European Memories

Final Report   Public Part

Project information

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Project number:	**2008 – 3442/001-001**
Sub-programme or KA:	**GRUNDTVIG MULTILATERAL PROJECT**
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Executive Summary

"For sailors in need of wind memory is a point of departure"
Eduardo Galeano, Las palabras andantes

The aim of **European Memories** is to foster development of social and civic competences of European citizens, by means of autobiographical and historical methodologies, tools and activities, and the use of web technologies.

This aim has been realized, during the two years of his life the project, through different activities and products:

1. The Creation of the European Memories Portal, a digital archive of stories by European citizens, in different digital languages (text, photo, audio and video format), and in nine European languages (English, German, French, Italian, Danish, Spanish, Catalan, Bulgarian, Portuguese). www.europeanmemories.eu

2. Desk research on the organization working in the field of memory in the countries involved; the research led to the creation of a data base of these organization, that can be implemented by the organizations themselves, as a tool for to improve the use of autobiographical source by learners.

3. Adult education activities in writing autobiographies or collecting life stories, using different forms of expression (written text, videos, audios, photos) as in the Digital Story Telling approach, for the promotion of social and civic competences; the project has also created – in some of the participating countries – groups of volunteer in the field of autobiography and memory, whose work is aimed to produce and valorize autobiographies and life stories.

4. Creation of products and activities of diffusion for the stories of European citizens, and in particular:
    a. the second edition of the European competition Narrating Europe!
        The topics proposed in this competition concerned three thematic areas:
        * Experiences of feeling part of Europe
        * Pathways through Europe (through its diversity)
        * Another Europe is possible: stories of social commitment and change in Europe.

    b. An European Autobiography Festival, hold in **Pieve Santo Stefano, Tuscany, in September 2010**. Adult learners could also apply for an activity of the LLP Mobility Programme Workshop that was created in connection with this event.

    c. A final publication of the project in eight languages, with a cd rom.

    d. Trainings activities in using autobiographical and historical methods, and the use of web technologies, as a means of development of social and civic competences.

The European Memories Project aims to make permanent the main products of the project, such as the European Digital Archive, or some of the educational activities (groups of volunteers, training for trainers activities…).

Table of Contents

1.   Project Objectives

The European Memories project objectives can best be described by answering some key questions concerning the importance of memories for the individual and the society.

Memory of the past

What meaning does remembering the past have for Europe?

It is said at times that remembering the past helps us to avoid repeating mistakes of the past, but it is not often said that learning from history is not something that happens automatically. Proof of this is that certain mistakes are repeated continually. The memory of the Holocaust did not prevent more recent genocides and ethnic conflicts, both in Europe and in other non-European countries, where greater intervention by international institutions could (and should) have done something.

How, then, is it possible to learn from the past?

We believe that there are two factors which can encourage such learning both in the individual and society:

Living history – first of all, there must be a "living" knowledge of history; that is, a knowledge which makes historical events come alive and permits us to understand them from the inside, not just as an accumulation of further information, but as emotion – so that we can in a sense understand how it might have felt to be in that particular moment and in that particular situation; to ask questions: "how did it happen?", "what were the protagonists of those historical events thinking and feeling at the time?".

Create knowledge and disseminate it – it is necessary, then, to go from reliving the past to re-elaborating it – that is, transforming knowledge of the past in a kind of "map" which will help us in the present, as well as building a better future. And education – in the form of continuing education – plays an extremely important role in this process.

Here then is a project which within the sphere of Lifelong Learning aims to make of memory an opportunity for learning and developing the civic competences of European residents and citizens.

Memory of the present

Is memory something that deals only with the past?

Telling one's story in order to understand oneself and the world - Remembering and reflecting on one's life is something which also has to do with our present. Memory is a resource which from this point of view is important for the individual. It is an opportunity for self-recognition, for a deep understanding of the reasons behind our life
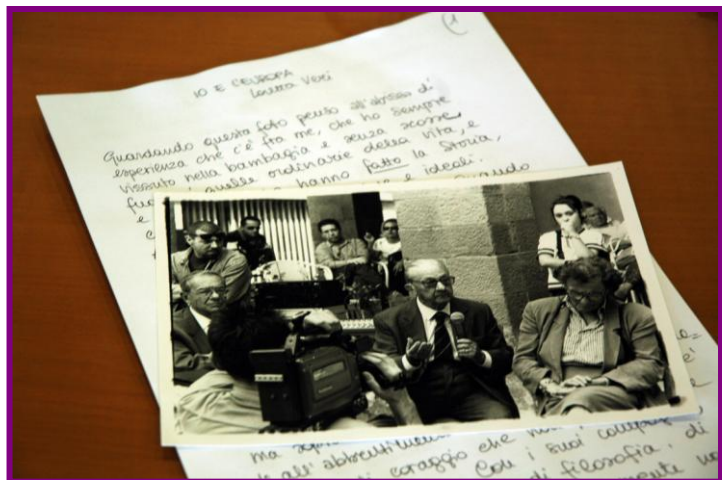
experiences. But it is also a resource for society as a whole, making it possible to understand the times we live in, its hardships and its challenges; it provides the opportunity for rediscovering the foundations of our co-existence.

