



# PEOPLE

PERSONAL STORIES OF DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION  
UNDER THE TOTALITARIAN REGIMES OF THE XX CENTURY



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**Stay tuned for our next publication in May 2022!**

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# PART ONE

## CHAPTER 1 - PEOPLE

### **The EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME - Strand1 EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE**

Europe for Citizens programme is the 2014-2020 EU funding initiative to strengthen remembrance and enhance civic participation across the EU. The programme:

- contributes to citizens' understanding of the history, values and diversity of the EU;
- fosters conditions for civic participation and engagement at European level. Strand 1 of the programme is European Remembrance, having among its priorities "civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes".

### **The PEOPLE Project**

The project PEOPLE is funded under Strand1- European Remembrance of the EUROPE FOR CITIZEN Programme and "PEOPLE" stands for PERSONAL stories OF Persecution and discrimination under the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century".

The project was born as a possible answer to the emerging need of providing young Europeans with deeper knowledge on persecutions that affected European countries under totalitarian regimes all over the last century.

To do so PEOPLE aims at exploring different types of persecutions perpetuated during that time by collecting micro-personal stories of victims. The objective is to present the collected stories to a large audience in order to understand how persecution and discrimination worked in several European contexts and regimes. A deeper comprehension of the histories above should also lead the young generation to reflect on current reactions of many Europeans about the "other" of our age, namely migrants and minorities of any type, and raise awareness of European common values.

The project is expected to strongly appeal to a young audience thanks to the presentation of the topic through personal stories.

### **Partnership and Work Programme:**

Partners involved in the project are:

1. ATRIUM Association - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the XX century in Europe's Urban Memory (Italy), as the Lead Partner
2. Municipality of DIMITROVGRAD (Bulgaria)
3. Municipality of SHKODËR (Albania)
4. Municipality of LABIN (Croatia)
5. AEP61-74 Association of Portuguese Political Exiles (Portugal)

Each partner's territory is exemplary of one type of persecution therefore themes are addressed as follows:

- a. Italy, Forlì: conditions of ethnic minorities along Italy's eastern borders during fascism and the Yugoslav regime in the immediate post-war period
- b. Bulgaria, Dimitrovgrad: persecution of intellectuals during the communist regime
- c. Croatia, Labin: persecution of the local Jewish community during Fascism
- d. Albania, Shkodër: persecution of the catholic population during the communist regime
- e. Portugal: persecution of political opponents to the Salazar dictatorship

The project contains the following activities:

- 5 parallel preparation stages for the research of micro-stories (in Forlì, Labin, Shkodër, Paris and Dimitrovgrad) of harassment and resistance to non-democratic regimes. In each city and territory involved, students are involved and directed to find some 10 micro-stories to be singled out and collected. It deals with personal stories of daily oppression and persecution and resistance, through interviews to living testimonies and/or collection of archival materials.
- Presentation of the results of the research through live performances of stories (public readings), a photo exhibition with materials from all countries and media communication to better explain the human experience of persecuted people (on a transnational level and targeted to students and youngsters in each territory). On a local level, each partner prepares a live performance (mainly a public reading of the personal stories singled out and collected) which is then introduced by young artists and citizens, in each respective territory. The live performance is always accompanied by a scientific conference on the topic dealt with by the organising partner, along with parallel activities aimed at helping to facilitate intercultural dialogue and reconciliation and the increased knowledge among partner nationalities but also among local minority groups. On a partnership level, the 5 performances are presented through short videos in each city, thus contributing to raising young people's awareness of historical events in other countries through concrete personal stories. In order to have a common structure, young artists and citizens from all countries involved cooperate to also build relationships and networks among participants from partner countries for possible shared projects in the future.

Schools, associations and volunteers involved during all phases not only act as promoters of the project in order to involve a large range of citizens, but also as facilitators in connecting history to current political topics.

