

THE EUROPEAN *March* **OF THE LIVING**
NETWORK
REMEMBER THE PAST AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

(*)

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF EMERGING LEADERS – Krakow 1/5/2019

March of the Living’s First Ever ‘Emerging Leadership Conference’ Charges Millennials with Combatting Anti-Semitism



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On Wednesday, 1st of May 2019, on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Hashoah), more than 200 young leaders from 10 countries – Jewish and non-Jewish – gathered at the Jageillonian University in Krakow, Poland, to take part in the first-ever ‘Emerging Leadership Conference,’ an initiative of the International March of the Living launched in cooperation with EMOTL to respond to the torrent of anti-Semitic events and growing global trend of hate crimes against Jews over the last two years.

The conference included a wide-ranging discussion of the young leaders' responsibilities as the new frontline in the war against anti-Semitism and centered on the development of a declaration launching a campaign to rally the support of their peers around the world.

The conference was led by 20 Young leaders from Europe (UK and Germany) and from North and South America who experienced anti-Semitism firsthand on college campuses or in their personal lives.

Following the lectures, the delegates were split into groups for interactive sessions facilitated by the Young leaders during which they worked on drafting defined portions of the 'International Declaration Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.'

When the students reconvened, the different parts were woven together to form a single, powerful statement, which was read by the delegates on Thursday, May 2, during the closing ceremony of the 31st annual International March of the Living at Birkenau.

Prior to the conference, the 20 emerging leaders, all of whom previously participated in the March of the Living, spent four days touring Poland and discussing issues of anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance with Polish and European peers.

They committed to use the declaration as a launch pad to create a network of global young leaders that can be activated to advance March of the Living initiatives aimed at combating anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance.

They committed to promote the campaign via social media platforms under the hashtag #SayNoToAntisemitism.

SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW CONFERENCE OF EMERGING LEADERS – Vilnius **22-23.9.2019**

On the occasion of the National Memorial Day for the Genocide of the Lithuanian Jews, EMOTL - the European March of the Living Network and The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, co-organized a Conference of Emerging Leaders on the 22-23/9/2019 followed by the Joint March of the Living and Memory Road in Vilnius and Ponary.

This Second Annual Review Conference of Emerging Leaders was convened in Vilnius:

- to review the EMOTL activities in 2018
- to discuss the implementation of the EMOTL action plan for 2019 and to adapt it and update it taking into consideration the rise of Antisemitism and Racism in

Europe and the implications of the last survey of FRA – the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on perceptions and experiences of European Young Jews and the last EU Barometer 484 on Perceptions of Antisemitism in the EU Member States

- to learn about best practices and concrete actions to combat Antisemitism initiated by March of the Living Young Alumni and European Emerging leaders
- to discuss practical ways how to reach out and engage additional European Young people and Young Adults to be more concerned and more pro-active in promoting initiatives aimed at combating Antisemitism, Racism and Intolerance,
- to learn about the IHRA working definition of Antisemitism and about the European Commission initiatives to combat Antisemitism and racism and to counter Hate speech online
- to present the new EMOTL EYSCAR – European Youth and Students Combating Antisemitism and Racism project to monitor and combat Hate speech in Social Media according in the framework of the European Commission Code of Conduct signed with the major social media platforms.
- to participate in a Media Training Workshop
- to participate as an European delegation to the Joint March of the Living and Memory Road in Vilnius and Ponary on Monday the 23/9/2019

This Conference was attended by 48 participants from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

Welcoming remarks of the Conference of Emerging Leaders Co-Organizers



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Session 1 : IHRA working Definition of Antisemitism

The IHRA – International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of Antisemitism, adopted under the Romanian Chairmanship in 2016 was presented by Ambassador Victor MICULA, State Secretary at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Romanian delegation to IHRA.

Ambassador Victor MICULA's presentation was followed by a discussion and Q & A about its practical implications.



The history of the working definition
The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, so with evidence that the scourge of antisemitism is once again on the rise, we resolved to take a leading role in combatting it. IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is.
The IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial worked to build international consensus around a working definition of antisemitism, which was subsequently adopted by the plenary. By doing so, the IHRA set an example of responsible conduct for other international fora and provided an important tool with practical applicability for its Member Countries. This is just one illustration of how the IHRA has equipped policymakers to address this rise in hate and discrimination at their national level.

