



Democracy matters.

2017 Annual Report

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A Word from the President



Dear friends,

The year 2017 was for the Platform of European Memory and Conscience a time of both harvesting and sowing. As for the former, we have achieved numerous successes in our Justice 2.0 project, such as the first court decisions in rehabilitation cases, as well as launching the German investigation. As for the latter, we started the competition for the Pan-European Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism in Brussels, which was successfully resolved this year.

For me, it was a time of returning to active engagement in the Platform's work. I still remember the hopes and expectations we held when establishing the PEMC in October 2011. Throughout those years we have fulfilled many of them, but there is still much to be done. I believe we can continue our struggle for truth and justice, but only together.

This struggle is bound to become harder without our long-time Managing Director and proven friend, Dr. Neela Winkelmann, whom I would like to sincerely thank for her enormous commitment and efforts. Dear Neela, we will all miss you!


Along with Neela leaving the Platform, we closed the first and magnificent chapter in PEMC's history. Now it's up to us to write the next one. Let us continue to sow truth and harvest justice.

Yours,

Łukasz Kamiński

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Slovak Nation's Memory Institute representatives visit Platform on 25 January

Mr **Ondrej Krajňák**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute and Mr **Pavol Kossey**, Director of the Chairman's Secretariat visited the Platform office in Prague on 25 January 2017.



They held discussions with Platform Managing Director Ms **Neela Winkelmann** about common projects and further cooperation. The Nation's Memory Institute was admitted to the Platform during the Council of Members meeting in November 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Institute is actively participating in ongoing Platform work. As one result of the meeting, the plan to translate the Platform Reader for Schools *Lest We Forget* into Slovak and distribute it to schools in Slovakia was confirmed.

"JUSTICE 2.0" work-in-progress & strategy meeting in Prague on 14-15 February

Representatives of Platform Members, 14 governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations from 10 countries of Europe and North America convened in Prague on 14-15 February 2017 for a closed working meeting of the JUSTICE 2.0 project. The participants discussed the current situation and further steps in the project with members of the International Legal Advisor Team of the Platform as well as with the Minister of Justice of Estonia, Mr **Urmas Reinsalu**, who joined the discussion online.

The purpose of the JUSTICE 2.0 project is to raise international awareness about the issue of unpunished international crimes of Communism and to contribute to finding ways to achieving international justice for these crimes.



Success for Platform's "JUSTICE 2.0" project: Polish prosecutors investigating former Czechoslovak politburo member for killings on the Iron Curtain on 21 February

The prosecutors of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) – the Main Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation – have instituted criminal proceedings in cases of Polish refugees killed by high-voltage electricity on the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain during Communism. The main surviving responsible person is former Minister of Interior, later member of the politburo and Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, **Lubomír Štrougal** (*1924). The cases were presented to the IPN by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience within the "JUSTICE 2.0" project, which aims at reaching justice for the international crimes of Communism.

According to research by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, former Czechoslovak politburo member Lubomír Štrougal (*1924), a Czech, is responsible for the death of at least 60 persons killed on the Iron Curtain during Communism. During his office as minister of interior, the Iron Curtain was charged with 4,000-6,000 Volts, leading to cruel deaths of refugees trying to cross the border to the West.

Since 1989, the Czech and Slovak Republics have not been willing to adjudicate these cases in domestic courts. Prosecutors from the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) – the Main Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation launched investigation of deaths of Polish citizens killed by high-voltage current on the Western borders of Czechoslovakia, after signal cases were presented to the IPN by the Platform as a part of its "JUSTICE 2.0" project.

"We are hopeful that with the involvement of the international community, justice for the killings of civilians during Communism will finally prevail," said Platform President **Göran Lindblad**.

"Such initiatives inspire hope for a comprehensive settlement of Communist crimes, the possibility of identifying the perpetrators and paying tribute to the victims," said **Dr. Jarosław Szarek**, President of the Institute of National Remembrance from Poland.

"The Nation's Memory Institute appreciates the work of prosecutors in the partner organisation IPN, because the basis for reconciliation and building future is justice," said **Dr. Ondrej Krajňák**, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute.

Commemoration ceremony in former totalitarian prison in Brno, Czech Republic, on 21 February

The Platform and its Czech member organisation Paměť (Memory) commemorated the Nazi and Communist victims and those who were executed in the former Cejl prison in Brno.

The former prison building on Cejl Street in Brno, which is located close to the city centre, served as a prison between the years 1784 and 1956. During WWII the building served partly as a German prison. After the Communist coup of 1948 dozens of political prisoners were imprisoned here. Executions took place here until 1952. In the late 1950s it became a depository for the Moravian state archive. Later on it was abandoned and left to decay.

There were plans and attempts try to turn this site into a commercial and business zone. The Platform together with its member institutions and other persons have appealed to politicians to preserve this historic place as a memento of two totalitarian regimes. As a result of the appeal, the building was declared a national heritage monument in 2016.

The commemoration event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Brno Mr **Petr Vokřál**, former prisoners, family members of former detainees and of those executed in Cejl, as well as historians and the interested public. Ms **Neela Winkelmann**, Platform Managing Director expressed the Platform's support of the plans for turning the prison building into a memorial.



March 2017

The memorial to Max van der Stoel in Prague

On 1 March the Platform was invited to the unveiling ceremony of the Max van der Stoel Memorial, created by Czech artist Dominik Lang, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the historic meeting between former Dutch foreign minister Max van der Stoel and Charter 77 spokesman Jan Patočka.

The memorial was unveiled in the presence of H.E. Mr. **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission and H.E. Mr. **Lubomír Zaorálek**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



Platform called for a minute of silence for the women executed, killed, imprisoned, tortured and persecuted during Communism

On 8 March, the day recognised as International Women's Day, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience called for a minute of silence for the millions of women who fell victim to the Communist dictatorship.

International Women's Day, with its roots in the women's worker movement in the USA at the beginning of the 20th century, was appropriated by the Communist dictatorships in Europe as an ideological holiday and celebrated in a pompous way. Red flowers were

officially presented to women and alcohol was drunk on 8 March.

The Platform wishes to draw attention to the fact that the Communist regime was excessively brutal to women. For political reasons, women were executed after staged trials or without trial, killed when trying to flee across the Iron Curtain, sent to prisons, concentration camps and forced labour camps where countless perished; women were tortured, denied their dignity and persecuted in many other ways. Women survivors of Communist persecution find it more difficult than men to speak about the trauma they suffered.



Dr. Sabiha Kasimati, Albania (1912 - 1951)

Therefore, the Platform called upon the international community to observe a minute of silence on 8 March 2017 to recognise and commemorate the countless millions of women whose fundamental human rights were violated during Communism.

Breakthrough court ruling in Bratislava: Killing of refugee was a crime, family has a right to compensation

In a breakthrough decision on 13 March, the district court Bratislava I. decided to fully rehabilitate **Hartmut Tautz**, the 18-year-old refugee who was killed by border guard dogs on the Czechoslovak border with Austria in 1986. Hartmut's family was entitled to a compensation by the Slovak Republic. The Platform of European Memory and Conscience welcomed the court ruling as a first acknowledgement of a criminal offence committed by killing the refugee.