**Project start date:** 07.12.2020

**Project end date:** 06.06.2023

## CHAPTER 2 - THE PARTNERSHIP AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS

### The ATRIUM Association (Italy)



The ATRIUM Association is a transnational organisation established in 2013 and based in Forlì (Italy) to promote and manage the European Cultural Route “Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe’s Urban Memory”. The Association (and the Route) is composed of 17 municipalities from 4 European countries (Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania). The Route, recognized as a European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe, aims to disseminate knowledge, protect and promote European tangible and intangible heritage associated with the architecture and history of the 20th century, with special focus on periods marked by dictatorial regimes in Europe. Since 2013, the Association has been implementing activities aimed at discovering shared historical elements and raising awareness of European identity in its unity and diversity: researching activities on dissonant heritage, educational projects with schools, exhibitions, seminars, publications. It is a member of the Faro Convention network and of the Rete Faro Italia, connected with the implementation of the Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society of the Council of Europe (the FARO Convention). The Association is strongly based on an explicit rejection of all forms of historical revisionism and apologetics with regard to authoritarian, dictatorial or totalitarian regimes and is dedicated to the promotion of democratic values, as is made explicit in the statute of the Association.

As a European Cultural Route of the Council of Europe the ATRIUM association is committed to promoting activities in the following areas:

- Cooperation in research and development;
- The enhancing of the memory and history of European twentieth-century architectural and urban heritage related to totalitarian or dictatorial regimes;
- Educational exchanges and visits;
- Contemporary cultural practice around the themes of the route;
- Sustainable cultural tourism

Over the last few years the ATRIUM Association has developed several projects aimed at promoting the preservation of memories of the tragic historical events of the twentieth century, especially addressed to European students and young generations, in order to make them responsible and informed citizens of the future.



ATRIUM is certified by the Council of Europe as a Cultural Route – Dec. 2014  
*(Atrium Archive - Photo Giorgio Sabatini)*

### **ATRIUM and the PEOPLE Project**

Atrium is the Lead partner of the PEOPLE project.

As such it is responsible for project administration and coordination, ensuring effective implementation and reporting. ATRIUM, as a transnational entity, can guarantee, through its EU-wide network, the involvement of the greatest audience also from European countries other than those directly involved in the events. With the collaboration of the other project partners it takes care of the production of paper and on-line communication and educational material useful to disseminate the project results, also in connection with the Institute of European Certified Cultural Route's (IEIC) networks.

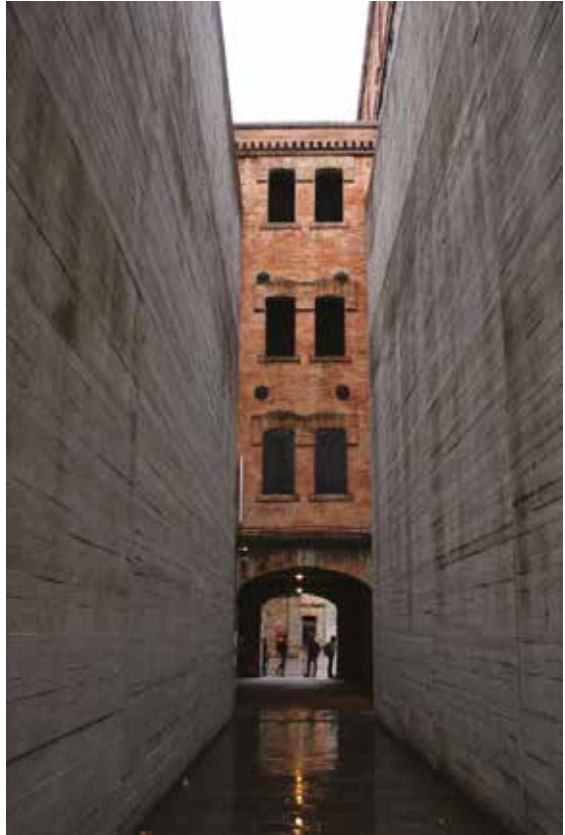
ATRIUM organises the public project event in Forlì (Italy) by involving a number of local and international members and partners.

The theme dealt with by ATRIUM for the project's purposes is  
**“Non-democratic regimes and minorities: the case of Italy and its eastern border”**.

In fact, the Italian eastern border, that geo-historical area that nowadays belongs partly to Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, was affected by some of the most traumatic historical events in the 20th century: social struggles linked to national issues, the fall of secular empires, mass wars, forced relocations, military occupations, racial persecutions, and the concentration camp system, first fascist and then Nazi. The forced cultural and social Italianization of local communities put in force by the fascist regime was also marked by acts of physical violence towards ethnic minorities and the destruction of buildings and monu-

ments of high symbolic value for those local communities. Besides the period of Italian sovereignty on this area, Nazi military occupation and then Tito's subsequent take-over - when Italians in Istria became one of the many ethnic minorities on the territory – are also topics of the research. It is the history of a temporal continuum of generalised violence in this area for over twenty years.

