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Application Form

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Action 4

Programme	'Europe for Citizens 2007-2013'
Call for proposals / Programme Guide	'Europe for Citizens 2007-2013' Programme guide
Action	Action 4 'Active European remembrance'
Subaction:	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Event' project (financed on the basis of lump sums and flat rates) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Production & realisation' project (financed on the basis of a detailed budget)
Phase/Round	<i>N/A</i>
Closing date for submission	30 April 2009
Project title (and acronym if any)	The Righteous against the forms of totalitarianism. European identity and conscience on the Web. W.E.Fo.R. - Web European Forest Righteous
Application language	English

B.2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

Please provide a short presentation of your organisation or group (usual activities, affiliations, etc) in relation to the field covered by the project. Not applicable for municipalities or universities.

The **Gardens of the Righteous Committee** started operating in Milan in 1999 and was officially established in 2001. In 2003 it created the first "Garden of the Righteous Worldwide" in Milan and it aims to establish the first "Forest of the Righteous" ideally gathering together all those recognized as Righteous within the different gardens in Europe and in the rest of the world.

The Committee is chaired by **Gabriele Nissim**, a historian and author of books on the subject of the Righteous. Among the founding members is Pietro Kuciukian, President of the *International Committee for the Righteous for the Armenians*, a writer, (a member of the Union of Italy's Armenians), and the honorary Consul of Armenia in Italy. In Sarajevo we founded *Gariwosa*, the section of the Committee for Bosnia-Herzegovina (*Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide Sarajevo*), together with Svetlana Broz who presides it. A Gariwo section for Armenia also exists in Yerevan, and it is supported by the Honorary Consulate of Italy.

The Committee aims at increasing and deepening the knowledge of and interest in the *Righteous*.

In particular, the Committee promotes:

1. the **creation of places of remembrance** (small "forests" in various parts of the world where genocides, mass exterminations, and crimes against humanity occurred during the 20th century) in which trees will be planted to symbolize and represent the **Righteous** following the example of **Yad Vashem's Garden of the Righteous** in Jerusalem;
2. the establishment of **prizes** to be assigned to those who stand out on the subject of the Righteous (through specific actions, or by taking a stance for the safeguarding of remembrance);
3. the historical, philosophical, and juridical **reflection on the experience of the Righteous when faced with the 20th century genocides**, through various cultural activities: meetings with major international scholars, debates, book presentations, essays, surveys, documentaries, discussions in schools, publication of materials;
4. **involvement of the local, national and International institutions;**
5. **presentation of research on the subject and encouragement of remembrance** through various paper and online tools, among them the www.gariwo.net website.

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Events organized by Gariwo:

- December 2000, Padua, **International meeting. There is Always an Option to say 'Yes' or 'No'. The Righteous Against the Genocides of Armenians and Jews**, in cooperation with the Culture Council of Padua and the University of Padua.
- December 2003, Milan, International meeting. **The Righteous in the Gulag. The value of moral resistance to Soviet totalitarianism**, with a section entirely devoted to the Italian victims and the participation of the major representatives of dissent in the USSR. During the meeting, **ceremony at the Garden of the Righteous Worldwide, to dedicate a tree to Andrej Sacharov.**
- November 2005 **dedication of the Valsesia Park to the Italian victims of Stalinism.**
- June 2007, Saint Petersburg, *Levashovo Memorial Cemetery*, **ceremony of inauguration of a stele for the Italian victims of Stalinism**, participation of a delegation of the Committee led by Gabriele Nissim, at the presence of the highest authorities of both nations.
- October 2008, Università degli Studi di Milano, **meeting of Gabriele Nissim with Tat'jana Jankelevic**, the daughter of Elena Bonner, **on: The legacy of Andrej Sacharov in today's Russia.** On the same day **ceremony in honor of Andrej Sacharov at the Garden of the Righteous Worldwide.**
- January 2009, Milan, International meeting **Memory and relevance of the Righteous**, with the top experts from Paris, Washington, and Sarajevo.

On November 13th 2008 the **Associazione per il Giardino dei Giusti di Milano (Association for the Garden of the Righteous of Milano)** was established together with the Milan City Administration and the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities.