For 28 years since the fall of Communism, practically no justice has been attained for the killings of refugees trying to escape across the Iron Curtain in former Czechoslovakia. In its "JUSTICE 2.0" project, the Platform has identified the killing of civilians fleeing to the West during Communism as a crime against humanity. The Platform has filed criminal complaints in Germany and Poland in the cases of killings of German and Polish citizens on the borders of former Czechoslovakia.

The district court in Bratislava I. issued a breakthrough decision. Hartmut Tautz, the 18-year-old refugee from East Germany who was gravely wounded by border guard dogs and left to die, has been fully rehabilitated based on **Act No. 119/1990**, on judicial rehabilitation. As a follow-up, the family received a financial compensation from the Slovak Republic for his death.

This success is due to the dedication of **Dr. Lubomír Müller**, attorney-at-law representing the family, who has been relentlessly working toward rehabilitations of people unjustly persecuted under Communism and who has already won several hundred such court decisions.

"This is a first and precedent decision of a Slovak court, expressing a moral satisfaction to a victim of the Iron Curtain," said Dr. Lubomír Müller.

"The Nation's Memory Institute sees the court decision as a breakthrough. After decades, the bereaved families have finally received moral satisfaction. And that is a great success in the Slovak judicial practice so far," said Mr **Ondrej Krajňák**, Chairman of the Board of the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute.

"Now the door is open for all families of victims of the Iron Curtain to set out on the same road," said Dr. **Neela Winkelmann**, Managing Director of the Platform.

German prosecutors call killing of refugees on the border of the ČSSR an international crime and suggest liability for murder for the responsible commanders. Thus, the acts have not expired (27 March 2017)

The Platform has received two letters already from German prosecutors concerning its comprehensive criminal complaint of 18 August 2016 on the killing of refugees on the borders of Communist Czechoslovakia. According to the German Federal Prosecutor General, the killing of refugees was an international crime. From the point of view of the prosecutor's office in Weiden the killing of refugees suggests murder from base motives on the level of those responsible for the system of the border protection. The Platform provided documents unknown so far to the prosecutors in Weiden, among them a secret order by former minister of interior and later prime minister of the ČSSR **Lubomír Štrougal** on the systematic and planned penetration of the secret services and the border guards into the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria.



On 18 August 2016, the Platform filed a criminal complaint to the German Federal Prosecutor General against 67 representatives of the Communist regime of former Czechoslovakia in the case of killings of 5 Germans on the Iron Curtain. In the beginning of October 2016, the Federal German Prosecutor's office characterised the deliberate killing of unarmed civilians on the border as an international crime, because it violated the human rights to life and freedom of movement protected by international law, as well as the imperative of justice, in an elementary way.

In the middle of March 2017, the prosecutor's office in Weiden stated that at least for the commanders contributing to the creation and maintenance of the border protection measures, the characteristic of murder from base motives was suggested. In the case of a Bavarian hiker who was killed by Czechoslovak border guards while chasing after an escaped refugee on the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, the office however expressed its doubts regarding the killing intention in the chain of command.

"The fundamental statements made so far by the German criminal prosecutors are groundbreaking for the victims of the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain, because so far no official or academic office in the Czech or Slovak Republics has dared to state that these are imprescriptible acts," said Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann**.

April 2017

The symposium and announcement of a competition with the title “Pan-European Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism in Brussels” on 26 April

At a symposium held in the European Parliament in Brussels, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience announced the launch of an international competition for a new memorial dedicated to the victims of National Socialism, Fascism and Communism in Europe. The site, chosen together with authorities of the city of Brussels, was the Place Jean Rey, an excellently located square in the heart of the European district.



At a symposium hosted by Mr **László Tőkés**, MEP, in the European Parliament in Brussels on 26 April 2017, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience launched an international competition for the creation of a new memorial in the heart of the European district in Brussels. Its purpose is to commemorate the millions of human lives lost to 20th century totalitarianism in Europe and to celebrate the European Union as a unique peace and democracy project built upon the lessons of the past. The competition aims to create a work of art of high value for the city of Brussels. The City of Brussels was closely involved, maximising the likelihood of the realisation of the memorial. The competition was open to artists and architects from around the world.



May 2017

President Lindblad participated at the 2017 Oslo freedom Forum on 22 - 24 May

Platform President Mr **Göran Lindblad** attended the 2017 Oslo Freedom Forum. Participants watched riveting talks, joined inspiring panel discussions, learned valuable lessons from tech experts, and engaged with organisations promoting individual freedoms around the world. The forum connected the world of business and technology with non-profits, governments, and foundations to brainstorm new and creative solutions

to the world's most pressing human rights issues. Among the speakers was the Board of Trustees member and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ms **Anne Applebaum**.

Commemoration event in former Communist concentration camp “Hell of Jáchymov” on 26 - 27 May

Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann** and legal intern **Juliette Rémond-Tiedrez** attended two of a series of commemoration events organised by the Confederation of Political Prisoners of the Czech Republic together with the local municipalities in the region of Jáchymov in Northwestern Czech Republic on 26-27 May 2017. The annual commemoration event called “Hell of Jáchymov” is held attended by survivors, associations of victims and representatives of municipalities, the Government and Parliament of the Czech Republic.



Between 1949-1961, the Czechoslovak Communist regime operated a series of concentration camps centred around Jáchymov (and the town of Příbram near Prague) in which thousands of political prisoners were forced to excavate and process uranium ore which was exported to the Soviet Union, based on a secret treaty. The camps were run with the aim to work the prisoners to death – the prisoners were called “men destined for liquidation”.

The commemoration began at the cemetery in the mining town of Horní Slavkov where the bodies of five men who attempted an escape from one of the camps and were shot and killed in 1951 are buried. The second ceremony took place in the town of Ostrov nad Ohří at the foot of the Tower of Death – a seven-storey building where the uranium ore was powdered and packed into crates and where the highest radiation and highest death rates among the prisoners occurred. The tower has been declared a national cultural monument.

June 2017

Brussels meeting with MEP`s and city representatives

President Mr **Göran Lindblad** and Managing Director Ms **Neela Winkelmann** held meetings with MEPs and held an official presentation of PEMC and the Competition for a Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism to the Urban Art Committee of the City of Brussels on 7 June.



JUSTICE 2.0 – presentation at the Faculty of Law and Administration on 12 June

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience together with the Institute of National Remembrance, the Witold Pilecki Center for Totalitarian Studies and the Research Centre Pro Patria of the Warsaw University held a “JUSTICE 2.0” discussion seminar which took place on Monday 12 June 2017 at the Collegium Iuridicum of the Faculty of Law and Administration of Warsaw University.

The ongoing results of the project “International Justice for the Communist Crimes”, in which living persons responsible for crimes against humanity committed under Communism in Europe are being identified, were presented at the seminar. They include the surviving members of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and others.

