

Invitation for partners,

Public institution "Vilko Valia" (Lithuania) is implementing a project supported by „Europe for Citizens“ programme (under Strand 1 - European Remembrance) "Being a Jew" in 4 different European cities – Kaunas (Lithuania), Krakow, Gdansk (Poland), Alba Iulia (Romania) and Kosice (Slovakia). Closing event of this project is a symbolic "Star of Remembrance" (600 young people form a Star of David in the main town square) and an international conference on Holocaust education on April 16-17, 2015.

We would very much like to continue developing this highly successful project in 2016. Currently a new application is being prepared to be submitted to EACEA before March 1st, 2015. We are planning to organize similar events: an international conference on Holocaust education and a symbolic "Star of Remembrance" event in other countries, in their capitals or other major cities of Europe with rich history of Jewish culture and a painful history of the Holocaust.

We are looking for the new partners in Hungary, Romania, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and possibly other countries who would be willing to implement this project in their city – provided the application is successful.

Please find a description of our event in Vilnius attached. Similar events could be organized in partners' cities.

Ms Ruta Vanagaite

Director
Public institution Vilko valia
Vilnius, Lithuania
vanagaite.r@gmail.com
www.beingajew.com



This project has been funded with support from European Commission

Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 1 – European Remembrance

An international conference on the topic of Holocaust education will take place at the Vilnius Municipality Council on 17th, April, 2015. The main audience - history and ethics teachers from Vilnius schools, students of Vilnius University and the University of Educology, Vilnius tourist guides, Lithuanian education policy makers and guests from abroad, partners of the project "Being a Jew" from 4 European countries.

A day in advance, Yam ha Shoa day, 16th, April 2015, 600 youngsters from Vilnius, participants of the January-April events presenting the Litvak culture in Vilnius synagogue, together with the Lithuanian Jewish community, former ghetto prisoners and holocaust survivors will take part in the traditional March of the Living in Ponar.

The March of the Living will start with the Honoring event in the territory of former ghetto – in the Vilnius town hall square where 1000 youngsters wearing kippahs will form a live Star of David. Every participant will have to choose a Jewish name from the list of Holocaust victims and will wear a badge with this name during the event.

The live Star can be photographed and filmed from the roof of the Town Hall. In Honor of the Star of David recreated in the territory of the former ghetto, Vilnius Sauletekis gymnasium children Choir will perform Jewish psalms. After the Honoring event the youngsters will head to the Vilnius railway station and take the special March of the Living train to mass massacre site in Ponar.

Conference agenda:

9.30-10.00 a.m – Registration of Participants

Part I

- 10.00. Welcome speeches of 6 Holocaust survivors honoring the 6 million victims**
- 10.10. Welcome address of the Mayor of Vilnius**
- 10.15. Welcome address of the Ambassador of Israel to Lithuania**

- 10.20. Welcome address of the Jewish Community Chairwoman
- 10.25. 700 years of the Jewish culture and history in Lithuania. *Dovid Katz, Defending History*
- 10.45. Lithuanians and the Jews. What has changed and what has not during last 40 years. *Tomas Venclova , writer, USA*
- 11.10. Myths, stereotypes, quests for truth: Holocaust narratives in Eastern and Western Europe. *Saulius Sužiedėlis , professor, USA*
- 11.40. Question to the speakers, participant's discussion

12. 00. Lunch - kosher food tasting in the Idea Room of the Vilnius Municipality

Part II:

- 12.30. Holocaust Remembrance in Eastern and Western Europe: What remains for future generations? *Efraim Zuroff (t.b.c)*
- 12. 50. Public attitude to the Holocaust and education. *Šarūnas Liekis, professor, Lithuania*
- 13. 15. Holocaust education in Lithuania - experience, gaps and problems. *Ingrida Vilkienė, education coordinator, Lithuania*
- 13.40. Holocaust education - European good practice. *Piotr Kowalik, education coordinator, Poland (Warsaw Jewish Museum)*
- 14.10. "Being a Jew" project in 4 European countries (2013-2015)- Why, for whom and what next? *Ruta Vanagaitė, Simonas Gurevičius*
- 14.25. Questions to the speakers, participants' discussion.
- 14.45. Closing remarks. An address to European Union Ministers.

15.00. Kosher wine and home-made Jewish sweets tasting in the Idea Room of the Vilnius Municipality.