



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

■ Dear members,

2014, the year of remembrance, is fast approaching its end. The Platform has participated in several events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fall of Communism in Europe.

Last month I attended a three-day seminar in Bucharest; it was very interesting and included a visit to an old prison for political prisoners – a scary place.

As you know, the uprising of 1989 started on 15 December in Timișoara, Transylvania. MEP and Board of Trustees member, Lazlo Tökes, hosted an event here on 17-19 December. Neela and I attended; it was very interesting to learn firsthand how the uprising started. There was a beautiful commemoration in the church where it began. I also learned how our board member Zsolt, was active in the revolution.

For the first time, besides The Hague last year, our Travelling Exhibition visited a “western” country; it was shown in Dublin, by invitation of the Irish government, in the first week of December. I was present in Dublin for the opening.

For the coming year we need to be very prepared as it is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Russia will use this occasion to blame the west for the war; try to escape from the Soviet responsibility in regards to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and maybe even as Vladimir Putin did, try to justify the pact that led to the division of Europe, the attack on Poland, occupation of the Baltic countries and the Winter War against Finland. At the same time supplying Hitler with weapons and fuel so he could continue the war against Western Europe.

Our task as the Platform is of course to present the true picture of events – focusing on both perpetrators and victims.

With Christmas soon here we need to all send a thought to our members and friends in Ukraine, who are under attack from a more and more aggressive neighbour. A lot of Russian behaviour can be explained by their unwillingness to deal with their totalitarian past.

Our task is to spread knowledge, and try to bring justice for those who suffered under Europe's totalitarian regimes.

With hopes for a peaceful holiday season.

Göran Lindblad
President



NOW WE ARE 48

■ Dear friends,

The months of November and December have been full of events, centered mainly around the 25th anniversary of the fall of Communism in Central Europe.

We started off on 4-5 November with the annual Council of Members meeting which took place in Brussels in the European Parliament. It was very well attended. We had notable guests with us - Alexandra Polivanova and Natalia Petrova from Memorial from Russia and Xue Sheng from the Movement for a Democratic China from Canada. We elected

six new Members to the Platform, bringing our total number to 48. A special highlight was the inauguration of the Platform's new representative office in Brussels on 4 November by Mr Tibor Navracscics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports. You will find a more detailed report about the Council of Members meeting on page 3.

On 8 November, the Platform was a proud co-organiser of a special memorial concert on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and of the Iron Curtain in Europe in Prague's Rudolfinum concert hall, which was

attended by the German Ambassador to the Czech Republic and the Czech Minister of Culture. The superb North German Philharmonic Rostock had its first appearance in Prague under the baton of Ulrich Backofen, himself a political prisoner in the GDR. Special guest Marta Kubišová, prominent Czech dissident singer and actress, performed her famous “Prayer for Marta” which had led to her ban from public life after the 1968 Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia.

We then commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia on

17 November together with the Presidents of the Visegrad group and Germany at a discussion at the Faculty of Law in Prague and laid flowers at the site of the student demonstration of 1989.

On 21 November, I had the honour of making a speech on behalf of the Platform at the inauguration of a memorial to the victims of the Iron Curtain created in the town of Mikulov thanks to diligent work of Platform Member Paměť (Memory). The sober memorial carries 53 names of victims killed along the stretch of the Czechoslovak border with Austria falling



within the territory of one border guard brigade. There were of course dozens of such border sections all along the Iron Curtain, in which altogether thousands

of innocent civilians were killed. These victims are still waiting to be commemorated.

The Platform Board also supported our Members UOKG in their call for the establishment of a memorial to the victims of Communism in Berlin, Germany, which was presented to the Bundestag on 4 November. It is surprising that even 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, there is no such a monument in Germany, while for instance there is still an ugly statue of Marx and Engels standing right next to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. UOKG organised protest singing at the statue on 18 December.

Very importantly, on 11 December, the Platform Board represented by Siegfried Reiprich, Zsolt Szilágyi and myself had an appointment with Commissioner Tibor Navracsics in Brussels to discuss the work of the Platform.

Finally, the Platform commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Romanian revolution. In the week of 15-21 December, President Lindblad,

Pawel Ukielski, Zsolt Szilágyi and I participated in a series of events between Budapest and Timișoara. Bishop Tökés with his courageous stance was the "spark that ignited the revolution" against one of the cruellest Communist dictatorships, which fell only at the end of December 1989. The Platform Board had many interesting meetings which will serve to further the goals of the Platform. The year 2014 is ending on a good note: former dissident and leader of the democratic opposition in Slovenia, Janez Janša, was exonerated of the fabricated charges and released

from prison. We are happy and congratulate our Slovenian colleagues.