Speakers were manager of the project Dr. **Neela Winkelmann** and members of the International Legal Advisor Team of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, Dr. **Nika Bruskina** from the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University, Lithuania, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult **Albin Eser**, MCJ, Director emeritus of the Max Planck Institute for foreign and international criminal law and former judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia from Freiburg, Germany and **Bogusław Tomasz Czerwiński**, prosecutor of the Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, Institute of National Remembrance.



The seminar concluded by a screening of the documentary film “JUSTICE 2.0” by **Stefan Weinert** and the Platform of European Memory and Conscience (2015).

World premiere of “Across the Iron Curtain” educational board game hosted at the IPN Educational Center in Warsaw on 13 June

“**Across the Iron Curtain**” is an extraordinary educational board game telling the story of people who managed to escape across the Iron Curtain. It has been developed by an international team of experts from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. Among them was **Karol Madaj** from Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance, author of many board games, including the very popular “Kolejka” (Queue), a game published worldwide.

“Today’s young generation does not know how hard it was to lead a normal life behind the impermeable Iron Curtain” said Dr **Neela Winkelmann**, Managing Director of the Platform. “The worst thing was not the lack of goods in the shops; it was the life in permanent fear,

because all our human rights were being violated. Next was the isolation from the free, democratic world. People longed to get out of the Communist dictatorship, to live dignified, free lives. In the game 'Across the Iron Curtain,' we have re-created the situation during the Cold War, when people were trying to escape to the West, oftentimes with the assistance of helpers at home and abroad. The players are such escape helpers attempting to bring 30 refugees from 15 East European countries across the Iron Curtain in eight different ways. This is the first board game on the topic of the Iron Curtain worldwide. Its purpose is to educate on recent European history, on human rights and their violations during Communism, as well as inform about the geography and nations of Europe. We hope the players like it!"

"The time spent on designing 'Across the Iron Curtain' was amazing," said **Karol Madaj**, designer and the head of the Department of Historical Education at The Institute of National Remembrance. "I was invited to Prague, where, together with representatives of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, we worked very hard exclusively on the game. All my other projects had always been created for months, but this time everything happened surprisingly quickly, and we built the whole game mechanics in four days literally. At the end of this stage we tested the game with testers from Czech Board Games. After the playtest we could exhale a sigh of relief. We managed to create an exciting game that simultaneously delivers a whole lot of reliable historical information. Over the next few months, graphic design and content-related work continued. The effects will be presented at the official premiere".

The game premiere took place on 13 June 2017 at 12.30 at the IPN Education Center "Przystanek Historia" in Warsaw. The programme included an interactive lecture on the escapes from behind the Iron Curtain given by Dr **Tomasz Ginter**, a Q&A session with one of the fugitives, and a presentation of the game. Participants had an opportunity to test their skills as agents playing the game.



Press conference about the “Names of the dead” project

A press conference about the “Names of the dead” project was held in the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 15 June. The forensic expert **Mr Daniel Vaněk** introduced its goals – to exhume and identify the remains of those former resistance fighters against the Nazism and Communism. “In this way, we want to fulfil the basic civilisation obligation to treat human remains remorsefully,” said **Ms Neela Winkelmann** from the Platform, which is also supporting this project.



Almost thirty years after the collapse of the Communist regime, mass graves still exist where the remains of the victims of the 20th century totalitarian regimes are located. These are mostly unmarked graves. In some cases, however, the place of incarceration of the political repression of the Nazi occupation and the Communist regime is not even well known. The aim of the project supported by the Platform is to identify these skeletal remains.

Mass graves in the Czech Republic are located in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Valdice and other localities. The most famous burial ground, where the largest number of remains is also found, is the Devil's Cemetery in Prague. In 2014 much attention was paid to the search for the remains of catholic priest P. Josef Toufar. In the years 1943-1961 the remains of a considerable number of victims of totalitarian regimes were buried secretly in the Devil's Cemetery. According to the latest results of archive research recently published by the head of the Documentation and History Cabinet of the Academy of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic PhDr. **Aleš Kýr**, there are remains of 137 executed or deceased political prisoners from the post-February period. The remains of the Czechoslovak soldiers who died at Resslova Street on 18 June 1942 are probably also here. The project received huge political support and media coverage.

Institute of National Remembrance would like to exhume Polish victims of the Communist regime in former Czechoslovakia

At a meeting with the Institute of National Remembrance IPN in Warsaw on 12 June, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience handed over documents pertaining to the killings of 13 Polish citizens who died on the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain on the border with Austria between 1961-1965. The IPN and its subordinated Main Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation expressed their readiness to exhume the remains of the Polish victims.



At a meeting in Warsaw with prosecutors led by **Andrzej Pozorski**, Director of the Main Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, Platform Managing



Director Neela Winkelmann handed over to the IPN documents related to the deaths by electrocution of 13 Polish citizens in the years 1961-1965, when the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain was charged with electric current of 4,000-6,000 V.

The Institute of National Remembrance has expertise in exhuming and identifying victims of totalitarian crimes from unmarked sites and mass graves, for the purpose of criminal investigation and a dignified re-burial.

"The Institute of National Remembrance is keen on locating and exhuming the remains of Polish refugees killed on the Iron Curtain in former Czechoslovakia. Platform researchers will provide the necessary information as soon as possible," said Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann**.

German Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records Roland Jahn visited the Platform Office in Prague on 16 June

The Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR Mr **Roland Jahn** visited the Platform Office in Prague. Together with Platform Managing Director Ms **Neela Winkelmann**, they discussed ongoing projects and cooperation.



Platform joined commemoration event at Roma concentration camp in Lety, Czech Republic on 24 June

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience joined an international commemoration event organised by EGAM, the European Grassroots Anti-Racist Movement, at the site of the former concentration camp for Roma people operated by Czechs during WWII in Lety, South Bohemia, on Saturday 24 June 2017. A private pig farm was being operated on the site, despite decades of official promises by Czech governments to convert the site into a dignified memorial.



About 200-300 people, representatives of Roma organisations and NGOs from several countries came to the event, as well as invited Czech politicians including Minister of Justice Mr **Robert Pelikán**. Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann** was among the speakers. The ceremony concluded with laying flowers and weaving red roses into the fence of the property.

Working seminar of experts of the ministries of justice on the issues of Statute of the Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist Regimes on 28 - 29 June

Platform Managing director Ms **Neela Winkelmann** participated at the working seminar “Initiative to fight impunity and crimes committed by the Communist totalitarian regimes” and on the issues of Statute of the Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist Regimes (CICROC) which took place in the Ministry of Justice of Estonia. During the session exchange of best practices and experience with regard to investigating and prosecuting crimes committed by the Communist totalitarian regimes nationally and internationally was discussed.

Introduction by Mr. **Andres Parmas**, judge, Tallinn Circuit Court: The Statute of the Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist regimes (CICROC) followed by the discussion on details of the draft of the Statute. Representatives from Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Czech Republic were present at the seminar.

