

Presentation of the SO-CLOSE Project

“SO-CLOSE. Enhancing Social Cohesion through Sharing the Cultural Heritage of Forced Migrations” is a three-year long project funded from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme.

The main aim of SO-CLOSE is to contribute to social cohesion and combat the exclusion or marginalization that refugees may suffer by facilitating the encounters between similar life stories and promoting mutual understanding and knowledge between these people and their host communities. Using co-creative design methodologies and innovative digital and artistic tools, the vital experiences of refugees will be shared with the memories of survivors of European conflicts, preserved in the centers of historical memory.

The resulting data and methodology will be used to develop several digital applications. SO-CLOSE will design educational and cultural tools like interactive story maps, interactive documentaries based on immersive video recording, online exhibitions based on personal memories and storytelling or an online platform - Memory Center.

The Memory Center will contain a selection of audiovisual content for its future musealization, offer an innovative cultural experience that can generate social awareness. The co-creation and prototyping processes (pilots) will be carried out in four historical and cultural heritage facilities: La Jonquera Exile Memorial Museum, Trikeri Island Concentration Camp (Greece), Villa Decius Association (Poland) and the headquarters of the Monte Sole Peace School (Italy).

The SO-CLOSE project is coordinated by the UAB departments of Modern and Contemporary History, Sociology and Translation and Interpretation and Studies of East Asia, and supported by the UAB Research Park. The project’s Consortium also includes: the Swedish University of Lund, Villa Decius Association in Poland, the Greek Research and Technology Center (CERTH), the Greek Refugee Forum and The participation of technology development companies La Tempesta Media and Engineering aims to provide the project with a set of interactive tools that collect exchanges of experiences between refugees and victims of historical conflicts.