RENATA FRANC, VANJA MEDUGORAC,
Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb

YOUTH AND HISTORY
findings from
MYPLACE project
Memory, youth, political legacy and civic engagement

Cost Action IS 1205
Social psychological dynamics of
historical representations in the enlarged European Union
WG2 meeting Fribourg
9-10 September 2014
This project has received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 266831.

**MYPLACE**

Memory, Youth, Political Legacy And Civic Engagement.

**Homepage**

**Concept**

MYPLACE explores how young people’s social participation is shaped by the shadows (past, present and future) of totalitarianism and populism in Europe (read more ...).

**Work Packages**

A summary of the Work Packages through which the research objectives of MYPLACE will be realised. (read more ...).

**Impacts**

MYPLACE will contribute towards the expected impacts listed in the European Union’s ‘Participation and citizenship in Europe’ work programme (read more ...).
**MYPLACE**: *(Memory, Youth, Political Legacy and Civic Engagement)*

- A four-year, €7.9 Million EC funded project

- Exploring how young people’s social participation is shaped by the shadows (past, present and future) of totalitarianism and populism in Europe


**MYPLACE** combines survey, interview and ethnographic research to provide new, pan-European data that not only measures levels of participation but captures the meanings young people attach to it:

- Exploring the construction and transmission of historical memory with focus groups and around 120 inter-generational interviews (Work Package 2)
- Measuring young people’s participation using a survey delivered in 14 countries with 17,000 respondents (Work Package 4)
- Understanding that participation using 900 in-depth follow up interviews (Work Package 5).
- Interpreting young people’s activism through at least 42 ethnographic case studies (Work Package 7).

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Fieldwork
end of 2012
beginning 2013
Coordinator: Hilary Pilkington, University of Manchester, UK
### Structure of presentation

#### Descriptive and comparative data

- Interest for history
- Importance of commemorating the past
- Importance of historical events for country
- WWII importance – Croatia
Data sources WP4 and WP5

**Survey** - 14 countries
Semi-structured interviews – Croatian data

**Survey**
- by face to face survey on representative probabilistic samples of young person (16-25 years) on two locations in each country (N=around 600 on each location)
- (city districts) in Zagreb, Croatia (N=1217)

**Interviews**
- follow-up semi-structured interviews on the subsample of surveys participants (N=around 30 per each location 60)
- Croatia N=61
Survey data

• Interest in recent history (last 100 years) of the country (1 item) –
• Frequency of involvement in 12 different activities related to history (in the last 12 months)
Would you say that you are interested in the recent history (last 100 years) of [COUNTRY]?

![Bar chart showing interest levels in recent history of various countries]
In the last 12 months, how many times have you:

1- Never, 2- occasionally, 3 regularly,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>talked with your grandparents about the past</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talked with your parents about the past</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>researched family history</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attended a veterans’ parade or showed support during a remembrance day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>participated in a discussion about history at school or in college</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watched a film that was set in recent historical circumstances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>played a video game that re-enacts events in the 20th century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watched a documentary about events in the 20th century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visited a webpage with historic content / discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read a novel set in recent historical circumstances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read a non fiction publication about the recent past</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visited a museum with an exhibition about the recent past</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the last 12 months, how many times have you:

1- Never, 2- occasionally, 3 regulary,
In the last 12 months, how many times have you:

1-Never, 2- occasionally, 3- regularly,
POPULAR CULTURE

- Film
- Documentary
- Video game
- Web
- Novel
- Non-fiction

Countries:
- Finland
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Russia
- Georgia
- Slovakia
- Hungary
- Croatia
- East Germany
- West Germany
- Greece
- Portugal
- Spain
- UK

MYPLACE

Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Component 2</th>
<th>Component 3</th>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>.32</td>
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<td>attended a veterans’ parade or showed support during a remembrance day</td>
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<td>participated in a discussion about history at school or in college</td>
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<td>.35</td>
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<td>watched a film that was set in recent historical circumstances</td>
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<td>.82</td>
<td>-.38</td>
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<td>watched a documentary about events in the 20th century</td>
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<td>.72</td>
<td>-.52</td>
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<td>visited a webpage with historic content / discussions</td>
<td>.51</td>
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<td>-.50</td>
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<td><strong>read a novel set in recent historical circumstances</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- .82</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>read a non fiction publication about the recent past</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>- .79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visited a museum with an exhibition about the recent past</td>
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<td>-.64</td>
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</table>

Comparison of 5 clusters with regard to involvement in different activities (Croatian data)
COMMENORATION THE PAST
Comparison of perceived importance of commemorating the country’s past (0-10 scale)
Explanations why commemorating the past is important (interviews findings – Croatia)

- Learning from history
- As a expression of empathy and gratitude to the victims and their families
- For national identity
- Every country do it
Bivariate correlations between importance of commemorating the country past with interest in recent country history and national pride

-0.15 West Germany
-0.15 East Germany
0.09 Spain
0.10 Georgia
0.14 UK
0.14 Portugal
0.14 Denmark
0.22 Russia
0.23 Hungary
0.30 Slovakia
0.32 Estonia
0.33 Finland
0.34 Latvia
0.34 Croatia
0.36 Greece

interest in the recent history (last 100 years) of [COUNTRY]
Determinants of
- interest in history
- importance of commemorating the past

• **Sociodemographic**: Gender, Age (years), Social class, Majority/Minority status

• **Political sophistication**: Personal interest in politics – one item; Political knowledge (3 items)

• The left-right self-placement 0-10 scale

• **Religiosity**: 11 point scale (0 to 10)

