

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	MEMORIAL DE LA SHOAH OFFICE NATIONAL DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS ET VICTIMES DE GUERRE PANSTWOWE MUZEUM AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU W OSWIECIMIU YPOURGEIO PAIDEIAS, THRSKEVMATON KAI ATHLITISMOU THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE Stiftung Gedenkstätten Sachsen-Anhalt MINISTARSTVO ZNANOSTI, OBRAZOVANJA I MLADIH
PIC number:	989737464 887996492 931969890 952374616 937685324 874012390 999825949
Project name and acronym:	Network of European Youth for Holocaust Remembrance — NESHAMA

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number :	WP11
Event name:	Auschwitz-Birkenau meeting with the first promotion of Neshama Ambassadors.
Type:	Event
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Oswiecim, Poland
Date(s):	15-18 March 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.memorialdelashoah.org/neshama.html
Participants	
Female:	167
Male:	72

Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [POLAND]:	53		
From country 2 [CROATIA]:	51		
From country 3 [GERMANY]:	16		
From country 4 [FRANCE]:	66		
From country 5 [GREECE]:	53		
Total number of participants:	239	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Auschwitz on-site meeting marked one of the most significant moments of the first NESHAMA edition, bringing together young ambassadors from across Europe for three days of learning, reflection, and remembrance in Oświęcim. Held from March 15 to 18, 2026, the programme combined guided visits to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau, testimony, collective reflection, and a diploma ceremony, in close cooperation with the International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum.

The event was designed to deepen students' historical understanding while also strengthening the human and educational dimension of the project. Through shared activities, commemorative moments, and encounters with survivors, participants were invited to reflect on the history of the camp, the meaning of memory today, and their role as Young Ambassadors of Holocaust Remembrance.

A shared European experience

The Oświęcim gathering brought together delegations from Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, and Poland, reflecting the transnational scope of NESHAMA and its network of memorial institutions and schools. It also gave students the opportunity to meet peers from other countries, exchange perspectives, and compare the histories explored in their local and national training.

The programme began with ice-breaking activities, and preparation sessions at the International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, before students moved into the core of the study visit. This structure helped create a collective atmosphere and prepared participants for the emotional and educational depth of the experience.

Learning at Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II - Birkenau

On March 16, the participants took part in a guided study tour of the former Auschwitz I camp, in small, guided groups, followed by a welcome address by Andrzej Kacorzyk, Director of ICEAH, and an online meeting with Auschwitz survivor Leon Weintraub. The following day, students visited Auschwitz II-Birkenau in small, guided groups, allowing for a more focused and reflective encounter with the site.

These visits were central to the project's educational approach, linking the history of the Holocaust to the physical spaces where that history took place. Group classes were mixed to allow students better get to know the other Neshama ambassadors and let them experience the European aspect of the project. By walking through the camp sites and hearing survivor testimony, students could better understand both the scale of Nazi persecution and the importance of preserving memory for future generations.

Reflection and transmission

The on-site event also included a joint commemoration ceremony in front of the International Monument to the Victims of the Camp, followed by a reflection session with ICEAH educators. These moments gave students time to process what they had seen and heard, and to connect historical knowledge with personal responsibility.

A particularly meaningful part of the programme was the diploma ceremony led by Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, which formally recognized the students as Ambassadors of Memory. As he reminded them, this experience was not simply a lesson, but the beginning of a lasting personal commitment to remembrance.

Voices of the participants

At the end of the programme, students contributed reflections to a “tree of memory,” sharing what the experience meant to them and what lessons they wished to carry forward. Their words emphasized the importance of vigilance, respect, empathy, and resistance to racism, indifference, and hate.

These reflections show how the Auschwitz meeting helped transform historical learning into civic awareness. It also confirmed the project’s broader ambition: to create a European community of young ambassadors who can transmit the memory of the Holocaust with knowledge, sensitivity, and responsibility.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).