Becoming passionate about diversity - This is particularly important within the contemporary context, which is characterized by multiculturalism and the encounter with diversity. European society is an increasingly multicultural society, a society fraught with a thousand differences – of sex, generations, religion, culture. Co-existing with such differences is, as we well know, very difficult, and perhaps one of the most significant challenges of our time. Thus, knowing the story of the "other" is the first condition for understanding others and being able to live peacefully together. Diversity can thus become a pleasure, a real reciprocal enrichment. Through a deep understanding of the other, it becomes possible to passionately support diversity.

Memory is a project

Is it possible to "rewrite" our past?

"Rewriting the past" becomes possible when we re-interpret our experieences in light of our desire to understand and create a peaceful co-existence, for memory, remembering, does not always lead to improving the present. The memory is an instrument which can at times be used not for a better understanding of the fundamental reasons of co-existence, but for

creating fences and barriers.

We believe in a memory which will help us to re-discover the common roots of human life experiences through the different forms of culture which men and women have developed starting from what history and their environment has put at their disposal. A memory which goes hand in hand with the inevitable changes in identity and culture so that individuals and society may valorize to the utmost the best that has been inherited from tradition, but also develop and change it in light of new ideas and challenges offered by the present.

Can memory help us plan the future?

In every action which has to do with remembering there is a plan for the future. This is true both for the individual – who in reflecting on him/herself is preparing for life – and societies which are seeking values and keys of interpretation for making decisions.

We believe in the importance of creating instruments and occasions for helping European citizens and residents to become an active part in this process. Developing civic and social competences for us means fuelling social awareness and responsibility, but also contributing to the creation of a space where individuals and society can make their voices heard and thus contribute to building a Europe with people at its centre.

The European Memories project wishes to make a contribution in this direction, by creating a virtual space for the memories of European citizens and inhabitants, as well as storytelling activities and pedagogical tools for the diffusion of a culture of memory.

European Memories

The introduction above provides allow us to come to go directly into the objectives of the project, that therefore where:

1. To contribute in preserving memory, and encouraging familiarity with the many cultures and traditions that make up Europe;

2. To encourage the active involvement of older people and the encounter of young and old; contributing, through a deeper reciprocal understanding, to creating a dialogue between the different cultures that make up Europe.

3. To permit the diffusion of cultural issues from the bottom up, also through the diffusion of documents based on life stories and produced by European citizens of every age and social condition, as well as through the use of new technology.

4. To develop individual potential in lifelong learning by promoting the culture of memory and autobiography as "care of the self", lifelong learning and active citizenship.

5. To contribute to the realization of innovative models in adult education activities using autobiographical and historical methods, and the use of web technologies, as a means of development of social and civic competences.

This has been realized through:

- The European Memories Portal, a digital archive of stories of European citizens, in different digital languages (written text, photo, audio and video format), and in the main European languages.

- Realization of a desk research on the organization working in the field of memory in the countries involved, and creation of a data base of this kind of organization. The data base is a tool for to improve the use of autobiographical source by learners.

- Adult education activities in writing autobiographies or collecting life stories, using different forms of expression (written texts, videos, audios, photos) according to the Digital Story Telling approach, for the promotion of social and civic competences; in particular we have created – in some of the countries involved – groups of volunteer working in the field of autobiography and memory, for the purposes of production and valorization of autobiographies and life stories.

- Trainings activities in using autobiographical and historical methods, and the use of web technologies, as a means of development of social and civic competences.

- Products and activities of diffusion of the stories of European citizens, and in particular: an European competition, an European Autobiography Festival a final publication

EUROPEAN·MEMORIES

Look for a story 🔍

The Project About us Activities Methodology Stories Contact us Send/Modify

Login or Register

A digital archive for the stories of the European inhabitants of all age and cultures

Last 10 uploaded stories - Stories »

claudia brunetto (claudiabrunetto[at]virgilio.it)

A Mani LIbere

-Questa raccolta di racconti, vignette, interviste é una delle semplici, ma eloquenti attività del museo della ndrangheta e per questo rappresenta con immediatezza l'essenza del Museo stesso. Un centro che, se ha avviato la catalogazione e documentazione di materiali sulla ndrangheta da accogliere all'interno della sua struttura fisica o mira a...

