



Holocaust Memorial Days

An overview of remembrance and education
in the OSCE region

27 January 2015
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Foreword

On 27 January 1945, the survivors of the Shoah were liberated from the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Today, 27 January is a day of remembrance and commemoration for the victims and an opportunity to pay tribute to the survivors of the unprecedented tragedy that has come to be known as the Holocaust. Seventy years after the liberation, the willingness of survivors to share their stories, their determination and their strength, are constant reminders of the need to confront the past and of our responsibility to counter anti-Semitism, as well as to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms wherever, whenever they are threatened.

As part of their commitments to strengthen security and defend human rights, participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have pledged to promote remembrance of the Holocaust. Many have joined the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – a key partner of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The Holocaust forms part of education curricula across the region, thereby ensuring continued awareness among future generations. We are reassured that the majority of participating States have designated one or more days to commemorate the victims of Nazi persecution. In different parts of the OSCE region, Holocaust Memorial Days are used to reflect on the significance of this watershed event in European history and its implications for today's world.

Those who are committed to preventing a repetition of those events are troubled by manifestations of Holocaust denial and distortion that cast a pall over efforts to promote awareness of the Shoah. On 13 November 2014, at a high-level commemorative event to mark the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism, the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE called on participating States to “step up their efforts in identifying effective ways to promote Holocaust remembrance and education and address attempts to distort, trivialize and deny the Holocaust”. I am pleased to announce that the resulting OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on “Enhancing Efforts to combat Anti-Semitism” has provided ODIHR with the mandate to “facilitate co-operation between governmental officials and civil society,” including on issues related to the Holocaust.

With this fourth edition of *Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region*, I would like once again to extend our support to participating States in implementing their commitment to promote Holocaust remembrance and education. I very much hope that this informative overview of governmental and non-governmental initiatives will serve as a source of inspiration to participating States and will encourage them to redouble their efforts in Holocaust remembrance and education. In a momentous year in which we also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, ODIHR will be issuing a publication that focuses on OSCE participating States' efforts to educate on and remember the Roma and Sinti genocide, which forms an equally strong part of our mandate. On this Holocaust Memorial Day, therefore, ODIHR is pleased to present participating States with a comprehensive overview of a core area of our work in the human dimension, and hope that this document serves as a powerful reminder of the need to emphatically counter all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and other acts of intolerance and discrimination.

Michael Georg Link
ODIHR Director

27 January 2015

Introduction

OSCE commitments and activities to promote Holocaust remembrance

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to “promote remembrance of and, as appropriate, education about the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the importance of respect for all ethnic and religious groups”. This commitment was set out in OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/04¹ and reiterated in Decision No. 10/05.² These commitments are an important element of the OSCE’s mandate to promote tolerance and non-discrimination. They complement the commitments made by participating States within the framework of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, adopted in 2003, which calls for the inclusion of Roma history and culture, particularly their experience during the Holocaust, in educational materials.

This publication provides an overview of governmental and non-governmental practices in the OSCE area to commemorate the Holocaust. It is intended to promote remembrance and education by publicizing and facilitating the exchange of good practices. The publication shows that most OSCE governments, as well as many local and municipal authorities, schools, civil society organizations, religious groups and others, are actively involved in Holocaust commemoration activities. While many of these activities take place throughout the year, there is a particular focus on promoting Holocaust remembrance, research and education during Holocaust Memorial Days. Across the world, 27 January, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, is devoted to educating future generations about the Holocaust. This overview provides both a snapshot of the types of Holocaust education activities that have been developed to mark Holocaust Memorial Days, while also identifying where and how the Holocaust is taught in schools throughout the region.

Since the last edition of this publication in 2012,³ the importance of Holocaust remembrance and education has been reiterated at a number of meetings sponsored by the OSCE. On 13 November 2014, the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE presented a concluding document on the proceedings of the high-level commemorative event to mark the 10th anniversary of the OSCE’s Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism.⁴ In this document, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship expressed “deep concern [...] about Holocaust denial and trivialization”, as well as about “attempts to reference the Holocaust in order to offend, intimidate and threaten Jews”. Anticipating the 70th anniversaries of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the end of the World War II, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship called on governments to “step up their efforts in identifying effective ways to promote Holocaust remembrance and education and address attempts to distort, trivialize and deny the Holocaust.”⁵

¹ OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/04, “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, Sofia, 7 December 2004, <<http://www.osce.org/mc/23133>>.

² OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/05, “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, Ljubljana, 6 December 2005, <<http://www.osce.org/mc/17462>>.

³ For the 2010 edition, see <<http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/>>.

⁴ For more information about the event, see: <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/126168>>.

⁵ The Swiss OSCE Chairmanship’s conclusions are available at: <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/126710>>.

With these remarks, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship also echoed some of the recommendations developed by civil society representatives at a forum that formed part of the high-level commemorative event and took place on 12 November 2014. The recommendations call on OSCE participating State to “provide financial support for civil society initiatives that promote programmes and methods to curb online anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial”. Furthermore, civil society representatives attending the forum called on governments to “condemn all expressions of Holocaust denial and efforts to distort its meaning” and to “reject trivialization of the Holocaust through historical revisionism that equates totalitarian regimes without historical distinctions”.⁶

At the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel, OSCE participating States agreed on a “Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War”, in which they noted: “The war brought about violations of human rights and freedoms, as well as crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We mourn all those who lost their lives as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations, or acts of repression. We pay our earnest tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War.”⁷

Building on the results of the high-level commemorative event in Berlin, OSCE participating States also adopted OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration No. 8/14 on “Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism”. The Declaration provides a comprehensive set of commitments related to fighting anti-Semitism, and calls on ODIHR to “facilitate co-operation between governmental officials and civil society on issues related to [...] Holocaust remembrance” and to “facilitate the exchange of best practices among participating States on educational initiatives and other measures to [...] overcome challenges to Holocaust education.”⁸

On 28 January 2014, ODIHR co-operated with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova and the Bureau for Interethnic Relations of Moldova to organize a roundtable on raising awareness about the Holocaust.⁹ Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, the roundtable brought together some 50 governmental and non-governmental experts, including representatives of the Jewish and the Roma communities and international experts, for an exchange of ideas and good practices related to Holocaust remembrance and education. The need to raise awareness about the Roma and Sinti genocide formed an integral part of this discussion. ODIHR also participated in commemorations organized by the Jewish community of Moldova held on 27 January.

In 2013, the need to promote Holocaust remembrance and education and the importance of countering Holocaust denial were highlighted at the OSCE’s High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-discrimination (including Human Rights Youth Education on Tolerance and Non-discrimination), which took place in Tirana on 21 and 22 May. Among other speakers, the Canadian Chair of the IHRA emphasized the significance of countering expressions that deny, trivialize or distort the meaning of the Holocaust.¹⁰

⁶ The civil society recommendations are available at: <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/126836>>.

⁷ OSCE Ministerial Commemorative Declaration No. 7 on the 70th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War, Basel, 5 December 2014, <<http://www.osce.org/node/130726>>.

⁸ OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 8, “Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism”, Basel, 5 December 2014 <<http://www.osce.org/cio/130556>>.

⁹ The summary report is available at: <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/110751>>.

¹⁰ The summary report is available at: <http://www.osce.org/event/hltnd_2013>.

Among the many issues raised in ODIHR's annual report on *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region*¹¹ is the continuing problem of vandalism directed against Holocaust memorials in OSCE participating States. Information on anti-Semitic hate crime received from governments and civil society is presented on ODIHR's [Hate Crime Reporting Website](#).¹²

Rabbi Andrew Baker, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, also addresses questions related to Holocaust remembrance during his country visits.¹³ During his country visit to Latvia from 3 to 5 July 2013, the Personal Representative took part in Latvia's Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony.

International co-operation on Holocaust remembrance

Many international organizations promote Holocaust remembrance and education. Most notably, in 2005, the United Nations designated 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.¹⁴ Every year, the United Nations chooses a theme for this day, with "The Courage to Care: Rescue during the Holocaust" selected as the theme for 2013, "Journeys through the Holocaust" for 2014 and "Liberty, Life and the Legacy of the Holocaust Survivors" as the theme for 2015.

In its resolution establishing the Day of Commemoration, the General Assembly urged member States to develop educational programmes to teach future generations the lessons of the Holocaust in order to help prevent future acts of genocide. In this vein, it established the "Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme" and mobilized civil society for Holocaust remembrance and education. The Outreach Programme works together with an international network of civil society groups, Holocaust memorial institutions, experts and survivors to ensure that their stories are heard and heeded as warnings of the consequences of anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. The programme's activities and information also serve to combat Holocaust denial.¹⁵ Among other activities, the Outreach Programme has recently partnered with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to make a film resource and educational package that is available to educators around the world in all the United Nations' official languages. The tool is entitled "The Path to Nazi Genocide".¹⁶

In November 2007, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted unanimously a resolution calling on the Organization to explore, in consultation with Member States, what role it could play in promoting awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education and in combating all forms of Holocaust denial.¹⁷ Every year in late January, UNESCO pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust by organizing a special ceremony in Paris, with the participation of special guests of honour and governmental officials. UNESCO also works

¹¹ See ODIHR's Hate Crime Reporting Website for more information: <<http://hatecrime.osce.org/>>.

¹² For more information, see: <<http://hatecrime.osce.org/what-hate-crime/anti-semitism>>.

¹³ Further information on the activities of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism is available at: <<http://tandis.odihr.pl/?p=qu-pr>>, and at: <<http://www.osce.org/node/109630>>.

¹⁴ The full text of United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 of 2005 is available at: <<http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/docs/res607.shtml>>.

¹⁵ Further information on the Outreach Programme is available at: <<http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>>.

¹⁶ For more information, see: <<http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/2014/calendar2014.shtml>>.

¹⁷ The full text of UNESCO's resolution 61 (2007) on Holocaust remembrance is available at: <<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001560/156046e.pdf>>.

with its Member States to develop educational programmes to teach young generations the lessons of the Holocaust and, thereby, to help prevent future acts of genocide. Among other activities, UNESCO published a brochure titled “Why teach about the Holocaust” in 2013.¹⁸

The member states of the Council of Europe have implemented a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity in schools. The day is chosen according to the history of each Member State. The initial undertaking was agreed by the ministers of education of the Member States at the Council of Europe’s Standing Conference in Krakow in 2000, and then confirmed in a declaration at a meeting in Strasbourg in 2002. The Council of Europe also marks the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust through a ceremony in the Palace of Europe (Palais de l’Europe) in Strasbourg. On 27 January 2013, a conference on the mass shootings that took place during the Holocaust was organized by the European Centre of Deported Resistance Members (Centre européen du résistant déporté) and the Council of Europe at the Council of Europe’s European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The conference shed light on the killings of Jews from Ukraine between 1941 and 1944.¹⁹

On 22 January 2013, the European Parliament held its first ever official annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day Event in Brussels.²⁰ On that occasion, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which is also involved in Holocaust remembrance activities, emphasized that it regards promoting Holocaust remembrance as an “important part of raising awareness on antisemitism and promoting human rights”.²¹ In December 2009, FRA published an online Toolkit on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education in the European Union that is aimed at raising awareness among young people.²² The tool was developed by Yad Vashem and Mémorial de la Shoah.²³ In 2011, FRA published a report titled “Human rights education at Holocaust memorial sites across the European Union: An overview of practices”.²⁴

Initiated in 1998, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) currently has 31 member countries, 29 of which are OSCE participating States. IHRA is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to place political and social leaders’ support behind Holocaust education, remembrance and research, both nationally and internationally. The member states of IHRA are committed to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, which also addresses the significance of Holocaust Memorial Days, stating: “We share a commitment to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honour those who stood against it. We will encourage appropriate forms of Holocaust remembrance, including an annual Day of Holocaust Remembrance, in our countries.”²⁵

¹⁸ The brochure is available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/why_teach_holocaust_education/>.

¹⁹ For more information, see: <<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/former-editions>>.

²⁰ For more information, see: <<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2013/international-holocaust-remembrance-timely-reminder-need-step-efforts-fight-racism-and>>.

²¹ For more information, see: <<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2013/international-holocaust-remembrance-timely-reminder-need-step-efforts-fight-racism-and>>.

²² The publication is available on line at: <<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/toolkit-holocaust-education/index.htm>>.

²³ More information on Mémorial de la Shoah, the largest information and research centre in Europe on the genocide against the Jews, is available at <www.memorialdelashoah.org>.

²⁴ The publication is available online at: <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-Holocaust-education-overview-practices_EN.pdf>.

²⁵ The Stockholm Declaration is available on the IHRA website: <<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us/stockholm-declaration>>.

Composed of government representatives and experts in Holocaust education, research and remembrance, IHRA consists of different working groups and specialized committees. Currently, IHRA is also in the process of implementing a multi-year work plan that focuses on killing sites, access to archives, educational research and Holocaust Memorial Days. In October 2013, the member states of IHRA adopted a working definition of Holocaust denial and distortion.²⁶

Background and Methodology

This is the fourth edition of *Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region*; previous editions were published in 2012, 2010 and 2008.²⁷ The publication is based on information systematically collected by ODIHR from governments of OSCE participating States. Although the publication is aimed primarily at describing governmental practices, many governments also provided information on how the authorities work with non-governmental organizations to encourage and support the efforts of civil society to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The main purpose of the publication is to share information on when and how OSCE participating States promote Holocaust remembrance and education. It is hoped that sharing such information may encourage governments to draw on each other's good practices to enrich their own activities. In line with ODIHR's mandate to assist participating States with the implementation of their commitments, this overview also aims to establish to what extent and how participating States are realizing their commitment to promote Holocaust remembrance and education.

As in previous editions, information is arranged by country. For each country that provided information, sub-sections are devoted to:

- the date chosen to mark the Holocaust and the significance, mandate and focus of Holocaust Memorial Day in each country;
- commemorative activities to remember the Holocaust, both on Holocaust Memorial Day and beyond, with a focus on governmental activities and on joint efforts by governments and civil society organizations; and
- Holocaust education, with a focus on identifying where and how the Holocaust is taught in schools, as well as the extent to which Holocaust Memorial Days are used as educational opportunities.

The practice of remembering the victims of Nazi persecution varies throughout the region. In some OSCE participating States, a range of remembrance days are dedicated to different aspects of World War II. In such cases, special remembrance days may be dedicated to commemorating the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the Roma and Sinti genocide and other victim groups of National Socialism, most notably resistance fighters. In other participating States, a single day is used to commemorate all the different victim groups together. For that reason, the questionnaire circulated by ODIHR gave participating States the opportunity to indicate whether or not special commemorative days have been established to mark the Roma and Sinti genocide and other victim groups of National Socialism. In light of this, a special section dedicated to the commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide provides

²⁶ The Working Definition of Holocaust denial and distortion, adopted by the 31 IHRA Member States on 10 October 2013, is available at: <<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-holocaust-denial-and-distortion>>.

²⁷ The 2012 edition is available at: <<http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/>>; the 2010 edition is available at: <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/41252>>; and the 2008 edition is available at: <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/30445>>.

information on whether the country has established a separate day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. The section also indicates the extent to which further information on commemorative and educational initiatives related to the Roma and Sinti genocide is available in the publication on *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area* developed by ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues.²⁸ The final section of each summary includes information provided on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism. Due to the publication's specific focus, it does not provide information on the commemoration of other genocides or historical events, except to the extent that these activities relate directly to Holocaust Memorial Days or are also used to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

In order to collect information for this publication, ODIHR sent a note verbale to all OSCE participating States in June 2014, asking them to submit information through a questionnaire entitled "Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region" (see Annex). A reminder was circulated in September. The questionnaire builds on previous questionnaires circulated by ODIHR that were developed in consultation with relevant experts of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Information included in the section dealing with the Roma and Sinti genocide was taken from a separate questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education, which was sent to participating States by the ODIHR Contact Point.

The information included for each participating State depends on the completeness and the date of its response. Some governments responded promptly to ODIHR's inquiry and, therefore, only included information through the end of 2014, while other participating States that responded later also included information for 2015. This publication focuses on providing information on activities and developments since the previous edition, as well as on new information received from governments since that time. The individual country summaries that form the bulk of this publication are based solely on the responses received from governments. A link to the previous country summary is provided at the bottom of each summary for ease of reference. Participating States were given the opportunity to indicate whether they would like ODIHR to draw on their previous submission with regard to the name and date of their Holocaust Memorial Day. Whenever a participating State did not respond to a given question, but had provided information on this aspect in previous submissions, ODIHR indicates this accordingly.

Forty-one OSCE participating States replied to ODIHR's request for information.²⁹ One participating State provided ODIHR with unsolicited information on the topic in 2013.³⁰ Two OSCE participating States only responded to the questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education, circulated by ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues in January 2014.³¹

Participating States were also encouraged to submit photographs of Holocaust memorial activities and events. These have been included in the report where appropriate.

²⁸ *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*, (Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR, 2015), <<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>>.

²⁹ Namely, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

³⁰ Namely, Malta.

³¹ Namely, Moldova and the Russian Federation.

Overview: Remembrance and Education

Of the 41 participating States that responded to ODIHR's request for information, 33 OSCE participating States informed ODIHR that they have established an official Holocaust Memorial Day.³² Three other participating States reported that, although they have not officially established a memorial day, they commemorate the Holocaust on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January.³³ One participating State reported that the Holocaust is officially commemorated as a specific part of broader commemorative observances.³⁴ Another participating State reported only on commemorative activities, but did not address the question of whether an official Holocaust Memorial Day has been established.³⁵ Three participating States reported that no commemorative events on the Holocaust are held.³⁶

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, which marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by the Red Army on 27 January 1945, is the date most frequently observed by OSCE participating States to remember victims of the Holocaust. Of the 41 participating States that provided information to ODIHR, 27 reported observing 27 January as an official Holocaust Memorial Day.³⁷ Six additional participating States stated that, although 27 January has not been officially established as a memorial day, Holocaust commemorations are held on that day.³⁸

One participating State indicated that it has established a Holocaust Memorial Day, without providing information about the date.³⁹ In this case, ODIHR referenced a previous submission received by that participating State.

Two participating States, Canada and the United States, officially commemorate the Holocaust on *Yom HaShoah*. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed ODIHR that government representatives take part in commemorative events designed to mark *Yom HaShoah*. The day was established by law in Israel in 1959. Its full name in Hebrew, “Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah”, means the “Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day”. Commemorations begin at sunset before the day that corresponds to the 27th day of the month of Nisan of the Hebrew calendar. *Yom HaShoah* marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an event also commemorated in Poland. Poland has officially designated 19 April, the date on which the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began, as the Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for the Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity, which is observed in all schools. *Yom Ha Shoah* is also unofficially marked in the Czech Republic and in France.

³² Namely, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

³³ Namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Holy See and Malta.

³⁴ Namely, the Netherlands.

³⁵ Namely, Belarus.

³⁶ Namely, Andorra, Iceland, Montenegro.

³⁷ Namely, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

³⁸ Namely, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Malta, the Netherlands and the United States.

³⁹ Namely, Lithuania.

