

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:	WP9
Event name:	1st Encounter of the first Young European Ambassadors promotion in Paris
Type:	Event
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Paris, FRANCE
Date(s):	25-28 January 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.memorialdelashoah.org/neshama.html
Participants	
Female:	140
Male:	69

Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [POLAND]:	46		
From country 2 [CROATIA]:	46		
From country 3 [GERMANY]:	13		
From country 4 [FRANCE]:	58		
From country 5 [GREECE]:	46		
Total number of participants:	209	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Paris on-site meeting, held from 25 to 28 January 2026, marked the first major in-person gathering of the NESHAMA European Youth Holocaust Ambassadors. It brought together young ambassadors from the partner countries for a shared programme of remembrance, learning, and exchange, designed to give concrete form to the project's European network and to strengthen their commitment as future transmitters of memory.

The event combined visits to memorial sites, exploration of Jewish Paris, reflection sessions, commemorative ceremonies, and a testimony by Holocaust survivor Arlette Testyler. It also gave each delegation the opportunity to present the remembrance site they are working with and to reflect on its meaning, its historical significance, and its role in the transmission of Holocaust memory.

Purpose of the meeting

The main objective of the Paris gathering was to help the Young Ambassadors experience the scale and reality of the NESHAMA project beyond the online framework. By meeting in person, visiting key remembrance places, and exchanging with peers from other countries, they were able to deepen their engagement and better understand their role within the wider network.

The event also aimed at connecting local histories with a shared European perspective. Through guided visits, testimony, and collective reflection, participants were encouraged to see how Holocaust remembrance, Jewish life, and democratic values intersect across countries and generations.

Programme highlights

The Paris programme was structured around several complementary elements. It began with the official opening at the Carreau du Temple, followed by the testimony of Arlette Testyler, a Holocaust survivor, hidden child, and former internee, whose personal account gave the participants a direct and powerful link to the history they are learning to transmit.

The following days included alternating visits to the Shoah Memorial and the Memorial to the Martyrs of the Deportation, a guided discovery of the Jewish history of the Marais, a presentation of the Shoah Memorial's archives, and an outdoor tour of Jewish Paris. The commemorative dimension was also central, with a ceremony at the Shoah Memorial crypt on the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the rekindling of the flame under the Arc de Triomphe.

Student contribution

A key component of the meeting was the presentation prepared by each delegation. Students worked in groups to reflect on the question of what their remembrance site represents and why its history and mission matter to them. Their presentations, delivered in a free format, allowed them to express what they had learned so far through oral communication, images, film, or theatrical reading.

This exercise was important because it asked students not only to describe a site, but to interpret its meaning and relate it to Holocaust history and remembrance today. It also encouraged peer learning, as each group shared its own understanding of remembrance with the broader cohort.

Educational value

The Paris event contributed to the project's broader educational goals by combining testimony, memory sites, peer-to-peer exchange, and civic reflection. It gave the ambassadors an opportunity to inhabit the project physically and symbolically, while reinforcing their sense of responsibility as Young Ambassadors of Remembrance.

A strong peer-to-peer education component also shaped the Paris meeting. Students from Lycée Charlemagne designed and led a “Marais treasure hunt” for their peers, turning the discovery of Jewish Paris into an interactive learning experience. Through clues, observations, and guided exploration, the activity encouraged participants to engage directly in the history of the Marais and to learn from one another in a dynamic, student-led format. This initiative embodied the spirit of NESHAMA by placing young people at the centre of transmission, making them both learners and educators within the same collective experience.

The gathering also confirmed the importance of the consortium's joint approach: local remembrance work, European dialogue, and active student participation. In that sense, the Paris meeting was both a milestone in the project timeline and a foundation for the next steps, including the Auschwitz on-site meeting and the continuation of ambassador activities across partner countries.

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