

EMOTL Enhanced participation in the Annual and in National Marches of the Living in 2019

EMOTL planned in its second year of activity as an European Network to increase the participation in the March of the Living in Poland. Since its inception in 1988, the Annual March of the Living (MOL) is the culmination of diverse educational programs, which bring individuals from Europe and from all over the world to Poland in order to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate. The participants of the Annual March of the Living are marching down the same 3-kilometer path leading from Auschwitz to Birkenau Extermination Camps on the Holocaust Remembrance Day - Yom Hashoah (according to the Jewish calendar) - as a silent tribute to all victims of the Holocaust to remember the victims and to honour the survivors.

In 2019, EMOTL empowered and helped its partners to organize and/or to enhance their participation in National Marches of the Living on National Holocaust Remembrance Days and on Specific Holocaust Commemorations in additional European countries, in Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Austria.

Those additional Marches of the Living aimed to reach out in those specific countries Young Europeans who can't participate in the Annual March of the Living, to engage the MOL Alumni and to impact on larger audiences so they can learn about the Holocaust and its horrendous consequences and to bring them to be more concerned and more pro-active in combating Antisemitism and racial bigotry.

The participants of those additional Marches of the Living followed in the hearts of those European capitals and of the former Jewish quarters, the actual route which countless numbers of Jews were forced to take, during the Holocaust, on their way to their death.

The Annual and the National Marches of the Living aim especially at reaching out the young and future generation so they will learn and understand what happened during the Holocaust and stop it from ever happening again; so they will deepen their memories, further their understanding and strengthen their humanity and their concerns for the other.

The 2019 Annual March of the Living 2/5/2019 - Auschwitz



Further to their reach out efforts and based on successful implementation of twinning arrangements, EMOTL and its partners managed to enhance the number of Young European participants to the 2019 March of the Living.

The Young participants marched under the banners: "No to Antisemitism" and "ELIMIN HATE – Youth Against Antisemitism and Hatred".

The EMOTL Network partners organized the following main delegations to the 2019 Annual March of the Living:

Poland: 1,204 High School students and teachers from 40 Schools

Austria 710 participants, High School students and teachers from 18 Schools & Holocaust Survivor, MoRaH staffers and representatives of the Jewish Community of Vienna

Germany: 220 High School students and teachers from 5 Schools, first of its kind delegation from Orianenburg, Bradenburg State

Hungary: 115 High School students and teachers from 7 Schools & Holocaust Survivors and MOTL Hungary staffers

UK: 100 Students (age 18-21) and 95 Young Adults (age 21-35) & 8 Holocaust Survivors and 77 Adults

The EMOTL partner in Romania accompanied PM Viorica Dăncilă to the Annual March of the Living



The Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă, participated in the International March of the Living, together with a delegation of 50 High School students from the Lauder-Reut Educational Complex, the EMOTL partner in Romania and alongside leaders of the International community, government officials, and representatives of the religious denominations.

The Romanian Prime Minister reminded that Romania's priorities as President of the EU Council include in its fourth pillar: Europe of common values, topics related to combating racism, intolerance, xenophobia, populism, anti-Semitism, to deterring hate speech, and recalled the two international events organized by the Romanian presidency on combating anti-Semitism at European and national level, including by promoting a project aimed at establishing a Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The EMOTL partner in Bulgaria organized a delegation of Bulgarian High Officials to the Annual March of the Living



Bulgaria's National Coordinator against Antisemitism, Deputy Foreign Minister Georg Georgiev, was among the Bulgarian government officials delegation to the Annual March of the Living organized by the EMOTL partner in Bulgaria.

EMOTL delegations to the First Conference of Emerging Leaders – Krakow 1/5/2019

Delegations from the EMOTL groups attended the First Conference of Emerging Leaders held in Krakow, on the day before the Annual March of the Living.

All the 10,000 marchers listened at the end of the Remembrance Ceremony in Birkenau to the statement of those delegates of the First Conference when they read the Emerging Leaders Declaration Combating Antisemitism, Racism and Intolerance drafted and approved during their Conference.

EMOTL produced a 10 min video clip about those delegations:

<https://youtu.be/D0As5gw4RYI>

March of the Living – Budapest - 14/4/2019



©dailynewshungary|xinhuanet|kafkadesk

The EMOTL Hungarian partner, Az Elet Menete - MOTL Hungary, organized on the 14th of April 2019, its Annual March of the Living to mark Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day.

This year's March honored in partnership with the British Embassy in Hungary, Jane Haining, the Scottish missionary who sacrificed her life for saving Jewish-Hungarian children in Budapest. Haining was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944 and died at Auschwitz. She is the only Scot to be honoured as Righteous Among the Nations.

More than 12,000 participants walked along the Danube, to the sound of the shofar and Scottish bagpipes, from Március 15 square, along the Jane Haining riverbank, to the 'Shoes on the Danube Bank' memorial.

As the walk came to an end, a 'giant torch' was lit by Ágnes Keleti, Holocaust survivor and 5-time Olympic champion of gymnastics.

Steps for Life – Riga – 4/7/2019



Our Latvian partner, Shamir Association – Riga Ghetto and Latvia Holocaust Museum, organized on the 4th of July 2019 to mark the Latvian National Holocaust Memorial Day, their annual March of the Living called the Steps for Life.

The participants met at the corner of Lomonosov and Ebreju streets and then walked through former Riga Ghetto area to Big Horal Synagogue memorial (Gogola street).

The Steps of Life March was led by Mr. Janis Bordan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Latvia who also addressed the audience.

Holocaust survivors, Young Latvian and young adults marched and attended the Remembrance Ceremony

Joint March of the Living and Memory Road – Vilnius and Ponary 23/9/2019



EMOTL co-organized with its Lithuanian partners the First Joint March of the Living and Memory Road on the 23rd of September 2019 during the Lithuanian National Holocaust Day, marking the liquidation of the Vilna Ghetto in 1943.

The joint March of the Living and Memory Road co-organized by the International Commission and EMOTL was attended by 1,000 participants including 600 High School students and including the participants of the EMOTL Annual Conference of Emerging Leaders from 8 countries: (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Poland).

The Lithuanian Prime Minister, Saulius Skvernelis, addressed the participants at the main Remembrance Ceremony at Rudniku square.

The Head of the European Commission Representation in Lithuania read the special message of Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission Coordinator on combating Antisemitism saying to the Young marchers: "when you gather today, 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".

After the ceremony, the participants marched on the actual route which countless numbers of Jews were forced to take on their way to the mass killing pits in Ponary.

March of Light of Hope – Vienna – 7/11/2019



On Thursday evening, the 7th of November 2019, the annual commemorative march of the Kristallnacht "Light of Hope" passed through Vienna's city centre. As every year, it was organized by the Jewish youth of Vienna on the occasion of the anniversary of the November pogroms.

This year our EMOTL partner, MoRaH enlarged its participation to the March "Light of Hope", organized by the Youth Department of the Jewish Community in Vienna and attended by 1,000 participants, mostly young people who committed themselves to fight against Antisemitism, racism and intolerance.

In addition to youth representatives, Austrian National Council President Doris Bures and IKG President Oskar German spoke at the closing event.



(*) EMOTL Project co-funded by the European Union