July 2017

Agreement on Cooperation signed between IICCMER, the Timișoara Society and the Platform in Bucharest

On Monday 3 July 2017, the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER), the Timișoara Society and the Platform of European Memory and Conscience signed an Agreement on Cooperation in order to expand research in the area of killings of civilians on the borders during the Communist regime in Romania. The activities will concentrate on the cases of human rights infringement and on the abuses committed by representatives of the totalitarian system against civilian persons that tried to flee the country.

Platform has located graves of six of the thirteen electrocuted Polish victims for whose death Lubomír Štrougal is responsible on 27 July

Researchers of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience have found the graves of six of thirteen identified Polish victims who were killed by electrocution on the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain. The responsibility for their deaths lies primarily with former Minister of Interior, later member of the Politburo and Prime Minister Lubomír Štrougal. The Polish Institute of National Remembrance, which initiated criminal proceedings in the cases based on the findings of the Platform this February, announced in June that they were interested in exhuming the remains of the Polish citizens.

Based on a submission by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, prosecutors of the Main Commission for the Prosecution of the Crimes against the Polish Nation, which is a division of the Institute of National Remembrance, initiated criminal proceedings in February in cases of killings of Polish citizens on the Czechoslovak Iron Curtain in the years 1961-1965, when Lubomír Štrougal (*1924) was Minister of Interior.

The Platform research team has identified altogether thirteen Polish victims who died by electric shock from high voltage electricity in the wire barriers on the border of Czechoslovakia with Austria at the time when Štrougal was Minister. Further work aimed at determining the fate of the bodies of the killed persons led to the finding of so far six unmarked graves in which the remains are most probably resting until today.

According to the Communist regulations the bodies of those who were killed on the Iron Curtain were to be buried in unmarked graves levelled with the terrain. None of the relatives or close persons were to be informed about the burial. The Platform forwarded the information to the Polish prosecutors who are interested in exhuming the remains.

August 2017

Platform visited House of European History in Brussels

On 10 August 2017 the Platform Board and a group of historians representing various Platform Member organisations from different countries visited the House of European History in Brussels.



Reacting to initial concerned reactions of visitors to the House of European History which opened in May 2017 in Brussels, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience conducted a study visit to the museum in August 2017.

A team of professionals active in the field of history and remembrance from nine countries compiled a report edited by Mr **Paweł Ukielski**, member of the Executive Board of the Platform and Deputy Director of the Warsaw Rising Museum.



Platform greets work of eight EU Member States on CICROC, the Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist Regimes

On the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarianism commemorated on the EU level in Tallinn, Estonia. Ministries of justice of eight EU Member States confirmed their cooperation toward the establishment of a Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist Regimes (CICROC). The Platform of European Memory and Conscience commended the approach of these governments. The initiative was a response to the Platform's call for international justice for the imprescriptible crimes of Communism launched in 2015.



At the meeting organised by the Estonian EU Presidency in Tallinn on 23 August 2017, President **Göran Lindblad** presented the results of the ongoing "JUSTICE 2.0" project of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience. Since 2014, Platform researchers and lawyers have identified several types of crimes against humanity committed during Communism in Europe as well as well over 200 potentially living responsible persons, including former members of the politburo of the Communist parties, from at least four countries, today's Member States of the EU. In May 2015, the Platform had called for



the creation of a new supranational institution of justice to judge these crimes and their perpetrators.

Since the Tallinn Declaration of 23 August 2015, Estonia has taken the lead in the initiative. Representatives of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia have now confirmed their cooperation with Estonia toward the establishment of CICROC.

“The systematic work of the Platform – bringing to light unpunished international crimes committed during Communism, their surviving perpetrators and victims and asking the international community for prosecution – is our best argument against those who try to deny today that Communism was a criminal totalitarian dictatorship,” said Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann**.

The travelling exhibition opened in the Ben Franklin Building in Ottawa on 28 August

On 28 August 2017, the Black Ribbon Day was held, and a travelling exhibition of Fascism, Nazism and Communism was shown thanks to the Platform in the Ben Franklin Building in Ottawa.



The Black Ribbon Day has been held in Canada since 2009 when the Parliament of Canada under Prime Minister Rt. Hon. **Stephen Harper**, a leader of the Conservative Party passed the resolution in raising global awareness of crimes committed by European totalitarian Nazi and Communist regimes by founding an annual “Black Ribbon Day” on 23 August to commemorate the legal partnership of these two regimes through the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocols, signed on 23 August 1939 in Moscow.

The auditorium was well attended by about 200 people from various former East European Canadian Communities. Many representatives of communities made speeches or prayers. Attendees looked with interest at the exhibition provided by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience which reminded them of past German or Soviet occupation of their countries.

In his speech, Mr **Ludwik Klimkowski**, Chairman of the Tribute to Liberty, which is in charge of the Memorial to the Victims of Communism, and Vice-President of the Canadian Polish Congress, mentioned one of the biggest Soviet executioners, Vasily Blohkin, who was in charge of the Katyn massacre. He was later awarded the Badge of Honour and received the Order of the Red Banner for his “services”.

Mr **Andris Kesteris**, who is Canadian-Latvian and the main organiser of the event as well as Chairperson of the Central European Committee in Toronto talked about organising the event and thanked to all participating organisations and individuals.

Mr **Milos Suchma** talked on behalf of the Czech and Slovak community about the sad commemoration of 23 August 1939.

Competition for a memorial for the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels received patronages from EU Commissioner and the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Belgium

The competition for a memorial for the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels, organised by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience under the high patronage of the European Parliament, has received further valuable patronages: by EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Mr **Tibor Navracsics** and by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Belgium Mr **Jaroslav Kurfürst**.

The Platform's international competition for architects and artists to create a pan-European memorial for the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels launched in April 2017 received a patronage by European Parliament President **Antonio Tajani** in June 2017.

In a letter announcing his patronage for the competition dated 2 August 2017, Member of the European Commission Mr Tibor Navracsics wrote: "Together we have always opposed totalitarian ideologies which united this continent through the force of our democratic values. I believe the new memorial will facilitate a sharing of the memory of totalitarian crimes among Europeans whose ancestors suffered from repression."

In a letter of 10 August 2017 confirming his patronage, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Belgium Mr Jaroslav Kurfürst wrote "(...) I strongly welcome and support your noble intention to establish the "Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism" in Brussels – the city of great symbolism for the community of European and euroatlantic democracies. The effort to prevent and face totalitarianism represented the core reason and a fundament for the European integration and the establishment of the North Atlantic Alliance, both based in Brussels, the capital of the Kingdom of Belgium with its strong tradition of democratic political culture."

As of 25 August, altogether 65 contestants from 32 countries were participating in the competition; 27 of them hailing from former countries of Central and Eastern Europe, 30 from former Western Europe, Canada and the USA, and eight from countries of South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

September 2017

Platform filed criminal complaint against last surviving Czechoslovak politburo members Jakeš, Štrougal, Colotka and further persons for killing on the borders

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience filed a criminal complaint with the Supreme state prosecutor's office of the Czech Republic in Brno on 21 September against the last living members of the presidium of the Central committee of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia **Milouš Jakeš**, **Lubomír Štrougal** and **Peter Colotka**, as well as further responsible persons, for the killing on the borders of Communist Czechoslovakia as imprescriptible crimes against humanity. This was a new attempt to reach justice after the Office for Documentation and Investigation of Communist Crimes concluded the investigation of a similar complaint from 2008 last year with no results.