Let me finally share some uplifting news with you:

As we now have a seat in Brussels and are preparing to work more closely with the European institutions, I registered the Platform in the **European Union's transparency register**. In the process, I had to enter the number of members of each of the Platform's Member institutions and organisations. It took some research on your websites and some honest guessing. The resulting numbers were impres-

sive. Dear friends, as of the end of 2014, the **Platform represents the interests of about 200,000 Europeans and over 1.1 million North Americans with European roots**. We have a very strong democratic legitimation. Thank you all very much for the good things we are doing together. It is a privilege to be able to work for you.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year 2015!

Neela Winkelmann
Managing Director

Wishing you a happy holiday season

May the new year 2015 bring good luck, success, peace, democracy and freedom to all.



Prof. Valters Nollendorfs, member of the Supervisory Board

Platform News

THE 2014 COUNCIL OF MEMBERS IN BRUSSELS

■ It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the Council of Members meeting in the European Parliament in Brussels on 4-5 November 2014. Altogether 47 participants came to Brussels – next to representatives of Platform Members, we had the pleasure to welcome Natalia Petrova and Alexandra Polivanova from the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and Sheng Xue from the Canadian Federation for a Democratic China as well as representatives of new Membership candidates. Out of the total of 42 Platform Member institutions and organisations, more than three-quarters, i.e. 29 were represented in person. They were, in no particular order: JBANC (CA), VOCMF (USA), Estonian Museum of Occupations (EE), House of Terror Museum (HU), Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LT), Civic Academy Foundation (RO), Center for the Study of Totalitarianism (MO), Inter-Asso (DE), Icelandic Research Centre for Innovation and Economic Growth (IS), SGTRS (NL), Estonian Institute of Historical Memory (EE), Hannah Arendt Center – Sofia (BG), IPN (PL), Center for Research on the Liberation Movement (UA), Black Ribbon Day Foundation (CA), UOKG (DE), Ján Langoš Foundation (SK), Citizens' Initiative for Dismantling the Soviet Army Monument in Sofia (BG), Hannah Arendt Society (DE), Remembrance and Future Institute (PL), Occupation Museum Association of Latvia (LV), Kokneses Fonds (LV), IICCMER (RO), Warsaw Rising Museum (PL), Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania (LT), Czech and Slovak Association of Canada

THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM ARE:

- **Nova slovenska zaveza, Slovenia**
(www.zaveza.si)
- **Centre for Documentation of Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Republic**
- **Hungarian Committee of National Remembrance** (www.neb.hu)
- **Confederation of Political Prisoners of the Czech Republic**
(www.kpv-cr.cz)
- **Institute of National Remembrance, Ukraine**
- **Truc sphérique, Slovakia**
(www.stanica.sk)

(CA), Occupation of Latvia Research Society (LV), Unitas Foundation (EE) and SCNR (SI). Seven further Members had transferred their voting rights in writing.

We convened in the European Parliament building itself, thanks to members of our Board of Trustees, Members of the European Parliament Mr László Tökés, Mr Milan Zver and Ms Sandra Kalniete who booked the room for us for three sessions of 1.5-2 hours each. On the first day, we started off discussing the work of the Platform in the past year and the plan of activities for 2015 and approving the Annual Report for 2013. After lunch, we moved to a conference facility called Science 14 Atrium on Rue de la Science where we had a debate with our friends from Memorial and British historian and journalist Edward Lucas over Skype. Thereafter the participants received yellow or colourful umbrellas in support of the protesting Hong Kong students and walked with them around the European Parliament to the new represent-

Photo credit:
Peter Rendek, PEMC



ative Brussels office of the Platform on Rue Bélliard 197. It was a special honour to have **Mr. Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for education, culture, youth and sports**, cut the tape of the new office and be with us at the occasion. After handing out new Platform T-shirts, we went for dinner at a restaurant on Place Jourdan.

On the second day, we had a chance to attend the session of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament as visitors. After lunch, the Council of Members listened to presentations of the eight new Membership candidate institutions and organisations. A debate followed, upon which six new Members of the Platform were accepted. These are: Nova slovenska zaveza (SI), Centre for Documentation of Totalitarian Regimes (CZ), Hungarian Committee of National Remembrance (HU), Confederation of Political Prisoners of the Czech Republic (CZ), Institute of National Remembrance (UA) and Truc sphérique (SK). The Platform thus now has a total of 48 Members from 13 EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, Canada and the USA. The Members also elected Mr Miroslav Lehký of the Ján Langoš Foundation (SK) to the Supervisory Board of the Platform, in replacement of Mr Andrei Muraru.

