### **Erasmus PLUS**

## Refugees – yesterday and today

#### Wemding Rome Liepaja



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# Refugees – yesterday and today

Presentation of the Anton-Jaumann-Realschule, Wemding

#### **Erasmus PLUS**

- □ a project supported by the EU
- participating schools:
  - Anton-Jaumann-Secondary School, Wemding Istituto Comprensivo Regina Margherita, Roma
  - Emilis Melngailis Vidusskola, Liepaja, Latvia

#### **Erasmus PLUS: aim**

- Iooking at the situation of refugees in the past
- $\Box$  reflecting it  $\rightarrow$
- to get a better understanding for refugees nowadays
- □ to be open-minded
- to critically reflect the situation

#### **Erasmus PLUS: content**

international aspect: flow of refugees to and from different regions and countries

#### past:

flow of refugees after World War II from east to west

current situation: focus on the refugees in Italy, Germany and Latvia

## school year 2016 /17

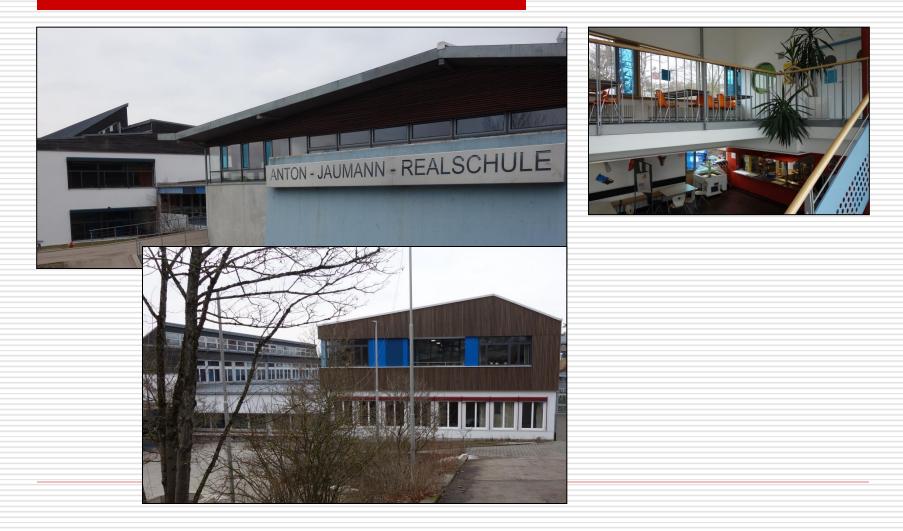
#### refugees yesterday

- pupils of all three schools carry out research in their families to find out personal impressions, stories and experiences
- they write personal reports
- the reports are put on etwinning
- exchange via etwinning pupils read and comment on those reports and work with them

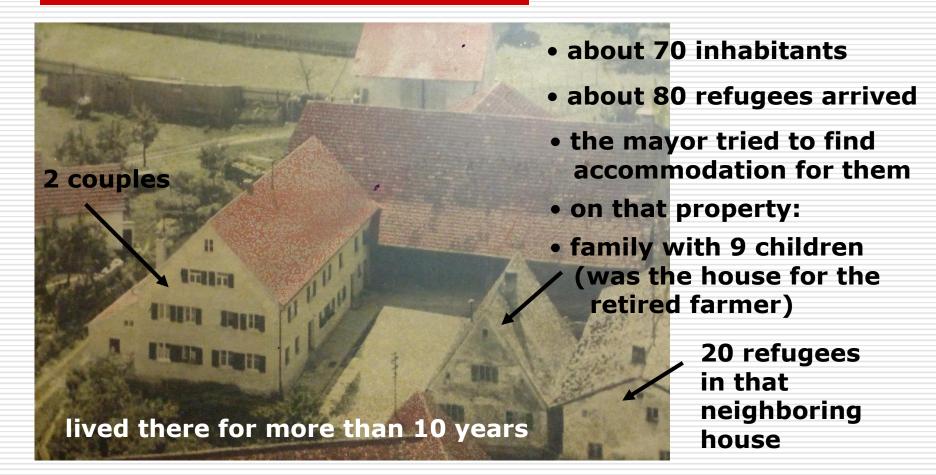
### school year 2016 /17

- interviewing people who experienced that time themselves
- presenting the contributions in May in Wemding
- outlook on 2018: final meeting and presentations in Liepaja

### Wemding 2016/17



- situation after World War II
- population in Wemding in 1945 about 2,500 inhabitants
  - with about 2,000 refugees arriving
- example of Hagau, village near Wemding