Read more
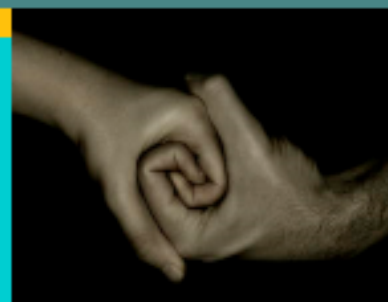
The project

‣ The European Memories project is pleased to invite all European citizens, men and women of every age and cultural origin, to send their stories....

See the stories

‣ Autobiographical and biographical writings
‣ Photo-narrations
‣ Video-narrations
‣ Audio-narrations
‣ Other forms of expression

Send your story

‣ Through the site, by registering with the site, filling in the work description form and uploading the entries into the site (enter and send/modify)
‣ By e-mail
‣ By post

Editor's Picks

Pathways through Europe (through its diversities)

Upter-Storia Università Popolare di Roma (info [at]europeanmemories.eu)
1950s-1960s - in a FIAT 600 through a changing Europe

Mannheim, Dusseldorf, Cologne. The mantle of grey above presaged the factories. The South Italy licence plate attracted small crowds of Italian emigrants, with uncertain smiles and dialect speech, and questions, questions, a great many questions. The autobahn brought us into the Rhine Valley, a...

Upter-Storia Università Popolare di Roma (info [at]europeanmemories.eu)
FinisTransilvaniae

Msirovitz The Country. The fatherland We were born and raised in a spacious white house in the middle of a large garden which belonged to our father; in front of it there was another house, larger still, that was grandfather's and then some smaller buildings such as the Stable, the Washhouse........

Experiences of feeling part of Europe

Перо, перо, перо

Работих една година в Германия като медицински работник. Съпруга ми и трите ми деца живееха в България, а аз бачках и често край на месеца, за да взема заплата и да им изпратя пари. Времето минаваше бавно и мъчително. Не издържах целия договор. Имах чувството, че умирам бавно. Нещо в

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Highlights

The prize-giving ceremony

Saturday, September 11, in the charming Tempietto of Colledestro in Pieve Santo Stefano the prize-giving ceremony of the second edition of the Competition "European Memories"took place.....

Winners Narrating Europe 2009 - 2010

The competition received about 400 stories submitted in seven different languages, including autobiographical and biographical writings, videos,

2. Project Approach

The project is based on autobiographical and oral storytelling methodologies, pedagogical methodologies which are very important in adult education.

Such methodologies encourage:
- participation of individuals, through activities facilitating the writing and telling of one's story, in various forms (written text, videos, audios, photos), according to the digital story telling approach. Telling one's story is seen here as a form of caring for the self, and of valorization of the collective significance of personal experience.
- creation of groups of volunteers to collect stories of other people, as a form of active citizenship.
- realization of didactic activities for the study and knowledge of past and recent history through the first-person narration of experiences of people who have been directly involved in historical periods and events.

In terms of stages of work and types of activities, the project has seen various phases and outputs.

- **Background research**
Background research aimed to collect useful information for the creation of the future archive and future activities of the project (e.g. What types of digital products inherent to telling one's story are present across Europe? What types of activities have already been carried out in the field of autobiographical activities? Who should be involved in each partner country? And in the other countries? ...)

- Realization of the digital archive and the planning of related activities
In this phase, the structure of the archive has been realized, and ways and means have been planned for creating the storytelling groups.

- Realization of the European Competition "Narrating Europe"
This phase of the project marks the start of the European competition "Narrating Europe!".

- Dissemination
This was a somewhat transversal activity in the sense that dissemination occured not only at the end of the project, but throughout the project itself.

- Valorization
In this phase activities such as the European Autobiography Festival were carried out, along with activities aiming to ensure the project sustainability.

Monitoring and quality control of the project
Monitoring and quality control of the project has been ensured By the use of various quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation systems and tools.

Project activities has been organized in work package and work stages.
Each work package saw the coordination of one of the partner organizations, and the involvement of other partners.

3.   Project Outcomes & Results

The European Memories project created, during the two years of his life, different activities and products…

The European Memories digital archive

The **European Memories digital archive** is a virtual space, where all European citizens, men and women of every age and cultural origin, can upload their stories. The archive includes many different themes and arguments. We decided to give some suggestion, and for this we divided the archive in three thematic areas, but **new topics are welcome!**

Pathways through Europe (through its diversities):
History, culture and traditions of Europe seen through the lens of personal experiences.