Main players of the project activities are students from the Classical High School “Morgagni” in Forlì who are engaged in a learning-training project. Under the coordination of expert tutors from the DEINA association they produce the live performance in the form of public readings and visual materials (posters and video), narrating the results of their research to be presented during an event in Forlì particularly addressed to young people and students. This event is enriched with a parallel public conference on the theme of persecution and discrimination of ethnic minorities, addressed to the largest audience with the involvement of experts in history and local organisations for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and integration.



Risiera di San Sabba (Photo: Deina and Liceo Classico)

### **ATRIUM's Stakeholders**

#### **DEINA:**

Deina is an association active on the whole Italian territory to build and promote educational paths for young generations towards a conscious use of the history and the memories of the 20th century, in order to become a driver for social inclusion and social innovation. Since 2013 DEINA has accompanied over 8.000 Italian students from different Regions to Europe's many sites of memory of the 20th century. It realises projects of active citizenship thanks to a group of young professionals able to offer a multidisciplinary approach in the design of educational/training programs and cultural-historical products. For the PEOPLE project Deina coordinates the students in Forlì directly involved in the learning-training project “Non-democratic regimes and minorities: the case of Italy and its eastern border”.

### **The Classical High School “G.B. Morgagni” and other high schools in Forlì:**

Most high schools in Forlì have collaborated with ATRIUM during the past decade to explore and reflect on the themes of the ATRIUM Route, starting from architecture built during Fascism to the various topics and values linked to it: education, sport, food, sociology, art, consensus, propaganda, etc. While a classroom of the Classical High School “Morgagni” and their teachers are directly involved in the project activities, Forlì students from other high schools (other than the classroom directly involved) are indirect beneficiaries of the results of the project being the audience of the final Forlì events.

### **Institute for the History of Resistance and Contemporary Age of Forlì:**

ISTORECO is the point of reference for researchers, scholars and teachers dealing with contemporary history and for anyone who wants to gain a more in-depth knowledge about the history of the 19th and 20th centuries. It preserves and enhances the archival and bibliographic heritage, carries out historical research, teaches and trains, promotes places of remembrance, education for active citizenship and peace. Since the very beginning of ATRIUM’s life it has collaborated in a lot of research and many initiatives.

### **Alfred Lewin Foundation, Forlì:**

It aims at deepening research, reflection and cultural and civil commitment. It is named after Alfred Lewin, a German Jew killed in Forlì by the Nazis-fascists in September 1944. Its activities are mainly aimed at the dissemination of texts, documents, proceedings of conferences and seminars, also thanks to its own “Gino Bianco Library”, a large collection of newspapers and funds, declared “book and documentary heritage” of the Emilia-Romagna Region. For the PEOPLE project it facilitates connections with the archives of Italy’s eastern borders, and makes useful documentation available for the students’ work.

### **European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the other certified European Cultural Routes:**

They contribute to disseminating the results of the PEOPLE project.

### **University of Bologna:**

Courses of History, History of political doctrines, Balkans studies, Master’s degree program in mass media and politics, Globalization and Identities in Eastern Europe, Multicultural skills in global contexts are grounds for promotion of the results of the project.

### **Associations/Organisations:**

Working on/for migrants’ inclusion: Centro per la Pace, Coop. Dialogos participate in the project activities to promote intercultural dialogue and pacification.



## The Municipality of Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria)



The foundation of the city of Dimitrovgrad is unique in the history of Bulgaria, it being a completely new city built in 1947. It is an entirely new type of town, the first socialist industrial settlement, and it combines an ambitious urban development and the doctrine of “socialist classic” imposed by the Soviet Union. The entire town was built following the new concept of the organisation of social life during the communist period. This unique urban structure of the city still characterises its cultural and social life, and the municipality has always paid great attention to the preservation and promotion of its architectural and cultural heritage from the near past. The city is a founding member of the ATRIUM Cultural Route and its main cultural activities are dedicated to the preservation and telling of its history and heritage. Already several activities and expositions have been organised with the purpose to show how life was during the communist regime.



Central city square (Photo: Rossen Todorov, Municipal Archive)

## Dimitrovgrad and the PEOPLE Project

Dimitrovgrad is a partner of the PEOPLE project.

