

The Genocide of the Roma and Sinti New Teaching Materials

International Conference / 11th Austrian Central Seminar
8 – 10 November 2012, Eisenstadt, Burgenland (Austria)

The genocide of the Roma and Sinti that was committed for racist reasons by the National Socialist Third Reich and its allies between 1938 and 1945 plays a far less important role – both in terms of public awareness and historical research – than the Shoah, the murder of the Jews. Although both genocides share many similarities, they also differ greatly from each other. The Roma, who were defamed as “gypsies”, became victims of bureaucratic arbitrariness and the NSDAP’s populist agitation. Victims of racist persecution, they were crammed into camps, deported as forced labourers and finally sent to concentration camps, where they were murdered.

In 1938, approximately 8,000 of the 11,000 Austrian Roma lived in numerous settlements in the Austrian province of Burgenland, which was only ceded to Austria from Hungary in 1921. Ostracized and harassed by the authorities, they mostly lived in crushing poverty. Only a few hundred Roma survived the National Socialist persecution and, under great difficulties, tried to rebuild their communities after 1945.

The Task Force on International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research as well as the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture authorized an international team of experts, under the direction of Gerhard Baumgartner (Vienna), to create teaching on the genocide of the European Roma. The materials will be presented at the upcoming international conference / the 11th Austrian Central Seminar. In two introductory panels, similarities and differences concerning the genocides of the Roma / Sinti and the Jews will be examined as well as the question: In what sense after both 1945 and 1989 can the Roma and Sinti be called “forgotten victims”?

The new teaching on the genocide of the Roma and Sinti will be presented in several workshops together with the booklets for teaching and learning about the topics of antisemitism and racism (*Ein Mensch ist ein Mensch. Rassismus, Antisemitismus und sonst noch was... / A Human Being Is a Human Being: Racism, Antisemitism and More . . .*) which were produced by erinnern.at for use in schools.

The introduction to the persecution of the Burgenland Roma will conclude with a visit to the memorial site of the former "gypsy camp" Lackenbach.

PROGRAMME

The conference begins on 8 November 2012, 15.00, and concludes 10 November 2012 at approximately 12.00.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

(German / English, simultaneous translation)

FEES

The conference is free of charge for all registered participants.

MEALS

All conference meals are included (buffet style).

CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will take place at Hotel Burgenland, located at the centre of Eisenstadt (<http://www.austria-hotels.at/de/hotel-burgenland/index.html>)

HOTEL

We have made reservations at three hotels and we will book your room according to your preference and availability in connection with your registration:

Hotel Burgenland (conference venue): EUR 75,- (single use, incl. breakfast)

<http://www.austria-hotels.at/de/hotel-burgenland/index.html>

Parkhotel Eisenstadt (walking distance) EUR 53,- (single use, incl. breakfast)

www.parkhotel-eisenstadt.at

Hotel Vicedom (walking distance) EUR 49,- (single use, incl. breakfast)

<http://www.vicedom.at>

TRAVEL

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. A bus service to Vienna is offered in connection with the visit to the historical site on Saturday.

REGISTRATION: 16 September – 1 October 2012

The number of participants is restricted. After successful registration you will receive an email with confirmation and details.

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