- *Recount briefly one or more memories of your life: memories of childhood or adult life, memories of work, family, love, friendship and the important people in your life ... Memories of something you learned; anything that is part of human life ...*
- *Are there traditions or customs – past or present – which have been important in your life? Do these traditions contain teachings which may be valid today as well?*
- *Try to recount the experience of travelling in or through Europe, and what the journey has brought into your life…*
- *My story within the history of Europe. Try to recall your personal experience of historical events, representing moments of upheaval or change….*
- *…*

Experiences of feeling part of Europe;
Life experiences which have contributed to creating in us a sense of belonging to Europe;

- *Have there been particular moments and experiences which have created in you a sense of belonging to Europe?*
- *Identify a photograph in your life which seems in some way to represent your experience of Europe…*
- *Identify an object which can represent something of your experience of being part of Europe…*
- *…*

Another Europe is possible: stories of social commitment and change in Europe...

- *Recount your experiences towards another possible Europe, within the different spheres in which social commitment for human rights and democracy is manifested: solidarity and communitarian economy, intercultural dialogue, labour, minorities, housing, health, public assets, fight against poverty, education and training for all, participation, etc. These can be personal or collective experiences, already completed or still ongoing, experiences which have been successful or which have not achieved the expected results…*
- *Experiences of intercultural dialogue. Personal experiences of intercultural dialogue (meeting the 'other', in everyday life, in the different contexts and situations where intercultural conflict arises and the need to overcome it is manifested...); experiences of projects and collective social action in the promotion of intercultural dialogue in Europe…*
- *…*

Is possible to contribute to the archive with different narrative forms, as well as with stories created by individual group, or organization, as well described in the site:

How to participate:
- *You can participate as an individual, a group, a community or an organization;*
- *You can participate both with autobiographical works by narrating one's experience in the first person, and with biographical works by recounting the stories of others;*
- *Works participating in the archive can be developed through different forms of expression.*

The different narrative forms
- ***Narrations:***
  - *Autobiographical and biographical writings;*
  - *Photo-narrations;*
  - *Video-narrations;*
  - *Audio-narrations ;*
  - *Other forms of expression - poetry, novels, fiction, photo stories, comic strips, or other artistic forms of narration.*

- ***Studies and research:***
  - *This section will include investigative works on the contest themes developed through qualitative methodologies (interviews, life stories, etc.), including studies and research carried out in memory archives and through oral sources.*

How the archive works

Every individual can have – free of charge – his/her own space in the archive where he/she can upload stories.

For to facilitate a wide participation we create some interfaces very easy to use for to upload a story…

Organizations (archives, institutions working in the memory field, schools, etc.) can also have – again free of charge – their own space; in this case, the stories will be viewed with the logo of the participating organization.

Stories can be submitted also by e-mail or postal mail (but always in electronic format).

An example of story as shown in the archive
The story can be downloaded, but also seen directly (if a video).
The right column contains descriptive data of the story.

An example of personal interface for to insert story into the archive

To upload the story, the user select the format required, using the yellow box below (among text, photos, narration, video, audio, other languages, studies and research). Once loaded the story, is possible to enter the descriptive information by clicking on "Edit story details".

Once posted the story is possible - by logging in, and go to Post/Edit - make changes and corrections by clicking on "Edit the story".

Edit your stories

Name	Type	Edit story	Edit story details
Storie di donne in lotta dal dopoguerra ai giorni nostri - Giovanna Marturano si racconta a Filomenilde Castaldo	Narration	▣	▣
L Storie di donne in lotta dal dopoguerra ai giorni nostri	Attachment	▣	
"Mercenario dello sviluppo" di Daniele De Sillo	Narration	▣	▣
L "Mercenario dello sviluppo" di Daniele De Sillo	Attachment	▣	
L Un nuovo modo di intendere la cooperazione internazionale	Comment	▣	
Madri della pace, operaie di speranza	Photonarration	▣	▣
Luoghi Resistenti	Photonarration	▣	▣
L No dal Molin	Comment	▣	
Roma la borgata e la lotta per la casa	Audio narration	▣	▣
Nebbie e girasoli	Narration	▣	▣
Grandir à cheval entre deux frontières	Narration	▣	▣
Crescere a cavallo di due frontiere	Narration	▣	▣
Crecimiento a caballo de dos fronteras	Narration	▣	▣
Aufgewachsen beiderseits der Grenze	Narration	▣	▣
Il presepe di Penna	Video narration	▣	▣

Create new story

Narrations
Autobiographical and biographical writings

✏ **Autobiographical and biographical writings**

Photo Stories

📷 **Photo Stories**

Audio Stories

🔊 **Audio Stories**

Video Stories

📹 **Video Stories**

Other languanges
Digital format and works dimension : both if work deals with texts, images and video, reference can be made to the respective suitable formats shown in the various categories above.

