

Elective group: Inter-war period and Holocaust

Coordinator: Ettie Abraham

Project title: Shabsa - the Jewish Hero of Soviet Union

Project author: Irina Shikhova, Chisinau (Moldova)

Participants: students from Moldovan and US high schools, aged 15-17. Theater lyceum and Herzl Jewish ORT technology lyceum from Chisinau; challenging issue for US part.

Project aims and goals:

General one - to fill in the gap for Centropa and the whole Europe and world on the Jewish history of Bessarabia/Moldova.

Educational ones:

To develop students' creative skills, historical research skills, interviewing and communication skills, telling a story skills, English speaking and writing skills (for Moldovan students), film-making technical skills.

Project type:

A biopic with a strong general historical background.

Why this personality?

Shabsa Mashkautzan is the one and only Jewish Bessarabian Hero of Soviet Union of almost 20 from Moldova, awarded btw for the battle for Berlin. His life provides a great opportunity to use it as a reason to tell the whole Jewish Moldovan history of XX century.

Project plan:

Step 0

To locate where Mashkautzans moved in USA.

Step 1

To create 2 student groups each led by a teacher/educator, to provide them opportunity for communication and parallel work (Facebook, Skype).

Step 2

Working in parallel to trace Mashkautzan personal story: Moldovan team goes for an expedition to his native town Orhei, to work with local historical museum artifacts and especially archives, to interview the old-timers who knew him personally. To look for his feat description and for the illustrative images, maps etc covering the general history.

The similar challenge for the American team: to try to discover him, his family, to interview, to work with the personal archives - both teams in order to cover his personal story, his life before, during and after the WW2, his feat and American period, and the background information.

Step 3

Using the general historical information (provided by myself) as a frame, and all collected information on Mashkautzan's life, and adding the illustrative materials on the general historical background, found by them, to tell the story.

Step 4

To finalize the project creating a film (text + images + interview videos + music + English subtitles).