

## Event 2

# Sandansky (Bulgaria)

from 26/03/2015 to 28/03/2015

## Participation

The event involved 51 citizens, including:

- 2 participants from the city of Montescudo, Montegrifolfo, Gemmano, Riccione, Rimini (Italy)
- 2 participants from the city of La Jonquera (Spain)
- 1 participants from the city of Kavala (Greece)
- 2 participants from the city of Ieper (Belgium)
- 2 participants from the city of Maribor (Slovenia)
- 2 participants from the city of Usti nad Labem (Czech Republic)
- 15 participants from the city of Doiran, Novo Selo, SeloZubovo, SeloSmolare (Macedonia)
- 25 participants from the city of Sandansky (Bulgaria)



## Short description

The second event of the project was in Sandanski (Bulgaria) on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, with tour to war memorials from the First and Second World War, the front of Rupel and Doiran in Greece, the Bulgarian cemeteries in Novo selo, FYROM (Macedonia) and the Rojden monastery which has witnessed several wars.

The meeting was divided in two parts along the first and second days.

The opening of the first day Thursday 26 March 2015 was focused on the knowledge about Sandanski's history during the wars, from the First Balkan War to the Second World War.

Two speeches took place to illustrate the subject, on one side to explain briefly the history of the Bulgarian army and on the other side to talk about the society during that period of the first half of the twentieth century.

Mr Dimitar Toshev presented 'Sandanski during the wars'. In this presentation, the speaker talked about the four wars which hit the region: Balkan wars in 1912 and 1913, First World War and Second World War.

After the more theoretical part, the event continued with "the value of the Peace / interactive teaching" in order to examine how the different museums and memory sites work on the subject of peace nowadays. This was the most interesting part to know the different initiatives in the other countries and compare them with the own local projects. Some of the members emphasized the

importance of the work about memory with children, as a way of spread the notion of justice and peace.

To conclude, Ms Karaivanova, teacher of a local school, explained the cooperation between German and Bulgarian students who repaired German tombs during 14 days. Two students of the school brought a nice representation of this collaboration.

It has been organized a visit at the German flowerbed in the city cemetery and the teacher laid down a spray of flowers for the Germans who died during the first and the second world conflict.

On the second day the meeting continued with tour at war memorials at the death monument in Levunovo (WWI) and the church, built by soldiers during WWI.

Furthermore the event went on with a trip to Rupel, in Greece, for a visit to the military domain with a fort and a museum and to the Doiran Lake, (part of the front during the First and the Second World War) to visit a monument to the disappeared and a cemetery for the Salonica campaign's victims.

After the visit continued to the British and Greek cemeteries 'Cimetière Hellenique Doirani' in Doiran and to Novo Selo (FYROM- Macedonia), to visit another cemetery, dedicated to the Bulgarian victims of the Balkan, First and Second World War.

This second day of the meeting was especially interesting because was possible to visit the physical places where the events took place.

The last day ended with workshop on the liveliness of the twentieth century history, how it still remains nowadays and how it contributes to build up our collective European imaginary.

The day ended with a visit to the oud cloister of Rojen (Rozhen Monastery) and of the Kordopulova House in Melnik.