📁 **Other languanges**

E - Studies and researches
Studies and Research
Digital format: preferably PDF, otherwise ODF (OpenDocument Format, used by OpenOffice), MicrosoftWord. Maximum File Size: 15 MB.

📄 **E - Studies and researches**

Studies and Research - video format
Send Studies and Research - video format

📁 **Studies and Research - video format**

Database of organizations active in the field of memory

Another important outcome of the project concern a database that has been created to collect information about organizations working in the field of memory in Europe (as archives, research centres and organizations that work in education also by means of autobiographical and oral history methods), with about 50 organizations participating so far.

The data base can be implemented permanently because it allow new organization to upload their information by themself. In order to include your organization in the database you must register and follow the instructions on:
"Questionnaire" http://www.europeanmemories.eu/Questionnaire)

This tool been create to allow users (persons, schools, organization…) to know what kind of autobiographical and historical sources the registered organizations have in their archives, to improve the use of this documentation in education activities (school, adult education, non formal education...).

In the same time other aim of the data base is to improve mutual knowledge among the institutions themselves.

European Competition "Narrating Europe!".

Another important product (or tool) of the Project has been the second edition of the European Competition "Narrating Europe!". What follows is the text through which we have invited the people of Europe to send their stories:

****

"Narrating Europe!"

The European Memories project is pleased to invite all European citizens, men and women of every age and cultural origin, to participate in the autobiographical contest "Narrating Europe".

Through this initiative we wish to bring to light the thousands of experiences and faces that make up our Europe.

Stories of the past and present, therefore, but also dreams, desires and utopian fantasies that can help us to imagine and bring into being another possible Europe.

Who and how

All European citizens, men and women of every age and cultural origin, are invited to take part in the contest;

You can participate as an individual, a group, a community or an organization;

You can participate both with autobiographical works, by narrating your experience in the first person, and with biographical works, by recounting the stories of others.

Topics of the competition

The topics we propose in this second edition of the competition fall within three thematic areas:

* *Experiences of feeling part of Europe*

* *Pathways through Europe (through its diversity)*

* *Another Europe is possible: stories of social commitment and change in Europe*

****

Participants could submit more than one story – one for each thematic area; it was, however, possible to place more stories in the digital archive in addition to those which have been submitted for the award.

Different narrative formats and modes could be used: written texts, photo narrations, video and audio narrations, other forms of expression (comic strips, poetry, theatre, etc.);

In addition to personal stories (autobiographical and biographical), research and studies could also be submitted (provided where realized through qualitative methodologies, as interviews and life stories), as well as research carried out in European memory archives;

The prize has been conducted in collaboration with the project "Stories of a Possible Europe" (Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency; 'Europe for Citizens' Programme), with

respect to the stories concerned with the third thematic area: "Another Europe is possible: stories of social commitment and change in Europe; Experiences of intercultural dialogue". (www.possible-europe.eu)

Stories could be submitted in the following languages: English, Spanish, Catalan, German, French, Danish, Bulgarian, Italian and Portuguese.

All the works have been published with the "Creative commons, no derivative works" license; this licence permits reproduction, distribution, communication to the public, display in public, representation, carrying out and acting out of the work.

The competition has bees spread in all the European countries, also if – obviously – the stronger impact was on the countries of the partnership. Trough the web, and other means of communication (radio, newspaper, events, web, etc.) thousands of people where reached.

The stories submitted, and the selection process

The competition received about **400 stories** submitted in seven different languages, including autobiographical and biographical writings, videos, audio narrations and photo narrations.
The selection was carried out first at **national level**: all the stories were read and examined, resulting in a first-round selection of 34 stories.

A **second selection** was then carried out by a European jury consisting of members coming from all the countries involved in the project.
Concerning the thematic area "Pathways through Europe through its diversity" the winner was an autobiographical narration "Nicht so bose" written by Leif Draeby from Denmark.
Concerning the thematic area "Experiences of Belonging to Europe" the winner was the autobiographical narration "A story of a life between two colours" written by Jose Prieto from Spain.
For the thematic area "Another Europe is Possible, Work in Progress" the winner was a video-narrative "The darkness was gone" made by Nicolay Tsonev from Bulgaria.
The final selection saw also other seven stories chosen as "special award".