The Working Definition of Antisemitism
In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: "With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils" the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2016 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism:

Working Definition of Antisemitism

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Sunday 22/9/2019 15:15 – 17:30:
Concrete Actions to Combat Antisemitism
First Session from 15:15 – 16:00:
Presentation and discussion about the practical implications of the IHRA Working definition of Antisemitism
by Ambassador Victor MICULA,
State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Head of the Romanian delegation to IHRA

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Session 2: MoRaH – March of Remembrance and Hope – Austria actions to combat Antisemitism

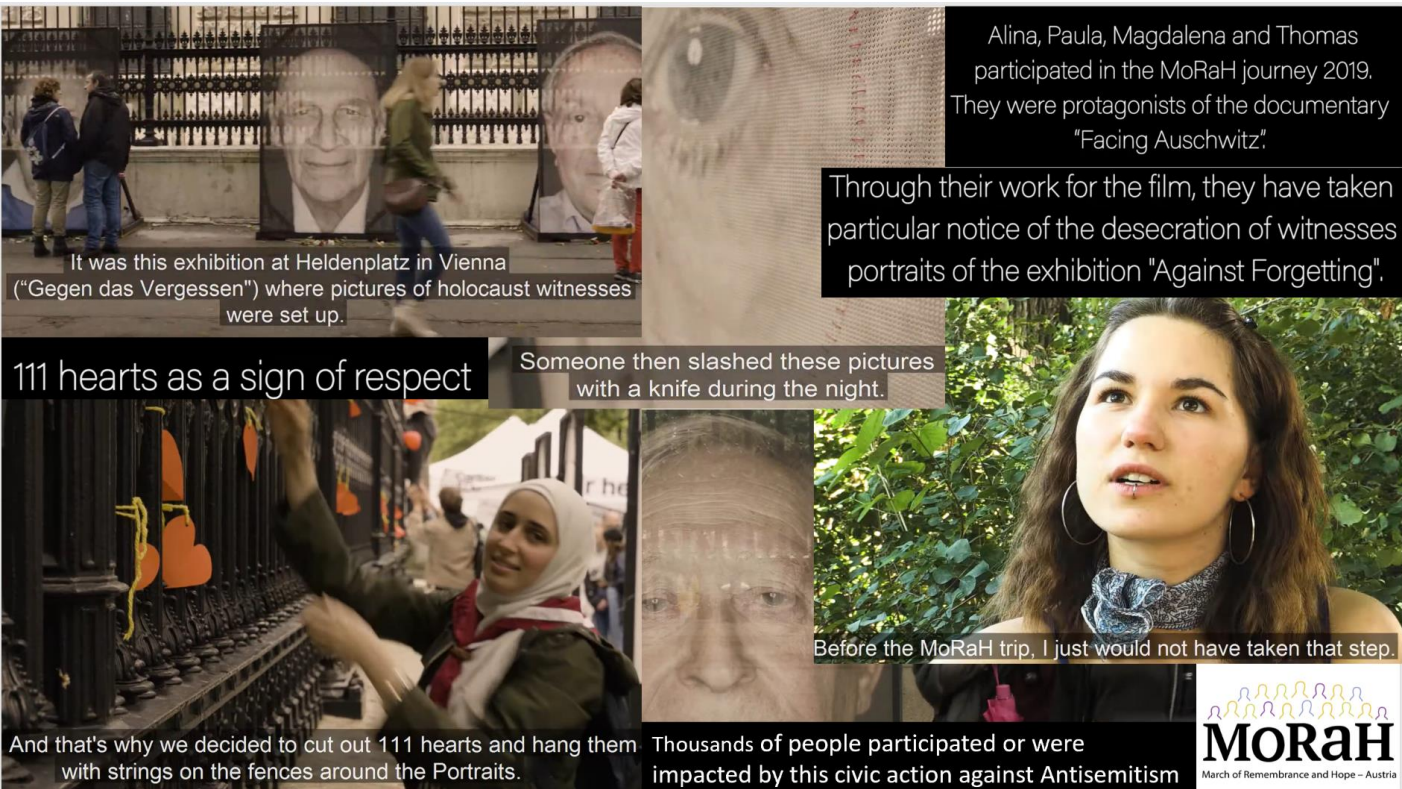
Presentation of MoRaH – March of Remembrance and Hope (Austria) actions to combat by Young Leaders and High School students from Austria: Walentina, Thomas and Magdalena. They were introduced and other actions of MoRaH were presented by Philipp DOCZI, Chairman of MoRaH and Iris SINGER, Vice Chair.