The Council of Members meeting concluded by a meeting with the Reconciliation of European Histories group in the European Parliament. Ms Sandra Kalniete was re-elected Chairwoman of the group, her deputy is now Mr Andrej Plenković from Croatia. We put forth suggestions for the work of the REH group and its cooperation with the Platform in the current legislative period. In line with the previous Council of Members meetings – in Berlin in 2012 and in The Hague in 2013, this year's event in Brussels was another successful one. The Membership in the Platform is continually increasing. We believe that the Council of Members 2014 has contributed another step toward establishing the Platform of European Memory and Conscience as a recognised organisation on the European level. These were two very exciting and mind-broadening days in Brussels. Thank you all for coming.

Neela Winkelmann

Platform News

PLATFORM COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS SINCE THE VELVET REVOLUTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

■ The Platform of European Memory and Conscience commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia by attending a student discussion with the Presidents of the Visegrad countries and Germany, followed by laying flowers at the site of the violent crackdown by the repressive forces of the Czechoslovak totalitarian regime on the student demonstration of 17 November 1989.



Pawel Ukielski, member of the Executive Board and Neela Winkelmann, Managing Director of the Platform laying flowers at the memorial to the victims of 17 November 1989 on Národní Street in Prague



Platform Board meets Commissioner Tibor Navracsics in Brussels

On 11 December 2014, Platform Executive Board Members Siegfried Reiprich and Zsolt Szilágyi and Managing Director Neela Winkelmann met Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Mr Tibor Navracsics in Brussels to discuss the work of the Platform.

SEARCHING FOR THE CZECH IDENTITY

■ Together with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Centre for Contemporary Art DOX, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience staged a public discussion on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Prague with the title "Searching for the Czech Identity". It took place on 12 November 2014 from 7 p.m. at the Centre for Contemporary Art DOX in Prague. Fashion designer Liběna Rochová, actor Ondřej Vetchý, volleyball coach Zdeněk Haník and Polish historian and writer Mariusz Surosz exchanged views on the current face of the Czech identity. The moderator was Daniela Drtinová. It was felt that some of the key values which need to be fostered in Czech society are high quality work, humility, decency and education.



Platform News



MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE IRON CURTAIN

Platform Member organisation Memory (Paměť) inaugurated a memorial on 21 November outside the town of Mikulov, Czech Republic, to people killed on the Iron Curtain between 1948 and 1989. The project was supported by the European Union.

Twenty-five years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, it took a dedicated non-governmental organisation to carry out the necessary research and to build a free-standing memorial to civilians killed while trying to escape the Communist dictatorship. The monument consists of 53 tall iron beams, each bearing the name of one of the documented victims killed along the stretch of the Czechoslovak-Austrian border which fell under the command of the 4th Border Guard Brigade Znojmo.

Platform Managing Director Neela Winkelmann was a speaker at the solemn opening and laid a wreath on behalf of the Platform. The inauguration was followed by a conference entitled "The Gate to Freedom" at Mikulov Castle.

MEMORIAL CONCERT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL AND THE IRON CURTAIN IN EUROPE

The Platform was co-organiser of a Memorial Concert which took place in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum in Prague, on Saturday 8 November 2014, the eve of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The event which took place under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Minister of Culture. The North German Philhar-

monic Rostock was conducted by Ulrich Backofen (DE), singers were the Kühn Choir Prague (CZ), soprano Romana Vaccaro (DE) and tenor Alexander Spemann (DE). Special guests were a former East German refugee from the West German Embassy in Prague from 1989 Jens Hase and famous Czech dissident actress and singer Marta Kubišová.



Czech dissident actress and singer Marta Kubišová with the North German Philharmonic Rostock and conductor Ulrich Backofen.

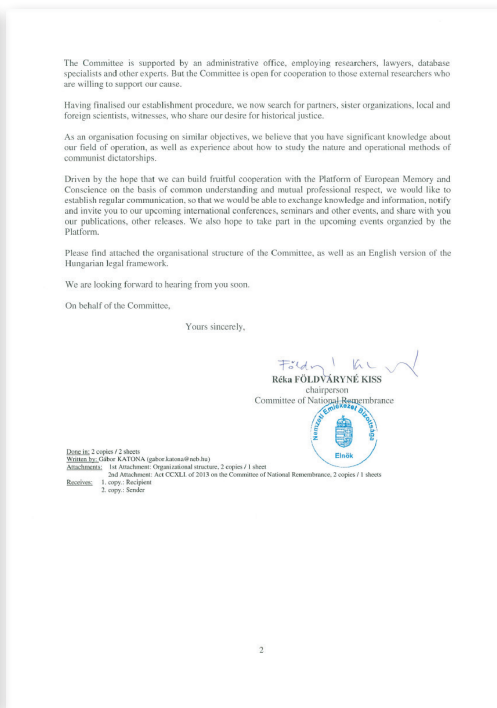
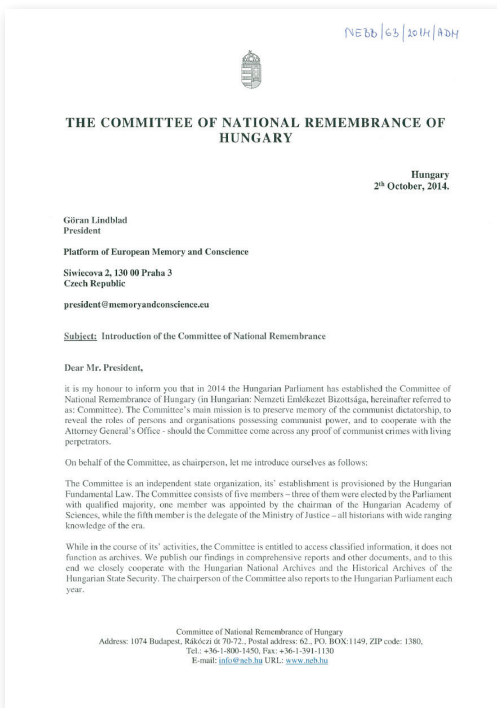
Member of the Month



