The project «The Price of Freedom and Democracy» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 *"Networks of Towns"*
Measure 2.3 "*Civil Society Projects*"
Strand 1 – "*European Remembrance*"

Preparatory activities (if applicable): the activities involved 16 participants from the consortium.

Location / Dates: Webex platform on 8-9.03.2021

Short description: these activities consisted of a kick-off meeting held online through the Webex platform on the 8-9.03.2021

Events: 4 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1: Remembrance cinema and history tours

Participation: The event involved 426 citizens, including 80 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 54 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 106 participants from the city of Vilnius, **(Lithuania),** 32 participants from the city of Warsaw **(Poland),** 34 participants from the city of Prague, 36 participants from the city of Brno and 26 participants from the city of Karlovy Vary (**Czech Republic**), and 58 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in all partner countries in the cities of Sofia (Bulgaria), Berlin (Germany), Vilnius (Lithuania), Warsaw (Poland), the cities of Prague, Brno, Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) and the city of Timisoara (Romania) from 15/03/2021 to 17/07/2021.

Short description: Event 1 resulted in implementing 18 film screenings and 6 history tours across the partner countries. The selected 18 films are available in the Film collection section on the PFD official website. The general objective of the event was to inform and educate young people born after 1989 and citizens about the exploitations and manipulations of democratic practices and repressions of people and dissidents during the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century. Event 1 resulted in strengthening the understanding of democracy among youth and contributed to a deeper understanding of the history and values of the EU. The film screenings were accompanied by follow-up discussions with historians, academia and experts to enable young people to get a deeper understanding of their history and acquaint them with their rights, civil liberties and responsibilities as European citizens to safeguard democracy. The six history tours held across the partner countries contributed to the authentic experience of totalitarian history in an objective and informative way. They promoted local cultural heritage as part of the common European memory.

Event 2: Workshops on Forum Theatre

Participation: The event involved 93 citizens, including 16 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 6 participants from the city of Landshut (**Germany**) and 13 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 8

participants from the city of Panevezys (**Lithuania**), 4 participants from the city of Warsaw and 8 participants from the city of Krakow (**Poland**), 18 participants from the city of Prague, 1 participants from the city of Brno and 1 participant from the city of Přeštice (**Czech Republic**) and 18 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in all partner countries in the cities of Sofia (Bulgaria), Landshut, Berlin (Germany), Panevezys (Lithuania), the cities of Warsaw, Krakow (Poland), the cities of Prague, Brno, Přeštice (Czech Republic) and the city of Timișoara (Romania) from 15.07.2021-20.01.2022.

Short description: Event 2 resulted in implementing six 5-days workshops across the partner countries. The workshops explored participatory and drama methods of Forum and Verbatim (documentary) theatre to recreate the past and reevaluate the present. Through the workshops, authentic stories were collected and analysed, which gave a better understanding to young people of how life was organised during totalitarian regimes. In this way, the workshops empowered youth to examine the consequences of the past and assess their contemporary liberties and freedoms. The workshops helped young participants reflect upon the present uses of the past and the meaning of youth participation in addressing the rights and responsibilities connected to democracy and civil rights.

Event 3: Performances

Participation: The event involved 182 citizens, including 45 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 8 participants from the city of Landshut and 9 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 26 participants from the city of Panevezys **(Lithuania)**, 36 participants from Krakow, 2 participants from the city of Warsaw and 2 participants from the city of Wrocław (**Poland**), 36 participants from the city of Prague (**Czeck Republic**) and 18 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria, the cities of Landshut, Berlin, Germany, the city of Panevezys, Lithuania, the cities of Krakow, Warsaw and Wrocław, Poland, the city of Prague, Czech Republic and the city of Timisoara, Romania, from 17.10.2021-21.01.2022.

Short description: Six Forum Theatre performances are the results of the workshops. The scenarios focused on stories of soft and hard repressions and drew parallels from civil movements in the past to contribute to a better understanding of civil liberties and freedoms as an indispensable element of democracy. The performances helped young people immerse in the oppressed characters they played and understand and appreciate the struggle that their characters lived. In this way, the performances brought self-awareness to young people and the ability to explore real moral issues. The performances were staged before an audience, which was also actively engaged in the process of remembrance through the Forum theatre techniques.

Event 4: Final international exhibition

Participation: The event involved 157 citizens, including 150 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria)**, 1 participant from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Vilnius (**Lithuania**), 2 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**), and 2 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria, between 26.04.-30.05.2022.

Short description: The final international exhibition “Secret Room" was the unified collection of the recorded theatre performances from the partners and video interviews with participants in the form of various installations (video-art installations with materials from the workshops in partner countries and the youth guide on democracy). The exhibition elicited the messages of PFD and youth to the wider public. The participants’ reflections on democracy have been disseminated to broader audiences through the video interviews and the exhibition of video installations to provoke a further debate and reflections on the values of contemporary youth and their power to make conscious choices that influence their lives.




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The exhibition Secret Room brings together documents, videos and results from the workshops of The Price of Freedom and Democracy international project.
It focuses on the themes of democracy, the victims of the Socialist regime, and the returns of transition through the means of verbatim and forum theatre workshops targeted to young people from Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.
The project overall has an international dimension, with a different topic assigned to every workshop. The exhibition highlights young people's perspectives and encounter with history. They were born and raised in a democracy and have never come into personal contact with the transition period. However, they can still we experience it from a distance. Today, it seems increasingly urgent to open the door to the recent past and reassess, beyond nostalgia, the profound turmoil and the moments missed.