



## REMEMBER: REsearch and Music CommEMorating the Victims of Totalitarian Regimes in Bulgaria and Eastern EuRope

### Project Synopsys

The REMEMBER project is designed to promote **civil participation and engagement** in events commemorating the victims of totalitarian regime, with a special emphasis on **involvement of youth** in dedicated activities requiring active input and targeted efforts for developing of common European consciousness of the historical heritage. The project will build on existing activities already being successful in introducing the topic in the public agenda, but will also develop **innovative content and initiatives** with potential to increase the interest of relevant social groups usually left outside the scope of the actions, also attracting significant media attention.

As required by the Europe for Citizens Programme, the project is organized around two major events in Bulgaria with significant potential for international cooperation, establishing of common European heritage and EU-wide dissemination of the outcomes. The first of them is an **international conference in the city of Belene** – the place where the biggest concentration camp from the Communist era is situated. It is planned for May 2020, on the day before the Annual Commemoration on the island of Belene. The conference entitled “Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes” will bring together representatives of the Bulgarian research community and the project partners from Germany, Croatia, Romania and Albania and will discuss the specifics in the totalitarian regimes in the different countries which reflected on the history of the concentration camps, as well as the specifics in the transition from totalitarianism to democracy in the different countries, including opening of the archives, privatization procedures, specific laws for lustration. The conference will be accompanied by a number of supporting activities, as dedicated research, on-site exhibition, and, of course, presentation of the results from the music contest initiated by the project (see below). The outcomes of the conference would be presented at relevant EU-wide events in partner countries.

The second major event is specifically addressing young people: the REMEMBER project plans to organize an **international student contest for a song**, dedicated to the memory of the victims of the communist concentration camps. The initiative comes into precisely the right time, as after decades of neglecting, from 2020 the communist period will be included in the school programme. All partner countries will announce the competition locally, and the winners will be presented in a final concert in Bulgaria, trying to raise maximum publicity and attract public attention to the topic, as the project team has already ensured support of popular Bulgarian musicians for the concert. The best performers will also be supported with a professional audio recording, as a CD with the winning songs will be recorded and disseminated at relevant events in all countries. Additionally, the songs will be disseminated through open platforms as Bandcamp, SoundCloud and of course, YouTube, as well as on the websites of the project partners, which will support the EU-wide promotion of the outcomes of the project.

The project will apply for financing under the ["Europe for Citizens" programme](#), Strand 1: European remembrance; Priority 2: Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes”. The deadline for submission of the application is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. The project is expected to start in the second half of 2019 and continue for 18 months.

For further contacts: Arch. Alexander Genchev, email: [alexander@solair-bg.eu](mailto:alexander@solair-bg.eu), phone: +359 (0) 899 844 683