

Workshop

“Building the peace: discussing the topics of 1990s war, reconciliation and transitional justice with Croatian youth”

10.00 – 14.00, 23th May 2019

Rihub, Rijeka

Introduction

This workshop was implemented by POLKA – *Udruga za razvoj građanske i političke kulture*, from Karlovac, and financed by the European Union in the context of a bigger project named: “Aktivizam civilnog sektora za pomirenje u regionu bivše Jugoslavije – podrška REKOM-u”. The participants have been students from the “Prirodoslovna i grafička škola” in Rijeka, aged 15 to 18 years old.

Workshop content

Initially, the participants filled a questionnaire aiming to collect information about their knowledge about the 1990s war, as well as their sources, their interests and opinions. After that, they were introduced to the Conflict Textiles collection, the work of Roberta Bačić, and to the arpillera “Homenaje a los caídos/Homage to the fallen ones”. Following this overview, participants were given photos connected to the history of the war in Croatia (1991-1995) and invited to create a small doll that linked to the photos. As the workshop drew to a close, all attendees shared their work with the group and discussed the topics of war of the 1990s, reconciliation and transitional justice.

Outcome

At the end of the workshop participants had a good understanding of the Conflict Textiles collection. Seeing an *arpillera* first hand, and engaging with it through the doll making process, helped them develop an appreciation of the origins and significance of arpilleras. In addition, the ‘hands on’ nature of the workshop enabled them to make connections between the events depicted in arpilleras and their own local history, prompting them to reflect more in-depth on these events which has shaped their generation. Also, participants reflected about topics that are generally considered controversial in Croatian society and education, such as the consequences of the war events, the coexistence with Serbian minority and the process of reconciliation.

Written by: Alice Straniero and Tena Banjeglav, 27th May 2019.

Photos taken by: Alice Straniero, 23th May 2019.



Participants at work



The dolls made by the participants