

Report: In search of Freedom 1968–2019

In search of Freedom 1968-2018, supported by the Europe for Citizens project, was conceived with a desire to re-examine the message of 1968, promote the importance of remembrance, and foster a cross-border debate about civil participation in shaping democracy. Four partners – Beletrina Academic Press, The National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia, The University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation, and The History Meeting House – from three countries, Slovenia, Spain, and Poland, joined forces to highlight this important and complex legacy, learn from it and be inspired by it.

1. Kick-Off Meeting

Project partners met in Ljubljana for the kick-off meeting to discuss the final methodology for the project implementation, appoint the working team, finalize the programme, and define the valorisation strategy. The event involved 10 citizens, including 7 participants from Ljubljana (Slovenia), 2 participants from Warsaw (Poland) and 1 participant from Barcelona (Spain). The meeting took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 15 and 16 January 2018.

2. Lectures and Panel Discussions

Internationally acclaimed lecturers, Dr Hrvoje Klasić from the University of Zagreb, Dr Mary Nash from the University of Barcelona, and Dr Piotr Oseka of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, presented papers highlighting the circumstances of 1968 in different cultural and political contexts, unearthing their common European dimension. Lectures were followed by a panel discussion that attracted students in particular. The event involved about 156 citizens, including 52 participants from Ljubljana, Slovenia, 52 participants from Barcelona, Spain, and 52 participants from Warsaw, Poland. It took place on 16 March 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 19 April 2018, Barcelona, Spain and on 9 May 2018 in Warsaw, Poland.

3. Memory Archives

The activity involved more than 250 citizens, including 100 participants from Slovenia, 85 participants from Poland and 65 participants from Spain. Testimonies complete with articles and video interviews reflecting on 1968 were collected in Memory Archives in the partner countries. They are available on the MMC news portal www.rtvsllo.si/1968 in Slovenia, at

www.audiohistoria.pl in Poland and <http://europeanmemories.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/testimonies-1.pdf> in Spain..

4. Instagram Contest

Students from all European countries as well as from the USA, Armenia, Philippines, Turkey, and Palestine participated in the Instagram contest In Search of Freedom to share their vision of freedom in 2018. Lasting from 1 February to 30 May 2018, more than 400 entries were collected, the best of which were awarded and exhibited.

5. International travelling exhibition

The international travelling exhibition, a joint effort of all three partners, was first put up at the National Museum of Contemporary History in Slovenia (16 June 2018-16 July 2018), travelling to Warsaw, Poland (6-30 September 2018) where it was put up in the History Meeting House, and finally reaching Spain, where it was displayed at a prestigious and symbolic venue of the Castle of Montjuïc in Barcelona (29 November 2018-30 June 2019). It can now be viewed as an online 260° version: <http://www.muzej-nz.si/360/1968/1968.html>.

The three exhibition openings were attended by 291 visitors, including 138 participants in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 77 participants in Barcelona, Spain, and 76 participants in Warsaw, Poland. In all three partner countries the exhibitions were attended by more than 85.000 visitors.

6. Book of Essays

The book of essays *In Search of Freedom: 1968-2018* features essays by the guest lecturers as well as students from partner countries and images collected in the Instagram contest and the Memory Archive. It is available in English and Slovene in print as well as in e-book format. More than 25 participants, including authors of essays, photographs, translators, editors, language editors, proof readers and designers contributed to the making of the book: 15 from Slovenia, 5 from Poland, and 5 from Spain.

7. Valorisation – Workshop Study Module

The final activity of the project was the production of the workshop study module on the civil rights movement for students. The module presents a historical introduction to the subject of the protest movements in 1968, highlighting its transnational relevance. Five people from Spain worked to produce it.