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## **Comfort Zone! Topics, methodologies, and results of the European project**

### **Democracy and e-democracy through the implementation of life skills, participatory cultural research, and creative workshops**

Comfort Zone events come to a successful conclusion. The IoDeposito project, together with partners from seven European countries (Italy, Croatia, Latvia, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Slovenia) has investigated and reframed collective perceptions of European history, identity and cultures to foster dialogue and democratic participation. Implemented under the European CERV program, the project analyzed the historical theme of totalitarianism and democracy-building to derive an important lesson for the present by making use of digital media to reach new generations and provide access on a larger scale to educational content, thus countering misinformation with quality information.

With these goals and by these means, Comfort Zone! has created a lasting network of collaboration among partners, involving more than 700 citizens of different nationalities, ages and social classes who have directly participated in creative activities aimed at inclusive construction of democratic society and more than 3,000 visitors who took part in the project exhibitions. The project concludes with a phase of active dissemination of the results and practices tested, to further encourage the use of creative tools to reinforce democratic participation, in the sensitive context of the approaching European elections.

There are three different approaches the project has taken to achieve its intended results:

- Participatory historical research for different age groups
- live and online participatory events that gave civil society (particularly younger people) a voice on perceptions of the history, values, and democratic functioning of contemporary Europe
- organizing creative workshops led by selected artists, educators and art therapists that engaged young people and their families in a reflection on democracy and e-democracy to foster greater awareness of the democratic process

#### **Project partners**

Besides IoDeposito, the European partners who organized the project initiatives are: [IRSREC FVG](#) (Trieste, Italia), [Carinarnica](#) (Nova Gorica, Slovenia), [Biedriba](#) (Latvia), [Institute for Roma and Minorities](#) (Wuppertal, Germany), [Autre Directions](#) (Amsterdam, Netherlands), [Center For Intercultural Understanding / Coconutwork](#) (Nice, France) and with the support of [Image of War - War Photography Museum](#) (Zagreb, Croatia).