Upon our proposal to create Gardens of the Righteous or dedicate trees in streets, squares, or schools, many **Gardens** were created and many ceremonies were held, in **Palermo, Linguaglossa, Bellaria, Catania, Levico Terme, Padua and so on.**

From 2000 onwards, Gariwo organized debates, presentations of books and seminars with the students, among which:

- in 2005 the **series of meetings at the Armenian House in Milan** with some exemplary figures about their experience of moral resistance: Consul Antonio Costa in Rwanda, professor Jurij Malcev in the Gulag, publisher Ragip Zarakolu in Turkey, lawyer Mehrangiz Kar in Iran;
- in 2002 at the Casa della Cultura (House of Culture) of Milan the **presentation of Pietro Kuciukian's book *Voci nel deserto (Voices in the Desert)***, on the figures of the Righteous for the Armenians and in 2006 a presentation of **Khaled Fouad Allam's book *La solitudine dell'Occidente (The Loneliness of the West)***, on the relationships between Islam and the West.
- In November 2007, at the Università Bicocca of Milan, an International Meeting ***Memory of the good and pathways to reconciliation*** with Svetlana Broz from Sarajevo.

Every year in Bologna there is a final meeting recapitulating the work of the schools within the network "**Storia e memoria**" ("**History and Memory**") on the educational syllabi of the European project concerning the **Righteous in the history of the 20th Century in Europe**, for which the Committee provides free scientific and logistic support.

All over Italy the Committee organizes **presentations of Gabriele Nissim's books on the subject of the Righteous**, for which he was honored in Rome by the President of the Italian Republic in 2007 and 2008, at the Italian Chamber of Deputies, at the Bulgarian National Assembly, at the German Parliament and at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, between 1998 and 1999.

E.2. Programme of activities: Structure and content / European dimension

- Please indicate the activities which will allow you to implement the project throughout its lifecycle, and their relevance both to this measure and to the target group.

The **W.E.F.o.R.** Web communication project will be carefully prepared starting from the experience ripened by Gariwo over 8 years particularly in the management and use of the site www.gariwo.net. Considering the complexity of the goals, it will continue the development with the cooperation of specialised firms and professionals. This experience has proven the usefulness and importance of the Web communication in the spreading of information on the topic of the "Righteous". In 2008 in particular we detected a rise in the visits with +71% new contacts. Furthermore, via the e-mail shown in the site, we received numerous:

- requests for **learning material** from the schools;
- requests for information on the modalities necessary to **build a garden of the righteous from local institutions, associations and common citizens**;
- suggestions of significant stories regarding the Righteous.

The **growing requests for information** and the corresponding growing interest in the topic of the "Righteous" and the logistic and bureaucratic difficulties in concretely creating a Garden of the Righteous made us understand the usefulness of a **European virtual Forest of the Righteous**, which everyone can easily **visit, reach and benefit from** and which can become an **effective, participatory** tool and a tool enabling to **spread values and exchange information and experiences**.

The **W.E.F.o.R. Web project** will be structured into sections and will be designed following models at the forefront of innovation:

1. A section devoted to the **Virtual gardens of the European righteous**, split into geographical areas. Every Garden will gather textual, video, audio, and photographic information relating to the Righteous remembered in the garden.

The first core we wish to create will concern some of the following:

- **the garden of Milan**, already existing (trees dedicated to the Italian Shoah Righteous, to Andrej Sacharov, Dusko Kondor, Hrant Dink and others);
 - **the garden of Sofia and Kjustendil** (for Dimitar Peshev and others);
 - **the garden of Thessaloniki** (for Guelfo Zamboni and others);
 - **the garden of Paris** (dedicated to the Righteous in the Armenian, Jewish genocides and to the resistants of the gulag);
 - **the garden of Sarajevo** (for Dragan Andric and others);
 - **the garden of Yerevan**, already existing (trees and memorial stones in the Wall of Remembrance dedicated to Armin Wegner, Anatole France, Karen Jeppe and others);
 - **the garden of Saint Petersburg in Levashovo**, where there are already many steles dedicated to the victims of Stalinism in the various European Countries involved in the purges. In this case the virtual garden will gather information both on the victims already remembered and the survivors and the unheard witnesses, and the forgotten stories or resistance to Stalinism of Italian (Masutti, Piccioni, De Marchi) and Russian (Pavlovna, Efron) women.
2. A **papers and research** section, which will collect advanced material on the concept of the Righteous and comparative analysis of the figures of the Righteous in the different forms of totalitarianism. It is important to notice how figures opposing the Extreme Evil showed up all over Europe under very different circumstances and with very different expressions: thus the opposition of the Righteous to the Shoah and nazism was operationally distant from the resistance to totalitarianism in the Eastern Countries, which was mainly characterized by the phenomenon of dissidence. In particular this section will contain reflection hints such as:
 - materials produced by the Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide Committee;
 - degree theses;
 - materials elaborated by other experts (surveys of university professors, papers for meetings and so on).

The **W.E.F.o.R.** Web project will be structured into two macroareas:

- **3D Web macroarea: the threedimensional representation of the European Forest of the Righteous** will be realised through the three-dimension modelling of environments (gardens) and objects, which will enable the users to navigate as if immersed in the Garden and to interact with the elements present in the environment. We will use forms of synchronic (chat) and asynchronous (downloadable files, e-mail) dialogue to increase the level of participation and above all to favor the communication of the new generations. See the technological detail of this framework in **Appendix A**.
- **2D Web multimedia and interactive macroarea:** in its bidimensional pages, the site will comprise several **interactive tools** which the users will be able to access by registering and that will enable them to exchange experiences, information, documentation and opinions so that the active participation, the building of virtual commemoration events, ceremonies and celebrations is favored.

In particular we will implement: forum, social network, forms for the collection of stories and significant experiences. For **W.E.F.o.R.** we will implement an activity of analysis and identification of the keyword for the indexation into the main search engines. The Web project will have dynamic technological characteristics (**Appendix A**) which will enable a **direct management of the contents** by the dedicated operators, an easy update and an easy use of the interactive tools.

We attach a first hypothetical **homepage** preview and the advanced Web design models which will extend to its maximum power the usability and effectiveness of information (**Appendix B**).

Necessary **activities** for the realization of the project (**GANTT** in **Appendix C**).

1. **General planning for W.E.Fo.R.** This activity includes detailed planning: analysis of the required schedule and budget; technical planning of the architectural framework; technical design for the 2D framework and the necessary tools for the Web 2.0; technical design for the 3D framework; analysis of the interface design and ergonomical analysis; planning the editorial content of the site; planning for marketing and communication; and planning the website unveiling (a special event).
The website will be designed by a team from Gariwo with the help of professionals in the field.
2. **Implementation of the technological architecture.** This activity will be realized by analysts, technicians and specialized programmers. It will be subdivided in the following phases: implementation of the framework for the 2D website and interactive tools specific to the Web 2.0, implementation of the 3D framework built to recreate the European Forest and the individual Gardens; implementation of the collective framework for the project; testing and debugging.
3. **Designing and constructing a first prototype for the website (2D + web 2.0 modules + 3D).** In this phase we will construct a first prototype to verify aspects of the architecture of information and the overall technological architecture. These phases will be: analysis of the requirements for the demo version of the application; designing and constructing the interface for the demo application; planning for the editorial content; development of multimedia content; implementation of the demo application; and testing and debugging. During this phase, we will translate the main content and request the contribution of other cultural partners. Special attention will be given to the comparative analysis of the figures of the Righteous in different historical moments in which they found themselves acting in, and we will highlight the in depth discussion of the concept of Righteous stemming from the above analysis.
4. **Design and realization of a reconstructed 3D prototype. While implementing the above action (3), we will develop the prototype for the first Garden which will then be integrated into the final design.** The anticipated phases will be: analysis of the requirements for the demo application; design and construction of the interface for the demo application; creation of a 3D space (primitive virtual environment); planning for the editorial content; development of multimedia content; implementation of the demo application; testing and debugging.
5. **Application “W.E.Fo.R. – Web European Forest Righteous”.** Complete development of the web project, construction of the application and its definite navigational interface; testing and debugging; web publication; and lastly launch and promotional events (seminars, etc) to promote the project.
6. **Activities of Communication and Distribution.** Since the first planning phase, we will define a plan which will describe in detail the modes of advertising the project. In particular:
 - using public appearances which Gariwo will participate in;
 - sending newsletters to the Gariwo mailing list with information on the project;
 - the periodic publication of news relating to the project on the Gariwo website, and on the websites of cultural and technological partners.
 - the organization of press conferences to present the project, one of which will be to the European Commission.
 - The redaction of periodical press statements addressed to national and international newspapers and magazines;
 - The creation of a network of users/partners.