www.neb.hu

THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

The Hungarian Committee of National Remembrance was one of the six new Platform Members approved by the Council of Members of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, which took place on 4 – 5 November in the European Parliament in Brussels. Below you can read a letter from the Committee's Chairperson Réka Földváryné Kiss to Platform President Göran Lindblad, introducing the mission and structure of the Committee:



1. Attachment



THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE OF HUNGARY

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. The Committee:

- Mrs. Réka FÖLDVÁRYNÉ KISS - Chairperson
- Mr. István ÖTVÖS – Deputy Chairperson
- Mr. Viktor Attila SOÓS - Member
- Mr. Áron MÁTHÉ - Member
- Ms. Barbara BANK – Member



Source: MTI/Kovács Attila

(The Committee of National Remembrance, from left to right: Viktor Attila Soós, István Ötvös, Áron Máthé, Barbara Bank, Réka Földváryné Kiss

2. Administrative Office of the Committee:

- Mr. Ádám DERGÁN – General Director
- Mr. Gábor KATONA – Deputy of the General Director,
Head of the Legal and International Department

News from Members



INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

www.ipn.gov.pl

...FROM THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

11 NOVEMBER – POLAND CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY

Poland's National Independence Day marks the anniversary of the country's independence in 1918. President Bronislaw Komorowski inaugurated the Independence Day by laying a wreath at the monument to Marshal Józef Piłsudski. The day was widely celebrated across Poland with ceremonies, concerts, marches and an annual independence run joined by Institute of National Remembrance staff. The annual run has been organised for the 26th time. This year it was devoted to the remembrance of Rotamaster Witold Pilecki – officer of the Polish Army reserves, cofounder of the Polish Secret Army, voluntary prisoner of Auschwitz, officer of the Main Headquarters of the Home Army and "NIE", political prisoner of the Stalinist period, the victim of a judiciary murder.

Commemorating Poland's Independence Day on 11 November, the Institute of National Remembrance released two new educational games – "Polak Mały" (Little Pole) and puzzles with a portrait of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

For more information and pictures visit <http://ipn.gov.pl/aktualnosci/2014/centrala/bieg-nie-podleglosci-pamieci-rotmistrza-pileckiego-warszawa,-11-listopada>.

NEW IPN EDUCATIONAL GAME "REGLAMENTACJA. GRA NA KARTKI" (RATIONING. COUPON GAME) RELEASED

On 17 November, a new educational game was released by the IPN Public Education Office. The great popularity of the previous game "Queue", which was also translated into English, inspired the author Karol Madaj to create another board game which would remind the Poles of the reality of the Polish People's Republic and the food rationing. The players need to use their wit and negotiation skills in order to obtain food coupons to prepare for guests visiting.

TWÓRCY KULTOWEJ „KOLEJKI” PRZEDSTAWIAJĄ:
NOWA GRA EDUKACYJNA O RZECZYWISTOŚCI PRL
WIZYTA TEŚCIOWEJ?
SPOTKANIE Z PRZYJACIÓLKAMI?
IMIENINY MĘŻA?
REGLA MENTA CIA
GRA NA KARTKI
Wymieniaj kartki i zdobywaj potrzebne towary!
Nie zwlekaj! Czas ucieka!
 A tajniki systemu kartkowego poznasz na 136 stronach książki „Reglamentacja w Polsce Ludowej”, którą znajdziesz w pudełku.
Pudełko wypakowane po brzegi!
 • 61 kart (w 3 rodzajach)
 • 11 pionków (6 figurek i 5 domków)
 • poręczny bączek (drewniany)
 • czarna kostka (z białymi oczkami)
 • mała (aczk ciążąca oko) plansza
 • oldskulowa książka (o systemie kartkowym)
PREMIERA 17.11.2014
 „UNIWERSYJAN GOSPODARSTWA” WARSZAWA
 UL. GOSPODARSTWA 117, GODZ. 12.00
WWW.IPN.GOV.PL/CRY
 3–5 graczy, wiek 10+, czas 30 min.
 Partner: Patroni:

News from Members

KORNEL MORAWIECKI AWARDED THE MEMORY OF NATIONS AWARD 2014 ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER EUROPEANS

■ On 17 November 2014 the Memory of Nations Awards ceremony 2014 was held in Prague's National Theatre. The Institute of National Remembrance, a partner of the Memory of Nations Awards, was represented by the President dr Łukasz Kamiński and Director of the Public Education Office Anna Piekarska. Twenty individuals from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and



Kornel Morawiecki receiving his award

Slovakia were nominated this year for the prestigious European award. The five laureates were announced during a live programme broadcast by four European television stations. Kornel Morawiecki, member of Fighting Solidarity; Dana Vargová, a Czech who took care of her paralyzed son – described by the secret police as the “most dangerous anti-communist element in the country”; Manfred Matthies led inhabitants from the German Democratic Republic to West Berlin through secret channels. Anton Srholc who received holy orders from the Pope, but nevertheless he returned to Bratislava to help believers during the normalisation period and János Kenedi organised famous opposition seminars in his flat in Budapest. What connects the five laureates is courage, with which they opposed the communist regime.

This year's award was designed by the multimedia artist Richard Wiesner in cooperation with Kryštof Kintera – an original “talking” USB disc with recorded voices of the laureates. A concert was organised during the ceremony, the artists included John Cale (ex Velvet Underground), the Berlin bank Pankow and the Polish group Raz Dwa Trzy.

For more information on the awards visit <http://www.memoryofnationsawards.eu> and <http://www.pametnaroda.cz>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “HELPING THE JEWS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE”, WARSAW, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2014

■ 70 years ago the Germans were completing their campaign of near-total destruction of the Jewish population. On the occupied Polish territory the last Jews resided in the few remaining ghettos (in Lodz, for instance), concentration camps and work camps, and many thousands remained in hiding. They all hoped for the imminent end of the war, but none of them knew who would live to see the day of liberation. One of them was Emanuel Ringelblum, an eminent historian and the founder of the underground archive of the Warsaw ghetto. He was hiding with a group of thirty Jews in an underground bunker located in Warsaw, Grojecka street 81. On 7 March 1944, denounced to the Germans, they all (Jews and their Polish rescuers) were arrested and executed in the ruins of the ghetto.

All across occupied Europe there were people willing to help the Jews, oftentimes paying the highest price for their courage. Others put their life on the line trying to warn the world about the ongoing extermination of the Jews. The year 2014 has been declared the Jan Karski year, in order to honour the courier of Polish resistance, who carried the news of the Holocaust to the West.

The conference, which presented the state of research into this area, commemorated Emmanuel Ringelblum and the thousands of other Jews who went into hiding all across occupied Europe, and to render homage to those righteous gentiles who helped them. The conference is co-organised by the Polish Center for Holocaust Research, the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

More information available at: <http://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/2014/call-for-papers-international-conference-warsaw,-13-15-november-2014-helping-the-jews-in-occupied-europe>

Offer of internships with the Platform

■ We are offering internships with the Platform to bright, motivated university students of any nationality with a demonstrable interest in European history of the 20th century. A perfect command of English and a good working knowledge of German or French are essential; another Eastern European language is an advantage. Mac skills (Office for Mac - Word, Power Point, Excel) are necessary. The interns will participate in the daily life of the Platform office in Prague, perform tasks assigned by the Managing Director and participate in international events of the Platform. For those interested, please send a CV and a short motivation letter to Dr. Neela Winkelmann at director@memoryandconscience.eu.

News from Members

...FROM THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVE FOR DISMANTLING THE SOVIET ARMY MONUMENT IN SOFIA



POLITICAL ACTION AT THE MONUMENT

■ On 7 September 2014, a group of activists and supporters of the Initiative organised a political action at the Monument. We wrote "Occupiers" and "Invaders" on the Monument. I would like to stress here that the so-called "Soviet Army Monument" in Sofia is neither a military monument, nor has anything to do with the Second World War as such. In September 1944, Stalin declared war on Bulgaria (which had maintained full diplomatic relations with Russia up to that point) and then occupied it with no resistance whatsoever. Prior to that, Bulgaria had kept its sovereignty and had not been occupied, there were no German troops there at that moment, and there was no military action of any sort on Bulgarian soil during the Russian invasion. No Russian soldier was killed in battle either. Despite all this, the subsequent Communist regime erected a huge number of "Soviet" monuments all over Bulgaria. The one in Sofia is one of the largest and definitely the most visible. What this monument actually is, is a totalitarian symbol, meant to make people feel helpless, defenceless and powerless against the regime, to make the mere thought of any dissent impossible. It can also be viewed as a sign of gratitude from the Bulgarian Communist Party for its empowerment by the occupying Russian army, because that was how the Bulgarian Communists seized power in 1944. Moreover, *de jure* the Russian army was an occupying force that remained as such in Bulgaria for 3 years.