The City of Dimitrovgrad discusses the topic of the persecution of intellectuals under the communist regime, as well as the collaboration of Bulgarian authorities with the Nazi occupiers in the deportation of minorities. When it comes to the persecution of intellectuals the city is emblematic in Bulgaria, as it is closely connected to the life of famous Bulgarian poet Penyo Penev; a young artist who best expressed the enthusiasm of the Brigadiri movement in 1948, but who in 1959 died in disappointment with the realities of the Communist regime. The Dimitrovgrad History Museum has had an exhibition about Penyo Penev as early as 1964. Today Penyo Penev's home is a museum with his life-size statue at the entrance. Taking the life of Penev as a starting-point, the city of Dimitrovgrad organises a scientific conference, several films, multimedia presentations and live performances, along with lectures, debates, a round table, and interviews with eyewitnesses in cooperation with scientists, experts, high schools, local associations and museums. Youngsters directly involved in the project activities and products are groups of students aged 16-19 from all the city's local high schools.



Penyo Penev's statue in front of the home-museum of the poet  
*(Photo: Inko Burgelov, Municipal Archive)*

## **Dimitrovgrad's Stakeholders**

### **Historical Museum Dimitrovgrad:**

The museum was established in 1951 with a focus on contemporary history and its structure includes five specialised departments. In the permanent exposition can be seen artefacts from Neolithic to modern times, located in four exhibition halls. Part of the institution are the Art Gallery and the House Museum “Penyo Penev”. The museum also organises temporary exhibitions and other cultural events. The “Brigadier Movement in Bulgaria” Hall is unique in the country and reflects a complex and controversial period from the recent past of Bulgaria, roughly from 1945-1990. On display are brigade uniforms, flags, awards, photographs from the Brigadier daily routine, and so on. It reveals the history of this movement and immerses visitors in the spirit of time. Finally, Dimitrovgrad Hall follows the construction of one of Bulgaria’s youngest cities, which became a symbol of socialism in the 1950s.

### **The Drama Theatre “Apostol Karamitev”:**

Drama Theatre “Apostol Karamitev” was established in 1953 by Decree of the State Council of Bulgaria. It is the only state theatre in a non-county city. The first salon of the theatre, before the current building was built, was the attic floor of a local winery. There the windows are nailed with plywood, the dressing rooms are without daylight, and heating was provided by a large cooking-stove.

### **“Penyo Penev” City Library:**

“Penyo Penev” City Library was founded in 1953. In the beginning, the library catalogue numbered 3,500 volumes, and today it is more than 350,000. The library acts as the main repository of the Dimitrovgrad Municipality and as an archive of local historical literature and periodic printing. These activities attribute to its central importance in the library- and information-services of readers.

### **DGTV (Dimitrovgrad television):**

DGTV is an information platform for news and events from Dimitrovgrad and the region. On its site one can watch live or recorded video broadcasts.

### **High Schools:**

- “Lyuben Karavelov” High School;
- “Ivan Vazov” High School in Nature Studies and Mathematics;
- “Ivan Bogorov” High School for Foreign Languages;
- “Prof. D-r Assen Zlatarov” Vocational High School.

## The Municipality of Shkodër (Albania)



The Municipality of Shkodër is the fifth most populous city of the Republic of Albania and its institutional beginnings date back to 1865. It was called “Beledie” (from Turkish) until 1913, “Përlimtare” until 1920 and “Bashki” (Municipality) from this year. The city itself, however, is one of the most ancient cities in the Balkans and exerts strong cultural, economic and religious influences. The Municipality of Shkodër is an autonomous local entity and public law body, and currently has a population of 204,954 inhabitants.

The position of Shkodër is ideal, being in the centre of the intersection between the municipalities of Malësi e Madhe, Vau Dejës, Puka, Lezha, and in the centre of the cross-border connection with the coast of Montenegro and Lake of Shkodër, as well as being in the axis of the two capitals Tirana and Podgorica. Because of this, Shkodër plays, and will always play, a key role in providing economic, logistical, educational, social and cultural services to the entire Northern region of Albania and its community, and even extending further beyond the border.

The municipality aims to promote the development and civil, social, economic progress of the community through cooperation with all public and private persons. By doing this it hopes to positively influence the participation of citizens and social and economic actors, as well as trade unions, in the administration of the city. The city has numerous testimonies of the years when it was governed by the communist regime, and it was in fact in Shkodër where the revolt for the fall of that same regime started. Shkodër has a history of religious persecutions of Catholics and Christians during the communist regime.

