

## 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:	In situ, hybrid	
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:	29	
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 and the organisers as well as many guests came together on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 female resistance is commemorated in public spaces in form of monuments, films and social media. The 18 students in Albert and their teachers could assist to the first contribution thanks to the video transmission open for all interested citizens during the whole conference. We offered the hybrid format additionally to the in-situ 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 in political parties (before the war) or their religion influence their decision to enter into the resistance? The third section dealt with 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 had to 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 an example of how women in the resistance might be made visible and presented in the broader public: it combined for a large audience music and lecture about one particular life before, during and after the engagement in the resistance.

The 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, as it became insight into the newest and ongoing research on women in resistance. These new perspectives will be integrated into the exhibition and didactic material to be developed in the next weeks. Another important aspect is that the contact between researchers and the team has been fortified, we already discussed possible objects together and the way how to present them. 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.

Additionally to the former plan the participants of the conference and the team members decided to publish the contributions, though after the end of the project due to time restrictions. However, the decision was also made to publish a catalogue of the exhibition involving some of the contributions in a shorter and lighter version aiming to reach young people. The work on the didactic material can also now be continued in cooperation with the University of Bonn.

Around 80 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

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