The criminal complaint concerned 28 cases of civilians of various nationalities who died on the Czechoslovak borders with West Germany and Austria in the years 1965-1989. They lost their lives in various ways: they died by electrocution on the Iron Curtain, they were shot and killed, they drowned, they were shot down in a plane, they died while attempting to cross the border in a car or they committed suicide under siege.



By the criminal complaint, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience would like to achieve that the Czech Republic becomes the second European country after Germany which will consistently sentence the perpetrators on all levels of command and political representation of the totalitarian state for the killing of civilians on the Iron Curtain. The Platform considers this an important contribution toward raising the moral standards in post-totalitarian democracy.

New Hungarian Ambassador visited Platform office in Prague

The new Hungarian ambassador to the Czech Republic H.E. Dr. **Miklós Boros** visited the Platform's office in Prague. He and Managing Director Dr. **Neela Winkelmann** discussed ongoing Platform projects, such as the international competition for a memorial for the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels and other international and educational activities.



October 2017

Seminar about the Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague on 2 October

The seminar regarding the 10th anniversary of the Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (founding Platform member) took place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Among the speakers were Mr **Łukasz Kamiński**, former director of the Polish National Remembrance Institute, Mr **Ondrej Krajňák**, the chairman of the Slovak Nation's Institute and others.



Ms **Neela Winkelmann** introduced activities of the Platform in the Foreign Experience and Inspiration panel.

Platform commends Slovak President's veto against controversial amendment of Act on the Nation's Memory Institute on 4 October

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience commended the veto by Slovak President **Andrej Kiska** of a controversial amendment to the Act on the Nation's Memory Institute, which would enable an immediate firing of its acting head without sufficient justification or possibility of legal redress. The Institute is in the news because of its legal dispute with Czech politician and oligarch **Andrej Babiš** about his collaboration with the Communist State Security.

The controversial amendment to the Act on the Nation's Memory Institute was adopted by the Slovak Parliament in September 2017. As President Kiska pointed out, in an unprecedented legal move, the powers of the acting head of the Institute would be transferred to a 9-member collective body, which raises questions about the functionality of the memory institution from then on.

The Platform had sent a letter to the Speaker of the Slovak Parliament in August 2017, protesting the amendment. In its original wording, the legislation had set the date for the dismissal of the acting head of the Institute for 15 October 2017.

"Since the establishment of our Platform in 2011, we have witnessed various approaches aimed at weakening the position and the important work of memory institutions in different countries. However, this case stands out. May we point out that it is not in accordance with democratic customs or the rule of law to adopt a piece of legislation directed against one particular person," wrote Platform President **Göran Lindblad** in August. He said later: "We commend President Kiska for stopping a dangerous precedent."

Later in October, the Slovak Constitutional Court passed a ruling which returned to lower courts the dispute between Czech politician Andrej Babiš and the Nation's Memory Institute about the trustworthiness of archival records documenting his activities as an agent of the Czechoslovak Communist State Security.

New service for the public: A search engine in the databases of the security services of the former ČSSR

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience and the Centre for Documentation of Totalitarian Regimes presented a new service to the public – an overall search engine which searches currently existing online databases of persons kept by the Communist security services of Czechoslovakia. The search engine was launched at the address www.ibadatelna.cz / www.comuniststatesecurity.eu and as of now it includes eight online sources from the Czech and the Slovak Republics.

The new, more user-friendly service offers a one-stop aggregator of online databases of the security services of the former Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (1948-1989). The integrated system enables searches of information on persons and objects from publicly accessible databases (eight as of now) pertaining to the period of the Communist totalitarian regime. The coherent



user-friendly service has thus overcome the problem of fragmentation of these information sources. The user can access all relevant output of the available sources, and through these the file and record agenda of the persons of interest kept by the former State Security as well as the members of the security services. Concrete preserved archival materials are available in the respective archives, namely the Security Services Archive in Prague and the Archive of the Nation's Memory Institute in Bratislava.

The project was created in cooperation with the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute and with support by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Ján Langoš Foundation and the Embassy of Estonia in Prague.

Platform prepared critical report on the House of European History in Brussels

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience has prepared a critical report on the House of European History, a project of the European Parliament in Brussels inaugurated earlier this year. Based on grave shortcomings, a clear ideological bias towards Marxism and historical misinterpretations, especially regarding European values and the history of the Cold War, the Platform calls for the exhibition to be replaced by an objective and professional one, prepared in a transparent way.



Reacting to initial concerned reactions of visitors to the House of European History which opened in May 2017 in Brussels, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience conducted a study visit to the museum in August 2017. A team of professionals active in the field of history and remembrance from nine countries compiled a report edited by **Paweł Ukielski**, member of the Executive Board of the Platform and Deputy Director of the Warsaw Rising Museum.

According to the Platform, the permanent exhibition in the House of European History does not uphold and celebrate today's Europe and the European unification process as a victory of European values – freedom, democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law – over non-freedom, war and totalitarian dictatorships, but is rather an ideological, neo-Marxist exhibition which grossly misrepresents particularly the history of the Cold War and the fall of Communism.

"It is really embarrassing that an exhibition with such a neo-Marxist message has been opened in the very heart of democratic, free Europe in the year of the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik coup d'état in Russia. It is offensive for the dozens of millions of people who lost their lives due to the inhuman totalitarian regime," said editor of the Report **Paweł Ukielski**.

"Walking through the exhibition in the House of European History I felt thrown back into my history classes in the 1970s-1980s, growing up in Communist Czechoslovakia. It was depressing and disturbing. The European Union of today must be capable of creating a modern, truthful and inspiring museum of its own history," said Platform Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann**.

Mr Ilmi Umerov, Crimean Tatar leader in Ukraine awarded with the Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience 2017

The Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience was awarded to Mr **Ilmi Umerov**, deputy head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People in Crimea, dissident and political prisoner in the USSR and in Russia-occupied Crimea who was being released from custody and returned to Ukraine on 27 October. The Platform member institutions and organisations voted to give the prize to Mr Umerov in recognition of his struggle against totalitarianism, for the ideals of democracy, fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rule of law.

The Prize was awarded on 8 November 2017 in Paris, France during the Platform's conference "100 Years of Communism. History and Memory." Mr Ilmi Umerov, deputy head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, was most recently convicted in Russian – occupied Crimea for his public statements in support of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. On 27 September 2017, the so-called "Simferopol District Court" in Crimea sentenced him to two year's imprisonment in a penal colony settlement and banned him from engaging in public activities for two years. On 21 October, Umerov was admitted to hospital because of health problems. On 25 October, Mr Umerov and another political prisoner, Akhtem Chiygoz, were released from custody. Mr Umerov, who is in poor health, was exiled to Turkey directly from hospital. Eventually, the Kremlin stated that he was "freed on humanitarian grounds."