A number of other countries have established Holocaust Memorial Days on dates of special significance with regard to their national history:

- Austria observes 5 May, the day on which the Mauthausen concentration camp was liberated, as National Day against Violence and Racism in Memory of the Victims of National Socialism;
- Bulgaria has designated 10 March as the Day of the Salvation of the Bulgarian Jews and the Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust;
- France observes its Holocaust remembrance day on the Sunday closest to 16 July, the day when the round-up of Jews in the *Vélodrome d'Hiver* began in 1942;
- Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day is 16 April, the day when the ghettoization and deportation of Hungarian Jews began in 1944;
- Latvia's official Commemoration Day of the Genocide against the Jews is on 4 July, the date on which the synagogue on Gogola Street in Riga was burned in 1941;
- In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Holocaust is also commemorated on 11 March, which marks the deportation of 7144 local Jews to Treblinka;
- Romania commemorates the Holocaust on 9 October, the date of the first deportation of Jews from Romania; and
- The Slovak Republic commemorates the victims of the Holocaust on 9 September, since on that date in 1941 the Slovak Government of the time introduced 290 repressive laws against Jews.

Eighteen participating States reported that the Holocaust is commemorated on more than one day, although not all the commemorations mentioned were official.⁴⁰ Most of these states hold commemorations on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, as well as on one or more other nationally designated remembrance days.

Several participating States have provided information on if, when and how the Roma and Sinti genocide is commemorated in their country. Detailed information is provided in the ODIHR publication [*Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*](#).

A number of participating States reported to ODIHR that they have special commemoration days or events to remember other victim groups of National Socialism, or that other groups of victims are included explicitly in Holocaust commemoration activities. Such victim groups include, for example, resistance fighters, people with disabilities, political deportees, victims of specific massacres and other victims of World War II. Some states also pay honour to the Righteous Among the Nations, individuals who risked their lives to save Jews. Details on national practices can be found in the individual country sections. Several participating States point out that the mandate of their Holocaust Memorial Day is inclusive and focuses on a range of different victim groups.

⁴⁰ Namely, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Holy See, France, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and the United States.

With regard to Holocaust education, 25 participating States responded that the Holocaust is covered as a mandatory topic in their education curricula.⁴¹ Another 12 participating States stated that the Holocaust is taught in schools.⁴² The Holy See reported that it has a strong commitment to Holocaust education. Some states indicated that, owing to the type of education system and, in some cases, the absence of national curricula, it is difficult to generalize on the subjects taught in schools. One participating State reported that the Holocaust is not taught in schools in the country.⁴³ One participating State noted that the Holocaust is taught in state-funded Jewish schools.⁴⁴

Good Practices

Governments that observe a Holocaust Memorial Day reported that they engage in many different types of commemorative activities on their designated days. The majority of governments hold commemoration ceremonies either in official premises or at meaningful memorial sites. Official commemorations typically include speeches, moments of silence and wreath laying, and are sometimes accompanied by prayers and/or the lighting of candles. In general, governments reported that there is high-level official participation at such events, often including the head of state or head of government. Many governments also reported that they issue official statements on their Holocaust remembrance days.

In addition, governments reported a number of other activities that could be regarded as good practices. Some of these include:

- Organizing official ceremonies at the municipal level, as well as at the national level;
- Encouraging government officials to take part in special seminars or workshops dedicated to the Holocaust;
- Giving survivors an active role in the event so that they can share their experiences through testimonies or readings;
- Organizing and/or participating in events at Holocaust-related sites, as well as at buildings and places related to Jewish history, to increase the visibility of these sites;
- Highlighting the international dimension of Holocaust remembrance by involving embassies or resident diplomatic corps in Holocaust memorial day activities;
- Reaching out to and co-operating with different community groups, museums, memorials, specialized bodies, universities, civil society and youth organizations when organizing events;
- Acknowledging the critical role of community groups and civil society in the area of Holocaust education, remembrance and research by participating in events organized by non-governmental organizations, or by giving government patronage to such events;
- Raising awareness of the Holocaust through film screenings and poster exhibitions in public buildings;

⁴¹ Namely, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

⁴² Namely, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Ukraine and the United States.

⁴³ Namely, Montenegro.

⁴⁴ Namely, Azerbaijan.

- Featuring different aspects of the Holocaust by selecting an annual theme for remembrance activities and by sponsoring conferences or lectures on topics related to the Holocaust;
- Publishing articles and airing television and radio announcements to inform the wider public about Holocaust Memorial Day activities;
- Creating special websites to feature activities related to the Holocaust memorial day, including at the local level;
- Lending official support or patronage to cultural events dedicated to the Holocaust, such as exhibitions, concerts and book presentations;
- Issuing a special parliamentary declaration designed to raise awareness about and reflect on the meaning of the Holocaust;
- Participating in marches and bike rides organized by civil society to mark a particular event or day related to the Holocaust;
- Providing government funding for Holocaust remembrance foundations, centres or memorials; and
- Signing agreements with Holocaust remembrance foundations or centres to jointly promote Holocaust Memorial Days.

Most governments reported that there are school activities related to Holocaust Memorial Days in their countries. It was reported that ministries of education often reach out to schools and school administrations through a website aimed at raising awareness of Holocaust Memorial Day and the activities taking place on that day. In many OSCE participating States, individual schools independently organize Holocaust Memorial Day projects and activities. At a minimum, these generally include lessons, which may comprise special lectures or workshops for students. Students are often encouraged to write essays or poems, or to create artwork to commemorate the Holocaust.

In addition, governments reported many good practices in schools on Holocaust memorial days, including:

- Organizing meetings with Holocaust survivors;
- Visiting Holocaust-related sites, such as museums, memorials, deportation sites or monuments, including those in other countries;
- Hosting travelling exhibitions in schools;
- Conducting research projects at the local level, including by encouraging students to work with archival sources, photographs or testimonies;
- Introducing students to documentaries, survivor videos and films on the Holocaust, as well as on the rescue of Jews;
- Organizing exhibitions of student art, poems or research on the Holocaust;
- Holding essay, art or poetry competitions about the Holocaust, and awarding prizes to winning entries;
- Providing special teacher-training seminars, including at memorial sites;
- Organizing regional events for teachers to promote new methodologies and insights;
- Circulating special materials and booklets to schools;
- Hosting websites related to Holocaust remembrance and education, providing students with resources and teachers with materials and guidance for lessons;
- Presenting websites that provide an overview of the activities underway in the country in relation to Holocaust Memorial Day;

- Highlighting the fate of Jewish and other children during the Holocaust with special projects, especially on the fate of local children;
- Co-operating with community organizations, museums and memorials, as well as with civil society; and
- Enabling students to participate in the official national Holocaust remembrance ceremonies.

Albania

ODIHR did not receive information from Albania in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Albania in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Albania’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Albania.pdf.

Andorra

Holocaust Memorial Day

Andorra has not established a memorial day to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. There are no plans to establish such a memorial day.

Commemorative Activities

Andorra did not provide information on commemorative activities in response to the 2014 questionnaire.

Education

The Andorran national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust and genocide under National Socialism in all three systems of the Andorran public education system: Andorran, French and Spanish.

- In the Andorran system, the Holocaust is taught at upper secondary school and during the first year of secondary school. Students learn about the Holocaust as a twentieth century event to help them understand the present. In this context, students are asked to apply critical thinking to promote peace and respect for human rights.
- In the French system, the Holocaust is briefly taught at primary school. It is then studied further during the third level of secondary school and in history classes during the final two years of secondary school. Students learn about the singular context of the Shoah and about the conditions in which the Holocaust took place. They also learn about other genocides.
- In the Spanish system, the Holocaust features during primary education and again at secondary and upper secondary levels. The teaching focus is on the suffering of Jewish victims during the Holocaust.

There are no special activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Days in schools.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Andorra has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Andorra's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Andorra has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Principality of Andorra, in a communication dated 29 August 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Andorra's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Andorra.pdf.

Armenia

ODIHR did not receive information from Armenia in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Armenia in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Armenia’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Armenia.pdf.

Austria

Holocaust Memorial Day

Austria observes 5 May as its National Day against Violence and Racism in Memory of the Victims of National Socialism (Gedenktag gegen Gewalt und Rassismus im Gedenken an die Opfer des Nationalsozialismus). The date is the anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp. It has been marked since 1998, following a resolution adopted unanimously by the lower house of the Austrian Parliament, the National Council, on 11 November 1997.

While 5 May is the official Holocaust Memorial Day, a number of other days, including 27 January (International Holocaust Memorial Day) and 9 November (the date of the 1938 pogrom), are also occasions for commemorating the Holocaust in public places in Vienna and in other Austrian cities, with activities organized largely by civil society groups.

Commemorative Activities

Austria's main commemorative event is held at the Mauthausen Memorial.

The Head of State, the President of the Parliament and government, local government and municipal officials participate in commemorative events that take place at the Mauthausen Memorial, in the Austrian Parliament and at the local level.

The Austrian Ministry of Education and Women annually promotes the Holocaust Memorial Day through its institute erinnern.at, with the aim of establishing remembrance and education activities across Austria. In 2014, erinnern.at organized remembrance activities in all federal provinces of Austria, including guided tours to memorial sites, talks with survivors and lectures. The institute not only provides extensive information on 5 May, but also on 27 January (International Holocaust Memorial Day), 12 March (commemorating the day Austria was annexed by the National Socialist German Reich in 1938), 8 April (International Day of Sinti and Roma), 23 August (European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism) and on 9 and 10 November (in remembrance of the pogrom of 9 November 1938).

Austria has reported that, in addition to the above, every year on 12 March, associations of those persecuted by the Nazi regime, in co-operation with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance and local school pupils, commemorate victims of the Gestapo at three locations in Vienna, thus marking the anniversary of the so-called *Anschluss*, the annexation and incorporation of Austria into Nazi Germany on 12 March 1938.

Education

Holocaust education is included in secondary school curricula for students in the seventh, eleventh and twelfth grades of secondary school.

Since 1997, schools have organized activities around 5 May to remember and honour those murdered and persecuted by the Nazis. The Austrian Ministry for Education and Women raises awareness of the 5 May memorial day through its institute, erinnern.at, including by

distributing information folders to Austrian schools about the liberation of Mauthausen on 5 May 1945, as well as about the history and meaning of the Holocaust Memorial Day. In addition, a variety of commemorative events and learning opportunities are provided to schools every year in all federal provinces of Austria through the erinnern.at network. The main question posed to students during such events is: What does Memorial Day have to do with us? In 2014, erinnern.at organized 22 events, including excursions, talks with survivors and lectures. Several hundred students participated in these activities.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Austria, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated in the context of the National Day against Violence and Racism on 5 May. Remembrance events also take place each November. For a complete overview of Austria's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Austria reported that an overview of different remembrance days in Austria was prepared by the organization erinnern.at. Please see the resources listed below.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, in a communication dated 10 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Austria's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Austria.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Austria can be found at:

http://www.erinnern.at/bundeslaender/oesterreich/gedenktage/5.-mai-gedenktagegegen-gewalt-und-rassismus-im-gedenken-an-die-opfer-desnationalsozialismus/copy_of_5-mai-gedenktag-neu
<http://www.erinnern.at/bundeslaender/oesterreich/gedenktage>

Azerbaijan

Holocaust Memorial Day

Azerbaijan observes 27 January as the day of the Tragedy and Heroism of the Jews. In some instances, commemoration of Holocaust victims is held concurrently with remembrance of victims of other events and tragedies occurring in Azerbaijan in the twentieth century.

The day has been commemorated every year since the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence.

Commemorative Activities

Although the Government of Azerbaijan does not hold official commemorative events marking the memorial day, unofficial events are held in synagogues in Baku and in other cities. In all synagogues in Azerbaijan, people of all faiths participate in commemorative events, and the President sends out a message to the Jewish community. Every year, representatives from all three Jewish communities in Azerbaijan – namely, the Mountain Jews, the Ashkenazi (or European) Jews and the Georgian Jews – gather in an Ashkenazi synagogue to commemorate the memorial day. This ceremony is also attended by high-ranking government officials and by representatives of diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan. The event receives publicity from some state-funded newspapers.

On 17 October 2012, an International Symposium was held in Baku on “The Role of Azerbaijan in Preventing Holocaust in the Caucasus during the Second World War”. The government also encourages non-governmental organizations to conduct events to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day in Azerbaijan. One example of an unofficial event to commemorate the Holocaust was a meeting organized between the Baku Office of the United Nations and the Ministry of Youth and Sport, which took place on 28 January 2008.

Education

The Holocaust is not included in the national curriculum. However, in the two state-funded Jewish schools, Xabad Or-Avner and School No. 46, there are special courses on the subject at both primary and secondary levels. These schools also commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day through theatrical exhibitions and poetry devoted to the Holocaust.

In addition, the Service of the State Counsellor of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Multiculturalism, Interethnic and Religious Affairs has prepared two university courses that cover the subject of the Jews in Azerbaijan, including an undergraduate-level course on “Introduction to Multiculturalism”, and a postgraduate-level course on “Azerbaijani Multiculturalism”. These courses will be implemented in most universities in Azerbaijan from early 2015.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Azerbaijan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Azerbaijan has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Service of the State Counsellor of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Multiculturalism, Interethnic and Religious Affairs, in a communication dated 25 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Azerbaijan's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Azerbaijan.pdf.

Belarus

Holocaust Memorial Day

Belarus did not provide information on this aspect in response to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided by Belarus in response to the 2012 questionnaire can be accessed through the link below.

Commemorative Activities

On 21 October 2013, a commemorative ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Minsk ghetto was held at the Yama memorial, a monument dedicated to the Murdered Jews of the Minsk Ghetto. The event was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs who, according to the Jewish tradition, placed a stone and laid a wreath at the monument. The ceremony was also attended by the president of the World Jewish Congress and by the Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs of Belarus.

On 8 June 2014, the President of Belarus laid a capsule containing a message for future generations on the site of a forthcoming memorial commemorating the Trostianets extermination camp, where Jews were murdered during the Holocaust. The ceremony was also attended by the President of the World Jewish Congress.

Education

The events of World War II are taught as part of studies on world history and the history of Belarus in secondary schools. The world history curriculum includes teaching on subjects such as genocide and the Holocaust. World history textbooks for the tenth grade contain detailed information about concentration camps. The tenth-grade curriculum on the history of Belarus includes a topic on “The German Occupational Regime on the Territory of Belarus”. As part of this subject, a number of issues related to the Holocaust are studied, including the Nazi blueprint for Germanizing the East (Generalplan Ost) and the politics of genocide. The textbooks used also contain information about the murder of Jews and Roma on the territory of Belarus.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Belarus has not established a memorial day for commemorating victims of the Roma and Sinti genocide. Representatives of those nationalities killed by the Nazis are commemorated in Belarus annually on 22 June, when the country commemorates all the victims of the Great Patriotic War (World War II), and also on other days related to the war. For a complete overview of Belarus’ initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Belarus did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided in Belarus' response to the 2012 questionnaire can be accessed through the link below.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, in a communication dated 11 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Belarus' activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Belarus.pdf.

Belgium

Holocaust Memorial Day

Belgium observes 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (Journée internationale de la commémoration en mémoire des victimes de la Shoah).

Commemorative Activities

In line with their respective competencies, the federal government and the different federal entities propose commemorative activities, including ceremonies, publications, study days and teacher training.

Since the passing of the 2009 decree on the memory of genocides, crimes against humanity, war crimes and acts of resistance or movements that resisted the regimes carrying out such crimes, the Wallonia region of Belgium has taken a particularly prominent role in Holocaust remembrance in Belgium. This work was augmented by the 2012 Belgian Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which saw the launch of an appeal for special projects focusing specifically on the Holocaust, as well as the publication of a booklet entitled “The Transmission of Memory” in December 2012.

Belgium also reported that the Kazerne Dossin museum in Mechelen (Malines) plays an important role in Holocaust remembrance, offering visits, seminars and publications in French during school trips to the museum, and co-operating with the Democracy or Barbarism unit (DOB) (Démocratie ou Barbarie) of the Ministry of the Wallonia Brussels Federation. In February 2014, the museum hosted a study day for officials of the Ministry on the civic responsibility of public authorities and administrations. The theme was chosen following an analysis of the mechanisms of the Holocaust in Belgium, including the responsibility and implication of the then Belgian authorities in the deportation and extermination of the Jews. In July 2014, the Auschwitz Foundation (fondation Auschwitz) took those involved in remembrance work, including a representative of the DOB unit, on study trips to Chelmo and Majdanek, as well as to the key sites of Operation Reinhardt (Aktion Reinhardt), the codename for the Nazi regime’s plan to murder all Jews residing in the so-called Government General (Generalgouvernement).

Education

In the Wallonia region, the Holocaust is a compulsory topic at upper secondary level. The topic of concentration camps in general and of the Shoah more specifically is part of history teaching. The subject is addressed in manuals and teacher training initiatives that are prepared in co-operation with Yad Vashem, among other organizations. Wallonian teachers also frequently visit memorial sites in Belgium and abroad, while Holocaust survivors are often asked to share their experiences with pupils in schools.

Since 2008, schools in the Wallonia region of Belgium have been invited to organize and participate in activities related to Holocaust remembrance. Information materials and publications are distributed in schools, and training activities are organized for teachers. The DOB unit organizes various activities in schools and teacher training initiatives.

On 27 January, a circular is sent by the President-Minister of Wallonia and the Minister of Education to educational institutions calling on them to commemorate the event in classes, and suggesting publications and activities that can be used to do so. On Holocaust Memorial Day, the DOB unit organizes various educational initiatives.

On 27 January 2011, along with the French-speaking Brussels Parliament, the DOB organized a study day about Maxime Steinberg, a Belgian historian and writer specializing in the Holocaust. In January 2012, the representation of concentration camps and the Holocaust in art was made the theme of a study day and exhibition. In January 2013, teachers were invited by the DOB to take part in a day of discovery at the Kazerne Dossin museum. In 2014, the chosen theme was “Teaching the Holocaust today in the Wallonia Federation”. The theme proposed for January 2015 is ‘The Holocaust and Cinema’.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

The French-speaking region of Belgium (Wallonia) has not established a memorial day for commemorating the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Belgium’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

In general, remembrance initiatives and activities do not only focus on the Shoah, but consider the entire system of Nazi concentration and extermination camps. Every year in September, the liberation of the former Nazi Breendonk camp is commemorated to remember the prisoners and politicians deported to the camp. The National Day of Political Prisoners is also held in April to commemorate the liberation of the concentration camps and to pay tribute to the resistance.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the OSCE, in a communication dated 16 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Belgium’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Belgium.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Belgium can be found at:

www.kazernedossin.eu

<http://www.mnema.be/content2.php>

<http://www.democratieoubarbarie.cfwb.be/index.php?id=8182>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Holocaust Memorial Day

Bosnia and Herzegovina has not established an official Holocaust Memorial Day due to the absence of state-level legislation on official holidays. However, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina does mark 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Commemorative Activities

The Council of Ministers marks 27 January by addressing the public through a press release as part of its programme of marking important human rights dates. In addition, the Office of the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina has in the past lent its patronage to memorial events that have taken place on premises owned by the Jewish community.

There is a permanent exhibition on the Holocaust in the Jewish Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Education

Learning about the Holocaust is, for most part, integrated into school curricula throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Bosnia and Herzegovina in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Bosnia and Herzegovina did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a communication dated 15 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.pdf.

