



# REMEMBRANCE IN TIME

## Part I

- ◆ COMMUNIST REGIMES – REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE
- ◆ POLICIES OF COMMUNIST REGIMES
- ◆ CONDEMNING COMMUNISM
- ◆ EUROPE UNITED – REMEMBRANCE, RESPECT AND OPENING
- ◆ EUROPEAN PROJECT “PAST MEMORY FOR A FUTURE OPEN SOCIETY”

## Part II

Proceedings of the International Symposium

COMMUNIST REGIMES – RECENT MEMORY FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY (in Romanian language)/

Lucrări susținute la Simpozionul Internațional

REGIMURILE COMUNISTE – MEMORIE RECENTĂ PENTRU O SOCIETATE DESCHISĂ

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## FOREWORD

The programme “Europe for Citizens” is of utmost interest for Europe’s citizens. Of the proposed actions, Action 4 – Active European Remembrance brings to the forefront the European values - freedom, democracy, human rights, and their observance.

The comprehension and compliance with these values is fostered by knowing the atrocities of war and the serious infringements by Nazism and Stalinism, of the principles and norms ruling a harmonious life.

Under the slogan “Memory, Respect, and Opening” the European project “OPENNESS - Past Memory for a Future Open Society” has had every intention *sine ira et studio* to restore the collective memory regarding the historical stage of communist regime establishment throughout Central and Eastern Europe, at the end of the Second World War. In these countries, having entered USSR’s sphere of influence, the rise to power of the Communist Parties and the establishment of the communist totalitarianism was achieved by a frenzied anti-democratic campaign, marked by terror and repression, wherein democratic values were eliminated from society, and the opponents to the new “popular” regime had to endure the calvary of prisons, deportations and labour camps.

Along with our partners from Bulgaria - *St. Cyril and St. Methodius* University, Veliko Târnovo, from Germany - *Carl Von Ossietzky* University of Oldenburg and the Federal Institute for Culture and History of Germans in Eastern Europe, from Hungary - *Emlekpont* Museum of Hodmezovasarhely, and our partners from Romania, *Negru Vodă* Cultural Foundation of Făgăraș, *Transilvania* University of Brașov, the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of Romanian Exile, *Casa Mureșenilor* Museum, we have aimed at engaging young people in researching the establishment of communist totalitarianism in the communities where we live and at knowing how democratic traditional values were removed from social life, by infringing the citizens’ rights and liberties, by violence and terror.

Comprehending the need to comply with the human rights and the rule of law, with the social cohesion, in terms of equal opportunities and elimination of whatsoever discriminations, on grounds of nationality, language, religion, gender and handicap, helps us to overcome the errors of the past and to promote the fundamental values recognized nowadays by all Europeans: democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The closeness between the members of the local communities across Europe, with a view to sharing opinions and values and exchanging experience, learning from history and building the future, gives us hope that a European country will never again be abandoned to totalitarian terror and war. “This should never happen again!” only then can we talk about a Europe of peace and freedom.

This e-book, entitled “REMEMBRANCE IN TIME” includes the papers defended by the participants in the four events organized in Bulgaria, Germany, Romania and Hungary, during the year 2012:

- International Conference “Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe – Hopes, Disappointment, Recapitulations” organized from 19 to 22 March 2012, at *St. Cyril and St. Methodius* University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria;
- International Conference “A Democratic Europe – Remembrance, Unity and Cultural Diversity”, organized from 7 to 10 May 2012, at *Carl Von Ossietzky* University of Oldenburg, Germany;
- International Symposium “Communist Regimes – Recent Memory for an Open Society” organized from 1 to 6 August 2012, at Fagaras and *Brancoveanu* Academy from Sambata, Romania;
- International Colloquium “Remembrance in Time – Memorial Museums” organised at *Emlékpont* Museum of Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary.

The papers were divided in two parts, and structured on the following topics:

## **Part I**

- ◆ Communist Regimes – Repression and Resistance
- ◆ Policies of Communist Regimes
- ◆ Condemning Communism
- ◆ Europe United – Remembrance, Respect and Opening
- ◆ European Project “Past Memory for a Future Open Society”

## **Part II**

Proceedings of the International Symposium  
„Communist Regimes – Recent Memory for an Open Society”  
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Lucrări susținute la Simpozionul Internațional  
„Regimurile Comuniste – Memorie Recentă pentru o Societate Deschisă”.

In these papers, the outcomes of the research activities and of the oral – testimony recovery and the documentation campaigns are submitted, along with the reflections and debates on understanding and promoting human European values.

We hope for the readers to find a moment’s respite in order to reflect on the events, options and opinions expressed in this book and to participate with us in future activities, generously supported by the programmes of United Europe.

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