During this time, Shkodër became the most unfortunate city in Albania, as the dictatorship introduced for its citizens a uniquely cruel manner of persecution, terror, suffering, and killing. Up until this day one can see the most well-known prison-houses of Albania, where the regime used to detain and interrogate its prisoners. It was in 2014 that the Municipality of Shkodër opened the local museum called “Site of Witness and Memory”, and it is the first site of remembrance in Albania, commemorating the victims of the communist regime in Shkodër. Its aim is to create a collective memory of the recent past and to educate the younger generations on the importance of being aware of this past.

### **Shkodër and the PEOPLE Project**

The Municipality of Shkodër is one of the partners of the PEOPLE project, and its main focus is the discrimination and persecution of Catholics, and Christians in general, in the city, perpetuated by the communist regime of Enver Hoxha from the 1940's until his death in 1985. During the communist regime, the clergy suffered a severe shock, with hundreds of clergymen of all faiths being executed, convicted and interned. In 1967 the communist authorities closed religious activity with a special decree, a decision that was followed by the destruction of religious buildings, such as mosques, churches and small mosques of the Bektashi sect. Students from the University of Shkodër and youngsters from the Youth Cen-



The Municipality of Shkodër (Photo: Ardit Bajrami)

ter “Atelie” are the main actors of the project. They are engaged in local activities based on the identification with witnesses and their interviews, along with the exploration of some of the most important cult and religious heritage destroyed or transformed during the communist regime. The final output of their research, in collaboration with the municipal team, are several products, such as: a tourist itinerary map, a reading to the public during the local project event, a video-interview, and more communication and promotional material related to the new cultural-tourism itinerary.

Shkodër, January 31<sup>st</sup> 1945. Father Daniel Dajani, Father Gjon Shllaku, and Father Giovanni Fausti are accompanied by armed partisans to the courtroom at the “Rozafa” cinema. The three senior Catholic clergymen, leading the Jesuit and Franciscan Orders, were accused of leading the “Albanian Union” organisation. Despite the accusation being false and the trial being fabricated, the three clerics were still executed on March 4<sup>th</sup> 1946. (Photo: Archive “Site of Witness and Memory”)



## **Shkodër's Stakeholders**

### **The “Site of Witness and Memory”:**

It is the first institution to commemorate the victims who served their sentences in the prisons of the communist regime. Conceived as a museum space since September 2014, today it is a memorial of the communist dictatorship period, where the grisliest parts are the original detention cells of the former Internal Affairs Branch. At the bottom of the cell space is the torture chamber where prisoners were often subjected to physical and moral torture. In the exhibition hall of the facilities there are historical repertoires, evidence and materials used by the prisoners during their investigation and imprisonment. The exhibition also reflects original documents of the time that prove the communist persecution in the city of Shkodër; the first anti-communist uprisings in Albania, military trials, the persecution of the clergy, internments, escapes and even shootings.

Its mission is not only to remember the past, but also to address aspects of imprisonment for political reasons and the mechanisms of the time, and to create a culture of historical memory accompanied by facts and evidence, addressing primarily the younger generation, to raise awareness of the mistakes of the past, and to be a forerunner in building a free and secure democratic society.

### **The Youth Center “Atelie”:**

It is a public service of the Municipality of Shkodër dedicated to its youth and is part of the network of Community Centers “For the Family” and is under the management of the Directorate of Social Services, Housing and Public Health.

This centre is a safe multi-functional youth space and enables the provision of services in formal and non-formal education, entrepreneurship, culture, information and ICT, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, different ability, age or sexual orientation, and promotes the organization of proposed youth initiatives, to encourage the exchange of experiences and projects, which prevent situations of isolation and social marginalization of young people.

The Youth Center “Atelie” aims to empower and promote youth through the implementation of quality and inclusionary education programs, employment and entrepreneurship, youth participation and representation in politics and decision-making (both local and central), art, culture, sports and environment. It also promotes youth initiatives and organisations and programs on social and health issues, which directly affect the promotion of human rights, volunteering and the development of democracy.

### **University Of Shkodër “Luigj Gurakuqi”:**

The Department of History and Cultural Heritage, the Department of Journalism and Communication, the Department of Literacy and the Department of Tourism will be close partners in forming the youth working group, producing and delivering the project’s outputs and disseminating the results among peers.

