

Call for applications

local.history

Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine

How present is the past in our local communities? Why is learning about racist National Socialist politics still relevant today and what does this particular period of history teach us? How do we keep – over 75 years after the end of the Second World War – the memory of those alive, who had been persecuted during German occupation?

Local history approaches convey historical contexts directly and connect general historical narratives with particular local events. The focus on **local and regional references** to the history of National Socialism, the Second World War and the German racist occupation politics is productive: it makes possible to spotlight concrete places, biographies and relevant events, thus enabling a more direct understanding and yielding educational work.

Guided by these considerations, the EVZ Foundation supports locally and regionally active history initiatives from **Central and Eastern Europe** which commemorate, educate and deal with local history of that period in their communities. The focus lies on local places as **educational sites, contemporary testimonies as well as on participatory, cross-generational work.**

This call for applications is addressed to organizations working on local history in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The objective of local.history is to make history tangible in the here and now by supporting inclusive, multi-perspective and contemporary cultures of remembrance in those countries.

Methodologically, projects should sensibly combine two educational approaches:

- (1) Critically examining and/or referring to available historical sources and addressing complicated, at times even conflicting narratives;
- (2) Exploring relationships between past and contemporary experiences of antisemitism, racism or discrimination. Ideally, they will critically engage with local histories, informed by today's democratic norms, and thereby strengthen local initiatives committed to pluralistic and inclusive societies.

Projects should be seeking answers to key questions, for example:

- How can we actively shape the remembrance and commemoration of persecution, exclusion and deprivation of rights during the National Socialist era, the occupation by Nazi Germany and the Second World War in our community in order to work against forgetting and take a stand for democracy?
- How can we commemorate and educate about Nazi forced labor and forced laborers' biographies and other persecuted groups?
- What narratives exist for telling individual local histories? What do they have in common, what is controversial?
- What are the historical connections between different places and events?
- How is the memory of events (1939–45) integrated in larger narratives, including the pre- and post-war times?
- Which formats work best in contemporary education, connecting the past and the present?

...and connect to historical topics, as well as to current debates (depending on specific countries and regions), for example:

- The Holocaust, the persecution and killing of Roma, forced labor, deportations, expropriations, displacements, treatments of prisoners of War; all forms of resistance and solidarity; different forms of forced or voluntary collaboration with the Germans.
- Antisemitism, racism, experiences of discrimination, hate speech or violence; populist or extremist policies.

In addition, they can address current politics of remembrance like Holocaust denial or other historical distortions; preservation of particular historical sites, naming and renaming of streets, initiatives for new monuments or the removal of existing ones, debates about inscriptions on memorial plates.

Formats

Project formats are open: Podcasts, graphic novel, theatre, exhibitions, music and other art forms, events, workshops, summer schools, oral history, archive and, documentation projects, etc. The format chosen should meet the goals of the project and contribute to the shaping of local cultures of remembrance, as well as educate and reach out and actively involve the local communities.

We are supporting projects that

- deal with specific historical places, persons/families, events, companies, buildings from the National Socialist era in a local context.
- use available historical sources as essential in historical education and we expect this to be reflected in the projects.

- create educational opportunities with witnesses and their descendants that are integrated into a larger project context.
- involve local actors, groups that have received little attention so far, and different generations.
- link history and the present and initiate a critical examination.
- create an impact locally and regionally through appropriate participatory activities and public relations.

We do not fund projects that

- focus exclusively on research, digitization, film, publication, and eyewitness interviews.
- implement construction and renovation projects.
- are commercial.

Applications can be submitted by

- Non-profit organizations such as local NGOs/associations, memorial sites, support associations at historical sites, international meeting places, museums, local history initiatives, local history associations, regional museums, libraries, research institutes, universities, schools, archives.
- Organizations registered in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Important information about the application process

- Please use the [EVZ application](#) and [cost plan forms](#) and review the comments in regards to the calculation
- Application for grants between **20,000 and 60,000 euros**
- Start of projects no earlier than 15.01.2023
- Project duration up to **24 months**

Description of the selection process

- **Submission of application forms by 30.09.2022, midnight to local.history@stiftung-evz.de.**
- All submitted applications will be comparatively reviewed with the support of an independent, international jury.
- We will inform you about the decision via E-mail in December 2022.

Networking

We will invite all funded projects to participate in our broader networking activities for a democratic European culture of remembrance. Our aim is to share different perspectives and methodological approaches as well as fighting historical distortions and the use of history for nationalist or otherwise exclusive and destructive policies.

Contact and consulting

We offer two Zoom sessions to explain the application process and answer questions about funding. Available dates: 30.08.2022, 3.00-5:00 pm and 15.09.2022, 3.00-5:00 pm. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please sign up via email and we will send you a zoom link: local.history@stiftung-evz.de.

Privacy notice

Data protection is an important matter for the EVZ Foundation. In light of this, we want to provide you with information on how your institution's data is processed in the context of a project application: www.stiftung-evz.de/en/privacy-policy



We support survivors of National Socialist persecution and strengthen the commitment of their descendants, act together with young people for living remembrance of the fates of the persecuted, initiate contemporary education for a critical examination of National Socialism as well as its aftermath.

We campaign for equal dignity and equal rights for all people and against antisemitism, anti-gypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, racism and all forms of discrimination, enable effective action by self-organizations and are a strategic partner and supporter of civil society.