

EUROPE OF YOUTH - EUROPE OF PEACE

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING 2014

DATE:

1st – 10th August 2014

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

South-eastern parts of the Małopolska voivodeship - during World War I as part of Western Galicia - were the theatre of war and decisive clashes in the framework of the Eastern Front of the Great War. On 2nd -5th May 1915, a key part of the central states offensive took place here (in particular of the German Empire and Austria-Hungary), directed against the Russian army and completed with interruption of the Russian front, widely known as the Battle of Gorlice. The heaviest fighting took place in and around the Pustki hill near Łużna, City of Gorlice and on the south of Biecz. As a result of the clashes, Russian troops withdrew up to the line of Sandomierz and Przemyśl and were eventually forced out of Galicia, without carrying out a counteroffensive.

Gorlicka operation was a particular example of the offensive, which led to break the stabilized front line and at the same time to create a new strategic situation moving in the short term military action over a considerable distance.

Among the places of remembrance of the Battle of Gorlice war cemeteries deserve special attention where the soldiers on all sides of the conflict rest. There are more than 100 in the area of Gorlice, Łużna and Biecz. Throughout the West Galicia there are about 400.

Inauguration of Cyclic Young People Meetings

In addition to establishing cooperation in the exchange of information about the killed in action, a measurable effect of the rally is to be a scenario for joint celebrations in 2015. 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gorlice, which is planned at the military cemetery No. 123 in Łużna.

Therefore, we expect to organize the next meeting on the Gorlice land. Thus, the youth rally planned in 2014 will kick off the cyclic Young People Meetings in Wapienne. During the rally an editorial committee shall be appointed, which shall prepare the text of the document with the working title "Charter of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gorlice," which, referring to the common experience, shall contain the message attempting to develop a catchphrase: "The future of the past." The aim will also be selecting leaders who will have a year to develop activities in 2015

Regular meetings of young people in Małopolska will cover various topics, starting from the memory of the killed in action during World War I, ending with the issue of multiculturalism in Europe.

Małopolska as the European youth meeting centre.

Promotion of Małopolska

We want to vary the rally program by presenting the Małopolska landscape and cultural value, so we anticipate among others the stay in Krakow and trips to other locations.

The purpose of the rally will be also to present Małopolska, as a **multicultural, tolerant and modern place**, having a lot to offer to young people from all over Europe. Places where tradition and memory of history is intertwined with the most modern technology and science at the highest level.

Integration of Youth

Classes of a seminar type, tours and outdoor entertainment events should give the possibility to integrate young people who came from different countries and we hope that this shall establish lasting contacts and friendships.

ORGANIZERS OF THE PROJECT:

Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Pedagogical University of Cracow, Małopolska Voivodeship Office in Krakow.