Bulgaria

Holocaust Memorial Day

Bulgaria has established a Holocaust Memorial Day. It observes 27 January as the International Day of the Victims of the Holocaust and 10 March as Day of the Salvation of the Bulgarian Jews and the Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Commemorative Activities

On 10 March, a commemorative ceremony is held on an annual basis in front of the memorial plaque next to the National Assembly. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the salvation of the Bulgarian Jews and to remember the victims of the Holocaust and the 11,343 Jews deported from Bulgaria to Nazi death camps in 1943.

Every year, the ceremony is attended by the Chairperson of the Bulgarian parliament, members of parliament, representatives of the president, government officials, representatives of local authorities, representatives of diplomatic missions, representatives of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues, non-governmental organizations and members of the public.

In 2013, to mark the 70th anniversary of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews and to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers adopted a national plan of events and initiatives to commemorate the anniversary. The plan was prepared by the Initiative Committee with representatives of the president, the National Assembly, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Bulgarian Jewish communities, local authorities, the media and cultural and scientific communities. The programme included official, cultural and social events and conferences on the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews in 1943. The local authorities of Sofia, Burgas, Plovdiv, Lom and Kyustendil, as well as the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, “Shalom”, and Bulgarian diplomatic missions in Europe, the United States and Israel, all took part in the commemorations. The National Assembly adopted a declaration to mark the 70th anniversary.

In the context of the anniversary, the Archives State Agency of Bulgaria launched a special website, “The Jewish Community in Bulgaria”, which has collected hundreds of original documents about the rescue of Bulgarian Jews during World War II.

Bulgaria reported that the Bulgarian Jewish organization “Shalom” also organizes commemorations and events in relation to the Holocaust.

Education

Bulgaria’s national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. The study of the Holocaust and the rescue of the Bulgarian citizens of Jewish origins during World War II form part of state educational requirements.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Bulgaria, the Roma and Sinti genocide is commemorated on 8 April during International Roma Day. For a complete overview of Bulgaria's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Bulgaria has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the UN, the OSCE and Other International Organizations in Vienna, in a communication dated 24 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Bulgaria's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Bulgaria.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Bulgaria can be found at: <http://www.archives.bg/jews>

Canada

Holocaust Memorial Day

At the federal level, the Government of Canada observes Holocaust Memorial Day – *Yom HaShoah*, the date of which is determined each year according to the Jewish lunar calendar. The day commemorates the deaths of millions of Jews who perished as a result of the National Socialist policy of hatred and genocide during World War II, as well as other victims and survivors. This day is meant to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is never forgotten, as well as to ensure the continued protection of human rights and vigilance against all forms of anti-Semitism. The commemoration day was established in 2003, when the Canadian Parliament passed the Holocaust Memorial Day Act, and was celebrated for the first time in 2004.

Federal and provincial/territorial governments in Canada, as well as non-governmental organizations, also observe 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. In addition, Canada has officially declared 17 January as Raoul Wallenberg Day, honouring the Swedish diplomat who saved Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary and designated as a day of reflection on the evils of racism and hate and on the profound impact that an individual who speaks out can have. At the provincial level, Ontario was the first province in Canada to pass a Holocaust Memorial Day Act in 1998. By April 2001, all ten provinces of Canada had passed Holocaust Memorial Day acts. Each act obliges the province in question to promote and ensure a continued commitment to human rights and multiculturalism.

Commemorative Activities

The Government of Canada observes Holocaust Memorial Days through statements, including from the Prime Minister and the Minister for Multiculturalism. Various events are organized across the country by community and non-governmental organizations, and feature high-level participation from elected members of all three levels of government (namely, federal, provincial/territorial and municipal).

From March 2013 to March 2014, Canada was chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), and worked to advance Holocaust education, remembrance and research during this period. The Government's initiatives included:

- providing funding to help digitize and preserve Holocaust survivor testimony;
- the launch of a national award for Excellence in Holocaust Education;
- publishing a guide to Holocaust-related holdings at the Library and Archives Canada;
- providing funding for research to identify the origin of Holocaust-era artworks; and
- partnering with Yad Vashem and IHRA on an International Holocaust Poster Design Competition, with the theme of "Keeping the Memory Alive – Journey's through the Holocaust".

Education

In Canada, there is no federal department of education and no integrated national system of education. The Holocaust is taught in each provincial and territorial jurisdiction as part of the

social studies and/or history curriculum, and is sometimes included in English language arts. It is a mandatory part of the curriculum for students of different ages and, as such, reaches all students. Holocaust education can begin as early as the fourth or fifth grades and continues throughout elementary and secondary school. The Holocaust is most often taught within the context of World War II, and is integrated into teaching about racism, genocides and human rights. Furthermore, the Holocaust can also be included in philosophy, anthropology, psychology, arts and religious education, as well as in civic and citizenship studies.

In addition to classroom studies, all Canadian provinces commemorate Holocaust Memorial Days, which sometimes involve students taking part in commemorations alongside members of the public. In 2014, in conjunction with the 27 January commemorations, the Government of Canada partnered with the National Film Board to organize an International Holocaust Remembrance Day Virtual Classroom, designed to promote different approaches to Holocaust education among teachers. This initiative was undertaken with support and advice from a national Advisory Committee on Holocaust remembrance, education and research.

Many schools organize Remembrance Day events on 11 November. As part of these activities, students of all ages often receive supplementary Holocaust education, with younger students being introduced to the topic through personal stories.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

The Government of Canada acknowledges Roma and Sinti victims within the context of its Holocaust remembrance activities. For a complete overview of Canada's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victims of National Socialism

There are no memorial days supported by the Government that specifically commemorate other victims of National Socialism. Since 2009, the Government of Canada has officially observed 23 August as Black Ribbon Day to commemorate victims of both National Socialism and Communism in Europe. In 2014, the Prime Minister and two ministers issued statements to mark Black Ribbon Day.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Director of Multiculturalism Policy, Citizenship and Immigration of the Government of Canada, in a communication dated 25 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Canada's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Canada.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Canada can be found at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/holocaust.asp>

http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/ihra-annual-report-e_1.pdf

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=811759>

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/01/27/statement-prime-minister-canada-international-day-commemoration-honour-victims>

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/holocaust/Pages/holocaust-research-guide.aspx>

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https://www.nfb.ca/education/virtual-classrooms/international_holocaust_remembrance_day_virtual_classrooms
<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=676249>
<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/08/23/statement-prime-minister-canada-black-ribbon-day>
<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=878759>
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/holocaust.asp>

Croatia

Holocaust Memorial Day

Croatia observes 27 January as the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. The day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and genocides of World War II. The date was established by a decision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, adopted on 30 October 2003.

Commemorative Activities

Commemorative events are regularly held in the Croatian parliament, and representatives of the parliament and government participate in commemorations throughout Croatia. All levels of government and schools take part in remembrance activities, working alongside non-governmental organizations to organize the events. In particular, the government supports commemorative events by undertaking awareness-raising measures.

A number of different activities were organized as part of commemorative events held in 2014. For example, in January 2014, “Installation K-19” was set up in the Square of the Victims of Fascism in Zagreb. Other commemorative activities included reading prisoners’ letters, giving speeches of respect, laying wreaths and commemorative objects and reciting prayers with members of religious communities at remembrance sites.

Education

The Croatian national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. It is taught to children in the eighth grade, and is included in the history curriculum at secondary schools as part of studies of World War II. During higher education, the Holocaust is included in specialized studies.

Activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day are organized in all educational institutions. These usually include the setting up of exhibitions and posters, as well as other similar activities.

On 27 January, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, together with the Education and Teacher Training Agency, organized an annual in-service training seminar entitled “Teaching about the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity” for primary and secondary school teachers. The event lasted three days and provided teachers with the opportunity to broaden their knowledge, to learn how to deal with the issue of the Holocaust in their teaching, to become involved in international education projects, and to connect with other teachers, both nationally and internationally.

In 2014, Holocaust Memorial Day was marked at a monument to victims of the Holocaust at a primary school in Pojišani, Split. The city mayor and representatives of religious communities of Split took part in the event, which was covered by a local television channel.

Under the patronage of the Croatian president, the international exhibition “Anne Frank – A History for Today” visited Osijek, Rijeka and Split in 2013. The exhibition was visited by more than 2,000 pupils, students and other interested citizens.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Croatia, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 2 August, the International Day of Remembrance of the Roma Victims of the Holocaust. For a complete overview of Croatia’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Other victim groups of National Socialism are commemorated every year on 27 January, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against the Humanity, as well as on 2 August (see above).

In April, commemorations are held at the Jasenovac Memorial site to mark the anniversary of the breakout by prisoners of the Jasenovac camp in 1945. On that occasion, senior government officials, including the President of the Republic of Croatia, the President of the Government and the President of the Parliament, address the public. Representatives of regional and local authorities also take part in these events.

Furthermore, 22 June is a national holiday in Croatia and marks Anti-Fascist Struggle Day, celebrating the beginning of the country’s uprising against the fascist occupying forces during World War II.

Croatia reported that government officials take part in these remembrance events at the national, regional and local levels and, together with non-governmental organizations, help to prepare the commemorations, which take place both in parliament and at memorial sites.

There are no plans to establish an additional separate memorial day.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, the Directorate-General for Standards, Strategies and Special Programmes, and the Education and Teacher Training Agency of the Republic of Croatia, in a communication dated 24 June 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Croatia’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Croatia.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Croatia can be found at:

<http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/node/110>
<http://public.mzos.hr/Default.aspx?sec=1933>
<http://www.azoo.hr/>

Cyprus

ODIHR did not receive information from Cyprus in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Cyprus in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Cyprus’ activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Cyprus.pdf

Czech Republic

Holocaust Memorial Day

The Czech Republic marks 27 January as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity (Den památky obětí holocaustu a předcházení zločinům proti lidskosti), and 10 June as the anniversary of the obliteration of Lidice.

Commemorative Activities

The official commemorative event on 27 January is organized by the Senate of the Czech Parliament together with the Foundation for Holocaust Victims and the Federation of Jewish Communities. On this day, similar events are also organized locally by Jewish communities, usually in co-operation with the local municipal authorities.

The principal event to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust is the Terezín Commemoration Ceremony that is organized annually on the third Sunday of May. It is attended by Holocaust survivors, senior state officials and representatives of organizations. In 2014, the Terezín Commemoration Ceremony took place on 18 May, and was attended by the Prime Minister and the President of the Senate, as well as other senior officials.



The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, the Minister of Culture and the Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation attend a commemorative ceremony honouring the victims of the Roma and Sinti genocide, 10 May 2014. (Photo: Lukáš Houdek)

In many towns, Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom HaShoah*) is commemorated by a public reading of the names of Holocaust victims, with the participation of politicians and civil society representatives.

In 2012, the Shoah Memorial Prague was founded as a modern centre for contemporary history. The Memorial is currently preparing a project for the reconstruction of the Prague-Bubny train station, the place where almost 50,000 Czech Jews were transported to concentration camps. The memorial will feature both permanent and temporary exhibitions. In addition, it will be used to stage discussions and as an educational space. It is being built in co-operation with the Jewish Museum Prague, the Terezín Initiative Institute, Czech Railways, the Czech-German Fund for the Future, the Jewish Community Prague, the National Pedagogy Museum, Comenius Library and the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art.

Education

The history curriculum places a strong emphasis on the history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Holocaust, the situation of Jews in Czech society and anti-Semitism are all part of the school curriculum, including at the secondary vocational level. Students at secondary school also study the situation of Jews and Roma in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century society, World War II, Nazism, Fascism, war crimes and the Holocaust.

In 2013, the Education Ministry issued an amended version of the Education Ministry's Guidelines for the teaching of twentieth-century history. The guidelines reflect the special character of modern and contemporary history studies that, in particular, deal with living historical memory and personal histories of the present generation, as well as with archival material that has not yet been fully researched. One chapter of the guidelines discusses the issues of Holocaust denial and attempts to influence school children and youth. Relevant stakeholders, including members of the Jewish community, are consulted when developing such guidelines.

Since 1993, the Terezín Memorial has organized Holocaust education projects for primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. The memorial, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, also offers courses on life-long education for teachers. This co-operation is based on a Czech Government Resolution of 1999, according to which the Ministry of Education, together with the Terezín Memorial, was tasked with setting up a system of Holocaust education for teachers in primary and secondary vocational schools through the provision of special seminars on the subject. The seminars deal with the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide, and also address anti-Semitism, xenophobia, racism, neo-Nazism and the rise of nationalism. For over 20 years, the Terezín Memorial has organized literary and art contests for primary and secondary school pupils on the theme of racial and political persecution during the country's Nazi occupation.

In 2012, the Department for Education and Culture of the Jewish Museum in Prague was approved by the Ministry of Education as an institution providing life-long education to teachers. Between 2011 and 2013, the museum co-operated with the Terezín Initiative Institute to provide education to teachers and to develop teaching materials on the history of Czech Jews in the twentieth century. During this time, more than 500 teachers and 26,000 primary and secondary school pupils were involved in the project. The project also focused on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, and addressed the fact that these topics are not sufficiently incorporated in the history curriculum.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In the Czech Republic, the Roma and Sinti genocide is unofficially commemorated on several days: 7 March, 13 May, 2 August and 21 August. For a complete overview of the Czech Republic's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

The Czech Republic has a number of public holidays and remembrance days to mark the events of World War II and the "fight against the totalitarian regime". For example, 17 November marks the Day of the Fight for Freedom and Democracy, commemorating, among other historical events, the anniversary of the closure of Czech universities by the Nazis. In addition, 5 May commemorates the Czech uprising of 1945, while 8 May marks Victory Day.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Department of Human Rights & Transition Policy of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a communication dated 2 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Czech Republic's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Czech_Republic.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in the Czech Republic can be found at:

www.nasinebocizi.cz

www.bubny.org

www.romasinti.eu

Denmark

Holocaust Memorial Day

Denmark observes 27 January as the official Auschwitz Day of Holocaust and Genocide Remembrance. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The aim of this day is to encourage a discussion of the ethical and political challenges raised by the Holocaust and other genocides. Auschwitz Day is dedicated to commemorating the victims and supporting the survivors, as well as to promoting education and public awareness about the Holocaust and other genocides in schools, high schools and universities, as well as among the public at large. The date was established in 2002 and has been observed every year since 2003.

In addition, the primary day of commemoration of World War II is 5 May, which is marked across the country and includes remembrance of the victims of National Socialism.

Commemorative Activities

Activities related to Auschwitz Day fall into two categories: public events on 27 January, and year-round educational activities about the Holocaust and other genocides.

On 27 January, municipalities, organizations and local actors across Denmark organize public events. The events take various forms, but generally include speeches given by Holocaust or genocide survivors, politicians and/or other relevant actors, as well as concerts, movie screenings, poetry recitals, theatre performances, debates and exhibitions, among others. The general public is invited to participate in these events.

Every year, the Municipality of Copenhagen organizes a key event that takes place in the Glass Hall of the Tivoli Gardens. The event features speeches and music, and is usually attended by the Danish Jewish community and the diplomatic corps. Denmark reported that the Mayor of Culture of Copenhagen welcomes the audience to the event.

In January 2015, other events organized throughout Denmark will include a concert and a reading of Primo Levi's works on the Holocaust in Holmens Church, Copenhagen, which will be broadcast by Danish television, as well as a series of film screenings shedding light on the Holocaust in *Cinemateket*. Other upcoming events include exhibitions at local museums, libraries and other similar initiatives.

Education

It is not mandatory to teach the Holocaust in Denmark, and there are few set subjects in the school curriculum. However, one subject that history teachers are required to address is that of October 1943 and the rescue of Danish Jews to Sweden. This subject is taught in upper secondary school, when school children learn about World War II. Denmark reported that, in addition to this, the topic is addressed again in high school.

Educational activities related to Auschwitz Day are organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, and facilitated by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS).

The Ministry of Education has established a steering committee to co-ordinate educational activities related to Auschwitz Day. The steering committee is comprised of teachers from primary, secondary and high schools. The Jewish school in Copenhagen is represented on the committee.

Every year, the steering committee co-ordinates activities for students and introduces a theme for Auschwitz Day. In 2015, the theme is “Freedom”.

Educational activities related to Auschwitz Day include seminars offered to upper secondary school and high school students, as well as teacher-training seminars. The programmes reach an average of 6,000 students each year. In addition, educational websites offer information and educational materials about the Holocaust and other genocides. With more than 250,000 annual visits, the websites have become the main source of information for students on the Holocaust and other genocides.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Denmark in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

All victims of the Holocaust are commemorated on Auschwitz Day. In addition to Jewish and Roma and Sinti victims, disabled persons and other victims are also honoured.

On 5 May, the main event for commemorating World War II is a memorial ceremony held in Mindelunden, where members of the resistance against Nazism were executed. Commemorations also take place at Mindelunden on Christmas Eve to remember the fallen members of the resistance movement. On the morning of 5 May, flowers are laid on the graves and monuments dedicated to the resistance movement. In the evening, a ceremony with speeches and music is held. The event in Mindelunden is organized by the Aid Foundation of the Comrades (Kammeraternes hjælpefond), and is promoted on the Foundation’s official webpage.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and submitted by the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Denmark, in a communication dated 9 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Denmark’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Denmark.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Denmark can be found at:

www.auschwitz-dag.dk

www.folkedrab.dk

www.holocaust.dk

www.theresienstadt.dk

<http://www.mindelunden-4maj.dk/>

Estonia

Holocaust Memorial Day

Estonia observes 27 January as Holocaust Remembrance Day. All victims of the Holocaust are officially commemorated on this day. The date was established following a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on 6 August 2002. In addition to remembering the victims of the Holocaust, the remembrance day serves as a declaration of Estonia's condemnation of the atrocities that took place on the country's territory during World War II and thereafter. It also serves as a moment to stress the importance of maintaining and further developing Holocaust remembrance as an integral aspect of the Estonian education system, to ensure that the Holocaust remains current in the minds of young Estonians.

Commemorative Activities

The official remembrance ceremony takes place at the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Klooga. In addition, commemorative events are held at Jewish cemeteries, as well as at the Jewish school, community centre and the synagogue. Traditionally, a member of the government gives a speech at the Klooga ceremony, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. The commemoration is attended by state officials, including the Speaker of the Parliament, the Prime Minister (or a cabinet minister), as well as members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Estonian Jewish community. The event is organized jointly by government institutions and members of the Jewish community.

The Government of Estonia supported two initiatives commemorating the Holocaust in 2012 and 2013. The first involved identifying the names of 947 Estonian Holocaust victims and recording these in the recently opened "Gallery of Memory" memorial at the Centre of the Jewish Community of Estonia. At the opening of the memorial on 27 January 2012, speeches were given by the Prime Minister, the chairperson of the Jewish Community of Estonia, the Ambassador of the State of Israel, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, a Holocaust survivor and the Chief Rabbi of Estonia. The opening was followed by a concert. In addition, a photo exhibition by Peter Rigaud titled "Being Jewish" (Jude sein) was opened at the Centre on 27 January 2012.

Further to this, on 16 September 2013, an outdoor exhibition on the Klooga camp and the Holocaust was opened at the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust at Klooga. Prepared by the Estonian History Museum, in co-operation with the Estonian Ministry of Culture and the Jewish Community of Estonia, the exhibition presents an overview of the establishment of the Klooga concentration camp and its links with other camps in Estonia. The exhibition also aimed at providing greater insight into life in the camp and forced labour. On 19 September 2014, a ceremony was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the closing of the camp, with the participation of the Prime Minister, the Estonian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), Estonian diplomats and the Jewish Community of Estonia.