Immediately after the action, four of us were arrested by the police, and in a very brutal fashion. We were handcuffed with our hands behind our backs, although none of us showed any resistance. One of the other policemen said that they were forced to guard the Monument all the time, because after every such

incident, they had had problems with the Russian embassy. Afterwards we were transported to a police station, where we were chained to a bench and kept like that for 20 hours. Before being finally released, we were charged with "indecent behaviour, grossly violating the public order and expressing obvious disrespect for the society", which is quite a serious charge in the Penal Code. We are now facing a trial, which will no doubt be a political one, seeing that much worse (but non-political) offences go unpunished or are treated very leniently. In 2014, in an EU member country, people are being arrested and tried as criminals for expressing their political views. Because that is what we did – we wrote the truth on a big lie that we have been forced to live with. The biggest lie in our history – that the Russian army "liberated" our country in 1944. Two days later, on 9 September (the anniversary of the Russian-sponsored Communist coup) we organised a public event at the site. People brought pictures of victims of the regime and put them at the base of the Monument. There were 400-500 people who told their stories of repression, violence and fear. The root of the Bulgarian word "monument" is memory. This monument is not a memory. It is a lie, the biggest lie that we have in Bulgarian history – that the Soviet Army liberated our country.

Valentina Marinova



News from Members

...FROM THE STUDY CENTRE FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

www.scnr.si



ROUND TABLE ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

■ On 12 November the Study Centre for National Reconciliation held a round table on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The participants of the round table were dr. Anna Elisabeth Prinz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ljubljana, dr. Andreja Valič Zver, director of the Study Centre for National Reconciliation, dr. Tamara Griesser Pečar, professor of contemporary history and head of the Research Department at the Study Centre for National Reconciliation, and dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič, professor of human rights law at the Graduate School of Government and European Studies and European Law Faculty. They presented their reflections on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The opening address was presented by dr. Mateja Čoh Kladnik, researcher at the Study Centre for National Reconciliation. Participants agreed that 25 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain democracy in Europe is fragile, especially in ex-Communist states that are dealing with failed transition.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS

■ The Day of Remembrance of the Dead is commemorated in Slovenia at the beginning of November. The delegation of the Study Centre for National Reconciliation and the U.S. Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli paid a tribute to all the victims of totalitarian regimes by laying a wreath at the plaque at the U.S. Embassy honouring all the victims of totalitarianism.



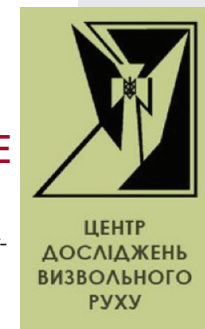
...FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT

www.cdvr.org.ua

EXHIBITION ON RESISTANCE OF UKRAINIANS BEFORE THE 1932-1933 GENOCIDE OPENED IN KYIV

■ The exhibition "Resistance to Genocide" prepared by the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine, Centre for Research on the Liberation Movement and Public Committee for the memory of the victims of the Holodomor genocide 1932-1933 in Ukraine, was opened on 20

November, before the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor. 16 stands, displaying unique documents and photos, most of them publicized for the first time, decisively prove that in 1932 most of the rebellions against Stalin occurred in Ukraine. In the framework of the exhibition, opinions on the Holodomor were presented from both sides of the tragedy. One can look through the copies of the GPU reports (State Political Department), extracts from secret letters and closed state orders along with letters and diaries of the Holodomor witnesses. Photos of the peasants – armed resistance leaders, weapons seized, the interrogation protocols – clearly show that the resistance was not sporadic but massive and continued for years. Simultaneously on the website of the Digital Archive of the Liberation Movement (www.avr.org.ua) unique photos of the peasant rebellions that arose before the Holodomor as well as diaries of the genocide witnesses were posted as freely accessible.



Removing peasants' vegetables, Odessa Region, November 1932.