A critical article in German FAZ on the new exhibition in the House of European History

On 6 November 2017, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung published a critical article (Worauf können die Europäer stolz sein?) on the new exhibition in the House of European history in Brussels by the historian and the Deputy Director of the Warsaw Uprising Museum **Paweł Ukielski**.

Call on former East German refugees arrested in Czechoslovakia until 1989 to apply for rehabilitation and compensation

On the occasion of the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall 28 years ago, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and the German Union of Victims of Communist Tyranny UOKG called upon former refugees from East Germany who were arrested attempting to cross the Czechoslovak borders to the West to apply for rehabilitation and compensation from the courts of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

In the belief that the Czechoslovak borders to West Germany and Austria were less severely

guarded than the inner-German border, many thousands of East Germans travelled to Czechoslovakia during Communism and attempted to cross the Iron Curtain there. Some were successful, some were sadly killed or died while trying to cross the border. Those who were caught were arrested and handed over to the East German secret police, the Stasi.

Based on the breakthrough ruling of the district court Bratislava I from March 2017 in the case of Hartmut Tautz, the 18-year-old high school graduate from Magdeburg who was killed on the Czechoslovak border to Austria in 1986, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and the Union of Victims of Communist Tyranny called upon former East German refugees who were arrested in former Czechoslovakia to apply for court rehabilitation and compensation from the Czech and Slovak Republics.

International conference “100 Years of Communism. History and Memory” in Paris

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience and Prof. **Stéphane Courtois**, author and editor of the “Black Book of Communism” organised an international conference called “100 Years of Communism. History and Memory” dedicated to the dark legacy of Communism and Communist dictatorships. The conference was held on 8-9 November 2017 at the Collège des Bernardins and the Fondation Napoléon in Paris, France. Speakers included historians, representatives of memory institutions and policy makers from France, Spain, Canada, South Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Moldova, Romania and the Czech Republic. The special guest speaker was Finnish award winning novelist Sofi Oksanen. During the conference, the new 500-page biography “Lenin, the Inventor of Totalitarianism” by Stéphane Courtois was presented and the Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience 2017 was awarded.

The Platform and participants of the international conference adopted a memorandum where they called Europe to action:

- In order to show respect to the victims of Communist totalitarian regimes, they called for an official, European-wide prohibition of public presentation of Communist symbols.
- In order to foster a culture of commemoration, they called for the creation of a memorial to the victims of totalitarianism in the very heart of Europe.
- In order to allow justice to prevail, they called for the creation of an International Tribunal for Communist Crimes.





Platform calls for a broad debate and a change of the permanent exhibition of the House of European History

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience presented a critical report on the House of European History, a project of the European Parliament in Brussels in November 2017. The report was a result of a study visit of 19 experts from nine countries which took place in August 2017. The main editor of the report was Mr **Paweł Ukielski**, deputy director of the Warsaw Uprising Museum.

The conclusion of the report said that the House of European History fails at presenting European history in three dimensions: structure, concept and facts. As a result, visitors get an ideologically biased, chaotic narrative line with many shortcomings or even falsifications. The main idea was missing and it seems to be overshadowed by the narrow-minded Marxism-rooted concept.



"We hope this report will be a starting point for a pan-European, open and broad debate which will lead to a reconstruction of the House of European History exhibition. The European Union deserves to have a balanced, non-ideological and attractive exhibition which would present the common roots and values that constitute the identity and consciousness of today's Europe," said **Göran Lindblad**, president of the Platform.

Platform launched its human rights educational game

On 16 November, the eve of the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience held in Prague a Czech première of a unique board game called Across the Iron Curtain. Produced by the Platform and the Polish Institute of National Memory, the game is a play-and-learn opportunity to acquire deeper awareness of history and human rights related to the Communist regime. The game is currently available in English and Czech.



The Czech launch entailed two tailored events in Prague. The first presentation brought



together over 40 pupils from high schools in the cities of Liberec and Ostrov nad Ohří. The latter, located on the Czech–German borderlands, was among the sites of illegal border crossing of refugees during the Cold War. Dr **Neela Winkelmann**, the Managing Director of the Platform and Ms **Marcela Murgašová**, the Director of the BLÍŽ K SOBĚ foundation, introduced the historical and social context of the game. The highlight was the testimony offered by the key note speaker, Mr **Alexander Wiegand**, who was trafficking refugees in the late 1960s until his arrest in the early 1970s.

The afternoon session, held emblematically at the Academia bookstore on Wenceslas Square, focused on mature audiences. The panel discussion chaired by Dr **Neela Winkelmann** of the Platform, included Mr **Alexander Wiegand** as the key note speaker, Mr **Martin Vohánka**, Board Chairman of the foundation Blíž k sobě [Closer to Each Other] and Dr **Petr Blažek**, historian from the Centre for the Documentation of Totalitarian Regimes.

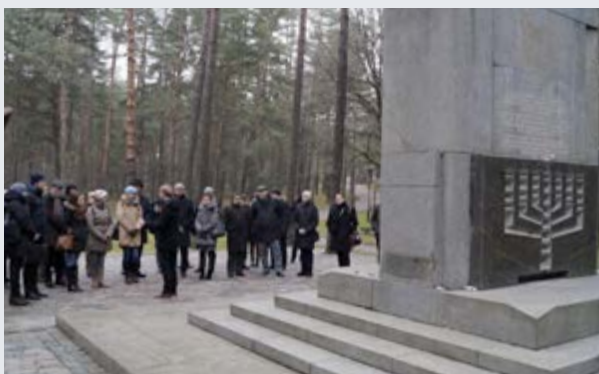
Mr Alexander Wiegand (b. 1941) shared his experiences of trafficking in the late 1960s and early 1970s over 120 East Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, and Soviet Germans to West Germany. He served 4.5 years of his six-year sentence in Czechoslovak prisons, being subjected to severe psychological and physical torture. He has received a number of major awards for his humanitarian effort during the years of the Cold War. It was during his recent visit to Prague that he saw, for the first time, his police file amounting to over 400 pages compiled by the Czechoslovak secret service. Petr Blažek took the audience through the files and explained the wider context of the case.

Annual Council of Members meeting in Vilnius

At its annual Council of Members held on 28-30 November 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience elected a new President and Executive Board and admitted four new institutions from the Czech Republic, Albania, Romania and France, bringing the total number of Members of the Platform to 57.



The annual Council of Members of the Platform was hosted by the Genocide and Resistance Research Center of Lithuania. The agenda included a one-day seminar with the title “The Genocide of European Roma 1939-1945” which was attended by scholars from 10 countries, a visit to the Paneriai memorial – one of the largest mass graves in Europe, containing the remains of 100 000 people, mostly Jews, massacred between 1941-1944, and a commemoration of the victims of the Mass Terror and other Communist repressions in the Tuskulėniai peace park. The newly elected President of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience was Dr.



