(úvodní panel)

A Project of the Zapomenutí Civic Association

In the project Traces of Totalitarianism students and pupils from Czech schools, aged 10–19, , are searching for contemporary witnesses of the period between 1945 and 1965 whose memories have not yet been published, and for documents and photographs related to their stories. The focus of the project is aimed at the students' own research and work. Will they find someone in their closest surroundings willing to tell them about their life and revive the memories of this historical period? The students and pupils search for witnesses in their closest neighborhood and interview them for their unmediated testimonies about thatrecentpart of Czech history. They are often the only ones to record these experiences and pass them on to their peers.

Their interviews, research in archives, the acquired memories, documents and photographs all form this exhibition and documentaries. The individual works eventually become one motivational project.

The exhibiton then travels as part of this educational and motivational project through schools of all levels of education. It is also an appeal to the people to give voice to the last generation of witnesses and to rescue further authentic pictures, documents and memories. Research in their nearest surroundings not only incites the students to interview their own grandparents and and kindles their interest in history, but also forms a deeper awareness of one's own identity, as well as the identity of the area they live in.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all the witnesses who were willing to share their memories.

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