The stories of the winners and the special prize can be red in the final publications, realized in eight language, in or on the CD-Rom, as well on the website.

The winner authors were then invited to the European Festival of Autobiography, which took place in Italy, Pieve Santo Stefano (Tuscany), during the final event of the project.
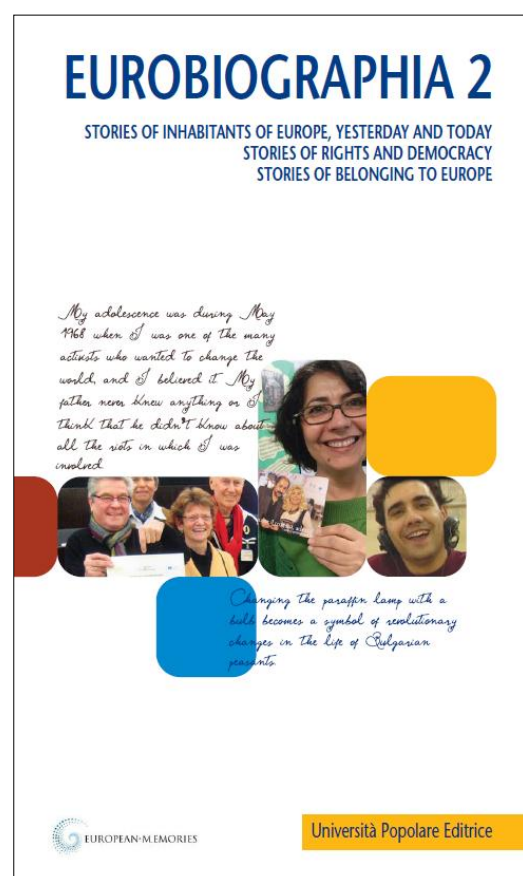
"Storytelling Groups"

A very important part of the activities carried out in the project concerned meeting, workshops and events realized through autobiographical and historical methods.
This kind of activities involved more than 700 peoples, in the several countries of the project.
This involvement was more possible for those partner that already had an expertise in this methods and that already worked in adult education activities, but it was also, for other partner, an occasion for to introduce these approach in their professional practice.
In some cases the activities involved also young people and formal education contexts.

For some of the partners it was possible o create permanent groups of volunteers. This volunteers have been part, in many activities like: the selection work of the stories submitted for the award, at national level; to collect stories; to organize events for their diffusion; to translate the stories (with the active involvement of language students), etc…
http://www.europeanmemories.eu/eng/Activities/Realized-activities

Training sessions in autobiographical and historical methodologies

Among the education activities created by the project there are also training sessions in autobiographical and historical methodologies, for teachers, social worker and volunteers.
Aim of these activities where **the development of techniques to be used in teaching or social activities, using the tools created in the project**, as the digital archive and all the methodology uploaded in the site.
http://www.europeanmemories.eu/eng/Activities/Realized-activities

Methodologies

A special section of the portal is devoted to autobiographical and oral history methodologies, including the methodologies used in the project. These documents are available – as all the documentation uploaded on the site – with creative commons no-derivative work license. It allow other people (teachers, trainers, educators, etc.) to use them in education activities.
http://www.europeanmemories.eu/eng/Methodology

Final publication

The final publication of the project collected the three winner of the competition "Narrating Europe!", as well the "special prize".
All these stories, that include texts, photo-narrations and videos, have been translated in eight languages. A cd rom collect all these stories, as well as the selected stories at national level.

Final event of the project

The final meeting of European Memories took place in Pieve Santo Stefano ("the diary city"), province of Arezzo, where the National Archive of Diaries (partner of the project) is located, the first memory archive at European level (it holds about 5,000 diaries, autobiographies and letters).
The meeting was held during the week of the final event of the Pieve Santo Stefano prize; an event of national and European importance, which on this occasion included the "Narrating Europe" competition award ceremony, and other activities of the project.
The event saw a very big participation of people, with the participation of also a representative of the Italian LLP Agency.
http://www.europeanmemories.eu/eng/Activities/The-Award-2009-2010/The-prize-giving-ceremony

Other projects

The European Memories project create, in this two years, many relation and collaborations with other projects.

