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## **‘PEOPLE’ PROJECT HELPS YOUNG EUROPEANS UNDERSTAND THE CONTROVERSIAL PAST OF THE MIDDLE OF THE XX CENTURY - AGENDA (10,11,12 MAY, 2022)**

Thursday, 5 May 2022

The theme of the "dissonant heritage" of various totalitarian regimes is becoming increasingly popular throughout Europe, and is carefully examined and explored in all its aspects. Dimitrovgrad Municipality actively participates in these processes of research and analysis, being one of the pioneers in this field with the successful implementation of the ‘ATRIUM’ Project.

Project "Personal stories of discrimination and persecution during the totalitarian regimes of the XX century" (**P**ersonal stories **O**f discrimination and **P**ersecution under the total**L**itarian r**E**gimes of the XX century) - PEOPLE is implemented under the EU program “ Europe for Citizens ”. Partners are: Association ATRIUM from Forlì (Italy), Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria), Shkodra (Albania), Labin (Croatia) and the Association of Portuguese Political Emigrants (Portugal).

Each of the participants will develop a topic related to the main topic of the project. The aim of the project is to attract young people who, based on their own understandings and research, to interpret historical events during this period.

Each partner researches and develops the following specific topics:

- ATRIUM: the ethnic minorities to the eastern borders of Italy during the fascist and Yugoslav regimes in the postwar period;
- Dimitrovgrad: the discrimination against intellectuals during the communist regime
- Labin: the persecution and deportation of Jewish communities during fascism and Nazism;
- Shkodra: the discrimination of different religious communities during the communist regime;
- The Association of Portuguese Political Emigrants: the oppression of political opponents during the Salazar dictatorship.

PEOPLE project helps young Europeans to explore and understand the historical memory of the tragic events of the undemocratic regimes of the twentieth century by helping them to collect personal stories of victims of various forms of discrimination and persecution.

The tangible and intangible heritage of totalitarian regimes, as well as the entire cultural and historical heritage must be carefully researched, promoted and preserved. This is part of the history of every community and country. The aim is for this heritage to be known, understood, displayed, preserved and well managed. To present in their full diversity and light the histories, values, differences and similarities of the European Communities, nations and states.

On May 10, 11 and 12, Dimitrovgrad will host an international meeting within the Project, and the following activities will be held open to the public:

May 10, 2022, Penyo Penev House-Museum, 17.30 h:

- Presentation of a short film about the preparation and implementation of some of the Project activities;
- Poetic composition based on poems by Penyo Penev performed by young people from Dimitrovgrad;
- Presentation of an e-book on "The Case of Penyo Penev";

May 11, 2022, Grosseto Hall, 9:30 h:

□ A conference on "Persecution and discrimination of intellectuals during the communist regime". The conference will feature and present "personal stories" of:

- Professor Plamen Doinov - poet, playwright, literary critic, literary historian, Rector of the New Bulgarian University and winner of this year's Penyo Penev Literary Award;
- Stefan Tsanev - Bulgarian playwright, poet and writer. He is the winner of the Penyo Penev Prize for Poetry (1988) and six other national awards for literature. He was awarded the Stara Planina Order I degree - for overall contribution to Bulgarian culture (2006);
- Kin Stoyanov - Bulgarian public figure, publicist and



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writer with a strong civil position. He is the son of

- the famous dissident poet Radoi Radin, screenwriter and producer, lecturer at the New Bulgarian University;

- Nikolina Umurska - Chief Curator at the Historical Museum of Dimitrovgrad, heads the department "New and Recent History". Expert in identification of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;

- Jivka Shishkova - Longtime Chief Curator of the House Museum "Penyo Penev" in Dimitrovgrad 1987-2021, ATRIUM project manager. She is researcher of the life and work of Penyo Penev and author of numerous works and publications about the poet.

May 12, 2022, The conference hall on the second floor in the building of the Municipality, 10.00 h: Press conference with media representatives.