Second Session 22/9/2019:
Presentation and discussion of MoRaH – March of Remembrance & Hope Austria
actions to combat Antisemitism
 by Chairman Philipp DOCZI & Vice Chair Iris SINGER and by MoRaH Young Leaders.

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111 Hearts action:



It was this exhibition at Heldenplatz in Vienna ("Gegen das Vergessen") where pictures of holocaust witnesses were set up.

Alina, Paula, Magdalena and Thomas participated in the MoRaH journey 2019. They were protagonists of the documentary "Facing Auschwitz".

Through their work for the film, they have taken particular notice of the desecration of witnesses portraits of the exhibition "Against Forgetting".

111 hearts as a sign of respect

Someone then slashed these pictures with a knife during the night.

And that's why we decided to cut out 111 hearts and hang them with strings on the fences around the Portraits.

Thousands of people participated or were impacted by this civic action against Antisemitism



©MoRaH

When 4 High School students returned from the March of the Living, they saw that the Holocaust survivors' portraits pictures displayed at the exhibition "Gegen das Vergessen" (eyewitness portraits) at the Heldenplatz in Vienna were slashed with a knife, they decided to act.

With other volunteers they sewed the slashed portraits together and then they decided to display around the portraits a sign of love and respect and they choose the symbol of the heart because it's a very beautiful and simple symbol that everyone understands without 'having to think to much about it'

Therefore, on 28 May 2019, Homemade red paper hearts were made and hung by passers-by on the fence around the eyewitnesses' portraits.

The action attracts a lot of attention on Instagram and on other social media platforms and the protagonists' estimation is that some 20,000 passers-by, bystanders and viewers participated or were directly impacted by this action when many other thousands of people saw, heard or learned about this civic action in the media and in the social media.

Thomas and Magdalena who attended the Conference, shared with the other Young and Emerging leaders their best practices and explained why and how they decided to act when they witnessed the Antisemitic desecration of Holocaust survivors' portraits.

They lead the discussion about what can be done in such situation and how it's important to engage their peer groups and other audiences to be more pro-active in combating Antisemitism:

A trailer of this movie is available on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wcm8wDxpTyI&feature=youtu.be>

Session 3: EYSCAR – European Youth and Students Combating Antisemitism Project

Michel Gourary, Director of EMOTL, presented the Code of Conduct on countering illegal speech online of the European Commission adopted by the main IT Companies: Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and Youtube.

The participants discussed the implications of the Fourth evaluation of the implementation of this Code of Conduct, analysed the removal rates per IT company, per EU country and the breakdown of notifications per ground of hate speech with a very low-level regarding Antisemitism.

The EMOTL Director presented the EYSCAR project aiming at reaching out and engaging European Youth and Students to be more active in monitoring and combating hate speech in social media.

Those participants discussed practical opportunities to follow a training procedure to be accredited flaggers.

Third Session 17:00 -17:30: Presentation of the EYSCAR project to monitor and combat Hate speech in Social Media

European Commission

Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online
Fourth evaluation confirms self-regulation works
Factsheet | February 2019

Věra Jourová
Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

EYSCAR
European Young Students Countering Antisemitism & Racism

Home > ... > Combatting discrimination > @TheEYSCAR

The EU Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online
The robust response provided by the European Union

Removals per IT Company

IT Company	1st Monitoring (Dec. 2016)	2nd Monitoring (May 2017)	3rd Monitoring (Dec. 2017)	4th Monitoring (Dec. 2018)
Facebook	28.3%	66.5%	79.8%	82.4%
Twitter	19.1%	37.4%	45.7%	43.5%
YouTube	48.5%	66.0%	75.0%	85.4%
Instagram	-	-	-	70.6%
Google+	-	-	-	80.0%

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Session 4: Review of EMOTL activities in 2018 and of the implementation of the 2019 Action plan

The EMOTL Director presented the initiatives to reach out additional partners, reinforce the partnership, exchange of information & best practices in order to reach out and engage more Young people and Young adults in relevant and meaningful Holocaust Remembrance activities and in actions to raise the awareness and combat Antisemitism and racial bigotry.