The aim of the web project is to distribute information, but mainly to **create a network of individuals** who will use and contribute to that information. To reach this goal we will identify, based on the pre-existing network of contacts for Gariwo, those individual entities (schools, teachers, societies, institutions, etc) which will best contribute to the expansion of those contacts, to the spreading and germinating within the fabric of society of those values promoted by this project. These individuals will be directly approached by Gariwo, they will be informed of the project and encouraged to participate, both by using its contents and by contributing to its distribution and elaboration. A primary nucleus of contacts, which have already been successfully informed of the project, include: the network of schools in Emilia Romagna “Storia e Memoria” (History and Memory), Arifs (a network of teachers), cultural centres (Asteria Centre), UGEI (Unione Giovani Ebrei d’Italia – The Union of Young Jews in Italy), the Jewish Museum at Thessaloniki, the Peshev Museum at Kjustendil, the Karta and HMH centre in Warsaw, the Nubar Library in Paris, the “Names Which Were Returned” Memorial of Levashovo in Saint Petersburg, as well as the Sarajevo and Yerevan chapters of Gariwo. The network will also be expanded through contacting the relatives of exemplary figures and other witnesses. Through the network, individuals will be able to connect, talk, and interact. A moderator from Gariwo will continuously monitor the development of the network, chaperoning and encouraging the connections between participants, periodically highlighting whatever critiques will emerge so as to improve and overcome them. The entire

- activity will be monitored and its results collected and documented.
7. **Administrative activity.** Final report on the project.

E.3. Coherence and exhaustiveness of the action plan: Working method / Active participation

- Please indicate the working methods chosen to develop the theme and the way the work has been shared out to bring the project to fruition.

The web project **W.E.Fo.R.** will be developed by a **team of experts on the topic, experts of advanced web communication, professionals of software development, and will be coordinated by a project manager.** At the start, the project manager will, in collaboration with the entire team, define a detailed work schedule, including activities, time frames for development, financial figures involved and the roles that must be covered. Periodically, the team will meet to verify the status of the project (see GANTT Appendix C) and, if things appear to have deviated from that schedule, the team will proceed to rectify it.

The Gariwo scientific committee will take care of analysing the collected data and of its elaboration, and will count on the collaboration of experts, researchers, university faculty, both Italian and foreign.

While structuring the contents of the "Gardens for the Righteous" section, we will favour web-friendly layouts and we will use the most innovative and advanced technologies to do so, while guaranteeing base standards of accessibility.

The relationship with the European Committee will be maintained by the project manager, while the administrative aspects (cost verification, budgeting, reports, etc) will be managed by an appointed administrator.

The contacts needed for the gathering of necessary materials will be made through direct channels or newly activated channels.

The website will be implemented by professionals in the field of new media and the various phases thereof will be periodically validated by the entire team staff. Once published, periodic qualitative and quantitative surveys will be made of the site to verify usability.

Before any material is published, we will make sure it is not under copyright and, if that appears to be the case, secure any necessary permission before using it.

E.4. Expected impact of the project

- Please indicate the expected impact on the target groups and the possible future development of sustainable cooperation networks. - For projects under action 4, please indicate their impact on intergenerational dialogue and on the transfer of a historic memory to the younger generations.