• **National identity**
  – National pride (1 item)
  – Ethnic conceptualization (2 items, r=.65)
### DEPENDENT VARIABLE - INTEREST IN HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R Square Change</th>
<th>Finland</th>
<th>Denmark</th>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>Latvia</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Hungary</th>
<th>Slovakia</th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>East G.</th>
<th>West G.</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Spain</th>
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<td>SD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

#### POLITICAL SOFISTICATION

| 11 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 12 |

#### IDEOLOGY

| 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

#### NATIONAL IDENTITY

| 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

16 | 13 | 34 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 15 | 17
## DEPENDENT VARIABLE – COMMEMORATING THE PAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Estonia</th>
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<th>Georgia</th>
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<th>East G.</th>
<th>West G.</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17  5  17  20  4  11  11  13  15  8  9  7  19  3  5
IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS FOR NATIONAL HISTORY
Previous findings

• Egocentric / direct involvement / self-relevance (salience of Eurocentrism, followed by nation-level ethnocentrism)
• Recency
• Salience of war and politics
• Difference between closed ended and open ended question
How important do you think the following have been in the history of [COUNTRY]?
( 1-5; important, very important)

- World War I (1914-1918)
- World War II (1939 - 1945),
- Fascism
- The Holocaust
- Cold War (1945 - 1989),
- Communism
- Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of socialist regimes,
- The NY terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001,
- Signature of the Accession Treaty of Croatia,
- Croatian Homeland War
- the Independent State of Croatia (NDH during the WW2)
SALIENCE OF WWII

World War I (1914 - 1918)
World War II (1939 - 1945)
Cold War (1945 - 1989)
Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of socialist regimes (1989 - 1991)
The Holocaust

Fascism

Finland (810) DENMARK (n=804) Estonia (N=1236) Latvia (N=1195) Georgia (N=1098) Russia (N=1147) Hungary (N=1140) Slovakia (N=1147) Croatia (N=1127) East Germany (N=1216) West Germany (N=931) UK (N=1069) Greece (N=1173) Portugal (N=1120) Spain (N=1173)
WAR WORLD I

World War I (1914 - 1918)

Cold War (1945 - 1989)

Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of socialist regimes (1989 - 1991)

The Holocaust

World War II (1939 - 1945)

Fascism
World War I (1914 - 1918)
Cold War (1945 - 1989)
Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of socialist regimes (1989 - 1991)
The Holocaust
Fascism

COMMUNISM

Finland (n=804)
DENMARK (N=1236)
Estonia (N=1098)
Latvia (N=1195)
Georgia (N=1147)
Russia (N=1140)
Hungary (N=1140)
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UK (N=1069)
Greece (N=1173)
Portugal (N=1120)
Spain (N=1173)

MYPLACE

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Croatian Context

Totalitarian (right & left) Past

1941 – NDH, Pavelić, Ustasha, Holocaust
1945 – Socialist Yugoslavia, Tito, Communist Atrocities

Transition

1989 – Democratisation
1991 – The Homeland War
1992 – Republic of Croatia
2013 – EU

Social and Economic Changes, Retraditionalisation, ‘New Rich Class’, Economic Crisis (Recession), High Unemployment, etc.
Croatia (N=1127)
Perceived importance of recent historical events - survey CROATIAN findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeland war</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature of the Accession Treaty of Croatia (Brussels, 09.11.2011)</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent State of Croatia</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communism</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWI</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facism</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of socialist regimes (1989-1991)</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Holocaust</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold war</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11th 2001</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MYPLACE, funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities
Semi-structured interviews

What do you find most interesting and/or important about Croatia’s past?

RES: So much of it, the WW2 and I do not know, then we were not a Croatia, it was Yugoslavia and the Kingdom of SHS and everything, we’ve never had our own state until... Twenty years ago, anyway. So, then I'm telling you - the First World War, Homeland War, I think it's a little ridiculous, but I can only think of the wars. Now there was also a period of, uh, uh, I just cannot remember anything except wars.

(AD08PEŠ)
What do you find most interesting and/or important about Croatia’s past?

RES: Well, separation from Yugoslavia. First is, the declaration of independence. RES: Homeland War. Storm (*military operation during the Homeland War*) and victory. **Third place in France 1998 (World Cup in football).**

(AD03PEŠ)

rarely someone mentioned event *not* related to war or politics
### Croatia semi structured interviews findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/period</th>
<th>f</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOMELAND WAR</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE /SEPARATION OF YUGOLAVIA, sovereignty</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDH (puppet state -WWII)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWI</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia (entrance, period, Tito’s period)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Grandfathers and fathers of presidential candidates: partisans, Croatian Home Guard...

Očevi i djedovi predsjedničkih kandidata: Partizani, domobrani...

Istražili smo na čijoj su se strani u II. svjetskom ratu borili najbliži rodaci takmaca za Pantovčak. Najpodjeljena je bila Vidoševićeva obitelj: otac i stric domobrani prošli su strahote križnoga puta, a ujak je branio Tita u Drvaru

http://www.vecernji.hr/predsjednicki-izbori/ocevi-i-djedovi-predsjednickih-kandidata-partizani-domobrani-58067
On which side was your family mainly during WWII?“

- Antifascists and Partisans; 7,7
- Ustasha; 6,1
- Croatian Home Guard; 19,5
- On several different sides; 8,2
- On none of the sides; 14,6
- Do not know; 38,4
- Refuse; 4,9
- On none of the sides; 14,6

MYPLACE
On several different sides on none of the sides do not know refuse Šiber 1997 (18-27 years)

Antifascists and Partisans Croatian Home Guard Ustasha on several different sides on none of the sides do not know refuse

MY PLACE

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Thank you
Renata & Vanja

Renata.Franc@pilar.hr