The Estonian Ministry of Culture, with the participation of the Estonian Jewish Community and the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, has now completed the project titled "Holocaust Markers in Estonia". As a result of this project, which began in 2005, remembrance markers have been placed at significant sites related to

the Holocaust, such as at the Pärnu cemetery, in memory of the children killed at the Pärnu synagogue in 1941.

Education

The Holocaust is included in the Estonian curriculum, and is taught in history classes at the lower and upper secondary levels. No special activities to mark Holocaust memorial days are organized in state schools.

Each year, a seminar on the subject is held for history teachers on Holocaust Memorial Day, and is co-organized with the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Estonia in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Estonia has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a communication dated 29 August 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Estonia’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihhr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Estonia.pdf.

Finland

Holocaust Memorial Day

Finland observes 27 January as the Memorial Day for the Victims of the Holocaust (Vainojen uhrien muistopäivä). The day honours the memory of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, as well as other victims of persecution during World War II. The memorial day was established by the Prime Minister's Office on 20 February 2001.

Commemorative Activities

In 2014, the main remembrance event for the 27 January memorial day was held at the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki. In 2015, it will be held at the Synagogue of Helsinki. Representatives of the government and members of parliament usually attend the event, as do the Ambassadors of Israel, Poland and Germany, among others. Besides the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which sends out invitations to the event, and the Ministry of Education and Culture, which funds the event, the Finnish Holocaust Remembrance Association is involved in organizing the commemorations. Religious communities also take part in the event.

During the event, a speech is usually given by a representative of the Finnish Government, including the President or a minister, followed by a welcome speech by the Israeli Ambassador. Finland reported that the ambassador of a contact country also delivers a speech, noting that the contact countries change every year, with Hungary and Poland acting as contact countries in 2014 and 2015, respectively. A speech is also given by a researcher or representative of a memorial organization, including from the contact country in question. The event also features musical performances, including the reciting of the *El male rakhamim* prayer, sung by a cantor of the Jewish community of Helsinki.

The Finnish Holocaust Remembrance Association usually organizes a one-day seminar prior to the main commemorative event. In 2014, the seminar focused on the rise of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Europe.

Education

In all Finnish schools, pupils learn about the Holocaust through a number of different pedagogical methods and activities.

The Holocaust is a compulsory subject in history classes at both the comprehensive and upper secondary school levels, and is included as part of teaching on the history of Germany and Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, and on the history of World War II. Moreover, the subject of the Holocaust is also addressed in classes on religion, social studies, ethics and literature. Schools sometimes organize days and weeks dedicated to the subject of the Holocaust.

Since the school system in Finland is decentralized, schools organize Holocaust-related events independently. These activities are encouraged by the Ministry of Education and the Finnish National Board of Education that provide educational materials on the topic on its website.

Some schools, in particular UNESCO network schools, organize days and lectures to commemorate the Holocaust.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Finland, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January. For a complete overview of Finland's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Finland observes 27 January as the Memorial Day for all Victims of Persecution. Finland has no plans to establish an additional memorial day for other victim groups of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Counsellor of Education, Finnish National Board of Education, in communications dated 8 December and 10 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Finland's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Finland.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Finland can be found at: www.edu.fi

France

Holocaust Memorial Day

In 1954, France established the last Sunday in April as a day to commemorate the victims of National Socialism. The official ceremony, which begins at the Shoah Memorial (Mémorial de la Shoah), commemorates all deportations during World War II, including those of Roma and homosexuals.

France officially commemorates the Jewish victims of the Holocaust on the Sunday closest to 16 July. The memorial day is called the National Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Racist and Anti-Semitic Crimes of the So-Called “Government of the French State”, and in Homage to the Righteous among the Nations from France (Journée nationale à la mémoire des victimes des crimes racistes et antisémites de l’État français et d’hommage aux Justes de France). The day commemorates the rounding up of Jews in the *Vélodrome d’Hiver*, a former cycle track in Paris, on 16 and 17 July 1942 – the biggest round-up of Jews that took place on French territory during World War II. The day was officially introduced by President François Mitterrand on 3 February 1993. A law adopted on 10 July 2000 revised the decree of 1993, adding that tribute should be paid to the French Righteous among the Nations. The purpose of the day is to preserve the memory of the Holocaust for younger generations and to sensitize young people to the need to defend democratic values and combat intolerance, and to fight anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

In addition to these official events, the Holocaust is commemorated on numerous other occasions related to historical events, such as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising commemorated during *Yom HaShoah*. Remembrance activities also take place around 27 January, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Commemorative Activities

The 16 July memorial day is observed in every region of France, as well as in many municipalities. Commemorative events usually take place on memorial sites all over the country, including at the Shoah Memorial (Mémorial de la Shoah). Members of government and officials attend the events, and it is usual for newly elected presidents and prime ministers to take part in the official ceremony. The event places a particular emphasis on the duty to remember those deported, and on the responsibility of the Vichy Government for the deportation of French Jews. At the same time, every commemoration is regarded as a reminder of the duty to promote tolerance and to combat all forms of anti-Semitism.

Commemorative activities take place in co-operation with various memorial sites and organizations, including the Foundation for the Memory of the Holocaust, as well as Jewish associations, associations of deportees and historians. The organizers of such events consult with civil society and work in close co-operation with the authorities, including government ministries, and locally elected officials.

In 2012, the newly elected President and Prime Minister of France opened two new memorial sites in Drancy and the Camp des Milles in Aix-en-Provence. Commemoration ceremonies held at the sites involved government officials, including the Prime Minister and officials from the Ministry of War Veterans and War Victims, among others.

Every level of the French government maintains regular contact with civil society representatives and Jewish institutions in France. As a result, there are good links in place to ensure official support of and co-operation with commemorative activities at memorial sites. The Minister of War Veterans and War Victims has a permanent contact with the associations that support Holocaust memory initiatives, and organizes regular meetings to prepare commemorations.

The commemoration of *Yom HaShoah* has become more prevalent in recent years, and is regularly marked in many towns in France through the initiatives of Jewish institutions and organizations that commemorate the deportations. In response to the ODIHR questionnaire, France also reported that the names of 76,000 French Jews were recited at the Holocaust Memorial in Paris without interruption for 24 hours by citizens, politicians, religious figures and family members of the victims.

Education

The French national curriculum involves teaching about the Holocaust. It is taught at all three levels of school. In primary schools, the topic is introduced as part of a programme on the twentieth century. In secondary schools, students learn about the Holocaust in classes covering the two world wars. These lessons also touch on questions related to memory and dealing with the past, and provide students with the opportunity to reflect on crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

French schools take part in special activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. An annual bulletin encourages the educational community to get involved in commemoration days, in particular the memorial day on 27 January and the Day of the Resistance on 27 May. In secondary schools, these days are often marked with projects that incorporate different areas of education. In addition, schools often organize a number of special events, including meetings with survivors, debates and exhibitions.

Since 1964, the Minister of Education has overseen a national competition that focuses on the resistance and deportations during the war. Some 40,000 students take part in the competition each year. The competition is given a different theme every year, and the theme for 2014/15 is “The liberation of Nazi camps, their discovery and the return of those deported”. The prize is awarded at a large ceremony attended by the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education has also encouraged school children and teachers to gather by the commemorative plaques found in schools in Paris and in other large cities that bear the names of Jewish children who were deported.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

France has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of France’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Since 1954, the last Sunday of April has been dedicated to all the victims and heroes of the deportations. A 2013 law also introduced 27 May as a national day dedicated to the French Resistance. The day commemorates the numerous resistance fighters and non-Jewish victims who were deported during World War II. The day is also marked in schools, where special attention is devoted to the topic of the French Resistance.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of France to the OSCE, in a communication dated 3 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of France's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_France.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in France can be found at:

<http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/intervention-du-president-de-la-republique-a-l-occasion-de-l-inauguration-du-memorial-de-drancy/>

<http://www.campdesmilles.org/>

Georgia

ODIHR did not receive information from Georgia in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Georgia in response to “the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Georgia’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Georgia.pdf.

Germany

Holocaust Memorial Day

Germany officially commemorates the Holocaust on 27 January. The day is called the Memorial Day for the Victims of the National Socialist Regime (Gedenktag für die Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft und des Völkermordes). The day marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. It commemorates all victims of the Nazi regime and the Holocaust. Its purpose is to keep the memory of the past alive and to educate the younger generation. The date was introduced by President Roman Herzog on 3 January 1996.

Commemorative Activities

Every year a commemorative ceremony is held in the German Bundestag.

Education

Due to the federal structure of the country, there is no national education curriculum in Germany. However, there is consensus among the different German *Länder* (provinces) that National Socialism and the Holocaust should make up a very significant and essential part of the curriculum, with the subject being addressed both in the classroom and beyond. Rather than restricting teaching on the subject to just one field of study, the Holocaust is addressed from a variety of angles and approaches. For example, history curricula address National Socialism and the Holocaust in the ninth and tenth grades, as well as in the eleventh and twelfth grades of upper secondary school (gymnasium). The topic is also addressed in the framework of politics/social studies, religious studies and ethics, as well as through the study of German literature and memoirs addressing the period. Such approaches are not restricted to particular grades but are applied throughout school education.

Special educational activities designed to mark Holocaust Memorial Day take place in Germany. Schools are asked to use the memorial day as a way to focus on projects related to the Holocaust, so as to devote special attention to the topic. In addition, a large number of other activities to commemorate the Holocaust are undertaken by schools.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Germany has no specific national commemoration day for the Roma and Sinti victims of National Socialism. However, Germany marks 27 January as Remembrance Day of the victims of National Socialism. For a complete overview of Germany's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Germany did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire.

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, in communications dated 22 September, 4 December and 8 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Germany's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Germany.pdf.

Greece

Holocaust Memorial Day

Greece observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. The day is officially called the National Day of Remembrance of Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust. The purpose of this day is to remember the abrupt end to the rich contribution of the Jewish community to Greek society, especially in Thessaloniki, as a result of World War II, and to remember their persecution during the war and the Holocaust. A further goal is to raise awareness, especially among youth, of every form of xenophobia, religious or other intolerance, racism and, in particular, anti-Semitism. The date was established in a law adopted unanimously by the Greek Parliament in 2004. A presidential decree published on 28 February 2005 regulates the commemorative events taking place in accordance with the law in different prefectures of the country. The date has been officially commemorated since 2005.

Commemorative Activities

Official commemorative events are held in different regions of Greece. As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, a series of joint events are carried out in the prefectures and among local Jewish communities. These commemorations take place at Holocaust sites, where wreaths are laid on behalf of the Government, the Parliament, political parties, the region and the municipality in question, the armed forces and embassies, as well as on behalf of resistance organizations, the victims of the camps and Jewish communities and organizations in Greece and abroad.

At the 2014 remembrance event in Athens, high school students presented their thoughts and feelings following their visit to Auschwitz in 2013. The trip was organized with the co-operation of the Ministry of Education and the Jewish Museum of Greece.

Education

The Greek national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. The subject of the Holocaust is addressed in different fields of studies. It is introduced at primary level education, at which point students learn the basic facts about World War II and are provided with a definition of the Holocaust. The topic is then revisited in the third grade of high school, where special attention is paid to the rise of Nazism in the aftermath of the 1929 economic crisis, as well as to the persecution and mass extermination of the Jews. The Holocaust is further addressed during the first grade of senior high school in an optional class on “Hellenic and European Civilization”. It is then taught in the third grade of senior high school during history classes, during which students work with oral testimonies and extracts of literary works, among other related materials. In addition, the Holocaust is studied in the second grade of vocational senior high school.

A number of activities are organized to mark Holocaust Remembrance Days at schools in Greece. The Ministry of Education supports the participation of schools in activities implemented by competent bodies during Holocaust Memorial Day. These initiatives are listed below.

- The translation of the Jewish Museum Guide on “Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators”. This material was developed by ODIHR in co-operation with the Yad Vashem, and can be used to help organize Holocaust Memorial Days in schools.
- The Ministry of Education distributes circulars to inform schools about relevant activities organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece under the auspices of the National Holocaust Remembrance Day. These circulars note that the events and activities of the Jewish Museum can be attended by students of primary and secondary education. By the end of May 2014, 68 schools and 2,305 students had participated in educational programmes and tours organized in schools by the Ministry of Education to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day. In September 2013, 70 schools participated in the educational programme “Crocus”, which reached 4,000 students. One hundred schools applied to participate in the same event held in autumn 2014.
- Teacher-training seminars on issues related to the teaching of the Holocaust are frequently conducted by the Jewish Museum in Athens and Zakynthos and by Yad Vashem.
- Over the last two years, the Ministry of Education has conducted educational visits to Auschwitz, implemented within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Jewish Museum of Greece. Following these activities, and in their respective training modules, teachers are encouraged to enrich their teaching of the Holocaust with a focus on local history, and to plan and implement research projects.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Greece has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Greece’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Greece did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Greek Ministry of the Interior and by the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, in communications dated 24 July and 16 October 2014, respectively.

For the 2012 summary of Greece’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Greece.pdf.

Holy See

Holocaust Memorial Day

Although the Holy See is the central government of the Catholic Church, it does not manage the activities of local Catholic churches, which are independently responsible for organizing education and remembrance initiatives related to the Holocaust. This means that it is up to each individual church to undertake concrete measures for Holocaust remembrance. For that reason, the Holy See has not established a memorial day to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and has no plans to do so.

In 1974, in order to promote and foster dialogue, the Holy See established the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Part of the work of the commission includes addressing questions related to combating anti-Semitism and promoting Holocaust education. In this regard, however, the commission can provide only general recommendations.

In some countries, including Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland, national Bishops' Conferences have introduced a Day of Judaism to commemorate the victims of the Shoah and to draw attention to the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and the progress made in Jewish-Catholic Dialogue. In this context, commemorations of the pogrom of 9 November 1938 and the liberation of Auschwitz on 27 January have been held.

Commemorative Activities

Although the Holy See has not designated a day to commemorate the Holocaust, Pope Francis has repeatedly expressed his concerns regarding anti-Semitism. In particular, during a speech to the Roman Jewish community on 11 October 2013, the 70th anniversary of the deportation of Jewish people from Rome to Auschwitz, he stated that no Christian can be an anti-Semite, and spoke out against anti-Semitism and intolerance. In addition, during a visit to Israel in May 2014, the Pope also visited Yad Vashem to commemorate and pray for the victims of the Holocaust.

Education

The Holy See reported that the Catholic Church considers Holocaust education and the commemoration of victims of the Holocaust to be an important matter, and one that should be promoted at all levels of church life.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from the Holy See in response to the "ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education".

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

The Holy See did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire.

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other International Organizations in Vienna, in a communication dated 15 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Holy See's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Holy_See.pdf

Hungary

Holocaust Memorial Day

Hungary observes 16 April as Holocaust Memorial Day. The day commemorates the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The date marks the day in 1944 when the ghettoization of the Hungarian Jews in the town of Munkács began. The Memorial Day was established by a Parliamentary Decision in 2000, following a proposal by the former Minister of Education to commemorate the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust.

Commemorative Activities

High-level officials, together with government representatives, politicians and diplomats, attend the main commemorative event held every year on 16 April. Survivors, members of the Jewish community and members of the general public also participate in commemoration activities, including commemorative speeches, lectures, concerts, exhibitions and the unveiling of plaques. These activities are organized both by government ministries and civil society organizations. The main event is held at the Danube Shoe Memorial, which commemorates the Jewish victims shot into the Danube in 1944 and 1945. During the event, candles are lit and memorial stones placed to commemorate and honour the victims of the Holocaust. In 2014, the event was attended by the President of the Republic, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration and Justice, and the Mayor of the 12th district of Budapest, who delivered a speech.

To mark the Holocaust Memorial Day in 2014, the Prime Minister sent a letter to the Chairman of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), in which he offered his reassurances for the security of the Jewish community in Hungary.

In addition to official observance of Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorations are held in many villages and towns. For example, on Holocaust Memorial Day in 2014, a plaque was installed to commemorate the child victims of the Holocaust, as well as teachers who rescued school children, in Makó and Pécs, during which the Minister of State for Public Diplomacy and Relations of delivered a speech.

The “March of the Living” organization in Hungary organizes peaceful marches that attract thousands of people. Every year on the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, including high-ranking politicians. In 2014, the President of the Republic of Hungary attended the commemoration.

The Hungarian Government dedicated the year 2014 to commemorating the 70th anniversary of the mass deportations of Hungarian Jews in 1944. UNESCO was chief patron of Hungary’s Holocaust Memorial Year 2014.



The Minister of Public Administration and Justice and the Minister of Education attend a commemorative event at the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial on National Holocaust Memorial Day, 16 April 2014.

Education

The inclusion of the Holocaust in school education in Hungary is ensured by the government through the rigorous accreditation of the curriculum, textbooks and other teaching materials. As a result, teaching on the Holocaust forms part of a number of different subjects, including history, civics, literature, language, ethics and general classes.

Since 2000 and 2001, Holocaust Memorial Day has been observed in secondary schools. The Hungarian Government supports school activities related to the commemoration of the Holocaust. Since the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day, there has been strong co-operation between schools and the government with regard to Holocaust education.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Hungary, the Roma and Sinti genocide is commemorated on 2 August. For a complete overview of Hungary's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

In addition to commemorating the Holocaust, thousands of other victims of the Nazi period are remembered in Hungary, including victims of political persecution, members of various smaller Christian denominations and ethnic minorities.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in a communication dated 1 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Hungary's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Hungary.pdf.

As part of the official communication, ODIHR received the following additional information from Hungary:

Major Memorial days in Hungary

Liberation of the large Pest ghetto – January 18
International Holocaust Remembrance Day – January 27
National Holocaust Memorial Day – April 16
International Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day – August 2
Raoul Wallenberg's Birthday – August 4
Memorial Day of Miklós Radnóti – November 9
Memorial Day of Forced Labourers – December 1

Memorial Years

The 60th Anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary 2004
Wallenberg Year 2012
Holocaust Memorial Year 2014

Iceland

Holocaust Memorial Day

Iceland has not established a Holocaust Memorial Day. There are no plans to establish a memorial day to commemorate the Holocaust.

Education

The Holocaust is taught in Iceland and is included in history classes in upper elementary and high schools, as well as in colleges.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Iceland in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Iceland has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE, in a communication dated 10 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Iceland’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Iceland.pdf.

Ireland

Holocaust Memorial Day

Ireland observes the Sunday closest to 27 January as its National Holocaust Memorial Day. National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the persecution and murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust, as well as all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators. The memorial day was first officially observed in January 2003.

Commemorative Activities

The National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration takes place at the Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin. It is organized by the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland (HETI), in association with the Department of Justice and Equality. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the Holocaust in wider society, and to encourage other similar events at regional, local and school levels.

The commemoration activities include a candle-lighting ceremony, at which six candles are lit for the six million Jews who perished, as well as candles for the other victims. Survivors and other prominent personalities conduct readings, and a minute of silence is observed. More than 100 school children from all over Ireland are invited to the ceremony each year. Three pupils from each of Ireland's four provinces participate in reading from the Scroll of Names.

A keynote address is delivered by the President, the Taoiseach (Head of the Government) or another senior minister. The event is attended by Parliamentarians, governmental officials, the judiciary and civil society. The Lord Mayor of Dublin actively participates in the event.