- The collaboration with the project "**Stories of a Possible Europe**" (Europe for Citizens Program) saw a cooperation in the European Competition "Narrating Europe!", for what concerned the theme "***Another Europe is possible: stories of social commitment and change in Europe".*** Moreover the stories realized in this project were uploaded in the archive of European Memories.
- The Grundtvig Workshop "Living Memories" was held in occasion of the final meeting of European Memories; it allowed the participation of other European learners, and – in the mean time – it was a great occasion for to valorize the methodologies creted in the project.
- Also some of the stories produced in the Grundtvig Partnership project "Open Gate" were uploaded in the archive of European Memories. The Archive allows, infact, other project or organizations to create their own space in the archive, and to show theyr stories with the logo and the reference of the project – organization itself.
- The collaboration with other project, like Memoro, E-Vita, Progetto Valco, saw the participation of the coordinators of these projects to activities of European Memories, as an exchange of experiences and methodologies. We have created, in the site, a space for to show all these collaborations.
- Other projects, as "La Mia Lettera al Mondo", allowed us to disseminate the project in the schools.

The European Memories Project aims to make permanent the main products of the project, such as the European Digital Archive, or some of the educational activities (groups of volunteers, training for trainers activities…).

By this point of view part of the sustainability program will the creation also of local project, that can use the digital archive for develop activities concern memory, education and active citizenship.

Dissemination of the project

The activities of dissemination realized during the time of the project are many and different.

- The site has so far developed a good spread, for example, from May 2010 to November 2010 there are approximately 300.000 visits.
- Many the articles published in the different countries, also on national newspaper, and participation to radio programs.
- Also the meetings were a good occasion for dissemination; workshops, events, courses, involved directly around 1.000 participants. Just the final event saw the participation of around 500 peoples.
- At the moment the project has also been the subject of study of three theses of students of social psychology and a degree in adult education.

4.   Partnerships

UNIEDA - Italian Union of Adult Education (Unione Italiana di Educazione degli Adulti)

Representative member of the Italian Third Sector and national umbrella organisation of 65 Italian Adult Education Organisations, UNIEDA represents a national point of reference and a new educational platform for the development of an inter-generational pedagogy addressed to different generations and cultures in the name of common educational needs. Moreover, as research and experimentation centre for educational activities and methodologies, it is particularly active in the promotion and dissemination of autobiographical and biographical narrative methodologies as specific educational strategy based on telling adult learners' stories, which will thus provide the opportunity to learn from each other in a mutual exchange of experiences. Actively involved in the implementation and dissemination of various Grundtvig projects at national and transnational level, UNIEDA has recently elaborated a bill on Lifelong Learning, which is strategic for the achievement of Lisbon objectives and aims within 2010.

http://www.unieda.it/
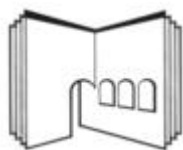
ADN - Fondazione Archivio Diaristico Nazionale-Onlus

The ADN Foundation collects autobiographical writings written by common people: diaries, letters, personal memories illustrating common everyday life and Italian history. The archive is not simply a sort of museum preserving popular writing, but valorizes the wealth of information and experiences contained in it in various ways. The archive was originally defined as a "memory bank", but is now referred to as a "nursery" because the archive gives new life to past experiences, like shoots that spring up in a cyclical process of growth. Thus, interest in autobiographical writings is continuously stimulated. First, the foundation introduced a prize in order to encourage more written texts. An annual event, "Town Memories" takes place in early September. In 1998, the Foundation became an Onlus (a charity) and the Region included the Foundation in its list most important institutions in Tuscany, while on 16 July 1999, the archival superintendent of Tuscany conferred the Foundation with the status of Archive of significant historical importance.

http://www.archiviodiari.it/

EIC - Evropeyski Informacionen Centar – Veliko Turnovo (Европейски Информационен Център - Велико Търново)

First Regional information Centre in Bulgaria, EIC houses the documentation libraries of the Council of Europe and European Union (14 000 books, 200 videotapes, 150 records, 50 DVD, 250 European posters).

In EIC's Info Points Network in the oblast cities in North Bulgaria free publications are distributed of the European institutions, project results. EIC publishes European magazines which are distributed to national legislative and executive institutions; regional and local bodies. Special activities refer to European integration process and priorities: conferences, seminars, education programs, teacher's qualifications, researches, exhibitions, concerts, presentations in the field of gender education, anti-discrimination and human rights, education for tolerance, European citizenship education.

EIC's main activities are closely connected with its priorities: to popularize European values in North Bulgaria among all groups of the population, presenting working European models.

http://www.europeinfocentre.bg/

SL- Sozial.label e.v.