Łukasz Kamiński, Polish historian and President of the Institute of National Remembrance in the years 2011-2016. The new Executive Board of the Platform consists of Dr. **Andreja Valič Zver**, Director of the Slovenian Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Dr. **Wolfgang-Christian Fuchs**, CEO of the German Union of Victims of Political Tyranny, Mr **Toomas Hiio**, research director at the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory and Mr **Zsolt Szilágyi**, Head of Cabinet of László Tőkés MEP, European Parliament.

Dr. **Monika Kareniauskaitė** from the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania was elected as a new member of the Supervisory Board of the Platform. New members of the Board of Trustees of the Platform are Mr **Pavel Svoboda**, Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and Mr **Göran Lindblad**, President of the Platform between 2011-2017.

New Members of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience admitted in 2017:

1. the Association of Former Soldiers of the Auxiliary Technical Battalions – Military Forced Labour Camps with Seat in Prague (Czech Republic),
2. the Institute for the Integration of Persecuted People in Albania (Albania),
3. the Former Deportees from Baragan Association (Romania),
4. the Collège des Bernardins (France).

The Platform now has 57 Member institutions and organisations in 20 countries of Europe and North America.



German ambassador visited Platform office

The new German ambassador to the Czech Republic **H.E. Christoph Israng** visited the Platform office in Prague on 4 December. He and Managing Director Dr. **Neela Winkelmann** discussed ongoing Platform projects, including the international competition for a memorial for the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels, and other international and educational activities.



Platform Reader presented at the Masaryk University, Faculty of Education

At the seminar Reconciliation with the Totalitarian Past held at the Masaryk University, Faculty of Education, in Brno on 11 December, the Platform managing director **Neela Winkelmann** presented to tutors and students two major learning tools produced by the Platform – the reader *Lest We Forget* and board game *Across the Iron Curtain*.



Platform achieved double legal breakthrough: Bavarian state criminal investigation office Munich started investigating killings of German refugees on the Iron Curtain in former Czechoslovakia

The Bavarian state criminal investigation office Munich (LKA München) started the investigation of the killings of German citizens on the Iron Curtain in former Czechoslovakia on 13 December 2017. The respective criminal complaint was filed by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience in August 2016 with the German Federal Prosecutor General. The responsible persons include the last living members of the politburo of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milouš Jakeš, Lubomír Štrougal and Peter Colotka. The victims include eighteen-year-old Hartmut Tautz who was killed outside Bratislava in August 1986. This was the first time that Germany is investigating the killings of its citizens abroad during Communism, as well as the first time that high-ranking Communist officials were being investigated by a third country.

In August 2016, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience filed a criminal complaint with the Federal Prosecutor General in five signal cases of killings of German citizens on the borders of Czechoslovakia with the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria during Communism. The German Federal Court has since decided that the cases will be handled by the authorities of Bavaria. In the latest development, the Bavarian state criminal investigation office in Munich (Landeskriminalamt in München) will lead the investigations.

The Platform had researched at least 67 persons responsible for the deaths of the refugees who might still be alive. On the top of the chain of command are the last living members of the politburo of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milouš Jakeš, Lubomír Štrougal and Peter Colotka. One of the cases is that of eighteen-year-old Hartmut Tautz who was mauled by Border Guard dogs on the border with Austria and left to die without medical help in August 1986.

“Since 1989, Germany has never investigated the killings of GDR refugees on the Iron Curtain in the Eastern bloc. Equally, no country has ever prosecuted Communist perpetrators from another country. This means that finally, the invisible borders of the former Eastern bloc are being torn down and justice is becoming more and more a universal value,” said Dr. **Neela Winkelmann**, Managing Director of the Platform.

Activities of the Board

The President - **Göran Lindblad** (until 30 November 2017), Dr. **Lukasz Kamiński** (from 30 November 2017). The Executive Board of the Platform until 30 November 2017: **Paweł Ukielski, Siegfried Reiprich, Toomas Hiio, Zsolt Szilágyi**, after 30 November 2017: **Andreja Valić Zver, Wolfgang-Christian Fuchs, Toomas Hiio, Zsolt Szilágyi**. The Board held meetings in person on 18 February in Prague, on 27 June (online), on 9 August in Brussels and in November in Vilnius.

Platform Staff and Collaborators

The Platform team in 2017 included **Peter Rendek**, IT and project manager; **Lucia Faltínová**, project coordinator; **Amir Salykbayev**, assistant; **Alžběta Majerová**, assistant; **Gillian Purves**, editor; **Dana Bellany**, graphic artist; **Yveta Schmalzová**, payroll and tax advisor; **Veronika Schováňková**, maintenance; and Dr. **Neela Winkelmann**, Managing Director. Legal advisors in the Czech Republic were **NH Partners**, s.r.o. and accounting services were provided by **MAZARS, s.r.o.**. For the project “JUSTICE 2.0 - International Justice for the Communist Crimes”, we engaged researchers **Martin Slávik** from the Masaryk University, CZ; **Miroslav Lehký** from the Ján Langoš Foundation, SK; **Miroslav Kasáček** and **Luděk Navara** from the civic association Paměť, CZ; Dr. **Lubomír Morbacher** from the civic association Living Memory, SK; Dr. **Lubomír Müller**, lawyer and attorney; and Prof. Dr. **Stephan Appelius** from the Freie Universität Berlin, DE; as well as members of the International Legal Advisor Team of the Platform Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. **Albin Eser** from the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Prof. Dr. **Frank Meyer** from the University of Zürich, Doc. Dr. **Jernej Letnar Čerňič** from the Graduate School of Government and European Studies in Kranj and Dr. **Nika Bruskin** from the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University.

Acknowledgement of Support

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience gratefully acknowledges the support by grants from the Government of Hungary awarded for its activities in 2015 - 2017. The Platform is grateful to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for the continuing partnership and support. We are finally indebted to the Czech foundation BLÍŽKSOBĚ for providing support and sponsorship.

Platform & the Media

In 2017, we published altogether 23 press releases bringing the activities of the Platform closer to a wide range of partners, contacts and media worldwide. All information, including

The work of the Platform, particularly the ongoing project “JUSTICE 2.0” and House of European History in Brussels, is being noticed and quoted in international media.

- Todesschüsse an der CSSR-Grenze: Jetzt wird ermittelt (Nürnberger Nachrichten)
- Kontrowersje wokół ekspozycji w Domu Historii Europejskiej (Polish Radio)



Platform Representatives

The Board of the Platform elected as of 30 November 2017



PRESIDENT

Łukasz Kamiński (PL)

Polish historian and President of the Institute of National Remembrance in the years 2011-2016.