Two members of the Roma community light candles in memory of Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust during Ireland's National Holocaust Memorial Day, 26 January 2014. (Photo: HETI)

Education

The national education curriculum does not specifically include teaching on the Holocaust. The Irish Department of Education and Skills does not produce or approve textbooks, nor does it specifically prescribe the content of citizenship, history or other classes. Schools are encouraged and provided with the scope to examine issues such as the Holocaust. Students are also able to learn about the Holocaust in other subject areas, including citizenship education and historical studies.

Students are encouraged to engage with the issue of rights and responsibilities, including modern examples of failures to respect human rights, which are taught in primary schools as part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) syllabus. In lower secondary school (the “junior cycle” of school), all students examine in depth contemporary matters of human rights in classes on Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), while approximately 90 per cent of students also study history, which includes study of the Holocaust. In upper secondary school (the “senior cycle” of school), there is currently no subject that focuses specifically on human rights issues. However, students who study history as part of the Irish Leaving Certificate have the opportunity to examine the Holocaust in more detail, and may undertake individual research projects and achieve certification marks for projects on the genocides of World War II.

A special booklet with key messages is created each year for Holocaust Memorial Day. Some 6,000 copies of the booklet are circulated, including both at the official commemorative event and to schools throughout Ireland. In addition, the Crocus project, administered by the Holocaust Educational Trust of Ireland (HETI), an Irish non-governmental organization supported by the government, provides schools with yellow crocus bulbs to plant in autumn in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children and thousands of other children who died in the Holocaust. The yellow flowers recall the yellow Stars of David that all Jews were forced to wear under Nazi rule.

Since its inception in 2005, participation in the project has grown from 6,000 students in Ireland to more than 45,000 students in Ireland and in several other OSCE participating States. By bringing together people from local communities across Europe, HETI strives to enhance tolerance and mutual understanding among citizens, while simultaneously ensuring the transfer of historical memory. The activity presents an opportunity to introduce young children to the subject of the Holocaust and to stimulate discussion on and create awareness about discrimination. HETI also makes available guidelines and information that may be of assistance to teachers during this activity.

There are also a very small number of Jewish Holocaust survivors in Ireland, two of whom speak regularly in schools.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Ireland, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated as part of the National Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. For a complete overview of Ireland’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

In addition to Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators who were persecuted because of their nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs or political affiliations.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, in a communication dated 3 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Ireland's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Ireland.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Ireland can be found at:

www.ncca.ie

http://www.hetireland.org/index.php?page=crocus_overview

Italy

Holocaust Memorial Day

Italy observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. It is called the Day of Remembrance. The date was established on 20 July 2000 following the adoption of Law No. 211. The law establishes 27 January as a memorial day to remember the racial laws, the Italian persecution of Jewish citizens and those who suffered deportation, imprisonment and death during the Holocaust. It also serves to commemorate those who opposed the Nazi regime and risked their lives to save and protect others.

The law provides that ceremonies, initiatives, meetings and readings be conducted on Holocaust Memorial Day. It also states that particular emphasis should be placed on marking the day in schools at all levels, with the aim of preserving the memory of the Holocaust among future generations.

Commemorative Activities

On 15 May 2009, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers established a Coordinating Committee for the Commemorations in Remembrance of the Holocaust. The Under-Secretary of State at the Presidency of the Council usually chairs the committee. The committee is tasked with planning events and ceremonies, as well as with promoting joint proposals on ways to raise awareness and strengthen the memory of the Holocaust, particularly among young people. The work of the Committee has led to a proliferation of initiatives at both the central and local administrative levels.

Every year, the President commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day in a solemn ceremony. A speech is made by a recognized scholar, and the Ministry of Education presents an award to the winner of a national school competition about the Holocaust. Furthermore, medals are given out to Holocaust survivors or their family members. Organized by the Committee on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy, the event targets high school students and experts. The government provides information on this event via its website.

Over the last two years, the central and local administrative authorities in Italy have organized initiatives on Holocaust Memorial Day aimed at raising public awareness, including shows, concerts, panel discussions and movies.

The Office of Studies and Institutional Relations at the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers works with the Jewish community to commemorate events and places related to the persecution and deportation of Jewish people, as well as on establishing new places of memory, such as the new Holocaust Museum in Rome. On Holocaust Memorial Day in 2011, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of the Interior organized a nationwide campaign to collect material and testimonies of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, with the aim of supporting new museums dealing with the Holocaust.

In 2013, the National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) used Holocaust Memorial Day to raise awareness about discrimination by supporting the inauguration of an installation at the railway station in Milan to remember those who were sent to Auschwitz.

Civil society plays an active role in promoting Holocaust remembrance, including at the local level. On 16 October, a march was held to commemorate the deportation of Jews from Rome, and bike rides following paths of remembrance were organized. Italian citizens also take part in remembrance activities by placing commemorative stones (*pietre d'inciampo*) at locations from which Jewish people were deported. Furthermore, visits to remembrance sites are becoming increasingly common in Italy.

Education

The Italian national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. Following reforms, the Holocaust was introduced as one of the main subjects taught in high schools. The Italian government co-operates with the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI).

There is an ongoing commitment regarding Holocaust Memorial Day in schools, with hundreds of events taking place in schools in January. Every year, the Ministry of Education supports a competition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

In Rome and Milan, two centres have been established by Jewish communities to organize meetings and to facilitate connections between schools and Holocaust survivors and their children and grandchildren. Italy reported that these events take place in January and throughout the year, and are given special attention by the media.

In order to confront anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, Italy is actively encouraging Holocaust education not only in schools, but also in different sectors, such as among young diplomats and officers in training. Approximately 80,000 Italians, mostly students, visit Auschwitz every year.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Italy, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated as part of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. For a complete overview of Italy's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Italy did not provide any information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism, and indicated that this part of the questionnaire is covered by the information provided on Holocaust Memorial Days and the commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide.

The above information was submitted in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE, in a communication dated 1 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Italy's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Italy.pdf.

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Italy can be found at: <http://www.shoah.acs.beniculturali.it/>

Kazakhstan

ODIHR did not receive information from Kazakhstan in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Kazakhstan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Kazakhstan’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Kazakhstan.pdf.

Kyrgyzstan

ODIHR did not receive information from Kyrgyzstan in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Kyrgyzstan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Kyrgyzstan’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Kyrgyzstan.pdf.

Latvia

Holocaust Memorial Day

Latvia observes 4 July as the Commemoration Day of Genocide against the Jews. The date is the anniversary of the burning of the synagogue on Gogola Street in Riga, which took place on 4 July 1941, while the victims were locked inside. The incident marked the beginning of the Holocaust on the territory of Latvia. Commemoration Day is a day of remembrance for all the Jews killed by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. Latvia reported that the genocide against the Jewish people is remembered as the culmination point of evil in the twentieth century, noting that the mass killings during the Holocaust caused irreversible changes in Latvia and left deep scars in the collective memory.

Official commemorative events have been held on 4 July every year since 1990.

Following the United Nations resolution designating 27 January as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005, the Latvian authorities, in co-operation with civil society representatives, also organize special remembrance events on that day.

Commemorative Activities

The 4 July commemorative event takes place at the memorial site of the synagogue that was burned to the ground in Riga during World War II. It is located next to a monument dedicated to those who rescued Jews.

The President gives the opening speech during the event, followed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or another high-ranking government representative. The event is attended by ambassadors and government officials.

Representatives of the following groups and organizations also take part in the event: the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities; the Jewish Religious Community of Riga; the Jews in Latvia museum; the Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews (based in Israel); the Jewish Survivors of Latvia (based in the United States); the Center for Judaic Studies of the University of Latvia; and the Riga Jewish School.

On 27 January 2013, the Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered an address to open the commemorative event dedicated to International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Furthermore, a historically significant event took place on 30 July 2013, when the President of Latvia and the President of Israel opened a memorial dedicated to Zanis Lipke, one of the most notable Latvians to have rescued Jews during World War II.



A participant at the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations in Riga lays flowers on a memorial to victims of the Holocaust, 4 July 2013. (Photo: OSCE/Anne Giebel)

Education

Teaching on the Holocaust is a compulsory part of the history curriculum in Latvia's schools, and is integrated into programmes on the history of culture, civics and politics. The topics of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, as well as related issues, feature in both primary and secondary school education, including in social science subjects in secondary education. Questions on the Holocaust are included in school examinations. Topics related to tolerance and stereotypes are included in the curricula of different subjects, and are compulsory for all schools.

Text books, teaching materials and methodological materials for teachers are developed in accordance with the national curriculum and, therefore, also address the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Several books on the Holocaust and the history of the Jewish community in Latvia are presently available for use by students, including *Tell Ye Your Children: a book about the Holocaust in Europe 1933-1945*, by Paul A. Levine and Stephane Bruchfeld. Numerous materials for teachers have also been prepared, such as *A Controversial History*, a handbook published by the Latvian Association of History Teachers (LAHT).

In collaboration with the Swedish Institute and the Embassy of the United States, LAHT organizes regular seminars on Holocaust education. It also co-ordinates a teacher-training programme, for which Latvian teachers visit to the United States. For a number of years, the

Latvian Ministry of Education has been sending teachers to Yad Vashem centre in Jerusalem; in 2014, 25 teachers participated in courses offered by Yad Vashem.

In 2012 and 2013, the Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia, together with the Jews in Latvia museum, organized educational seminars on the Holocaust for influential persons in different regions of Latvia. The regional seminars focused on the Holocaust in Latvia and the Baltic region, as well as on the history of the Jewish people in Latvia, with both themes emphasizing regional specifics.

The school history programme provides students with information on Holocaust Memorial Day, as well as with the opportunity to visit Holocaust memorial sites and related museums.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Latvia, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) and on 8 May (Commemoration Day of Victims of World War II). In addition, the Latvian Roma community commemorates the Roma and Sinti genocide on 8 April, during International Roma Day. For a complete overview of Latvia's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Since 1995, Latvia has commemorated other victim groups of National Socialism on 8 May, the Defeat of Nazism and Commemoration Day of Victims of World War II. Latvia reported that the day commemorates the suffering that World War II brought to the Latvian people. The day is marked with a wreath laying ceremony at the Brothers Cemetery in Riga, with the participation of the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, among others. Additionally, since 2009, Latvia has marked 23 August as the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism. No official ceremonies take place on that day.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Head of the Human Rights Policy Division, Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a communication dated 11 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Latvia's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Latvia.pdf.

Liechtenstein

ODIHR did not receive information from Liechtenstein in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Liechtenstein in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Liechtenstein’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Liechtenstein.pdf.

Lithuania

Holocaust Memorial Day

Lithuania has established a Holocaust Memorial Day. Lithuania did not provide any additional information on its Holocaust Memorial Day in response to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided by Lithuania in response to the 2012 questionnaire can be accessed through the link below.

Commemorative Activities

Lithuania reported that a Righteous Among the Nations award ceremony takes place at the Presidential Palace. During the event, families of those who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust are presented with the Life Saving Cross Award. As of September 2014, 872 citizens of Lithuania have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. High-level governmental officials, including the President, took part in the event.

A memorial event dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust took place at the Paneriai Memorial, which marks the site near Vilnius where Jews were murdered during the Holocaust. During the ceremony, Holocaust survivors delivered speeches and a wreath and flowers were laid at the site. The Deputy Speaker of the Lithuanian parliament, the Israeli Ambassador to Latvia and Lithuania, the Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of Vilnius participated in the ceremony.

A March of the Living also took place at the Paneriai memorial, with the participation of the Lithuanian Jewish community and Holocaust survivors from abroad.

Lithuania reported that, in general, commemorative events are promoted through national radio and television channels, via the Internet and through press releases and email bulletins.

Education

The Holocaust is taught in Lithuanian secondary schools.

Holocaust Memorial Days are promoted in schools by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania Initiatives include organizing picture, essay and song contests among schoolchildren. The objective of such activities is to deepen pupils' knowledge of twentieth-century history and to develop their ability to independently evaluate historical processes.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Lithuania, the Roma and Sinti genocide is unofficially commemorated on 2 August. For a complete overview of Lithuania's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Lithuania has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Division of National Minorities Issues in a communication dated 5 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Lithuania's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Lithuania.pdf.

Luxembourg

Holocaust Memorial Day

Luxembourg observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and, in doing so, seeks to prevent crimes against humanity in the future. The official day was established in 2009. Prior to this, 10 October had served as Holocaust Memorial Day, especially in schools, since 2003.

Commemorative Activities

For Holocaust Memorial Day, the Ministry of Education organizes a central commemorative event that gathers approximately 300 pupils, teachers and representatives of the government, parliament, patriotic associations and the Jewish community. On the evening before 27 January, a wreath is laid at a school in Luxembourg. Luxembourg reported that the event is intended to illustrate to students the consequences of not opposing anti-Semitic discourse and racist politics.

On 27 January every year, a remembrance ceremony is held at the Monument to the Deportation, located at the former Hollerich deportation station (La Gare de Déportation de Hollerich), from where Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution were deported during the Nazi occupation. During the ceremony, a strong emphasis is placed on the fate of the Jewish population in Luxembourg in 1940. This is followed by a public discussion attended by internationally respected historians, survivors and partners of the Centre for Documentation and Research on Forced Recruitment (CDREF). The Monument to the Deportation has served as the venue for several exhibitions on the topic of the Holocaust.

In recent years, CDREF has participated in a number of projects on the Holocaust, including historical conferences, meetings with survivors and visits to remembrance sites. Exhibitions presented as part of Holocaust Memorial Day have been financed by CDREF since 2012.

Education

Pupils aged between 15 and 19 learn about the Holocaust as part of their studies on World War II. Depending on the teacher and the age of the pupils, the topic is covered in the course of two to six lessons. Teaching on the Holocaust is not restricted to history classes, but is also addressed in religious science and languages lessons. Annual educational trips to Auschwitz are organized with the support of the Ministry of Education, during which 200 to 250 pupils visit the site and other camps. Trips are also organized to the camps at Natzweiler, Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Bergen-Belsen. Whenever possible, survivors accompany the students.

Teachers learn about the sensitivities attached to teaching the Holocaust in teacher training programmes, including during Holocaust Memorial Day. The University of Luxembourg offers a number of seminars on the topic of history and memory with regard to World War II as part of its pedagogical trainings.

Holocaust Memorial Days are promoted through an information campaign conducted at all schools. The Ministry of Education organizes an annual event for all secondary schools that

takes place in January. The main focus of the event is to encourage young people to remember all those who have suffered and were killed under Nazi rule. Schools are also free to organize additional activities to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

In order to better promote and improve the organization of Holocaust Memorial Days in schools, the Ministry of Education has signed a five-year convention with the Shoah Memorial in Paris. As a result, the 2012 Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration was organized together with the Shoah Memorial. In 2013, the Shoah Memorial co-operated with the memorial at the Maison d'Izieu in France, where Jewish children murdered during the Holocaust are commemorated, to organize activities for pupils. As part of the activities, pupils watched a film about children during the Holocaust. In addition, the Shoah Memorial organized the transfer of an exhibition and activities for children from Paris to Luxembourg. In 2014, the Holocaust Memorial Day was given the theme of "sport, sportsmen and Olympic games in Europe at War (1936-1948)". The Shoah Memorial in Paris brought an exhibition and activities for children to Luxembourg.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Luxemburg has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Luxemburg's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Every year, Luxemburg commemorates all the victims of the German occupation of Luxemburg on the Sunday nearest to 10 October. The commemorative day was established in 1946. As part of the commemorations, a religious service takes place in the cathedral of Luxemburg City, and a ceremony is held at the national monument of solidarity. Events are organized by the Prime Minister's office, and include the participation of the Grand Duke, His Royal Highness Henri, the President of parliament, members of parliament, the President of the High Court, the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Luxemburg, among other officials. An official proclamation is published ahead of the commemoration.

On 19 May 2014, the 70th anniversary of the execution of 11 resistance fighters, a group of students visited the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the concentration camp at Natzweiler-Struthof. In 2013 and 2014, German and Luxembourgish students took part in joint visits to deportation memorial sites and to the Hinzert concentration camp.

Commemorative events were also held to remember the 91 Luxembourgish soldiers killed at the Sonnenburg massacre. Organized by the steering committee for the remembrance of forcibly conscripted soldiers, this event takes place around 30 and 31 January.

In addition, a National Day of the Resistance is observed on 25 February to honour all those who committed acts of resistance against the occupying powers, including political prisoners and political deportees. In particular, this day commemorates the massacre of 23 members of the Luxemburg resistance. To mark the occasion, a youth group participates in a ceremony

attended by representatives of the Chamber of Deputies, the government and the City of Luxembourg.

A number of patriotic associations and civil society organizations are active in organizing remembrance activities, including the 8 May Victory Day ceremony, organized by the Veteran's Association, the Holocaust commemoration in Cinqfontaines in early July, as well as a multitude of other commemorative events that take place to mark the Allied victory in World War II.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the OSCE, in a communication dated 5 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Luxembourg's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Luxembourg.pdf

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Holocaust Memorial Day

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia observes 27 January as day of commemoration for the Jewish victims of National Socialism (Holocaust). The date has been observed since 2006. It was established following the 2005 United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Furthermore, the government takes active part in the commemoration of events organized by the Jewish Community and the Holocaust Memorial Center on two other days: the first one is 11 March and recalls the day of Deportation of 7144 local Jews to the death camp Treblinka. This day has been marked since 1945. The second commemorative day is *Yom Hashoah*.

Commemorative Activities

On Holocaust Memorial Days, the government is actively involved in different commemorative events through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Culture. Commemorative events are held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Holocaust Memorial Center and other places, and include exhibitions, conferences, lectures, seminars and relevant projects. For instance, on the occasion of 27 January 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the international conference on “Diplomacy and deportation of Macedonian Jews in 1943”. On March 11, commemorations take place in three different towns (Skopje, Bitola and Shtip) and include laying wreaths on the monuments of deported Jews, visits to Jewish cemeteries, opening of exhibitions and organization of commemorative concerts. This day is similarly commemorated at Yad Vashem in Israel, where a wreath is laid on behalf of the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to mark 11 March.

The commemorative events are attended by high level representatives of national and local authorities and by the diplomatic corps, as well as by students, members of the academic community, media and civil society representatives. Additionally, high-level state representatives attend international Holocaust remembrance events.

To promote Holocaust remembrance and raise awareness about the Holocaust, the government organizes press conferences, sends press releases and supports the production of documentary movies in co-operation with the national TV broadcasting service. The government also encourages students to actively participate by writing essays, preparing exhibitions and visiting the Holocaust Memorial Center. Engaging civil society organizations forms part of the government’s activities in the area of promoting Holocaust remembrance.

Education

The country’s national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. Studying the Holocaust is included in the history programme of the ninth grade of primary education (students aged 13 or 14 years old) and in the first grade of secondary education, gymnasium and vocational education (students aged 14 or 15 years old). Since 2013, Holocaust education

is also included in the curricula of civil education, religious education and ethics in religion, and is integrated in Macedonian language classes, as well as English language and literature.

Visiting the Holocaust Memorial Center is a compulsory activity for primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Holocaust Memorial Center organize various commemorative and educational activities throughout the year: for example, the project “The Holocaust through the lens of the children eyes” [*sic*] targets thirteen to sixteen year olds. The goal of the project is to give participants the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust while expressing themselves through short videos, or art and literature. The best works receive an award. On the occasion of 27 January 2015, some of the works were presented in Brussels at the international conference “Learning from the past, learning for the future”. Within the framework of the project, presentations and lectures in several schools are also organized.