The participants had the opportunity to review the EMOTL efforts to monitor Antisemitism and Racism with its European and National mappings and they discussed the implications of the last survey of FRA – The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights about the perceptions and experiences of Antisemitism amongst Young Jewish Europeans and the last survey of the EU Barometer about perceptions of Antisemitism amongst Europeans.

The participants reviewed the main findings and the need to adapt and update accordingly the EMOTL action plan in the nearest and long-range future.

Fourth Session 23/9/2019 8:30 – 10:00: Review of EMOTL activities in 2018 & discussing and updating action plan for 2019 according to the implications of the last EU surveys

Young Jews face harassment in Europe, but nevertheless express their Jewish identity

FRA Press Release
Vienna/Brussels, 4 July 2019

Young Jewish Europeans: perceptions and experiences of antisemitism

Perceptions of antisemitism
December 2018

Special Eurobarometer 484

Perceptions of antisemitism

Report

Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

THE EUROPEAN MARCH OF THE LIVING* NETWORK
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MAIN MILESTONES OF THE EUROPEAN MARCH OF THE LIVING NETWORK IN 2018

MAIN MILESTONES OF THE EUROPEAN MARCH OF THE LIVING NETWORK IN 2019

THE PERCEPTION OF ANTISEMITISM AS A PROBLEM

Every other European considers antisemitism as a problem in their country. 4 in 10 Europeans consider it not to be an issue in their country.

Fieldwork: December 2018
Publication: January 2019

Special message of Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission coordinator for combating Antisemitism and fostering Jewish Life

During the morning session of the 23/9/2020, the participants listened to the special video message of Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission coordinator on combating Antisemitism.

The organizers also received a letter with her message:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Directorate C: Fundamental rights and rule of law
Unit C.2 : Fundamental rights policy
Coordinator on combating Antisemitism

Message from Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism, to the Conference of Emerging leaders – 22 September 2019, Vilnius, and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

I am hugely encouraged by emerging leaders who don't remain passive, but use their voices in society and among their peers to talk about our common responsibility. When you gather today from Europe and Israel, in the centre of Vilnius, the former heart of the Jewish quarter, let's be reminded to remain vigilant and confront those who spread lies about history, confront those who question the Holocaust or negate its fundamental meaning for today's world. Let's speak up and condemn hatred, bigotry and Antisemitism in all its forms and show the courage to protect the vulnerable. We need people that act when they see racist acts in public, when they hear antisemitic slogans on European streets. Antisemitism is not only a threat for Jews but a fundamental menace for open and liberal societies.

It is important to remember. History is sometimes forgotten. History forgotten is history repeated. The extermination of people did not arise out of the blue. It required perpetrators and still even more it required bystanders. As long as we can see it, speak up and nib hatred in the bud, we can prevent it from happening again.

Best wishes to all of you!

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Katharina.VON-SCHNURBEIN@ec.europa.eu

The participants of the EMOTL Conference of Emerging leaders joined the March of the Living and Memory Road in Vilnius and in Ponary on the 23/9/2019

After the last session of the Conference of Emerging leaders on the 23/9/2019, the participants joined the Remembrance Ceremony at Rudininku square in the former Ghetto territory of Vilnius and listened to the special address of Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis and other Official speakers.

The Head of the European Commission Representation in Lithuania, Ambassador Arnoldas Pranckevicius read excerpts of the letter sent by the European Commission coordinator on combating Antisemitism to the attention of the participants of Conference of Emerging leaders and of the Joint March of the Living & Memory Road.

After the Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony, all the participants marched with their country sign from Rudininku square to Vilnius railway station, boarded a special train to the Ponary train station.

Upon arrival to Ponary, the participants continued the Joint March of the Living in the forest up to the Holocaust killing pits sites where they attended the Ponary Holocaust Commemoration.



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(*)  Project co-funded by the European Union