

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

| EVENT DESCRIPTION           |                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Event number:</b>        | WP5                                                                                                         |
| <b>Event name:</b>          | 1st online testimonial meeting with a great witness related to the Holocaust                                |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Training                                                                                                    |
| <b>In situ/online:</b>      | online                                                                                                      |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Online                                                                                                      |
| <b>Date(s):</b>             | September 26th, 2025                                                                                        |
| <b>Website(s) (if any):</b> | <a href="https://www.memorialdelashoah.org/neshama.html">https://www.memorialdelashoah.org/neshama.html</a> |
| Participants                |                                                                                                             |
| Female:                     | 137                                                                                                         |
| Male:                       | 65                                                                                                          |

|                               |            |                                 |          |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Non-binary:                   | 0          |                                 |          |
| From country 1 [POLAND]:      | 40         |                                 |          |
| From country 2 [CROATIA]:     | 42         |                                 |          |
| From country 3 [GERMANY]:     | 15         |                                 |          |
| From country 4 [FRANCE]:      | 54         |                                 |          |
| From country 5 [GREECE]:      | 51         |                                 |          |
| Total number of participants: | <b>202</b> | From total number of countries: | <b>5</b> |

### Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

#### Objectives of the session

The first testimony session was dedicated to the testimony of Iossif Ventoura, a Greek Jew, survivor of the Holocaust. The testimony was followed by a Q&A session with the Young Ambassadors.

The first testimony session was dedicated to the journey of a Greek Holocaust survivor. Iossif Ventoura, a Greek Jew from Crete, survived the Shoah by going into hiding. He spoke about the arrival of the Nazis, the persecutions he experienced, his childhood, and how he survived as a hidden child. Iossif Ventoura offers a rare and valuable testimony to the vibrant Jewish life that existed in Greece until the Second World War.

#### Biography of Mr. Joseph (Sifis) Ventouras

Joseph (Sifis) Ventouras is perhaps the only Jew born in Chania today. His family – his parents Raphael and Bianca, and his older sister – lived outside the Jewish quarter, in the area of Kum Kapi. The Ventouras were listed on the first list requested from the rabbi by the occupation administration in 1941, but not on the updated second list of 1943.

The Ventura family was a well-to-do family in Chania. Rafael, Joseph's father, was a merchant, following the family tradition.

His father and his uncles had a chain of stores, Frere Ventoura, in Chania, Thessaloniki, Cairo, Manchester. This was a family with lively relationships outside the island and outside Greece.

Bianca, Joseph's mother, was from the Konstantini family. Her father was also a merchant in Chania and they also had Italian citizenship and a European-oriented education. Bianca was a graduate of the French School of Nuns in Chania and a qualified pianist.

The connections of this family, their social networks in the city, seem to have been the reason why they were spared the displacement of the Jewish community of Crete. Raphael Ventouras was warned, in the midst of the Occupation, by a Christian friend of his to leave the island and seek refuge in mainland Greece.

There, of course, things were just as difficult. The family, after leaving Crete, had to move to different places to find hiding places. Joseph, after all, had a story that today counts him among the "hidden children of the Occupation." Hand in hand with Athena Varvataki, the family's housekeeper, Joseph separated from his parents and sister and stayed with Athena in the house of the friendly Petrochilos family, in Ekali (near Athens), for the rest of the time until the Liberation.

*Moderated by the Coordinator of the project, all testimonial meetings took place on Zoom and were followed by a Q&A session between the Ambassadors and the speaker. The sessions were only accessible to members of the NESHAMA network (ambassadors, teachers and partners). Each partner and/or teacher ensured locally that ambassadors were present at the session and signed the attendance lists.*

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

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