



E-FoR – Education for Remembrance

Local activity in Nardò (Italy)

Date: September 24th, 2010

Venue: Museo della Memoria e dell'Accoglienza (Nardò)

The event took place in the Municipality of Nardò on 24 September 2010. Delegations from different parts of Puglia and several international guests visited the Welcome Memorial Museum (Museo della Memoria e dell'Accoglienza) in Nardò, Santa Maria al Bagno, Lungomare Lamarmora.



The participants in front of the museum

The event started with a visit at the Museum, during which Ms. Giuseppina Cacudi gave to all participants a very detailed explanation of the historical period and the local situation during that time. The museum shows pictures of the time between 1943 and 1947, when one hundred thousand refugees were given refuge at Santa Maria al Bagno, in the Displaced Persons Camp number 34. It also includes three murals drawn by a survivor of the Shoah that tell the story of the survivors, their wish to have their own land, and the importance of religion.

After the visit to the museum the group gathered in front of the old synagogue and took part in a conference moderated by the assessor of the Municipality of Brindisi for Active Citizenship and International Cooperation, Mr Massimo Ciullo. Ms Giulia Martini, from Association of Local Democracy Agencies, presented the project E-For and explained the programme of the Commission “European Active citizenship” and the Action 1.4 on Active Remembrance. This should increase the participants’ capacity of applying for funding for their own projects.

A Professor of Sociology at the University of Salento, Mr Luigi Za, explained the consequence of the arrival of so many refugees in the small village that the Municipality of Nardò was at the time.

The activity further involved a time witness: A survivor of Dachau Concentration Camp, Mr Colombo, shared his experience and memories with the participants.



Mr Colombo (right) telling his story

After the conference all the participants were invited to a small reception in the square of Santa Maria in the municipality of Bagnò.

This activity tested the approaches of involving original historical sites and time witnesses with great success. It further increased the participants' capacity of organising projects and showed them that past horrors had consequences for their very own community, thus creating a local link between the past and the present.