News from Members

...FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC PRAGUE ACADEMIC CLUB 48

■ The time of defending human rights has come again in the Czech Republic. Looking back to the famous demonstration in support of human rights at Škroupovo náměstí, Prague, 1988 – ten organisations defending human rights have now decided to take necessary steps against what they assess as violation of the system of values established in the Constitution and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. In front of the Church of the Sacred Heart of the Lord, at náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad, not far from Škroupovo náměstí, about two hundred people were listening with focused attention to speakers of the above-mentioned ten organisations, which on the Day of Human Rights, the 10th of December, 7 p.m., called for a demonstration analogous to that in 1988. The speakers described the current situation on the political scene and characterised the most important events causing the worsening of the political culture during the two years of Miloš Zeman's presidency. Most of them also warned of the danger of disregarding increasing symptoms of his abandoning, in official statements, the main principles of foreign policy of the current government of the Czech Republic. According to the opinion of these speakers, which was accepted by applause of approval by those gathered, a constitutional complaint could be lodged against the president, accusing him on the charge of high treason. The standpoint of the Union of Auxiliary Technical Battalions – Military Forced Labour Camps of the Czech Republic (Svaz PTP-VTNP ČR), member of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, introduced at the demonstration by the chairman of the Central Board of the Union, Jan Decker, and then presented by the secretary of the Prague branch of the Union, Jaroslav Müller, was very close to the opinions and demands already presented during the meeting. A short abstract of this, our standpoint, now follows. Addressing the legislators of the Czech Republic, this stand-

point declares that members and representatives of our Union are disgusted by public statements of the President of the Czech Republic and we demand therefore to put an end to his continued dishonouring of the office of the President of the Czech Republic. His vulgar declarations on radio and television pose a direct threat to the moral development of the whole society, especially of the young generation. His pronouncement that he went to China to learn how to stabilize the society is a menace to further democratic development in our country and constitutes an imminent danger of initiating a totalitarian regime in the form of Chinese Communism, which denies human rights and stays in power by force by suppressing human rights and freedoms. His statements should attract the attention of the Constitutional Court because they prepare the way for a change of the democratic system going against our Constitution and touching thus on high treason. In the 1930s the Communist prime minister Gottwald likewise was going to Moscow to learn how to wring the bourgeoisie's neck. The President's attitude to the occupation of Crimea by Putin's Russia and of the situation in eastern Ukraine is contrary to our foreign policy and undermines our credibility in the opinions of our allies in NATO. In Ukraine there is no civil war but aggression, a very similar aggression as displayed in 1939 by Hitler against Czechoslovakia or when, later, Hitler and Stalin divided Poland for themselves.

Constantly also the development of the situation in the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes is an extremely important matter for us and actually we are viewing the future with growing alarm because of the planned dismissal of all employees of the digitization section. This could carry serious consequences – on the one hand worsening the working conditions for research workers and on the other hand suiting the former secret service men and their collaborators.

Sponsors for reprint of Platform Reader for Schools needed

■ We are running out of the initial free copies of the Reader for schools "Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe" in English, German and French which were published in 2013. As the interest in the Reader is growing and we are receiving larger orders which we cannot serve any more (50 copies to Georgia or 150 copies for the European history teachers' association EUROCLIO for example), we are looking for sponsors to enable us to print further copies. Producing 2,000 copies of the book with the DVD will cost about 10,000 Eur. Any ideas anybody? Can we re-publish the books in cooperation with you? Your logo would be placed on the cover of course. Thank you!

Platform conference 5-6 May 2015 in Budapest: The Iron Curtain

■ We are starting to prepare next year's international conference of the Platform which will carry the title "Iron Curtain" and which will take place in Budapest on 5-6 May 2015. Its purpose will be to analyse and discuss a broad range of topics which the Iron Curtain symbolises until today: the history of the forced division of Europe, what the West knew about the East and vice versa, the crimes committed along the borders and behind the Iron Curtain, the culture of memory of the victims of the Cold War in Europe, the "Berlin Wall" in the minds of Europeans which still divides us even after 25 years and how to take it down in order to achieve a true European integration and a stable democratic Europe upholding the rule of law, protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and peace. We invite your suggestions as to which topics or panels we should include and which speakers to invite. Thank you very much!

News from Members

...FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT

■ On 12-13 December 2014 the international conference “How to Eradicate Lenin from the Minds of Ukrainians” was held in Kyiv, where well-known intellectuals, representatives of former socialist states and European experts shared their experiences on what had been achieved and what had failed in the field of decommunisation, how the lustration (disclosure of personal files) was performed and how the national consensus on the painful reforms was reached.

In particular, the following people took part in the event: **Stéphane Courtois**, the Director of research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) (France), **Josef Zissels**, Head of the Association of Jewish Organisations, and Communities of Ukraine - VAAD (Ukraine), **Galia Ackerman**, a writer, historian, and journalist (France), **Lev Gudkov**, the director of the analytical Levada Center (Russia), **Thornike Gordadze**, a professor of political sciences at the French IHEDN (Georgia), **Michel Eltchaninoff**, editor-in-chief of the French monthly *Philosophie Magazine* (France), **George Logush**, the President of the Kyiv School of Economics (Ukraine), **Oksana Prodan**, the CEO at the Entrepreneur Protection Centre (Ukraine), **Volodymyr Viatrovych**, the Head of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, **Vitaly Portnikov**, a journalist (Ukraine), **Mykola Kniazhytskiy**, the Head of the Culture and Spirituality Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, **Krzysztof Stanowski**, the Chairman of the Board of the Fund for International Solidarity (Poland), **Vytautas Landsbergis**, a politician and the first president of Lithuania, **Alexandr Vondra**, the Director of the Centre for Transatlantic Relations at CEVRO Institute in Prague (Czech Republic), **Sarmīte Ēlerte**, the chairperson of the international NGO “Baltic to Black Sea Alliance” (Latvia) and others.



