

Project name: Public dialogue on the fate of the killed and missing: we remember – and you?

Project promotor: Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past

Partner:

- Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights – Osijek

Project implementation period: 01.01.2021. – 31.12.2023.

Total project value: € 149,999.99, of which € 149,999.99 was provided through financial support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Norwegian grants

Contact person for more information: Vesna Teršelič, vesna.terselic@documenta.hr

Link to relevant website: <https://documenta.hr/>

Project summary:

Existing legal mechanisms are vague and neglect civilian victims of war, and the process of social trust building slows down ineffective resolution of the fate of the missing, inefficient judiciary, poor institutional and social support with hints of intolerance and hate speech, and inadequate coping with the past. Therefore, the main goal of the endeavor is to strengthen civil society and vulnerable groups in the process of humanizing attitudes towards victims of war and human rights violations, regardless of their national, ethnic or political affiliation. Focusing on target groups that include victims of the wars of the 20th century with their families, lawyers and attorneys, representatives of the judiciary, legislature and the executive, young students and researchers, and the media, professional and general public, will seek to empower and mobilize stronger social and political support as well as a more effective search for the missing, recognition of the rights of the families of those killed and other civilian victims, and stronger prosecution of war crimes.

During the three - year period, the project will strive to provide a better and more humane approach to the problems of war victims and practices of remembrance culture in Croatia, through a series of different activities that include support to victims and survivors (filling out questionnaires about victims, writing case studies, etc.), support for more efficient war crimes prosecutions (trial monitoring, cooperation with legal teams, etc.), public advocacy for the rights of civilian victims of war (meetings with judicial institutions, writing comments on bills, etc.), better history teaching and empowering young people to deal with past (workshops on recording local histories, mentoring support, etc.) and strong public advocacy in the form of crowdfunding and other smaller advocacy campaigns.

Over 36 months, the project aims to create a safer environment in which people are willing to talk about their destinies and the fates of victims, thus encouraging networking of various stakeholders at local and national level, while seeking greater social understanding and institutional transparency.