



Anne Frank – a History for Today, The Anne Frank House (2013)

Partner 7: National Museum of Contemporary History, Slovenia > Kaja Širok

1. Exhibition Concept

Travelling exhibition is designed to travel around the world with the intention to highlight the meaning of the human rights, breaking the stereotypes and spread the awareness about crimes against human beings. Specialty of this exhibition, which has travelled to more than 40 countries around the world, is the way of presenting it to the visitors. The exhibition gets its extra value only if there is a guided tour. Guided tours are performed only by the high school students or young people, who have been voluntarily educated by the Anne Frank House. The Anne Frank House's training equips the youngsters to be able to firstly understand the whole situation and second, to be able to share their knowledge especially with their peers and with other audience. Basically the wealth of the exhibition lies within its simplicity and the concept of guided tours. The exhibition was hosted also in National Museum of Contemporary History and in three other spots around Slovenia, where it was admission free.

1. Reception

The international exhibition "Anne Frank – a history for today" has travelled all over the world, and is presented more than 300 times per year. The worldwide tour is coordinated by the Anne Frank House, but the local organization is in the hands of partner organizations.

2. Exhibition Design

Since this is a travelling exhibition, it is designed to send it around as easy as possible. It contains a set of one or two sided scrolls, 2.3m high with text and appealing photos from Anne's life (the majority) and crimes against human beings in the last few decades.

3. Visitors Approach-Activation/Participation

The Anne Frank exhibition is primarily aimed at young people between the age of 11 and 18. In many countries young people act as guides to the exhibition. They are prepared for this task with special training, where they learn about the background to the exhibition, but also how they can communicate its content to the people of their own age and how they can introduce more general themes such as tolerance and discrimination.

Besides informing the visitors about the history of the Holocaust from the perspective of Anne Frank and her family, the Anne Frank House aims to challenge visitors to think about concepts such as tolerance, mutual respect, human rights and democracy.

Since the story is told through a life of a young girl, full of dreams, it makes the content of the exhibition easier to understand and relate to for the audience.

4. Conclusion: Anne Frank – travelling exhibition in respect to the COP1 and COP2

The exhibition's content exceeds the national and even European interest. It deals with human problems - something as fundamental as human rights and human value - which were present all over the globe. Besides this the exhibition always includes examples of such crimes from or near the area of the hosting country to enable the debate and the identification of the local visitors (Toolkit 1 – the object immanent, comparative, and thematic and beyond Europe approach). In this matter the topic in NMCH besides Anne's life was the WW2 (which threatened the whole EU) and crimes in our neighboring countries



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(Toolkit 2 – integrating cultural Europe - social arena). Concerning the activation, participation and & role modification – the important point of visitor's participation and activation lies in the fact, that (at least in Slovenia) students were in charge for everything concerning the exhibition. They were the ones, who moved it around Slovenia, carried out the setting up of the display and took care of the guided tours. The approach itself gives the teenagers a chance to meet the museums in another aspect, to be the leaders and to attract their peers (Toolkit 3). The topics and photos are the ones to inspire or shock the audience and stimulate the debate. Every visitor can understand the displayed content on their own way. Also the emotional influence of the shown depends on the each individual separately (Toolkit 4 – synesthetic translation of perspective).

Regarding the social web and interaction – unfortunately there is nothing more than a web page, where the project and the hosting countries are presented, everything in English language. But the point of the exhibition and the project does not lay in the online connection (despite its potential), but in the live visit of the exhibition (Toolkit 5).

5. Bibliography

<http://www.annefrank.org/en/Education/Travelling-exhibition/> (14.08.2013)

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.432632400139064.94238.111039752298332> (14.08.2013)





Training of the new guides - Young people are trained to be guides on the Anne Frank exhibition (photo: Austria, 2007).



A glimpse into a guided tour in Slovenia - Guided tour by a high school student on a culture day, NMCH (photo: Urška Purg, 2013).