## The Municipality of Labin (Croatia)



Grad Labin

The town of Labin is located in the eastern part of Istria, a region of Croatia on the Adriatic Sea. Whereas the old town dates back to Antiquity, the modern part of Labin (Pozzo Littorio) is one the “planned cities” established under the Fascist rule in Istria (1936-1942), based on the architectural style of Italian rationalism and made possible by the monopolistic presence of the totalitarian state. The town has changed rulers many times throughout history, passing through the hands of the Venetians, the Austrians, the French, and has experienced both fascist and communist rule until Croatia acquired its independence in 1992; all periods which have left their historical traces. Alongside these regime changes the town and region have also witnessed the persecution of different ethnic groups during the twentieth century. It is interesting to note that in the area of Labin the first resistance to the prevailing fascism in Europe was offered (Labin Republic in 1921) even before Fascism officially came to power in Italy. The systematic implementation of racial fascist policy since 1938 has also marked the area of Istria. Therefore, history testifies to numerous deportations of the population, including all ethnic groups who were persecuted by state forces in different ways with varying intensity during the 1930s and 1940s.



Panoramic view of the planned fascist town of Podlabin, back then “Pozzo Littorio”  
(Atrium Archive - Photo Luca Massari)

## Labin and the PEOPLE Project

The Municipality of Labin investigates how the effects of racial laws by have led to the transformation of the Jewish population into second-class citizens and their subsequent deportation to the concentration camps after the Wansee Conference in 1942 and following the German occupation of the territories of central and northern Italy after 8 September 1943. The anti-Semitic campaign was initiated by the propaganda machine, then followed by acts by fascist institutions and at the end of 1938 culminated in the systematic implementation of racial fascist policies. The topic we deal with is the systematic persecution of the Jewish population from all over Istria during the fascist and Nazi regimes. High school students with their history teacher are involved in project activities and work on research in which they explore the anti-Semitic features and implementation of a whole range of racially fascist laws by the propaganda of the press. They also attempt to answer the question of ‘why did the application of anti-Jewish provisions begin primarily in school?’ Testimonies are also collected. These testimonies are mainly used to analyse the deportation of the Istrian Jewish population from arrest to arrival in fascist and Nazi camps. The final output of research is a lecture, a video and an exhibition presented during the conference in April.



Identification number from Auschwitz camp tattooed on Milka Pikot's left forearm  
*(Photo: Igor Jovanović- Igor Šaponja, from the publication We Were Only Numbers was published: Istrians in Concentration Camps in World War II)*



## **Labin's Stakeholders**

### **High school Mate Blažina Labin:**

Students included in the extracurricular teaching program "Regional Teaching in the County of Istria" also work on this topic. The aim of this program is to discover our legacy by having a direct contact with the historical past. Throughout this process guidance is provided and tasks are created to raise awareness about the necessity of mutual acceptance and tolerance on a religious, a national and a cultural level. It is the responsibility of all to build our societies on an equal and respectful attitude towards all human beings and their rights and freedoms.

### **The Istrian Historical Society:**

Students also collaborate with members of the Istrian Historical Society, which brings together Istrian historians and encourages research into the history of Istria. Here students use testimonies and materials collected by historians Igor Šaponja and Igor Jovanović during a ten-year work on the subject.

### **Pazin State Archives:**

Also, the students, with the help of a history teacher, will conduct research on the implementation of racial laws and the deportation of repressed groups to the camps. Students themselves will collect new testimonies from families whose members were deported to the camps. Therefore, they will search for available materials in the State Archives in Pazin.

## The Association of Portuguese Political Exiles (Portugal)



Associação de Exilados Políticos Portugueses

The Association of Portuguese Political Exiles (AEP61-74) is an association of former Portuguese deserters, refractories and political exiles in Europe. Its objectives are a) to publish the book *Exiles with testimonies of Portuguese exiles in Europe (1961-74)*; b) to collect and disseminate memories of the exile of the 60s and 70s of the 20th century; c) to create, produce and support multimedia communication of that same period; d) to support and develop initiatives for peace, human rights, and against war. It can be seen as a bag of 'living memories' that can animate schools and libraries with information and documentation about this period of contemporary Portuguese history. In addition, it contributes to projects for the development of local tourism through the creation of political and nature tourism routes on the borders, and by mobilizing municipalities, schools, cultural associations, and local development associations.



On the border with Spain, AEP61-74, with local municipalities, put a sign on Exile before the 25th of April. (Photo: Carlos Ribeiro / Sem Fronteiras)

### **AEP61-74 and the PEOPLE project**

Participants associated with AEP-61-74 are former Portuguese deserters, refractors and political exiles in Europe who have been actively collecting and disseminating the memories of exile in the 20th century. Their contribution to the PEOPLE project is the documentation and collection of historical material, and the direct participation in the various pedagogical activities of the project, both as content producers (website, exhibition material) and as active participants (participatory theatre workshop, documentary film). Students involved

with AEP61-74 conduct interviews with exiles. Here the aim is to look for a ‘young approach’ to the past, a methodology of building a narratological strategy able to appeal to students and young people in general. It is a way to experiment with the use of language and tools to make history appealing to this younger audience. Some of the contacts that the Association has established with local authorities and associations in Portugal are also used. It has been decided to organize the international event in Paris, the town to which thousands of political opponents of authoritarian Portuguese regimes made their escape, and where the majority of these still live. Informal meetings between young participants and political exiles living in Paris are organised, along with meetings with local organizations that work with immigrants, in order to discuss connections between political immigrants from Portugal in the past and today’s immigrants from Africa. A living performance is held in the form of a public reading in a public park in Paris by young citizens and immigrants about the story of Portuguese political opponents, followed by a final conference with the project-partners where the project results and outputs are presented and discussed.



Some exiles found a new life in Paris. Many of them fought the dictatorial regime from exile (*Photo: José Pinto de Sá/Exílios.3*)

## **AEP61-74's Stakeholders**

### **Lycée d'Arsonval | Arsonval High School:**

Located in a very beautiful, wooded park of almost 2 hectares, the Lycée d'Arsonval welcomes 1000 secondary school students and 160 students in CPGE and BTS in a studious and pleasant atmosphere. Located in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, less than 20 minutes from the heart of Paris by public transport, the Arsonval high school offers privileged working conditions, combining excellence and good spirit in its approach. A high-level faculty, an excellent work atmosphere, a spirit of solidarity, and benevolent and personalized follow-up by the teams, both human and academic, make it possible to support all our pupils and students, both in their academic success as well as in the construction of their professional projects.

### **Association Mémoire Vive | Memória Viva:**

In April 2003 the association "Mémoire Vive/Memória Viva" was created with the objective to "collect and transmit the memory of Portuguese immigration in a spirit of exchange and openness". For having personally experienced Portuguese immigration, or for being linked to it through professional or private life, its members are all interested in understanding the historical, political, economic and social conditions that surround the phenomena of emigration and immigration.

The story of Portuguese immigration has no monument that testifies to its history, nor do the issues that cross it, the debates that animate it, or the books and images that speak of it. More than sixty years have passed since the beginning of the greatest clandestine emigration in post-war Europe: when men and women fled poverty, the Salazar dictatorship, and colonial wars. Entire villages lapsed into silence and fear, men deserted to not fight in Africa, and intellectuals, artists, and people who love freedom of speech and action, left, for the most part clandestinely, their country. However, very little exists about this history: its departures, journeys, arrivals, the professional, artistic, political and affective networks woven in the host countries, new lives that were (and still are) built there, and eventual returns. This absence, or silence, gives rise to many prejudices, statuesque images, misunderstandings, repressions, and sometimes withdrawals.

We have organized a series of events (exhibitions, screenings, conferences, debates, etc.) which have made it possible to disseminate, in a spirit of popular education, the memory of this immigration. We are now working to publish and disseminate materials for educational purposes, and materials that express the themes we defend, such as books, DVDs, exhibitions, and more.

### **Catholic Institut of Paris | Institut Catholique de Paris:**

In the world of universities, the ICP is a recognized centre of excellence in theology, philosophy and canon law, from which radiate human and social sciences with a strong educational, ethical and anthropological component. The faculties and organizations where these university disciplines are housed are all part of a common project, which is divided into three major axes: welcoming, innovating and building.

An institution that welcomes is first and foremost an institution that includes all those who participate in this project. At the ICP students, teachers, and researchers are all encouraged to engage in this common project, nourished by great cultural, human, intellectual, and religious diversity. It is also an institution that strives not to exclude. The ICP thus conducts a welcome policy covering both the inclusion of people with disabilities as well as the social and educational advancement of people in difficulty.