The Ministry of Education and Science has recommended that every year, on 27 January and 11 March, a text on the Holocaust that was prepared by the Ministry be read in all schools. The Ministry also encourages schools to develop and implement Holocaust-related projects.

Local authorities are also involved and support the organization of exhibitions in the schools of their municipality.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Head of the Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, in a communication dated 9 September 2015.

For the 2012 summary of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odhr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_the_former_Yugoslav_Republic_of_Macedonia.pdf

Malta

Holocaust Memorial Day

In Malta, the House of Representatives holds an annual plenary session to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, the victims of World War II and the victims of other war crimes. During the commemoration, moments of silence are observed in memory of the victims. This event is held on or around Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

Commemorative Activities

Malta did not provide information on commemorative activities in response to the 2014 questionnaire.

Education

Malta did not provide information on Holocaust education in response to the 2014 questionnaire.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from Malta in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Malta did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in response to the 2014 questionnaire.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Malta to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in a communication dated 10 April 2013.

For the 2012 summary of Malta’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Malta.pdf

Moldova

Holocaust Memorial Day

ODIHR did not receive information from Moldova in response to the questionnaire “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

Education

ODIHR did not receive information from Moldova in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Moldova, the Roma and Sinti genocide is commemorated on 27 January. Ceremonies also take place during International Roma Day on 8 April. For a complete overview of Moldova’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

ODIHR did not receive information from Moldova in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

For the 2012 summary of Moldova’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Moldova.pdf.

Monaco

ODIHR did not receive information from Monaco in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Monaco in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Monaco’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Monaco.pdf.

Mongolia

ODIHR did not receive information from Mongolia in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Mongolia in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Montenegro

Holocaust Memorial Day

Montenegro has not established a Holocaust Memorial Day. There are no plans to establish such a memorial day.

Education

The national education curriculum of Montenegro does not include teaching about the Holocaust.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Montenegro has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Montenegro's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:
<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Montenegro has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro, in a communication dated 12 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Montenegro's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Montenegro.pdf

Netherlands

Holocaust Memorial Day

The Netherlands has observed a day of remembrance on 4 May since the end of World War II. The day, called the Remembrance of the Dead, commemorates all civilians and soldiers who died in the Netherlands and elsewhere since the outbreak of World War II, including both in conflict situations and during peacekeeping operations. This includes the victims of the Holocaust. Until 1961, the day only commemorated the Dutch victims of World War II. Since 1961, victims of other military conflicts and of all nationalities are also remembered on this day.

The Netherlands also observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January by remembering the victims of the Holocaust on the last Sunday of the month.

Commemorative Activities

Commemorative events are held on both 27 January and 4 May, with the last Sunday of January dedicated to Holocaust remembrance.

On the last Sunday of January, a ceremony commemorating the victims of Nazi concentration camps is organized by the Netherlands Auschwitz Committee. The ceremony has been held since 1952, and takes place at the Auschwitz Monument in Wertheim Park in Amsterdam. During the event, wreaths are laid, the Kaddish (the Jewish prayer for the dead) is recited and speeches are given. The ceremony is open to the public, and is also attended by at least one Dutch minister and the chairpersons of both houses of parliament.

The principle commemorative event on 4 May is attended by the Royal Family, as well as the Prime Minister and other members of the Dutch Government. The ceremony takes place at the National Monument on Dam Square in Amsterdam, where memorial wreaths are laid and speeches given. Holocaust survivors, resistance fighters and former political prisoners are invited to the event as special guests. The event is attended by thousands of people and broadcast on national television. Since 1946, silent commemorative marches have been held throughout the country on the evening of 4 May. The marches end with two minutes of silence and a performance of the Dutch national anthem. In addition, almost every town organizes its own commemorative event on 4 May.

On the Thursday before 27 January, a lecture titled ‘Never Again Auschwitz’ is delivered.

As a private initiative, money is being raised to erect a monument with the names of 102,000 Dutch victims of the Holocaust, including those of both Jewish and Roma and Sinti victims.

A recent government initiative, set up by the National Committee for Remembrance of 4 and 5 May, includes the organization of public debates, held across the country, on new approaches to remembrance. This will coincide with the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2015.

Education

The national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. The subject is first taught in the final years of elementary school and is covered again in secondary school. Throughout the academic year, the Dutch Government provides funding for numerous educational projects related to World War II and the Holocaust. The aim of these projects is to build understanding of the events that are commemorated and the concepts involved.

On 27 January, various activities are organized for school children as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. These activities include encounters with survivors, lessons on the Holocaust and discussions. A website dedicated to Holocaust Memorial Week provides an overview of these activities.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

The Netherlands commemorates all civilians and soldiers who died in the Second World War on 4 May. For a complete overview of the Netherlands' initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Other victim groups of National Socialism are also commemorated in the Netherlands on 4 May (see the section on Holocaust Memorial Day above).

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OSCE dated 14 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Netherlands' activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihhr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Netherlands.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in the Netherlands can be found at:

<http://www.niod.nl/holocaust-memorial-day>

Norway

Holocaust Memorial Day

Norway observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. The date was officially designated as a memorial day in 2000. The first commemoration took place in 2001.

Commemorative Activities

The annual commemorative event is traditionally held at the site of the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the port area of Oslo. In 2014, as in previous years, the commemorative event was organized by the Norwegian Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities (the HL-Centre). The event took place at the quayside where Norwegian Jews were handed over to the SS by Norwegian police officers and forced into ships for deportation to Auschwitz and extermination. In 2014, representatives of the Norwegian Government, the Jewish community, the Roma community and former political prisoners attended the commemoration.

The Norwegian Minister of Education and Research delivered a speech on 27 January 2014 for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Several of the five centres for peace and human rights arrange commemoration ceremonies on Holocaust Memorial Day. The centres are located in different regions of Norway and receive grants from the Ministry of Education and Research.

Education

The Holocaust is taught in Norwegian schools as part of studies on World War II. Norway reported that the content included in Norwegian curricula is quite general, with few individual themes specified in the national curriculum or in subject curricula. The Holocaust is usually taught in secondary school. Pupils from the seventh grade onwards are expected to have knowledge of national minorities in Norway and their rights, history and ways of life.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Norway, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January. For a complete overview of Norway's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education please, see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Norway did not provide information about the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided by Norway in response to the 2012 questionnaire can be accessed through the below link.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE, in a communication dated 20 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Norway's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Norway.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Norway can be found at:

www.hlsenteret.no/english/

<http://www.stiftelsen-arkivet.no/english>

http://www.rafto.no/page/829/About_us

https://www.nansenskolen.no/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=95

<http://falstadsenteret.no/en/>

<http://narviksenteret.no/no/English/>

Poland

Holocaust Memorial Day

Poland observes 27 January as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The date is observed nationally as an official day of remembrance. The commemoration honours all those who perished in the Holocaust, in particular Jews and Roma and Sinti. The Day of Commemoration was established in 2005.

In addition, 19 April, the anniversary of the start of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, is observed in all Polish schools as the Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity.

Commemorative Activities

Official commemorations on 27 January take place at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Majdanek State Museum, the Sobibor Regional Museum, the Treblinka Regional Museum, the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes Monument and the Radegast train station in Łódź, where the monument of the Litzmannstadt Ghetto is situated. Commemorative activities at these locations usually include speeches delivered by Holocaust survivors, those awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations, Polish and foreign government representatives, as well as representatives of the Jewish community in Poland and of Jewish diaspora organizations. In addition, memorial processions take place, wreaths are laid, candles lit and stones are placed on graves. Songs are performed in Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew and English, and Jewish and Christian prayers are recited.

Commemorative activities are attended by high-level representatives, including the President of the Republic of Poland, the Prime Minister, the Special Envoy of the Government for International Dialogue and the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) of the Senate. Members of the Polish parliament, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Administration and Digitization and the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Relations with the Jewish Diaspora are also involved in the activities. On 27 January 2014, 60 members of the Knesset (the parliament of Israel) participated in the commemorative event and met with members of the Polish parliament.

Groups involved in commemorative activities in Poland include survivors, the Children of the Holocaust association and those awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations from the Polish Society of Righteous Gentiles. Organizations involved in the events include the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Majdanek State Museum, the Sobibor Regional Museum, the Treblinka Regional Museum, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland, the City of Warsaw, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Chancellery of the President of Poland. Local governments are actively involved in commemorations and often initiate commemorative events at the local level.

The Government of Poland promotes the commemorative events through announcements in the media and the live broadcasting of major events. It also works with civil society to organize the events.

In addition to the official events, various unofficial commemorative events take place that are organized by local activists and priests.

Education

The Holocaust is taught as part of the Polish curriculum. At primary school, it is taught in history and social studies classes, with a focus on life in German-occupied Poland. At the lower secondary level, the Holocaust is taught in history, social studies and Polish-language classes. At the upper secondary level, it is taught as part of Polish-language and history classes, with a focus on, among other subjects, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the attitudes of Polish and Western societies and governments, as well as that of the Catholic Church, to the Holocaust.

A programme titled “Preserve remembrance. History and culture of two nations” has been implemented by Yad Vashem and the Centre for Education Development, a national teacher-training institution, that aims to create a network of regional co-ordinators and teachers trained to teach about the Holocaust. Polish teachers also regularly participate in the seminars offered by Yad Vashem. The Ministry of Education also organizes workshops for teachers in co-operation with the Council of Europe and other partners. Several programmes, such as the annual March of the Living, bring together Polish and Israeli students, thereby helping to foster youth exchange between Poland and Israel and to raise awareness about the history of Polish Jews.

Polish schools observe 19 April as the Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. Commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day in schools was introduced by the Minister of Education in 2005 as part of the “Remembrance for the Future” programme, which aims to prepare schools to organize educational events related to Holocaust Memorial Day.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Poland, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 2 August. For a complete overview of Poland’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Poland has established 14 June as the National Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Nazi Concentration Camps. Commemorative events are held at the Stammlager memorial at Auschwitz I. The Christian Association of the Families of Auschwitz participates in the organization of the events.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Department of the United Nations and Human Rights of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a communication dated 11 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Poland’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Poland.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Poland can be found at:

www.polska-izrael.edu.pl

Portugal

Holocaust Memorial Day

Portugal observes 27 January as Holocaust Remembrance Day. The date was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Besides commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, the memorial day is intended to promote education about the Holocaust in schools, universities and other institutions, as well as in communities, and to reaffirm the values of justice and mutual understanding in order to avoid future acts of genocide. Holocaust Remembrance Day was formally established through the adoption of a resolution by the national parliament on 27 January 2010, although the date has been observed in Portugal since 2006.

Commemorative Activities

Every year, a number of commemorative events are held at the Portuguese Parliament and attended by parliamentarians and government and civil society representatives. In 2012, an official ceremony and poetry reading were held in the Main Hall of the Portuguese parliament. A documentary about Portugal as a migration route and host country for victims of Nazism was screened and a condolence note for all victims of the Holocaust approved. The note paid tribute to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and other victims of racial persecution, as well as to political dissidents and members of the resistance. In 2013, the ceremony was accompanied by a short musical performance by the Lisbon Youth Chorus and a movie screening. In 2014, the commemorative event was attended by the students of the Vilela Secondary School who developed a project called N.O.M.E.S. (Names and Looks for the Remembrance and Teaching of the Shoah). The students organized an exhibition entitled “Jews in Portugal in World War II: Memoirs of a Paradise in Times of War”.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education and Science co-operates with civil society associations, including the Remembrance and Teaching of the Holocaust Association (Memoshoa), the Aristides Sousa Mendes Foundation and the History Teachers Association, in the areas of teaching, investigating and remembering the Holocaust.

Education

The study of the Holocaust is compulsory in schools and is part of the National History curriculum. It is taught at the third level of elementary education and in secondary school. Students’ knowledge of the subject is assessed at the national level. All Portuguese students in the ninth grade (ages 13 to 14) study the Holocaust. The subject is explored in greater detail in the eleventh and twelfth grades (ages 15 to 17) by those studying socioeconomics, languages and humanities. The subject of the Holocaust is also addressed in other subjects, including Portuguese studies, foreign languages and philosophy, as well as in the Education for Citizenship and Human Rights programme.

The Ministry for Education and Science promotes continuous teacher training on the issue of the Holocaust, with the purpose of creating a network of instructors at regional and national levels that includes the participation of training centres and universities. The Directorate-General for Education of the Ministry of Education and Science has also created a website on

which important documents and teaching materials relating to the Holocaust will be published.

In 2012, a conference entitled “Portugal and the Holocaust – Learning from the Past” took place in Lisbon under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Science. The conference was promoted by the Embassy of the United States, the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) and the Calouste Gulbekian Foundation. The conference was attended by the Deputy Director-General for Education the Secretary of State for Elementary Education, who participated in a panel discussion on Teaching the Holocaust and who delivered a speech.

An informative note was circulated among schools in Portugal to encourage them to observe Holocaust Memorial day and to take part in nationwide projects and activities. In 2014, the Directorate-General for Education of the Ministry of Education and Science organized and promoted a webinar on the subject of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, titled “Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future”. This Webinar was supported by the Memoshoá Association. Schools were invited to participate in the webinar and to develop other initiatives in support of the commemorations held on 27 January.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Portugal reported that other victim groups of National Socialism are commemorated in the context of Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January. For a complete overview of Portugal’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Portugal reported that other victim groups of National Socialism are commemorated in the context of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education of Portugal, and was submitted by the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the OSCE in a communication dated 4 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Portugal’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Portugal.pdf

The official response indicates that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Norway can be found at:
<http://www.dge.mec.pt/index.php?s=directorio&pid=358>
<http://webinar.dge.mec.pt>

Romania

Holocaust Memorial Day

Romania observes 9 October as a national Holocaust Memorial Day. The date marks the anniversary the first deportations of Jews to Transnistria from northern Romania by the Romanian authorities. The day has been observed since 2004.

In addition, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January.

Commemorative Activities

Every year on 9 October, various events and ceremonies are held around the country and attended by high-level officials, including the President, Prime Minister and other government ministers. Representatives of central and local authorities attend events organized by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania in Bucharest and local Jewish communities. In addition, wreaths are laid at Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and monuments. Every year on Holocaust Memorial Day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pays tribute to all those who have suffered from discriminatory, anti-Semitic and racist policies.

On 9 October 2013, a special session was organized in the lower chamber of the Parliament and a statement reaffirming the country's commitment to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism was issued. Members of Parliament also called on the government to continue supporting programmes commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

The Ministry of Culture has also sponsored various initiatives and events to raise awareness about the Holocaust. This has included an exhibition entitled "The power of civil society during the Holocaust: the Bulgarian story 1940-1944" in March 2014. The exhibition was prepared in collaboration with the Bulgarian Embassy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Bulgarian Jews. In October 2013, another exhibition, entitled "Documentary against Forgetting: Focus Holocaust," was organized by the Romanian National Village Museum

The Elie Wiesel Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania has organized a number of events commemorating the Holocaust. On 10 October 2012, the institute organized a commemorative event at the Holocaust Memorial in Bucharest, in co-operation with the Lauder Reut Jewish School of Bucharest. Between 14 and 20 October 2012, it organized an exhibition titled "Broken Destinies: Seventy years after the Iași Pogrom" that presented images, documents and testimonies related to the pogrom in Iași of June 1941. On 27 January 2013, an exhibition titled "How was it Possible? The Jewish Holocaust in Romania" opened at the UAP Galleries in Iasi and was visited by representatives of the art world, local authorities and students. Between 15 and 19 October 2013, the Institute organized a Holocaust Remembrance Week in Romania in partnership with One World Romania. This included a workshop for teachers, a workshop for students, film screenings and public debates.

Other events related to commemorating the Holocaust include the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival, which hosts exhibitions, workshops and debates on Jewish themes. In particular, the film festival focuses on promoting diversity and on different aspects of combating discrimination and countering stereotypes.

A key non-governmental organization involved in Holocaust remembrance in Romania is the Association of Romanian Jewish Victims of the Holocaust. This organization of survivors plays an important role in most Holocaust remembrance events and has produced the documentary film “The Forgotten Holocaust”, which is used as a teaching resource in schools. Survivors’ testimonies have been recorded as part of various national and international projects.



Children from the Lauder Reut Jewish School take part in an event organized by the Elie Wiesel Institute commemorating National Holocaust Day at the Holocaust Memorial in Bucharest, 10 October 2012.

Education

The Holocaust is part of the Romanian curriculum and is taught in the seventh and eighth grades of middle school and in the tenth and 11th grades of high school. In the seventh grade, it is dealt with as part of studies focusing on World War II. In the eighth grade, the fate of the Jews and Roma between 1938 and 1944 is examined as part of studies of “Romania between democracy and totalitarianism”. In the tenth grade, the Holocaust is included in classes on “International Relations: The Great Conflicts of the 20th Century”, and in the twelfth grade forms part of the study of “People, Society and the World of Ideas”. These courses include discussions on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust in Romania. In 2004, following a ministerial order, an optional module covering the study of the Holocaust, together with an accompanying textbook, was approved for high schools. The contents of the module were modified in March 2005, following recommendations issued by the International Historians’ Commission.

The Elie Wiesel Institute for the Study of The Holocaust organizes Holocaust education activities throughout the year.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed in schools with lessons, national contests and other remembrance activities, in line with guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education. In 2013, a total of 23 different types of activities were conducted. These included, among others, readings of written work on the Holocaust; the organizing of conferences, seminars and documentary expositions; visits to commemorative monuments, synagogues, museums and Jewish cemeteries; and meetings with members of the Jewish community and with Holocaust survivors. All middle and high school students take part in the activities, in accordance with a Notification issued by the Ministry of Education. Students are very often invited to attend the commemoration ceremonies that take place in local synagogues on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Romania has not established a memorial day dedicated to the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Romania's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Romania has not established memorial days supported by the government for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE, in a communication dated 1 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Romania's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Romania.pdf.

Russian Federation

Holocaust Memorial Day

ODIHR did not receive information from the Russian Federation in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

Education

ODIHR did not receive information from the Russian Federation in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In the Russian Federation, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated as part of International Roma Day on 8 April. For a complete overview of the Russian Federation’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

ODIHR did not receive information from the Russian Federation in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”.

For the 2012 summary of the Russian Federation’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Russian_Federation.pdf.

San Marino

ODIHR did not receive information from San Marino in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from San Marino in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of San Marino’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_San_Marino.pdf.

Serbia

Holocaust Memorial Day

Serbia has observed Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January since 2007. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Serbia reported that the day serves as a reminder of the horrors of the past and of the need to reject Holocaust denial. The mandate of the day is to ensure the dignified commemoration of past armed conflicts and to reaffirm Serbia's understanding of the mass executions of Jews in World War II as one of the most serious crimes against humanity ever recorded.

Commemorative Activities

On 27 January 2014, a commemoration was held at the memorial site of a former Nazi concentration camp at Staro sajmište. The site is dedicated to the victims of World War II.

The groups and organizations involved in commemorative events include representatives of the Government, the National Assembly, the Office of the President, the city of Belgrade, the diplomatic corps, non-governmental organizations, the Association of Jewish Communities and the National Council of the Roma national minority, as well as the general public. The President of the Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly and Government ministers take part in commemorative events, which are promoted in electronic and print media. Activities performed during such events include wreath laying and addresses delivered by the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly or Ministers, as well as through commemorative art projects.

The Government maintains regular and direct contact with non-governmental organizations. Frequent meetings with civil society representatives are held to exchange ideas for improving the organization of commemorative events related to Holocaust Memorial Day.

Serbia also reported that the Novi Sad raid of 1942 was one of the largest mass crimes committed against civilians, including Jews, Serbs and Roma, on Serbian soil during World War II. Therefore, every year between 21 and 23 January, an unofficial commemoration takes place at a monument dedicated to the victims of the Novi Sad raid.

In addition, a number of other commemorative events are held throughout the year. On 22 April 2014, the Day of Remembrance of all the victims of the Holocaust, genocide and other victims of fascism in World War II was observed at a monument dedicated to the victims of the war. On 17 August, a memorial took place to commemorate the residents of Belgrade who were killed on this day in 1941. On 5 October 2014, an official event took place to commemorate the suffering of the Serbs, Jews and anti-Fascists at the Jajinci execution site.

In addition to the above, Serbia marks World War II Victims Remembrance Day on 21 October. The International Day against Fascism and Anti-Semitism is marked in Serbia on 9 November, and commemorates the anti-Semitic pogrom that took place in Nazi Germany on that day in 1938.

Education

The Serbian national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust at elementary and high school level. Special activities to remember the Holocaust are carried out in schools.

Serbia reported that, in line with a state programme on commemorating the historic events of World War II, all educational establishments organize thematic classes on the eve or on the day of a certain date or remembrance day. A compilation of digitized content was created by the teachers and students of around 30 schools in support of this initiative.

On the Day of Remembrance of all the victims of the Holocaust, genocide and other victims of fascism in World War II, students are familiarized with the meaning of the Holocaust and genocide, and learn about the sufferings at the Jasenovac concentration camp and the crimes committed in Serbia during World War II. In order to assist teachers in marking this day, teachers are recommended to use ODIHR's tool on *Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators*. Students are also sometimes shown a documentary film titled "The Blood and the Ashes of Jasenovac". As part of their presentation of the topic, teachers are recommended to use verses of the poem "First They Came" by Martin Niemöller, a German pastor who opposed the Nazi regime. It was reported that secondary schools students have also prepared a presentation entitled "Jasenovac, the death camp."

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Serbia, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 16 December, on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance of Roma victims during the Second World War. The Roma and Sinti genocide is also commemorated during International Roma Day on 8 April. Furthermore, the victims of the Roma and Sinti genocide are commemorate during the remembrance events that take place on 27 January and 22 April (see above). For a complete overview of Serbia's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Serbia did not provide any information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in addition to reporting on Holocaust Memorial Days (see above).

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of the Serbian Republic to the OSCE, in a communication dated 22 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Serbia's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Serbia.pdf

Slovak Republic

Holocaust Memorial Day

The Slovak Republic observes 9 September as the Memorial Day for Victims of the Holocaust and Racial Violence. The date 9 September was chosen because as it is the anniversary of the day in 1941 when the Slovak Government introduced 290 repressive laws (the so-called “Jewish Codex”) that initiated the process of the deportations of Jews, resulting in the killing of over 70,000 Slovak Jews. The Memorial Day honours victims of the Holocaust and racial violence. The day was established as a commemoration day by the Slovak Parliament on 31 October 2000.

Commemorative Activities

Numerous commemorative activities are held every year to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, including conferences, seminars and lectures on the Holocaust, racial violence and anti-Semitism. Wreath laying ceremonies are held at the Holocaust Memorial under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic.

Education

The Holocaust is taught at all stages of the education system, including at university level. In primary and secondary schools, the Holocaust is an integral part of history, civics and ethics classes.

In 2013, the Ministry of Education signed an agreement with EDAH, a non-governmental organization that provides teacher training activities. EDAH engages with teachers and students in various projects devoted to Holocaust education and commemoration, including by preparing educational materials. It also organizes educational events aimed at familiarizing the public with the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Documentation Centre is another key player in providing Holocaust education. Until 2012, the centre, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, organized seminars and published methodological materials for high school teachers. Together with its international partners (namely, Yad Vashem, the Memorial Ghetto Terezín, the House of the Wannsee Conference and the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History), the Centre prepares seminars for teachers and conducts an accredited programme for teachers on Holocaust teaching methods in the Slovak Republic. It was also reported that the Centre, in co-operation with the Bratislava Jewish Community Museum, organizes teaching programmes for students at relevant sites.

Since 2003, on the initiative of the Slovak Ministry of Education, National Holocaust Remembrance Day is also commemorated in primary and secondary schools 9 September. On this day, students meet with Holocaust survivors, visit memorial sites and exhibitions, and take part in discussions on the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and racism, among other related issues.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In the Slovak Republic, the Roma and Sinti genocide is commemorated on 2 August with a special commemorative event supported by the government, but this has not been introduced into legislation. For a complete overview of the Slovak Republic's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of the victim groups of National Socialism

The Slovak Republic has not established memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire by the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, in a communication dated 28 August 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the Slovak Republic's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Slovakia.pdf.

Slovenia

Holocaust Memorial Day

Slovenia observes 27 January as its National Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The day was established to pay respects to the victims of the Holocaust, including to the 2,330 Slovenians who were deported to Auschwitz, as well as to victims of other acts of genocide. The date was established in February 2008 following a decision by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Commemorative Activities

A total of 22 events were organized to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in 2014. This marked the largest number of events organized since the day was established in 2008. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs publicized all information on commemorative events on its website a few days before 27 January.

In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor co-organized an event entitled “Each Year One Name”. The event featured presentations on various topics connected to the Holocaust, including on education, research into the Holocaust and the Righteous Among the Nations. It took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was opened by the State Secretary. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also published a statement on the occasion of the event. The event was open to the general public.

In January 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also contributed to an event organized by the Ljubljana Jewish Cultural Centre by presenting a booklet titled “Unknown Traces”, which deals with the Holocaust in Slovenia. The booklet was published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in co-operation with the National Education Institute, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and several prominent researchers on the topic in Slovenia. The booklet was distributed to all primary and secondary schools in Slovenia, as well as to public libraries.

Education

The national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust. The subject is taught to students aged 14 to 15 and 18 to 19.

There are several activities carried out in schools on 27 January with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Education Institute. Prior to National Holocaust Remembrance Day, schools receive a letter encouraging them to commemorate the Holocaust. Both the Ministry and the Institute follow up on the school activities. In April 2014, the Institute also organized a special seminar that aimed to refresh and consolidate history teachers’ knowledge of the Holocaust.

In the run up to Holocaust Memorial Day, schools prepare commemorative activities and exhibitions about the Holocaust. They also screen films about the Holocaust and organize discussions on the subject. It is estimated that about 25 per cent of the Slovenian school

population is actively involved in these events. An even greater number of pupils and students are reached through other events organized on and around Holocaust Memorial Day. These activities include cultural activities, such as performances, exhibitions and films about the Holocaust shown on television. Students also learn about the Holocaust through articles in the media.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Slovenia, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January. For a complete overview of Slovenia's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Slovenia reported that support of other victim groups is expressed on 27 January. However, there is no official memorial day designated for other victim groups of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Human Rights Department, Directorate for Global Issues and Multilateral Political Relations, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, in communications dated 1 October 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Slovenia's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Slovenia.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Slovenia can be found at:

http://www.mzz.gov.si/fileadmin/pageuploads/Zunanja_politika/CP/Neznane_sledi.pdf
www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/article/141/33028/
www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/article/141/33067/

Spain

Holocaust Memorial Day

Spain observes 27 January as the official Day for Holocaust Remembrance and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity (Día Oficial de la Memoria del Holocausto y la Prevención de los Crímenes contra la Humanidad). The day honours Jewish victims, Roma and Sinti victims and other Spanish people deported to concentration camps during World War II. The date was officially established in 2004 following an agreement by the Council of Ministers.

Commemorative Activities

The principal commemorative event is held on 27 January in a prestigious hall or auditorium. The event is organized by the Centro Sefarad-Israel on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Ambassador at Large for Relations with the Jewish Community and Organizations. When organizing the event, Centro Sefarad-Israel co-operates with the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, with Roma organizations and with representatives of associations of deported Spanish Republicans. The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture are also involved in event. Holocaust survivors from Spain and abroad are invited to the event and receive official honours from the Government.

Since 2012, the commemoration is held in the Senate and hosted by the President of the Senate.



The Rabbi of Madrid's main synagogue speaks at the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations held in the Senate on 27 January 2014.

While the main theme of the commemoration varies from year to year, the ceremonies have traditionally included the following elements:

- speeches by representatives of the Jewish community, the Roma and Sinti community and deportees;
- speeches by senior officials, including the King of Spain, the President of the Government, government ministers, the President of the Senate, the Vice-President of the Congress and the President of the European Parliament;
- musical performances;
- the lighting of six candles by Holocaust survivors or their relatives, in memory of the Jews, Spanish people, Roma, children and other victim groups who were murdered during the Holocaust, and also in recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations and Holocaust survivors who found a new life for themselves in Israel and elsewhere; and
- a moment of silence.

The event is promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Casa Sefarad-Israel through a network of teachers and civil society representatives. Media are always present, and the event is usually mentioned in the main evening news broadcast. Many other memorial events take place in Regional Parliaments and City Halls around the country.

The official Holocaust Memorial Day is usually preceded by a seminar on the same theme as the commemorative event. In 2014, the topic chosen was the fate of Sephardic Jews during the Holocaust.

Education

The Spanish national curriculum includes teaching about the Holocaust, and the subject is taught at all levels of basic education.

Holocaust remembrance events take place in many schools around 27 January. Holocaust survivors are sometimes invited to give testimonies to pupils or students. These events are usually supported and co-ordinated by Centro Sefarad-Israel, working on behalf of the Government, with its network of almost 1,000 teachers.

Other activities are held with the support of regional governments. In 2014, this included the remembrance activities held in Barcelona supported by the autonomous local government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*), and a school activity in the village of Trujillo, in Extremadura, that was supported by the Mayor.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

Spain has not established a memorial day to commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of Spain's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Spain reports that all victims of the Holocaust are commemorated all together, and that there are no plans to establish memorial days for other victims of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE, in a communication dated 21 August 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Spain's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Spain.pdf

Sweden

Holocaust Memorial Day

Sweden observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. Sweden did not provide any additional information in this regard in answer to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided by Sweden in response to the 2012 questionnaire can be accessed through the below link.

Commemorative Activities

The Living History Forum – a Swedish public authority that uses the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as a starting point to work on tolerance, democracy and human rights – has a specific mandate to promote and co-ordinate initiatives across Sweden related to Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. Every year, a different theme for the commemorations is proposed. In 2012, the theme was dedicated to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary. This was followed by the theme “From Democracy to Dictatorship” in 2013, “The Romani People” in 2014, and “The Liberation of Auschwitz” in 2015. The theme of each Holocaust Memorial Day is reflected in projects prepared by schools and cities. Activities carried out on Holocaust Memorial Day include ceremonies, cultural programmes, seminars, thematic days in schools, readings and meetings with survivors.

Every year, the Living History Forum provides those looking for information on the current theme for Holocaust Memorial Day with appropriate background material posted on the forum’s website. The Living History Forum also organizes a small exhibition and prepares a commemorative event at the Raoul Wallenberg square in Stockholm, with the participation of government representatives.

The theme of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day was the fate of the Romani people during the Holocaust. The year 2014 marked 70 years since the so-called “Gypsy Night” (Zigeuner Nacht) in Auschwitz, when all the remaining Romani imprisoned in the concentration camp were killed. The Living History Forum chose to dedicate the 2014 memorial day to Romani victims of the Holocaust, since the subject of the persecution of Romani people by the Nazis has been largely neglected. As part of the 2014 commemorations, the Living History Museum prepared an exhibition focusing on the Romani people during the Holocaust. On 27 January 2014, the exhibition was on display in Stockholm, as well as in the cities of Karlstad, Borås, Västerås, Luleå and Göteborg. In Stockholm, it was displayed in conjunction with the ceremony held on 27 January.

The theme for 2015 is the liberation of Auschwitz. The Living History Forum has produced an exhibition on the liberation entitled “It is Called Liberation”. The exhibition presents the stories of 13 Holocaust survivors through quotations and photographs, as well as facts about the ghettos, deportation, the camps and the liberation of survivors of the camps. Nine versions of the exhibition were to tour across Sweden. For the most part, schools and civil society organizations have been involved in organizing the Living History Forum exhibition.

Education

Sweden reported that the teaching of the Holocaust is obligatory from the seventh to the ninth grades of elementary school. The elementary school curriculum focuses on the Holocaust, while the curriculum for secondary schools focuses on genocide.

Statistics on the exact number of students involved in special commemorative activities are not available. Nevertheless, Sweden reported that Holocaust Memorial Day is well known and receives a large amount of support from civil society. School projects prepared for Holocaust Memorial Day apply the theme chosen by the Living History Forum.

In the city of Umeå, which was appointed the 2014 European Capital of Culture, the Living History Forum, in partnership with the municipality of Umeå, produced a special programme focusing on Holocaust Memorial Day for all students in the ninth grade. Taking the Holocaust as a starting point and with the help of films and workshops, students contemplated the equal value of every human being and the importance of democracy and tolerance.

The Living History Forum exhibition titled “It is called Liberation”, which is being held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in 2015, targets elementary and secondary school children .

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Sweden, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January (see above). For a complete overview of Sweden’s initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Sweden did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in its response to the 2014 questionnaire.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the Living History Forum, submitted by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, in a communication dated 5 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Sweden’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Sweden.pdf.

Switzerland

Holocaust Memorial Day

Switzerland observes the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January. In 2003, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) decided to designate 27 January as “Holocaust Memorial Day” in Swiss schools. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, other victims of National Socialism and victims of other genocides. The date is also devoted to the promotion of human rights and tolerance.

Commemorative Activities

Every year on 27 January, the President of the Swiss Confederation delivers a written statement to the public to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. On 28 January 2014, he visited the Auschwitz Memorial Site and Museum following the provision of financial support by Switzerland to help preserve the site.

In his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, the President made a statement urging OSCE participating States to step up their efforts to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, underlining the need to raise awareness of the tragedy of the Holocaust among young people. Switzerland also reported that the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in Geneva finances activities organized at the United Nations office there. For example, in February 2013, a performance was given there based on the anti-Nazi satire “The Third Walpurgis Night” by the Austrian author Karl Kraus.



Didier Burkhalter, President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, visiting the Auschwitz Memorial Site and Museum on 28 January 2014. He was accompanied by Nathalie Gelbart, the granddaughter of a survivor of Auschwitz. (Photo: EDA)

Education

The Holocaust is a mandatory topic in Swiss schools. It forms part of history and civic education classes, while aspects of the Holocaust are also addressed in social science, religious studies and literature classes. At the primary and secondary school levels, the Holocaust is taught within the context of World War II and focuses on civic education, with the aim of enabling students to become active and responsible citizens. At higher levels of education in Gymnasiums, the Holocaust is taught in the context of violence and genocide prevention, with the aim of developing students' understanding of the causes of violence, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. The teaching methods that are applied are interactive, focusing on the need to respect human rights and other people's values, as well as on promoting interaction, communication, solidarity and mutual understanding. A regularly updated list of teaching materials is available on the website of the Swiss education server maintained by the EDK. Furthermore, the Federal Commission against Racism supports several educational projects in co-operation with the Intercommunity Coordination against anti-Semitism and Defamation (Coordination Intercommunautaire Contre l'Antisémitisme et la Diffamation).

Holocaust Memorial Day is observed in schools on 27 January. Different cantons of Switzerland maintain different education systems, and several cantons support the organization of special activities related to Holocaust Memorial Day. Each year in early January, the EDK sends a message to the heads of education in every canton, reminding them of the decision to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and requesting information about planned activities.

In the cantons of Geneva and Lucerne, for example, small committees draft the programme for remembrance activities held on 27 January. The committees consist of representatives of the Ministry of Education, educational institutions and, in the case of Geneva, teachers' associations. The committees consider the topics chosen in the canton in past years, including subjects such as the Holocaust, other genocides of the twentieth century and human rights issues. Many of the topics chosen to mark Holocaust Memorial Day are related to the history of Switzerland, addressing issues such as the Swiss refugee policy during the Holocaust. Others topics are more general.

In Geneva, several events are organized every year on or around 27 January, including exhibitions or panel discussions on the Holocaust. One of the initiatives undertaken in Geneva was a film project titled "Laci Bacsi" about the encounter of a Holocaust survivor with six students from different family backgrounds in Geneva and Hungary over the course of the school year. In Lucerne, the cantonal minister of education wrote to all schools with an overview of all planned activities, as well as teaching materials to be used for the memorial day.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day in the past has focused on the internment camp in Gurs, France, and on the drawings made by prisoners at the camp. The theme for Holocaust Memorial day in 2015 will be more general, focusing on human rights violations and civil courage. The teaching kit provided will contain short studies on Carl Lutz, a former Swiss consul in Budapest, who is credited with having saved tens of thousands of Jews.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Switzerland, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 27 January. For a complete overview of Switzerland's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*:

<http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

In Switzerland, the victims of the Holocaust, other victims of National Socialism and victims of other genocides are commemorated on 27 January (see above).

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire by the Section for Human Rights, Directorate of International Law, of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, in a communication dated 4 September 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Switzerland's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Switzerland.pdf

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in Switzerland can be found at:

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/recent/media/single.html?id=51796>

<http://www.srf.ch/player/tv/tagesschau/video/bundesrat-burkhalter-in-auschwitz?id=629ee92b-d8fa-4265-b925-a746aab0502f>

<http://www.rts.ch/video/info/journal-12h45/5562752-visite-du-camp-d-auschwitz-les-explications-de-didier-burkhalter-president-de-la-confederation.html>

<http://www.osce.org/cio/110590>

<http://unic.un.org/imu/recentActivities/category/Geneva.aspx>

<http://www.cicad.ch>

Tajikistan

ODIHR did not receive information from Tajikistan in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Tajikistan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Tajikistan’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Tajikistan.pdf

Turkey

ODIHR did not receive information from Turkey in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Turkey in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Turkey’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:

http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Turkey.pdf

Turkmenistan

ODIHR did not receive information from Turkmenistan in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from Turkmenistan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Turkmenistan’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Turkmenistan.pdf.

Ukraine

Holocaust Memorial Day

Ukraine commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January. The day was established on 5 July 2011 by the parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) through resolution number 3560-VI. The purpose of the day is to commemorate the victims of fascism.

Commemorative Activities

On 29 September 2014, the President of Ukraine attended a commemorative ceremony at the Babyn Yar National Memorial Site, a ravine near Kiev that was the site of mass murders during the Holocaust. The President laid a wreath and delivered a speech at the monument dedicated to those killed at Babyn Yar by the Nazis. The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, the Head of the Presidential Administration, the Chairman of the Kiev state regional administration and other governmental officials, as well as the general public and members of the clergy.

The Ministry of Culture participates in events commemorating the Holocaust organized by the Jewish Forum of Ukraine and the Jewish Council of Ukraine. Activities held on 27 January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day include an exhibition titled “Tragedy and Heroism of the Warsaw Ghetto”, displayed in the Jewish Council of Ukraine, and a memorial evening attended by Government representatives, diplomats and the general public. During this event, special reference was made to former ghetto and concentration camp prisoners and to Righteous Among the Nations.

Ukraine reported that, according to an agreement between the Jewish Foundation of Ukraine, Jewish community leaders and heads of regional authorities, commemorative ceremonies, memorial evenings and conferences also took place in different regions of Ukraine.

A number of events commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day have been organized by government authorities and civil society organizations. It was reported that activities held on or around 27 January include:

- a commemorative meeting at the Holocaust memorial in Prokhorovsky Park in Odessa, organized by the Jewish Cultural Center “Beit Grand” with the support of the Department for Nationalities and Religion of the regional authorities;
- a lecture and film screening were prepared by the Poltava Jewish Charitable Center;
- a non-governmental organization in Rivne organized the performance of a requiem mass; and
- a memorial evening entitled “The memory candle will not dim” was organized in the public library in Cherkasy.

In Zaporizhia, a meeting was organized on the 71st anniversary of the liberation of the city from the Nazis, during which a requiem mass was performed. The meeting was held at a monument dedicated to the victims of Nazism at the site of the murder of more than 20,000 Jews in 1942. A commemoration was also organized at the Holocaust Memorial in Zaporizhia. The event was attended by representatives of the city and district authorities, the

“Yahad” Jewish community of Zaporizhia and the general public, including school pupils, students and veterans).

On 29 September, on the Remembrance Day observed for the victims of the Babyn Yar massacre, an exhibition was shown at the premises of the Kiev Center of Progressive Judaism. The exhibition was co-organized by the State Archive of the Kiev region in co-operation with several partners. As part of the exhibition, the documentary film “Babyn Yar: The Truth about the Tragedy” was shown.

In addition, Ukraine reported that, between 2012 and 2014, several travelling exhibitions were on display in the Jewish Memory and Holocaust museum in Ukraine. Diplomats, public figures, scholars, teachers, the press and the general public took part in the official opening of the exhibition. One of the exhibitions focused on Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued Jews.

Education

The history of the Holocaust is taught in the eleventh grade of secondary school and forms part of the curriculum on world history and the history of Ukraine. The subject of the Holocaust is also included in textbooks recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science. Furthermore, Ukraine reported that a curriculum on “The Holocaust: historical, philosophic and ethical perspectives” was developed and published for higher education institutions, as were textbooks on the Holocaust for school pupils, students and teachers. In some schools, the history of the holocaust is studied as an optional course.

The organization Tkuma is one of the main partners of the Ministry of Education and Science in Holocaust education. Tkuma has held a number of international academic conferences on the subject. In January 2013, a conference on “Memory of the Holocaust” took place on Holocaust Memorial Day, while another conference, held in June 2014, focused on the history of the Righteous Among the Nations during the Holocaust. The conferences were attended by scholars and public figures from many countries. School pupils, students and teachers were also involved. In addition, round-table discussions and meetings between teachers and well-known Ukrainian and foreign scholars were organized to examine challenges related to teaching about World War II and the Holocaust.

Ukraine also reported that an educational project on the subject of “Lessons of War and Holocaust – Lessons of Tolerance” was organized, together with a creative competition for pupils, students and teachers. Supported by the Ministry of Education, the competition is held annually by the Tkuma Institute.

On 24 January, the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, in co-operation with the Public Committee for Commemorating the Victims of the Babyn Yar, organized an exhibition titled “The Holocaust Through the Eyes of Children”. The creative works of participants of a competition titled “History and the Lessons of the Holocaust” were also displayed. On 27 January, the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, in co-operation with international partners, conducted a round table on “Ukrainian Society and Memory of the Holocaust: Scientific and Educational Aspects”. In June, the Center and its international and national partners conducted a methodological seminar for history teachers and young Ukrainian scholars on “The History of the Holocaust on the Territory of Poland and Western Ukraine”. The seminar consisted of lectures, discussions and visits to Holocaust memorial sites.

In 2014, a remembrance marathon was held on Victory Day to mark the anniversary of the end of World War II. It was reported that, as part of this project, remembrance activities were conducted in 12 cities across Ukraine. These remembrance activities included visits to memorial sites dedicated to the victims of Nazism.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide

In Ukraine, the Roma and Sinti genocide is officially commemorated on 2 August. For a complete overview of Ukraine's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

Ukraine did not provide information on the commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism in response to the 2014 questionnaire. Information provided by Ukraine in response to the previous questionnaire can be accessed through the link below.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the by the Ministries of Culture and Education and Science of Ukraine, and submitted by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the OSCE, in communications dated 7 and 12 November 2014.

For the 2012 summary of Ukraine's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Ukraine.pdf.

United Kingdom

Holocaust Memorial Day

Since 2001, the United Kingdom observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. It is a day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and all subsequent genocides. More specifically, Holocaust Memorial Day aims to:

- recognize that the Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the twentieth century, a crisis for European civilization and a universal catastrophe for humanity;
- provide a national mark of respect for all victims of Nazi persecution and demonstrate understanding with all those who still suffer its consequences;
- raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust as a continuing issue of fundamental importance for all humanity;
- ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimization that occurred during the Holocaust are neither forgotten nor repeated, whether in Europe or elsewhere;
- restate the continuing need for vigilance in light of the troubling repetition of human tragedies in the world today;
- reflect on more recent atrocities that raise similar issues;
- provide a national focus for educating subsequent generations about the Holocaust and the continued relevance of the lessons that are learned from it;
- provide an opportunity to examine the country's past and learn for the future;
- promote a democratic and tolerant society, free of the evils of prejudice and bigotry;
- support the view that all citizens – without distinction – should participate freely and fully in the economic, social and public life of the nation;
- highlight the values of a tolerant and diverse society based upon the notions of universal dignity and equal rights and responsibilities for all its citizens;
- assert a continuing commitment to oppose racism, anti-Semitism, victimization and genocide; and
- support shared aspirations with both European partners and the wider international community centred on the ideals of peace, justice and community for all.

Commemorative Activities

The British Government funds the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) to deliver the United Kingdom's Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony, which takes place in a different venue each year in London. There are also national events organized by the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive.

All events place the commemoration of the Holocaust and all victims of Nazi persecution (including the Roma) at their centre, with speeches by survivors, leading politicians and other dignitaries, including the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom. It was reported that the memorial event also commemorates the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The national event is attended by a Cabinet Minister, together with senior civil servants and officials from across Government. There is a similar level of representation at the national events in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The HMDT organizes the London event, working with other organizations in the Holocaust remembrance and education sector to ensure regional coverage. The national event is

attended by survivors of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, including refugees, as well as survivors from subsequent genocides. Invitations are extended to political, civic and faith communities, ambassadors, survivor groups, civil servants and young people.

The government funds the HMDT to publicize Holocaust Memorial Day. The HMDT develops themes to commemorate the Holocaust each year, which the government promotes. The HMDT also develops teaching resources, including online resources for schools, organizations (including local councils, prisons and religious bodies) and individuals to download in order to help them arrange their own Holocaust Memorial Day event. The Government provides funding, enabling the HMDT to appoint regional support workers, who work with civil society in events in their regions. In, 2014, 2,400 local events commemorating the Holocaust took place, the largest number so far.

In terms of unofficial commemorative events, the Holocaust Education Trust (HET) opens a book of remembrance in Parliament that is signed by all senior politicians and members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They also host a lecture during the week running up to Holocaust Memorial Day, and organize several commemorative events in government departments that are often attended by senior civil servants and ministers. A number of non-governmental organizations host a survivor at their events.

Education

Teaching about the Holocaust is a compulsory part of the history curriculum in England.

In addition, the government financially supports the HET to run its “Lessons from Auschwitz” project. The funding provides for two students from every state-funded school and sixth form college in England to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. As part of the project, there is preparatory and follow-up work that is carried out with the students, often involving talks with survivors. The students then share their experience with their peers and the community. Since 1999, more than 25,000 students and teachers from across the United Kingdom have participated in this project.

The government also supports the Institute of Education’s Centre for Holocaust Education to help ensure teachers are equipped with the training and resources they need to deliver effective Holocaust education. Since 2011, the Centre has reached 4,770 teachers, including 1,893 initial teacher education students who will begin their careers understanding the significance of teaching about the Holocaust. In addition, 1,096 practising teachers have participated in the Core Continuing Professional Development programme, while 1,636 teachers have been supported and engaged in a broad range of activities through the Additional Continuous Professional Development programme (including seminars, short courses, conference presentations and workshops). Finally, 145 teachers have participated in the online MA module, and 50 Beacon Schools in Holocaust Education have been established, each developing their own regional networks of cluster schools.

Some schools use the resources provided by the HMDT and hold special assemblies to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide

The United Kingdom has not established a memorial day dedicated to the Roma and Sinti genocide. For a complete overview of the United Kingdom's initiatives related to Roma and Sinti genocide remembrance and education, please see the ODIHR publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area*: <http://www.osce.org/romasintigenocide>.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

The United Kingdom has not established government-supported memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism. There are no plans to establish such memorial days.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR's questionnaire by the Human Rights and Democracy Department of the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office, in a communication dated 12 December 2014.

For the 2012 summary of the United Kingdom's activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_United_Kingdom.pdf.

United States

Holocaust Memorial Day

Each year, the United States observes Days of Remembrance as a commemoration of the Holocaust. Remembrance activities can occur during the Week of Remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom HaShoah*) to the following Sunday. The date is tied, in part, to the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 1943. All victims of the Holocaust are commemorated, including Jews, Roma and Sinti, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals. The Days of Remembrance were officially established by the Congress of the United States. The first ceremony took place in 1979.

Since 2005, a number of Holocaust-related organizations in the United States have also commemorated the Holocaust on 27 January.

Commemorative Activities

The United States Congress created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. Since 1982, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has organized and led the national Days of Remembrance ceremony in the United States Capitol Rotunda, with Holocaust survivors, liberators, members of Congress, White House officials, the diplomatic corps and community leaders in attendance.

In addition, Days of Remembrance are observed by federal, state and local governments, military installations, workplaces, schools, Holocaust centres, churches, synagogues and civic centres. Events are organized by local governments in all 50 states. All levels of government officials are engaged in these commemorations, including mayors, governors and the President of the United States.

The commemorative events typically include music, the reading of names of victims, the lighting of candles, survivor testimony and public pronouncements committing people to remembrance and to work for change.

Commemorative events are publicized in the media, through public notices and outreach and on the Internet.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum provides a wide selection of resources to encourage and support the efforts of individuals, organizations and local communities in commemorating the Holocaust and all the victims of National Socialism. The Museum also distributes a video resource for those who wish to plan a Holocaust observance. In 2014, nearly 13,000 copies of the Days of Remembrance Planning Guide were distributed. In addition, the Museum organizes a major commemorative event on 27 January for the diplomatic community based in Washington.

Education

Education in the United States is decentralized under the federal system, and the United States Government does not have a national education curriculum. However, several state governments have adopted Holocaust education mandates, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum provides Holocaust education training and resources for teachers in all 50 states.

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide

ODIHR did not receive information from the United States in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

There are no national government-supported memorial days for other victim groups of National Socialism.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum honours as Survivors and Victims any persons, Jewish or non-Jewish, who were displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against due to the racial, religious, ethnic, social, and political policies of the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. These groups are recognized and included in the Museum’s permanent exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition receive identification cards, each card chronicling the experiences of an individual who lived in Europe during the Holocaust. The cards portray the experiences of a wide range of victim groups during the Holocaust. The cards are also available on the Museum’s website. In addition, the Museum’s website provides in-depth information about the range of other victims of National Socialism.

The above information was provided in response to ODIHR’s questionnaire by the United States Mission to the OSCE, in a communication dated 13 November 2015.

For the 2012 summary of the United States’ activities to commemorate the Holocaust see: http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_United_States.pdf.

The official response indicated that additional resources on Holocaust remembrance and education in the United States can be found at: <http://www.ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance>

Uzbekistan

ODIHR did not receive information from the Uzbekistan in response to the questionnaire on “Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region”. ODIHR did not receive information from the Uzbekistan in response to the “ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues Questionnaire on Roma Genocide Education”.

For the 2012 summary of Uzbekistan’s activities to commemorate the Holocaust, see:
http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/pdf/Countries/HMD_2012_Uzbekistan.pdf.

Annex 1

Questionnaire

Commemorating the Holocaust and the Roma and Sinti Genocide: An overview of memorial days in the OSCE region

General information

The online publication “Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE region: An overview of governmental practices” from 2012 is available at: <http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/>. Participating States are kindly requested to update the information submitted to ODIHR on this issue. The last Note Verbale on Holocaust Memorial Days was sent by ODIHR on 20 November 2011.

Please provide feedback to this questionnaire by 1 September 2014. The questionnaire should be sent by email to tndinfo@odihr.pl.

ODIHR also invites participating States to add up to two photos taken at their most recent remembrance day to the publication. The photos should have no copyright restrictions for further use. Please indicate the contact details of the copyright holder and/or who should be mentioned as the source. All information regarding photos, including a photo caption, should be sent per email.

I. Commemoration of the Jewish victims of National Socialism (the Holocaust)

1. Has your government designated a special day of commemoration for the Jewish victims of National Socialism (the Holocaust)?

Yes/No

If yes, please indicate if you want ODIHR to draw on previous submissions made by your government. If so, please move to question 2.

If you wish to submit new or updated information to ODIHR, please indicate the following:

- On which date does the commemoration take place?
- What is the day called?
- What is the significance of that date?
- Which victims are commemorated on that day?
- What is the mandate of the memorial day?
- When was the memorial day established?

If no, are there plans to establish a Holocaust Memorial Day?

Yes/No

If yes, please describe.

2. Please describe recent governmental initiatives on Holocaust Memorial Day/s, including:

- Where are governmental commemorative events held?
- What is the content of the commemorative event/s?
- Which groups or organizations are involved in the commemorative event/s (in terms of organization and participation)?
- At which level do government officials participate in the commemorative event/s?
- How does your government promote the commemorative event/s and raise awareness about the Holocaust on that day?
- How does your government work with non-governmental organizations to encourage and support the efforts of civil society to mark Holocaust Memorial Day?
- What are some of the unofficial commemorative activities that you wish to highlight?
- Is there any additional information about the event/s that you would like to share?

3. Does the national education curriculum include teaching about the Holocaust?

Yes/No

Please describe at which level of the education system the Holocaust is taught:

4. Are there any special activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Days that are carried out in schools and supported by the government or the Ministry of Education?

Yes/No

Please provide additional information about the nature of the activities, the number of students involved in these activities and the levels the students are on.

II. Commemoration of the victims of the Roma and Sinti Genocide under National Socialism

5. Has your government already responded to the questionnaire sent by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues dated 31 January 2014? Please indicate below.

Yes/No

If yes, please move to question 12 of the questionnaire. Questions 6-11 are taken from the questionnaire circulated by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

If no, please move to question 6 of the questionnaire.

6. Does the national education curriculum include teaching on the Roma and Sinti Genocide, its causes, effects and number of victims?

a. At primary school level:

Yes/No

b. At secondary and upper secondary level:

Yes/No

c. At University/College level:

Yes/No

d. Please indicate to what extent teachers have the opportunity to participate in pre- or in-service trainings that would equip them with the skills and knowledge to teach and raise awareness about the Genocide of the Roma and Sinti:

Please provide supporting documentation for each of the above sections and if available, please provide a links to materials on the web.

7. Are there any specific teaching materials on the Roma and Sinti Genocide under the National Socialism made available?

Yes/No

Please describe:

Optional: If applicable, please share any good practice/experience from your country in raising awareness on the Roma and Sinti Genocide in education:

8. Are there any activities carried out in schools to promote awareness and teaching about Roma and Sinti Genocide by the Ministry of Education?

Yes/No

Please describe:

9. Is there a special commemorative event supported by the government for the Roma and Sinti Genocide under National Socialism?

Yes/No

If yes, please describe governmental initiatives on that day, including:

- On which date does the national event take place, what is the day called, and what is the significance of that date?
- Please describe the mandate of the commemoration day?
- When was the commemoration day established?
- Where are governmental commemorative events held?
- What is the content of the event/s?
- Which groups and organizations are involved in the event/s?
- At which level do government officials participate in the event/s?
- Are there any activities supported to promote the commemoration of the event/s and raise awareness?

10. Have Roma and Sinti been subject to persecution/extermination in your country under the National Socialism?

Yes/No

Not known

11. Are there any known former concentration/extermination camps/sites on the territory of your country? In this context has an official memorial site for Roma and Sinti victims of the Genocide been designated by the Government?

III. Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism

12. Are there memorial days supported by the government for other victim groups of National Socialism?

Yes/No

If yes, please indicate if you want ODIHR to draw on previous submissions made by your government. If so, please move to question 13. If you wish to submit new or updated information about that/these day(s) to ODIHR, please indicate the following:

- On which date does the commemoration take place?
- What is the day called?
- What is the significance of that date?
- Which victims are commemorated on that day?
- What is the mandate of the memorial day?
- When was the memorial day established?

If no, are there plans to establish memorial days for the other victim groups of National Socialism?

Yes/No

If yes, please describe.

13. Please describe recent governmental initiatives on that/these day(s) respectively, including:

- Where are governmental commemorative events held?
- What is the content of the commemorative event/s?
- Which groups or organizations are involved in the commemorative event/s (in terms of organization and participation)?
- At which level do government officials participate in the commemorative event/s?
- How does your government promote the commemorative event/s and raise awareness about other victim groups of National Socialism on that day?
- How does your government work with non-governmental organizations to encourage and support the efforts of civil society to mark Holocaust Memorial Day?
- What are some of the unofficial commemorative activities that you wish to highlight?
- Is there any additional information about the event/s that you would like to share?

Submitted by _____ (Name and position) _____ (email address)

Annex 2

Overview of submissions

participating State	Latest submission
Albania	10 January 2012
Andorra	30 August 2014
Armenia	
Austria	10 November 2014
Azerbaijan	February, 2012
Belarus	11 November 2014
Belgium	16 October 2014
Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 October 2014
Bulgaria	24 October 2014
Canada	25 September 2014
Croatia	24 June 2014
Cyprus	
Czech Republic	02 September 2014
Denmark	9 December 2014
Estonia	29 August 2014
Finland	10 December 2014
France	03 September 2014
Georgia	11 September 2012
Germany	08 December 2014
Greece	16 October 2014
Holy See	15 December 2014
Hungary	1 September 2014
Iceland	10 December 2014
Ireland	3 September 2014
Italy	1 October 2014

Kazakhstan	
Kyrgyzstan	
Latvia	11 December 2014
Liechtenstein	26 March 2012
Lithuania	05 September 2014
Luxembourg	05 September 2014
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9 September 2015
Malta	
Moldova	
Monaco	2007
Mongolia	
Montenegro	12 November 2014
Netherlands	14 October 2014
Norway	20 October 2014
Poland	11 September 2014
Portugal	04 November 2014
Romania	1 September 2014
Russian Federation	25 November 2009
San Marino	18 September 2012
Serbia	22 October 2014
Slovak Republic	28 August 2014
Slovenia	01 October 2014
Spain	21 August 2014
Sweden	05 November 2014
Switzerland	04 September 2014
Tajikistan	
Turkey	10 February 2012
Turkmenistan	
Ukraine	12 November 2014

United Kingdom	12 December 2014
United States	31 October 2011
Uzbekistan	