FORTITUDE

AFTER SILENCE 2022

EN UA

2022 has become a time of pain and losses, but at the same time, it was a period of mutual support and fortitude.

Russian aggression against Ukraine affected everyone. The words like "occupation", "air alert", "filtration", and "full-scale war" turned from history textbook terms into a part of our present-day life.

Many of us recall the experiences of previous generations to understand how to act under extreme conditions. We comprehend the history of mass violence in the 20th century so that modern Russian criminals do not escape punishment.

The reality turned out to be as fragile as the memory of the past. During the year, we tried to preserve our common history bit by bit and talked about it as much as possible. We received important help from our partners and provided it ourselves to those who were in need.

We are grateful to all defenders for the opportunity we have — to continue our work!

Talks

Publications

Documentary video project "02/24 The Life After"

Online archive "While Staying in Germany"

"How we survived" podcast. Season 2

Exhibition "We took those pictures in the evening during the thunderstorm*". Vernacular photo practices in Ukraine

Exhibition "Voices. A Mosaic of Ukrainian Jewish Life"

Digitized private archives. Annotated collection index

Oral history interviews. Annotated collection index

75

recorded oral history interviews in-person and online with storytellers from Poland

29

the number of locations in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv, and Kirovohrad regions that were visited for interview recordings

99

the age of the oldest storytellers at the moment of recording

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>150

the number of photographs and letters of Ukrainian forced laborers in Nazi Germany that were purchased at online auctions and flea markets as well as some other artifacts that witnessed the tragic events of the mid-20th century were collected

>3000

the number of digitized photos and documents from private archives

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9

the number of different platforms, both in Ukraine as well as abroad, where we presented our works

"Who and Why Collects Testimonies about the War in Ukraine?"

Online discussion by Kyiv School of Economics
(Kyiv, Ukraine)

"Documenting the War. Past and Present"

Online seminar co-organized by the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe and the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure
(Ukraine – The Netherlands)

"Greener Grass? Cultivating Transborder Connections Between Ukrainian Cultural Communities"

Artslink Assembly 2022
(Warszawa, Poland)

"The History of Pidkamin in the Context of Political, Socio-Economic and Cultural Processes in Western Ukrainian Lands"

III International Scientific Conference of Local History
(Pidkamin, Ukraine)

"Oral History: Theory, Practice and Prospects"

VIII International Scientific-practical Conference
(Vinnytsia, Ukraine)

"The Oral History in the Reality of War in Ukraine"

Educational trip by the AMO — Association for International Affairs
(Prague, Czech Republic)

"The Birthplace Siberia"

Annual project meeting
(Dobrotvir, Ukraine)

"HistoryLab: Memory Projects for Education"

Online laboratory by Digital History Network

«Prison as a Soviet/Communist Heritage Site»

Expert roundtable within the "Communist/Soviet Historical and Cultural Heritage of Eastern Europe in the 21st Century" project by Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies та Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
(Germany)

Cooperation

The short documentary **"Wordless"** was included in the collection of the DOCU/CLUB Network of the Docudays UA International Film Festival.

Gratitude

Special thanks to Hilfsnetzwerk für Überlebende der NS-Verfolgung in der Ukraine, the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage for the technical support of our team.

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media publications about us and our work

"State archives are open to anyone; home archives are trusted to few". How the "After Silence" works.

Andrii Usach, Anna Yatsenko for *LB.ua*

"I will remember the smell of that beer cellar for the rest of my life." Memories and reflections on two wars

Diana Kolodiazhna for *ZN.ua*

Soviet Mass Deportations: Guidelines for Assimilation for the Russian Authorities

Anna Yatsenko for *sharethetruths.org*

Liuba "Sumna" (call sign "the Sad"): The UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) liaison officer tells about her relatives' murder and exile

Lisa Sivets for *Radio Svoboda*

"No One Will Ever Admit that Their Relatives Persecuted the Jews": Historians Explain how to Talk to the Genocide Witnesses

Anna Yatsenko, Andrii Usach for *BirdinFlight*

Why are "Memorials" fading away? Who preserves the memory of the repressed people in Ukraine and how

Lisa Sivets for *Zaborona*

On February 25, the Russian army fired at the archive of the State Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in Chernihiv. As a result of the shelling, it was burnt down, and with it half a million documents stored there. A part of my family's history was burnt down, too.

Anna Yatsenko for *War: Stories from Ukraine*

In the Kirovohrad Region memories of Ostarbaiters were collected for the University of Luxembourg

Reportage for *the First Electronic Newspaper*

It was forbidden to film the deportation in the 40s. And here is the romantic detective story of a Ukrainian who tried anyway

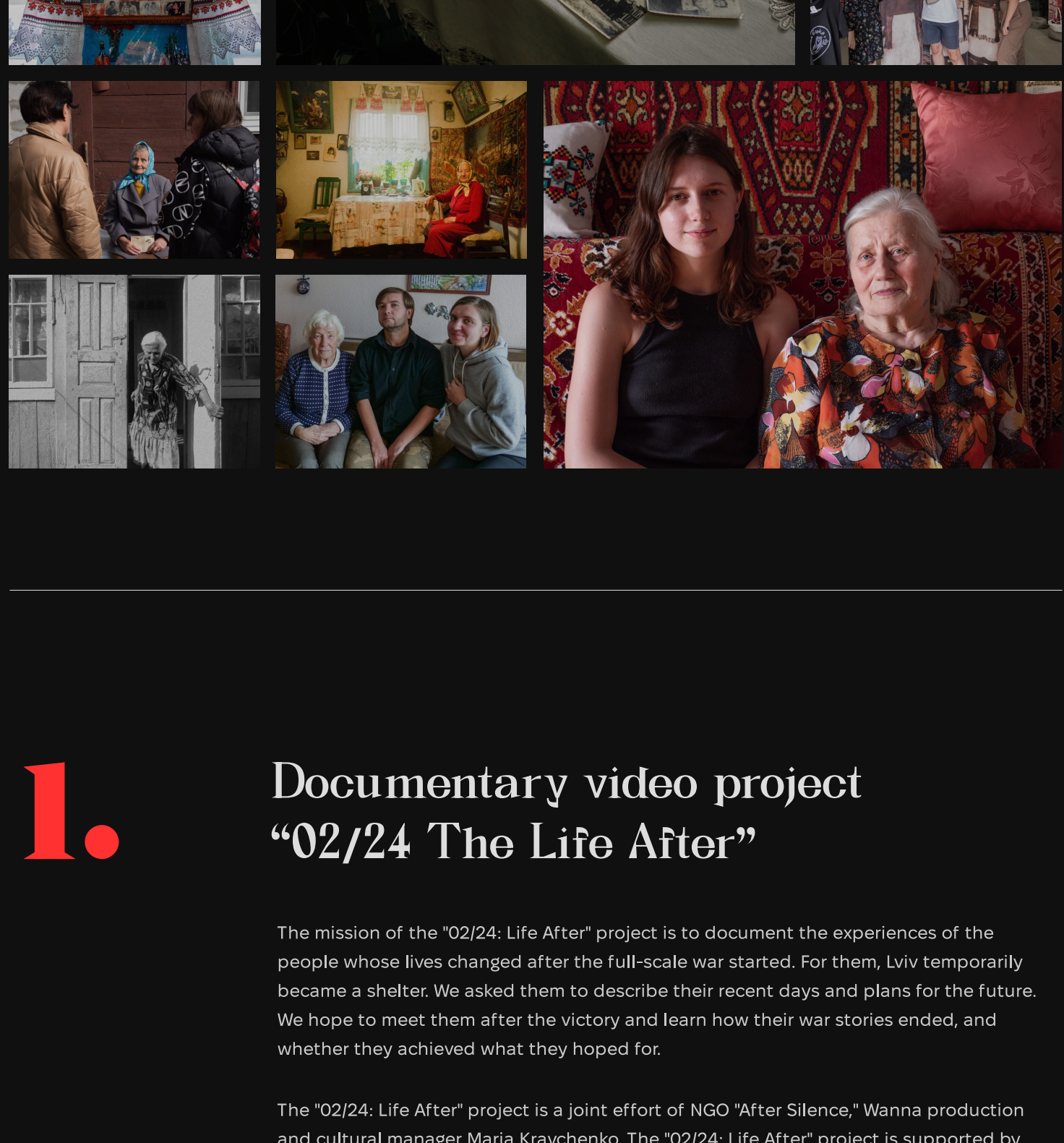
Andrii Usach for *BirdinFlight*

Activists found historical photos of Ostarbaiters from the Donetsk Region and were able to discover their last names (PHOTO, VIDEO)

Publication on *Vilne Radio*

Transit facilities of 1948–1952 in the Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions of Ukraine: history and memory

Andrii Usach, Anna Yatsenko for publication *Communist/Soviet Historical and Cultural Heritage of Eastern Europe in the 21st Century*



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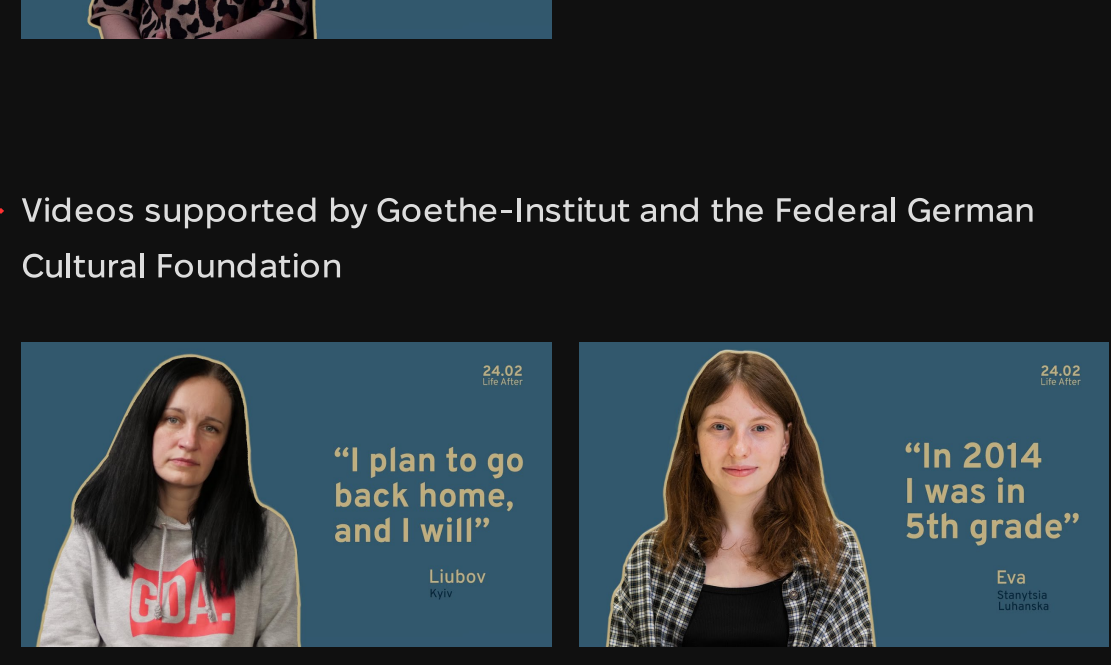
1. Documentary video project "02/24 The Life After"

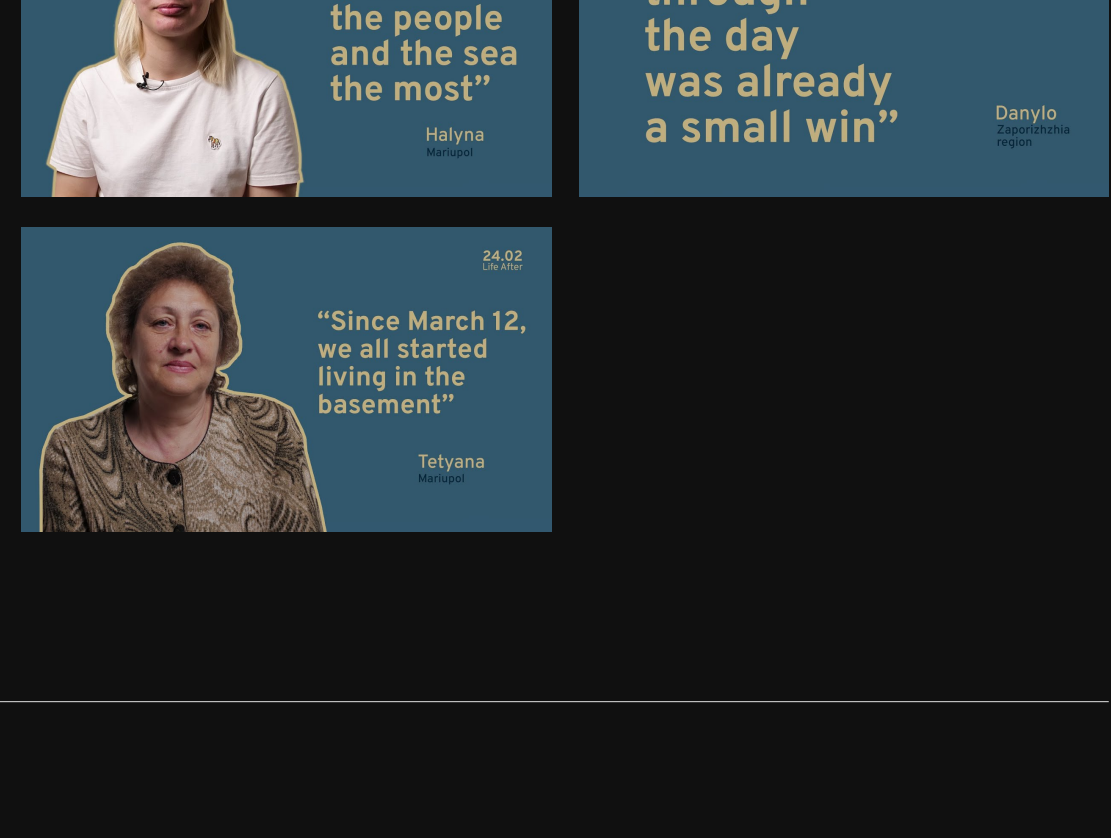
The mission of the "02/24: Life After" project is to document the experiences of the people whose lives changed after the full-scale war started. For them, Lviv temporarily became a shelter. We asked them to describe their recent days and plans for the future. We hope to meet them after the victory and learn how their war stories ended, and whether they achieved what they hoped for.

The "02/24: Life After" project is a joint effort of NGO "After Silence," Wanna production and cultural manager Maria Kravchenko. The "02/24: Life After" project is supported by the Heinrich Böll Foundation Kyiv, Ukraine; the "Connecting Memory" project of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe; the IWM's Documenting Ukraine project and the DOCU/HELP initiative of the Docudays NGO.

Videos created in cooperation with Lviv.Media



Videos supported by Goethe-Institut and the Federal German Cultural Foundation


24.02
"I plan to go back home, and I will"
Liubov
24.02
"In 2014 I was in 5th grade"
Eva
24.02
"I miss the people and the sea the most"
Halyna
24.02
"Living through the day was already a small win"
Danylo
24.02
"Since March 12, we all started living in the basement"
Tetyana

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2. Online archive "While Staying in Germany"

"While staying in Germany" is an online archive of over 150 photographs of Ukrainian forced laborers. We have managed to buy them over the past few years at online auctions and flea markets. It is not known for sure how these photos got there. Apparently, after the owners' death and because of their descendants' indifference.

In some cases, the project's team managed to identify forced laborers, find additional information about them in the archives, or contact people who knew them.

The project was implemented with the support of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung from the funds of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany.

** The project name reflects the original inscription "While staying in Germany", which was most often used on the backs of the photos by forced laborers in Nazi Germany.*

"If you love, keep it". The photos of Ukrainians deported to Nazi Germany

Hanna Lehun for *BirdinFlight*

"Go west! Traces of trauma in photographs of Ukrainian forced laborers in Germany."

Andriy Dostliev for *Korydor*

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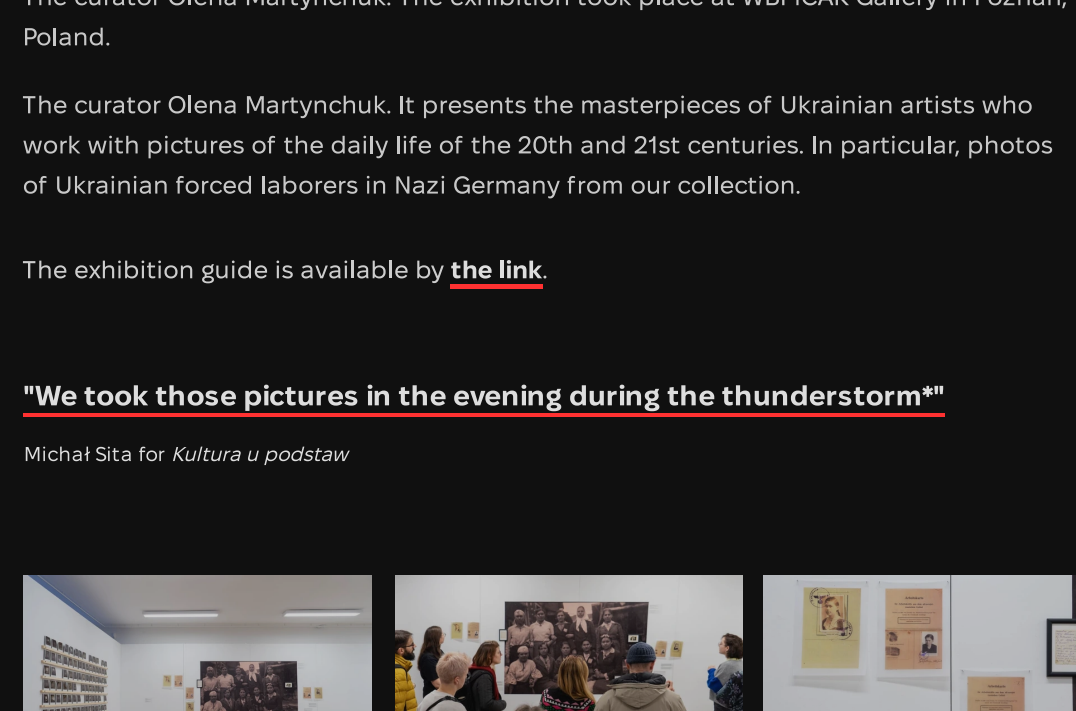
3. "How we survived" podcast. Season 2

A podcast about the experiences of Ukrainians in the Second World War. We met people who were children or teenagers back then, so they could share their memories. Eight episodes tell about life under the Nazi occupation and after it, the Holocaust, forced labor, everyday life in a concentration camp, and burnt-out villages.

The project was implemented in cooperation with Suspilne Media with the support of the "Connecting Memory" project of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The podcast is available on Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple, Google, Anchor, and Megogo platforms via **the link**.



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4. Exhibition "We took those pictures in the evening during the thunderstorm*". Vernacular photo practices in Ukraine

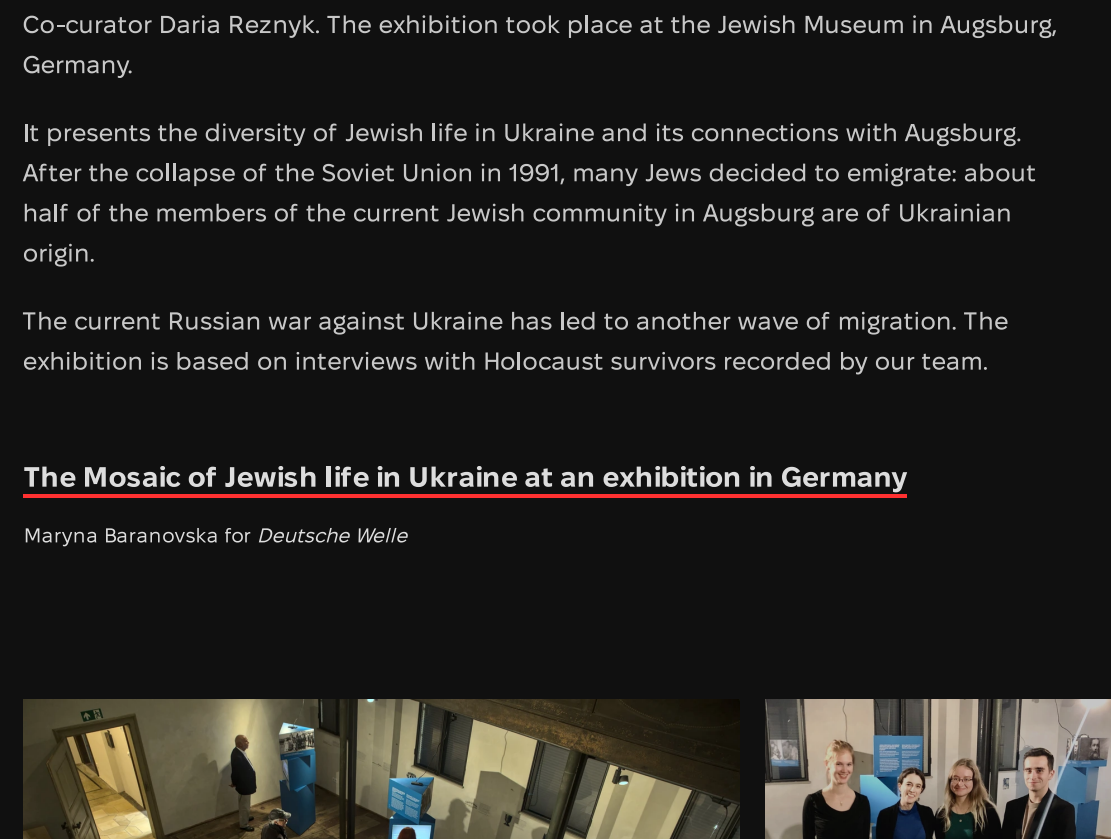
The curator Olena Martynchuk. The exhibition took place at WBPiCAK Gallery in Poznań, Poland.

The curator Olena Martynchuk. It presents the masterpieces of Ukrainian artists who work with pictures of the daily life of the 20th and 21st centuries. In particular, photos of Ukrainian forced laborers in Nazi Germany from our collection.

The exhibition guide is available by **the link**.

"We took those pictures in the evening during the thunderstorm*"

Michał Sita for *Kultura u podstaw*



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5. Exhibition "Voices. A Mosaic of Ukrainian Jewish Life"

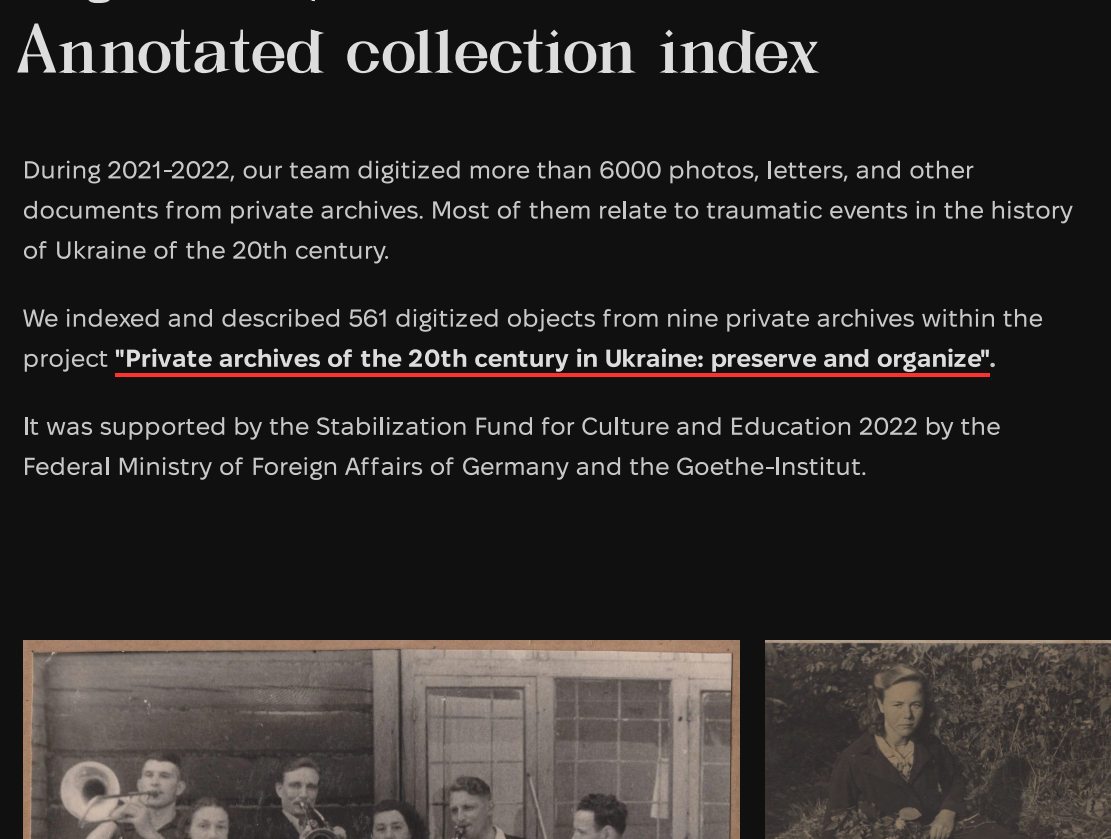
Co-curator Daria Reznyk. The exhibition took place at the Jewish Museum in Augsburg, Germany.

It presents the diversity of Jewish life in Ukraine and its connections with Augsburg. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many Jews decided to emigrate: about half of the members of the current Jewish community in Augsburg are of Ukrainian origin.

The current Russian war against Ukraine has led to another wave of migration. The exhibition is based on interviews with Holocaust survivors recorded by our team.

The Mosaic of Jewish life in Ukraine at an exhibition in Germany

Maryna Baranovska for *Deutsche Welle*



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6. Digitized private archives. Annotated collection index

During 2021-2022, our team digitized more than 6000 photos, letters, and other documents from private archives. Most of them relate to traumatic events in the history of Ukraine of the 20th century.

We indexed and described 561 digitized objects from nine private archives within the project **"Private archives of the 20th century in Ukraine: preserve and organize"**.

It was supported by the Stabilization Fund for Culture and Education 2022 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and the Goethe-Institut.

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7. Oral history interviews. Annotated collection index

During 2021-2022, we recorded 115 oral history interviews. Among our storytellers are people who survived the Holodomor, the Second World War, and post-war Soviet deportations, forced laborers in National Socialist Germany, survivors of the Holocaust, and prisoners of Gulag camps.

We transcribed and indexed 77 oral history interviews with the support of the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst within the project "Ensuring of the preservation of documents and archival funds in Ukraine".

We believe in victory!

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