

Final event

“Building peace: discussing the topics of 1990s war, reconciliation and transitional justice with Croatian youth”

10.30 – 16.00, 25th July 2019

Human Rights House, Zagreb

Introduction

The project “Building peace: discussing the topics of 1990s war, reconciliation and transitional justice with Croatian youth” was implemented by POLKA – *Udruga za razvoj građanske i političke kulture*, from Karlovac, and financed by the European Union in the context of a bigger project named: “Aktivizam civilnog sektora za pomirenje u regionu bivše Jugoslavije – podrška REKOM-u”. For the final event, the participants have been teachers, youth workers and the wider public.

Content of the event

Initially, the entire project was presented and the booklet containing its results, methodology used and suggestions for teachers was shared with the participants. Secondly, the participants were introduced to the Conflict Textiles collection, the work of Roberta Bačić, and to the arpillera “Homenaje a los caídos / Homage to the fallen ones”. Following this overview, the participants took part in the workshop that was previously conducted with youth during the project. They were given photos connected to the history of the war in Croatia (1991-1995) and invited to create a small doll that linked to the photos. As the day drew to a close, all attendees shared their work with the group and discussed the positive impact this methodology can have in their everyday work.

Outcome

At the end of the final event, the participants learned a new method, both creative and motivating, of dealing with topics that are generally considered controversial in Croatian society. Hearing the opinions and interests of the youth involved will also help the teachers and youth workers to improve their work. At the end of the event, the participants had a good understanding of the Conflict Textiles collection. Seeing an *arpillera* first hand, and engaging with it through the doll making process, helped them develop an appreciation of the origins and significance of arpilleras

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Photos taken by: Tena Banjeglav, 25th July