SL, a registered non-profit Berlin-based association of public utility founded in Berlin in 2003, aims to provide administrative and financial support to social projects. In addition to project management, organizational planning and execution of projects, the SL offers various types of assistance including, along with finance assistance, also conceptional assistance and project development with administrative services. SL is part of the network of social NGO's in Berlin working in close co-operation. The staff of SL is experienced in the planning and execution of social projects on EU level. For new projects, project groups are established by SL., ensuring technical and organizational support and guaranteeing compliance with contracts. SL is member of a German social network.

http://www.soziallabel.de/joo/

DPU - Danish School of Education, University of Arhus (Danmarks Pædagogisk Universitetsskole, Aarhus Universitet)

DPU is a university school that conducts research and offers research-based postgraduate programmes within the entire field of education. DPU's aim is to enhance the overall quality of research and training in education, learning and competence development. The school employs approximately 200 researchers in permanent positions and a total of 400 permanent staff. Approximately 4,000 students are enrolled in its programmes, making DPU the largest

university school in Europe within its field. On 1 June 2007, DPU changed status from independent university to a university school at the University of Aarhus. DPU research covers all areas of education with a focus, among others, on: The education of teachers and educators. DPU study programmes include a European Masters in Lifelong Learning: Policy and management (a full time Erasmus Mundus programme) and a one-year vocational, research-based Master in Adult Learning and Human Resource Development.

http://www.dpu.dk/site.aspx?p=6515

FDC - Community Development Foundation (Fundació Privada Desenvolupament Comunitari)

FDC is a social economics organisation with 14 years experience in the field of public policies on social development, whose actions are focused on the fields of intercultural relations, citizen participation, community mediation, equal opportunities and accessibility. Our work takes the form of research, consultancy, training and management of programmes and experimental services and we work both on a local and a national level as well as in international cooperation. The purpose of our organisation can be summarised as the research into and experimentation with tools to facilitate harmonious coexistence and enhance community life. Being part of national and international networks and working alongside them nourishes us and provides us with new ideas to use in our everyday tasks. The team at FDC works to bring together a diverse and cross-disciplinary range of perspectives, qualifications and background necessary to respond to the complex challenge of social cohesion;
FDC is the continuation of the " Associació per a l'Estudi i la Promoció del Desenvolupament Comunitari" (AEPDC), created in 1994. FDC is a Foundation while AEPDC was an association.

http://www.desenvolupamentcomunitari.cat/web/

VIDA-Intergenerational Valorisation and Active Development Association (Associação Valorização Intergeracional e Desenvolvimento Activo) - Portugal
The Association VIDA is a non-profit organization, based in the North of Portugal. Aims the promotion of cultural and educational activities in innovative fields with creative approaches, targeting people over 50 years old.
 Main fields of work:
- Training at national and European level in the following areas: Equal opportunities, Intergenerational learning, Work-family conciliation, Diversity, senior entrepreneurship.
- Consultancy: National and EU projects, planning and management.
http://www.projectotio.net/

5. Plans for the Future

The European Memories Project aims to make permanent the main products of the project, such as the European Digital Archive, or some of the educational activities (groups of volunteers, training for trainers activities…).

Particular attention will be given to the sustainability of the project over time, which will be ensured in various ways:

- By the fact that some of the partners involved already carry out activities and projects in the area addressed by the project, and that they will be able to include these activities within their educative programs. From this standpoint, the project offers an important opportunity for synergy and reinforcement of the activities carried out by the different organizations involved in the project.
- Through the possibility of giving rise to further educational projects – starting from the tools created – at local level as well – to be realized by the project partners, with part of their resources being dedicated to the sustainability of the digital archive.
- Through the possibility of creating a fundraising mechanism, thanks to the activation of the groups of volunteers connected with the project.

But the continuity of the project will be ensured mainly through individual participation, so we warmly encourage everyone to send in their stories!

5.   Contribution to EU policies

The project has a very high European value, resulting from a series of factors:

-   The great value that narrations and storytelling have for the reciprocal knowledge of people and European cultures;

-   The importance of exchanging stories dealing specifically with our sense of European citizenship and of the European struggles for a peaceful Europe;

-   The possibility of creating wide participation that surmount differences of culture, social status or age, thanks to the utilization of Internet; the further possibility that these individuals will not be restricted to interacting on the virtual level only, but also in face-to-face encounters, by means of the storytelling groups in the different countries and the possibility of starting up other European mobility and partnership projects.

-   The possibility that different organizations concerned with memory in Europe may learn about each other and create collaborations represents certain value for Europe.

6.   Extra Heading/Section

The project is characterized by the strong desire to develop interpersonal skills, as it brings into contact people of different ages and cultures, through the possibility to share their life stories.

In the same way we want to give our contribute to the development of intercultural, social and civic skills, necessary for encouraging the meeting of cultures, and the affirmation of active citizenship rights.

(Lisbon Key Competences - Interpersonal, intercultural, social and civic competences.)