# further information

- the refugees were very poor, grateful and hard-working
- they often worked on the farms as servants or maids
- worked as day laborers
- looked after the children
- their children had to attend school
- □ they often learned a profession

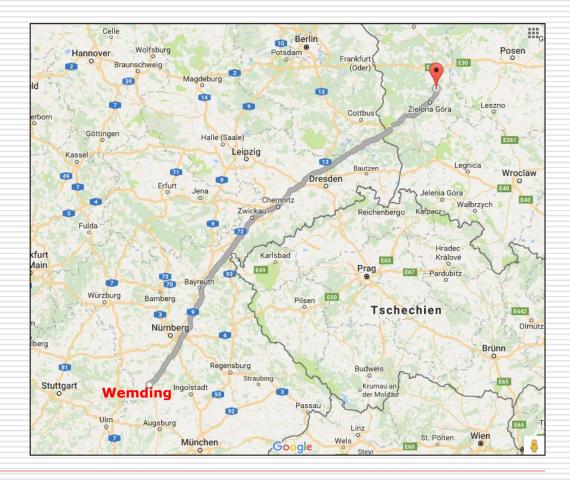
# further information

- some years later: some refugees moved to big cities and found work there
- other refugees built their own houses in nearby places
- general consequences of the war for Hagau: a great many refugees, but no destruction





report of a refugee





During World War II, my great-grandmother (Luise P.) from Züllichau (Mark Brandenburg  $\rightarrow$  today Poland) fled to Wemding with her little daughter (Gudrun) covering a distance of almost 700 km. They joined the spinning factory, where my great-grandmother's younger sister named Martha worked. My great-grandfather (Richard P.) was at the Russian front at that time. The family had agreed to keep in touch with their Berlin relatives. In Wemding the refugees were accommodated in different families first, among them the families E. and H.. At that time life was very hard for refugee families, as most of the them were women with children and they could not work because they had to look after their children. My great-grandmother earned some money by knitting. They were very fortunate to spend time with the H. family because they were well-disposed towards them and supported them a lot. The relationship remained close also in later years.

In a letter from a Berlin relative, my great-grandma learned that her nephew, Walter Weiss, had escaped from his boarding school to Neuburg on the Danube. So she and her sister decided to take the nephew in. Martha set off to pick up the youth. In order not to be a burden to his aunts Walter earned some money by taking up small jobs.

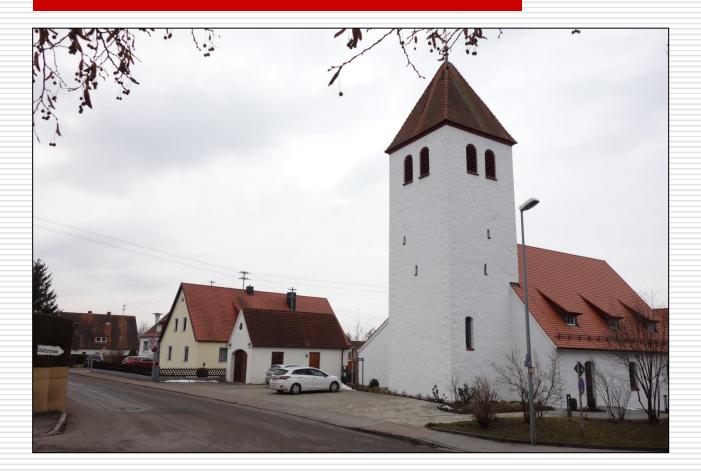
My great-grandfather had come into Russian captivity after he was injured. He came to Wemding only after the end of the war. Here he found work in the hard stone factory. Since my grandmother went to school now, my great-grandmother could also go to work. She was the head of the hard stone factory canteen, whereas my great-grandfather worked in production. Richard P. remained there until his retirement.



http://www.ks-wemding.de/frames/fr\_album.html

My grandmother had to learn that a protestant refugee was still bullied at school even after living here for several years. The Catholic priest Johannes F. said to her: "Go away, you Lutheran rascal!"

In the 1950s, my great-grandparents built the house in the Sandfeldsiedlung, where I still live today. The fact that there were many protestant refugees in Wemding after the war made it necessary to build a church there. The Bu. and Bi. families, who were the owners of the hard stone factory, supported the construction of the Protestant Christ Church. My great-grandfather helped with the construction and he supported the community all his life. Although they were refugees, they gained respect, my great-grandfather was a church administrator and a member of the parish council for decades. After his death, my grandmother was also elected to be the woman of trust in the parish council. My great-grandmother died half a year after my birth, and I never met my grandmother since she already died in 1990. I only met Walter W., who was like a grandpa for me until his death seven years ago.



