and 2nd level seminars.

The goal of the ISA is to familiarize participants with the history of the German Nazi camp Auschwitz in the broad context. The seminar also provides a space for reflection on the significance of the symbol of Auschwitz in today's world and the contemporary remembrance.

The 1st level of ISA is addressed to teachers, educators, historians, employees of memorial sites, students and all those interested in the history of WWII and the Holocaust. The seminar will take place on 16-22 July 2022 in Oświęcim and Krakow.

The estimated cost of participation is 670 €. It includes program, accommodation and board.

The 2nd level of ISA titled "Shaping the Memory about Auschwitz and the Holocaust 77 Years After the Liberation" is addressed to graduates of all seminars for teachers and educators organized by the ICEAH. It will take place on 21-28 August 2022 in Oświęcim and Warsaw.

The estimated cost of participation is 800 €. It includes program, accommodation and board.

Both seminars will be conducted in English. All participants will receive certificates. Participants must additionally cover the cost of insurance and transportation to and from Oświęcim.

The application deadline for both seminars is May 15, 2022. Please use the forms to apply:

**ISA 1st level:  
ON-LINE FORM**

**ISA 2nd level:  
ON-LINE FORM**

If you have any additional questions about the seminars, please contact the coordinators:

ISA 1st level: [katarzyna.kotula\[at\]auschwitz.org](mailto:katarzyna.kotula@auschwitz.org)

ISA 2nd level: [katarzyna.odrzywolek\[at\]auschwitz.org](mailto:katarzyna.odrzywolek@auschwitz.org)







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**PUBLISHER**

Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Paweł Sawicki

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Agnieszka Juskowiak-Sawicka

**EDITED BY**

Bartosz Bartyzel

Imogen Dalziel

Marek Lach

Łukasz Lipiński

**CONTACT**

[memoria@auschwitz.org](mailto:memoria@auschwitz.org)

