

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Haus der FrauenGeschichte (HdFG)
PIC number:	884814019
Project name and acronym:	Weiblicher Widerstand gegen den Nationalsozialismus in Deutschland und Frankreich - WEWIGENS

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	8
Event name:	International Conference about Women in Resistance during World War II in Europe
Type:	Colloque
In situ/online:	<i>In situ, hybrid</i>
Location:	Bonn, Germany
Date(s):	27-29th of September 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://hdfg.de/bildungsarbeit/eu-projekt/eu-projekt-veranstaltungen
Participants	
Female:	49
Male:	23
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Germany]:	56
From country 2 [France]:	12
From country 3 [Italy] :	1
From country 4 [Austria]	3
From country 5 [Spain]	1
From country 6 [United Kingdom]	2
From country 7 [USA]	1
From country 8 [Argentina]	2
Online participants	Not counted
Total number of participants:	78
From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The conference in Bonn was of high importance for the project. It highlighted the latest research results about resistance of women against the national-socialism in Europe. In advance, a trilingual call had been published. The call invited especially the young generation of historians to send their papers. 23 researchers have answered to the call and came together on the 27th of September at the Centre Ernst Robert Curtius, which is responsible for any franco-german project at the university of Bonn as well as a partner and multiplier of the exhibition project WEWIGENS.

The conference began with a special feature: In contrast to other projects, the culture of remembrance was not placed at the end, but at the beginning. The aim was to analyse the remembrance in society and politics. These ideas should then be deconstructed. The different contributions bespoke examples how the public room commemorates female resistance in form of monument, film and social media. The 18 students in Albert and their teachers could assist to the first contribution thanks to the web-transmission open for all interested citizens during the whole conference.

The following two days took place at the Institut français Robert Schuman, another partner of the project. The second section assorted different reasons to resist. Is it possible to assign any typical female motives and how did the personal involvement of these women before the war in political parties or their religion influence their decision to enter into the resistance? Close to these questions belonged the third section about the methods of resistance. The different contributions showed quiet different examples how women could react without taking weapons and also which sort of repression they could fear.

Another question concerned the places and possibilities of resistance for women. The fourth section opened the discussion about the way to resist in different European countries, but also if women had another status in the society which gave them the possibilities to act differently. The contributions included East European examples and filled also the last morning of the conference.

The evening program introduced already an example how to talk about the lives and engagement of women in the resistance: it combined for a large audience music and lecture about one particular life before, during and after the engagement in the resistance.

This last section "how to communicate" was filled with contributions of recent examples: exhibitions, research and online projects and the documentary work with young citizens showed the growing interest to mediate about the impact of women's resistance during the Second World War.

The conference itself brought great progress for the exhibition team who can introduce the new input for the outlines of the exhibition to come. The contact between researchers has been fortified, ideas for objects to show and how to show them have been fixed. One of the most important findings of the conference was the ongoing discussion about the question: "What is resistance anyway?" There are many possibilities to answer and a final definition is not possible. It must also remain open to what extent the way to resist was particularly female. It is also important, especially for students, that the representation in films and digital media as well as one-sided research results shape our idea of women in the resistance.

Next steps are to prepare the publication of the contributions in combination with the catalogue of the exhibition. After discussion will be decided which target group shall be touched by the publication. The work on the didactic material started in cooperation with the university Bonn as well as the preparation of the next meeting between the students and the exhibition team in Bonn advances.

Around 120 persons participated in situ, up to 40 persons followed the conference online.

Means of verification:

- website
- Call for papers
- signed attendance list incl. target group and duration of the event
- report on the event
- Flyer with program
- Poster
- EDS written for project partner Bertrand Belvalette by proxy Julia Maaßen (bertrand.belvalette@ac-

amiens.fr)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
2.0	29.11.2023	Number and countries of participants