MANAGING DIRECTOR

Neela Winkelmann (CZ)

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Toomas Hiio (EE)

Research Director of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory



Wolfgang-Christian Fuchs (DE)

CEO of the German Union of Victims of Political Tyranny



Zsolt Szilágyi (RO)

political scientist, Head of Cabinet of László Tőkés MEP, European Parliament



Andreja Valić Zver (SI)

Director of the Slovenian Study Centre for National Reconciliation

SUPERVISORY BOARD



Valters Nollendorfs (LV)

Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Occupation Museum Association of Latvia



Marek Mutor (PL)

Director, Remembrance and Future Institute



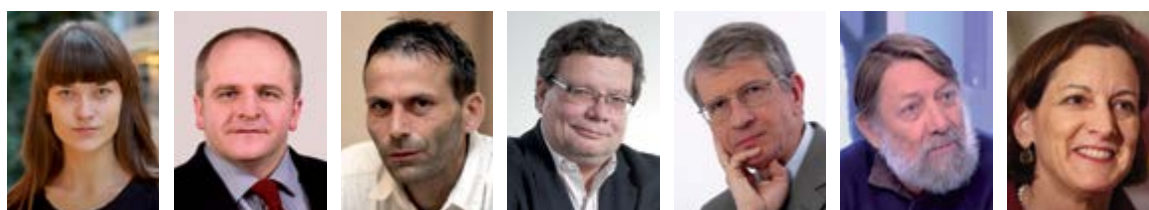
Monika Kareniauskaitė (LT)

Chief Communications Officer/Senior Historian Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

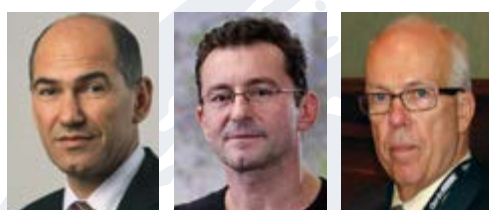
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Left to right: **Sandra Kalniete (LV)**, MEP, former Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs and EU Commissioner; **Tunne Kelam (EE)**, MEP, former leader of the democratic opposition and Member of Parliament; **László Tőkés (RO)**, MEP, Bishop of Temesvár, leader of the democratic opposition in the 1989 revolution; **Vytautas Landsbergis (LT)**, former leader of the democratic opposition, former MEP, former President of Lithuania; **Milan Zver (SI)**, MEP, former Minister of Education and Sports; **Monica Macovei (RO)**, MEP, former Minister of Justice; **Werner Schulz (DE)**, former MEP, former East German dissident



Left to right: **Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė (LT)**, former MEP; **Paweł Robert Kowal (PL)**, former MEP; **Martin Mejstřík (CZ)**, student leader of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, former Senator; **Alexandr Vondra (CZ)**, former dissident, former Minister of Defence; former Minister of Foreign Affairs; **Wojciech Roszkowski (PL)**, former Solidarność leader, historian, former MEP; **Stéphane Courtois (FR)**, historian, author of the Black Book of Communism; **Anne Applebaum (GB)**, journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author



Left to right: **Janez Janša (SI)**, former dissident, former Prime Minister of Slovenia; **Ondřej Vetchý (CZ)**, award-winning actor; **Göran Lindblad (SE)**, former MEP and former Chairman, Political Affairs Committee of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, first Platform President (2011-2017)

Members of the Platform as of December 2017



Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture,
Institute for the Integration of Persecuted
People in Albania



Citizens' Initiative for Dismantling the Soviet
Army Monument in Sofia



Czech and Slovak Association of Canada,
Black Ribbon Day Foundation



Centre for Documentation of Totalitarian
Regimes,
Confederation of Political Prisoners of the
Czech Republic,
Memory (Paměť),
Political Prisoners.eu,
Post bellum,
Prague Academic Club 48,
Security Services Archive,
The Memory Traces,
Association of Former Soldiers of the
Auxiliary Technical Batalions – Military Forced
Labour Camps



Estonian Institute of Historical Memory,
Kistler-Ritso Eesti Foundation. Museum of
Occupations



Collège des Bernardins



Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial,
Hannah Arendt Society,
International Association of Former Political
Prisoners and Victims of Communism,
Meetingpoint Music Messiaen,
Saxon Memorial Foundation for the
Remembrance of Victims of Political Tyranny,
The Federal Commissioner for the Records of
the State Security Service of the former GDR,
Union of the Associations of the Victims of
Communist Tyranny (UOKG)



Hungarian Committee of National
Remembrance,
The Public Foundation for the Research
of Central and East European History and
Society, House of Terror Museum



Icelandic Research Centre for Innovation and
Economic Growth



Koknese Foundation,
The Occupation Museum Association of
Latvia,
The Occupation of Latvia Research Society



Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of
Lithuania,
Secretariat of the International Commission
for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi
and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania



Centre for the Study of Totalitarianism



Foundation History of Totalitarian Regimes
and their Victims



Institute of National Remembrance,
Polish History Museum,
Remembrance and Future Institute,
Warsaw Rising Museum,
Witold Pilecki Center for Totalitarian Studies



Institute for the Investigation of Communist
Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian
Exile,
The Memorial to the Victims of Communism
and to the Anticommunist Resistance,
Timisoara Society,
Former Deportees from Baragan Association



Inconspicuous Heroes,
Ján Langoš Foundation,
Nation's Memory Institute,
Truc sphérique



Nova Slovenska zaveza,
Study Centre for National Reconciliation



The Institute for Information on the Crimes
of Communism



Center for Research on the Liberation
Movement,
Foundation to Preserve the History of
Maidan,
Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People,
National museum "Holodomor Victims
Memorial",
Ukrainian Institute of National
Remembrance



Joint Baltic American National Committee,
Victims of Communism Memorial
Foundation

Financial report as of 31 December 2017

Period	1 January – 31 December 2017
Account name	Closing balance EUR
Cash on hand EUR	440.80
Bank account in CZK	12,508.29
Bank account in EUR	284,085.33
Goods in stock	6,524.81
Customers	1,706.54
Receivables to employees	60.00
Other receivables	2,700.02
Accrued assets	1,327.42
Deferred costs	3,564.07
Total assets	312,917.28
Suppliers	15,737.45
Liabilities to employees and institutions	8,920.26
Tax payable	1,129.08
Other payables	3,855.48
Accrued payables	4,831.59
Deferred revenues	214,858.77
Profit for last period	95,089.35
Profit/loss for period	-31,504.70
Total liabilities	312,917.28
Office supplies	5,306.37
Energy consumption - office	3,396.32
Travel expenses	103,191.13
Representation expenses	14,615.06
Donations	6,277.00
Services	142,398.64
Salaries costs	92,361.72
FX losses	34,175.65
Other expenses	55.87
Bank fees	1,480.52
Total costs	403,258.28
Bank interest	50.69
FX gains	31,695.02
Revenues from merchandise	5,234.96
Received contributions	334,772.91
Total income	371,753.58



Platform of European Memory and Conscience

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Bank account CZK:

Account No. 5004692/0800, Česká spořitelna, a.s., Czech Republic, IBAN: CZ030800000000005004692, BIC: GIBACZPX

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is an interest association of legal persons founded in 2011 according to the Civil Code of the Czech Republic. It is registered at the Municipal Court of Prague under section L, insert 58675., Id.-No.: 72559071.