#### works of art (6th graders)

#### Die Schrecken der Frobening

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pro&e Flucht 1944/45

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#### er Weg übers Mee

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weinschen zum der verwundeten Soldaten an Bord von dire weitschen Toppdass geschlen und sint. Mehr als 20 Menschen erhörken und erhieren im Eiswasser der Ren, nur 1239 Passagiere werden genettet.

#### Chaos der Stunde Nu

über zwölf Millionen Flüchtlinge und Vertriebene in nach 1945 eine neue Heimat. Erste Anlaufstellen unächst Verwandte in den allierten Zonen, wenn demin götz Zumeist verlauft die Odyssee der inden aber zwei- und einenterungsloe. Es herrschf amstehteter, Desenterungte

8 der unmittelbaren Nachkriegszeit streben die ein Flüchtlinge und Vertriebenen in erster Linie tof Sicherheit vor gewaltsamen Übergriffen und dlungen seitens der Sieger an. Ein is Zini der Besecht als für die master auch Here and one profiles Flasheres inspects parameters that the foreign of the state o

#### Das Potsdamer Abkommen

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#### Der deutsche Exodus

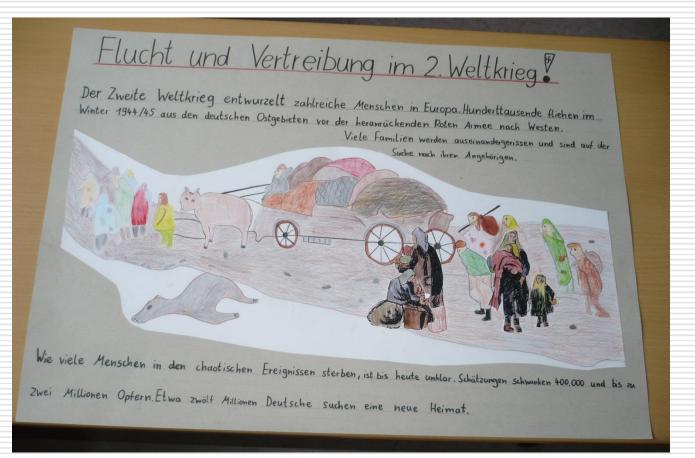
Die gewaltigen Flüchtlingsströme verlaufen quer durs das zenstöte Dectschland und treffen auf Menscheindurch Bombenangriffe und Knegshandlungen selbst kaum über das Nötigste zum Leben verfügen. Vielero werden die Neuankömmlinge daher misstraulisch beä und nicht selbna feindseig behandelt.

Es sit das Deutschand der "Stunde Null", und in den kniegszentichen Ruinenlandschaften mangellt es an Wasser, Lebensmittein, Medikamenten, Wohnraum, Kleidung, Heizmaterial und Arbeit, Viele Heimativetriebene müssen jahreiang im Auflanglegem der Baracken leben, Wohn- und Lebensraum mitte 6

en geschnem werden. en vertriebenen trifft neben den Strapazen der Fluchf nd dem Verlust der Heimat das Los des sozialen sistigs. Sie müssen mit leeren Handen den Neuantan; nschem Haus, Hof. Hab und Gut haben sie Tücklassen müssen. Mitgenommene

rt worden. Entschädigungen gibt es nicht.





concert in the Art Museum of Wemding in May



https://www.museen-in-bayern.de/das-museumsportal/museumssuche/museen/museum/kunstmuseum-donau-ries.html

IN PERSONAL

1. Projekttreffen mit den Partnern in Rom



Präsentation des Projektes für Bundesentwicklungsminister Gerd Müller im Wemdinger Rathaus



➢ Rome and Liepaja in Wemding:

19. – 25.05.2017

> 2017/18: "Flüchtlinge heute"

### **Eramus PLUS**

#### Thank you for your attention

## Sources

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page	2
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picture 1: Brachwitziremember.com (1945), 9/2/2017. <u>www.dw.com</u> (2016), 9/2/2017 picture 2: picture-alliance/dpa/B. Gindl

- photos of Wemding: Neubauer Christian
- http://www.ks-wemding.de/frames/fr album.html (mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Familie)
- photos of the school: Neubauer Christian
- photos of the pupils' artworks: Gehring Sabine, Ponicki Susanne
- https://www.museen-in-bayern.de/dasmuseumsportal/museumssuche/museen/museum/kunstmuseumdonau-ries.html
- photo of Hagau: Breyer-Grüneis Astrid (mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Familie Stenzenberger)