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “HOW TO ERADICATE LENIN FROM THE MINDS OF UKRAINIANS” WAS HELD IN KYIV

Lenin is one of the indicators of changes in the minds of Ukrainians and of their desire to break with the totalitarian past which still has to be overcome. “Most of the existing Lenin monuments now stand on the lands of annexed Crimea and part of the Donetsk basin occupied by terrorists. They became unique danger markers: where Lenin monuments stand, there are Russian occupation, massive human rights abuse, non-stop terror, and starvation is starting,” he said. At the same time, **Viacheslav Kyrylenko**, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Ukraine, emphasized that the new parliament’s mission is to bring decommunisation to an end in all fields of life, which had been proscribed in the coalition government agreement. “Gradually there has emerged consensus on the necessity for Ukraine to move forwards to Europe, but not backwards to the dark dependent servile Communist past. “We proscribed directly in the coalition government agreement to cultivate national remembrance of Ukrainians, to carry on social dialogue for Ukrainians not to experience recurrences of the totalitarian past. We wrote it in a separate line: to complete decommunisation of all spheres of society,” stressed the Vice Prime Minister. The conference was organised by the Embassy of France, the French Institute in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, the European Forum for Ukraine and the Centre for Liberation Movement Studies.

Galia Ackerman, a writer, historian, journalist, and Secretary General of the European Forum for Ukraine, says that overthrowing the Lenin monuments by Ukrainians is not just a symbolic gesture, but also mental liberation from the Soviet past. “When people in the East of Ukraine or in Crimea defend Lenin, it is not about defending the monument itself, but, paradoxically, about defending the imperial idea, which is still living inside some parts of Ukraine. They defend Russia, its cultural and political imperialism,” says Mrs. Ackerman.

Volodymyr Viatrovych, the Head of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, thinks that overthrowing

Platform News

The Platform is in the EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/info>

The European institutions' Transparency Register provides citizens with a direct and single access to information about who is engaged in activities aiming at influencing the EU decision making process, which interests are being pursued and what level of resources are invested in these activities.

The Transparency has been set up and is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Council of the European Union supports this initiative.

We have entered the Platform of European Memory and Conscience in the Transparency Register. Please visit the site and check the information on the number of natural persons who are your members as we have entered it for your institution / organisation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/search.do#searchResult>

We have tried to find the information on your website, by directly contacting you, or by taking a fair guess. Should you wish the information to be changed, please contact Neela Winkelmann at director@memoryandconscience.eu.

Calendar of Events

2014/2015

10 January	MEETINGPOINT MUSIC MESSIAEN e.V. - historical day related to the "Concert in January" in Görlitz/Zgorzelec, Poland, from 10 a.m.
11 January	MEETINGPOINT MUSIC MESSIAEN e.V. - musical day related to the "Concert in January" in Görlitz/Zgorzelec, Poland, from 11 a.m.
15 January	"Concert in January": "Quatuor pour la fin du temps" ("Quartet for the end of time") by Olivier Messiaen (Staatskapelle Dresden) at the European Center of Education and Culture MEETINGPOINT MUSIC MESSIAEN in Zgorzelec, Poland, at 7p.m. Further information: http://wordpress.themusicpoint.net/
23 February – 1 March	The international project against totalitarianism MENE TEKEL will take place in Prague from Monday 23 February till Sunday 1 March 2015 (exhibition till Thursday 5 March). In 2015 special attention will be devoted to "Family in the Times of Totality" (e.g. conference at 1:00 p.m. on 25 February in the Knights' Hall of Wallenstein Palace).
25 February	Reverent remembrance of the 1948 "March for Freedom and Democracy" organised by the Prague Academic Club 48 (Pražský akademický klub 48). Starting at 9 a.m. at the Czech Technical University building on Karlovo náměstí in Prague.

www.memoryandconscience.eu

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Platform's Annual Reports are now available in high quality on its website:

<http://www.memoryandconscience.eu/official-documents-of-the-european-parliament/annual-reports/>

PLATFORM T-SHIRTS

T-shirts with the "Democracy matters" logo are now available from the Platform shop:

<http://www.memoryandconscience.eu/shop/>