The **W.E.Fo.R.** web project aims to reach out to the new generations (young people and students alike), to women, and to the elderly. **Intergenerational dialogue** is guaranteed both through the transmission to young people of the testimony of the elderly as they recount their experiences with the moral figures under discussion, and in the form of memories within shared recountings, as examples of behaviour and action that will be found in the collected biographies of the Righteous. Young people will find these stories while they search the website for educational or personal purposes. The presence on the website of a wide range of didactic material and links to educational resources will allow a transnational dialogue (Project Erasmus, schools with websites, teachers' networks) and will ensure the best possible conditions for this exchange.

The tools of the forum and the social network will act to promote discussion and to encourage the understanding of the values expressed in the presented material, especially within the younger generations which are used to dealing with newer technologies. The reflection upon the themes relative to the founding values of the European identity is a great stimulus in the creation of a European critical conscience and of a citizenship based on the knowledge of a shared history, and it can be a starting point to a communal belonging projected towards a shared future.

The **W.E.Fo.R.** project intends to:

- a. Suggest the creation of specific sections regarding the Righteous within the history of the 20th century to bodies involved in **research, study, and the exchange of documentation**; sections which would deal with the themes of Righteous resistance or with the Righteous figures themselves, and that would be made available to visitors of both the physical loci, such as museums, memorials, etc, and the virtual representations thereof, with dedicated expositions, guided tours, paper or multimedia presentations, and the use of interactive tools in linked websites;
- b. **Propose the creation of places of remembrance for the Righteous** (in particular Gardens for the Righteous) to public institutions, from national and European parliaments, to regional bodies, to provinces and cities of the European regions which will be contacted to further the research and elaboration of the material for this project.

In this way, the project sets the goal of preparing the foundations for subsequent communal efforts, which could last through time, with associations and institutions mentioned above, granting the citizens involved in the project a shared European perspective, uniting a **shared memory of the past to the construction of a communal future**.

E.5. Visibility, follow-up and evaluation of the project

-Please indicate any measures you have envisaged for raising awareness of the project among the general public and at different political levels and describe the communication tools you have used.

- Please describe how the results of the project and its immediate impact will be evaluated.

For the W.E.Fo.R. project, we will give a launching press conference in Brussels (proposed title: "Europe of the Righteous"), coverage of the project on paper news sources and on the web through a web and television marketing campaign, focusing on the countries most involved with the subject (Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic). In Italy, the announcement of the project launch will be given also through the RAI program Trasmissione Europa, which is shown via satellite all over Europe.

The implementation of the website will follow XHTML 1.0 standards, granting access from all web platforms and a high prevalence of the contents in search engines. To ensure that, contents will be selected and highlighted with the use of keywords in every page of the website to optimise the indexing of the site in search engines. WE will also implement a targeting campaign of web marketing.

The W.E.Fo.R. project will enable us to send the collected research on the "**Forgotten Righteous**" to the governments of the countries involved in their histories (for example, Bulgaria and Germany in regards to Peshev, Italy and Greece for Zamboni, France with regards to the Mosque of Paris, countries in Eastern Europe for those Righteous within Communist totalitarianism) and to the European parliament to obtain their **rehabilitation or celebration and remembrance of their lives highlighting their transnational character to various nations' public opinion, and their great important as transversal figures both in a political sense and as the embodiment of a sense of Europeanism.**

W.E.Fo.R. will enable the cooperation between associations which employ similar views on helpful European representations, with which to kick start collaborations in order to reach shared goals (for the importance of these issues to be recognized on a political level) , especially in the wake of what just happened with the resolution approved by the European Parliament on April 2nd 2009 (the acknowledgement of the crimes of Communism), as demanded by the Czech group "Prague Declaration", whom Gariwo is in contact with.

The results of the project will be evaluated on the basis of the interest generated by the new content published online (link requests, RSS membership, number of visitors to the web pages), of the shared nature of the educational paths produced, to the use of the form to notify us of worthy experiences, to forum posts, web visits, memberships and traffic on social networks such as Facebook and Youtube.

If one or more of the three available types of **communication tools** are to be used in the project, please indicate how each one is to be produced, describing content, format, the amount to be produced and how they will be distributed:

Publication:

DVD/CD-ROM:

Website: