

Latvia's Action Plan on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, 2002-3

| Brief outline of project | Project implementer | Progress in implementation |
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| Regional seminars for history teachers on approaches to teaching about the Holocaust, using materials such as the book "Tell Ye Your Children...", run by Ieva Gundare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum of the Occupation of Latvia • Museum and Documentation Centre <i>Jews in Latvia</i> • Anne Frank House, Amsterdam • MATRA | Seminars in regional centres on teaching about the Holocaust took place in Cesis, Kuldiga, Gulbene and Liepaja in 2002, and in Rezekne in 2003. |
| Travelling exhibition "The History, Tragedy and Commemoration of Latvia's Jews" (in Latvian and English) Lectures presented by historians on the latest research into the Holocaust in Latvia at the opening of the exhibition in each new location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Museum and Documentation Centre <i>Jews in Latvia</i> • Democracy Commission (USA) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liepaja Pedagogical Academy 25.10.2002; 2. National Library of Latvia 04.11.2002; 3. Regional State Archive of Rezekne 11.12.2002; 4. Ludza Museum of Local History, 04.02.2003; 5. Valmiera Secondary School No.2, 03.03.2003 |
| Visit to Riga by Dr Irit Abramski of the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies (Israel) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • <i>Yad Vashem</i> International School for Holocaust Studies (Israel) | Took place from 18 September to 20 September 2003 |

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| <p>Preparation of a new exhibition on the Holocaust in Latvia at the Museum Jews in Latvia. Preparation of materials for use in schools, based on the exhibition and other museum resources</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum and Documentation Centre <i>Jews in Latvia</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documentary videos produced by the museum are screened continuously in the museum's theatrette. These include <i>Kaddish</i> (on the Holocaust in Latvia), <i>Zanis and others</i> (about Zanis Lipke), and other films about rescuers of Jews: <i>Love thy neighbour</i>, <i>Compassion</i>. Since the summer of 2002, these films have been viewed by around 1500 people. 2. Background research has been completed for an enlarged exhibition on the Holocaust in Latvia, scheduled to open in December 2003. |
| <p>Publication in brochure format of research into the extermination of the Jews, the Jewish resistance movement and rescuers of Jews</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum and Documentation Centre <i>Jews in Latvia</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The museum has been working to systematically determine the location of mass graves of Holocaust victims and their state of repair. To date 110 mass graves have been registered, with 17 research expeditions organized to ascertain their condition and tend their surroundings. In 2002, such expeditions took place near Dundaga, Krustpils, Rezekne, Talsi and Valdemarpils, followed in 2003 by further work around Aizpute, Auce, Dobele, Eglaine, Gardene, Grobina, Karsava, Kraslava, Liepaja, Ludza, Subate and Zilupe. 2. A mass grave containing the bodies of 100 Jews from Auce murdered on 11 June 1941 has been uncovered 4 km northwest of the town, in the local Bird Forest. The site has been tended and a memorial erected, which was officially unveiled on 9 October 2003. 3. To date, 25 mass graves have been photographed and researched. The work has been carried out as part of the Lord Janner Commission's Baltic Mass Graves Project under a programme of the Holocaust Educational Trust. |

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| <p>An international academic conference into the Holocaust. Publication of conference papers. Ongoing research into the Holocaust.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission of the Historians of Latvia • Faculty of History and Philosophy, University of Latvia • Latvian State Archives | <p>An international academic conference was held on 12-13 June 2003 on "The Policy of Occupation of Nazi Germany in Latvia, 1941-1945". Among its main themes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Holocaust in Latvia; - occupation policy of the Nazi regime in the Baltic States - research issues - similarities and differences between Nazi occupation policy in Latvia and other European countries |
| <p>The creation of an Internet home page on "The History of Latvia's Jewish Community" in both Latvian and English. Long-term project of 2 years' duration.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Latvia's Jewish Community • Democracy Commission (USA) • Bauska Museum of Local History and Art | <p>The project has been running since March 2003. Design and functional aspects of the web-page will be developed prior to 1 November 2003, along with basic content information.</p> |
| <p>Dissemination of teaching materials on the Holocaust developed by the Association of Intercultural Education, and the provision of educational seminars for history teachers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • <i>Yad Vashem</i> International School for Holocaust Studies (Israel) | <p>A seminar for teachers of Latvian history on new approaches to teaching about the Holocaust was held on 19 September 2003 at the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia.</p> |

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| <p>The publication of the eighth volume of research by the Commission of the Historians of Latvia - "The Issues of Holocaust Research in Latvia", comprising a total of 19 papers that cover a broad spectrum of research into the Holocaust</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission of the Historians of Latvia • Institute of Latvian History, University of Latvia | <p>The publication was launched on 7 May 2003. gada 7. The Latvian Embassy in Israel has sent copies to the Israeli President, Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the Yad Vashem Centre, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and the Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews.</p> |
| <p>Screening of a series of contemporary Jewish films</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Goethe Institute, Riga • Jewish Community of Berlin | <p>Held on 19 September 2003 at the Goethe Institute in Riga.</p> |
| <p>Research into the history of the Holocaust</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum and Documentation Centre <i>Jews in Latvia</i> | <p>1. Work is continuing to determine the number of victims of the "Riga-Kaiserwald" concentration camp. (A paper on the subject was read at the International Conference on the Holocaust on 12 June 2002).</p> <p>2. Information on Jewish rescue operations in Nazi-Occupied Latvia from 1941 to 1945 continues to be collected and verified.</p> <p>David Zilberman continues to work on a manuscript about Zanis Lipke which, it is anticipated, will be published along with research on other rescuers of Jews in a single volume. The manuscript should be completed by the end of 2003.</p> |