Within the framework of the educational projects of the National Museum (Prague, The Czech Republic), which engage memory institutions in teaching the history of the 20th century at primary and secondary schools, the educational activity Remembering the 80s in Czechoslovakia was created in collaboration with the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové. The activity involved twenty-two school teams, with 489 students of primary and secondary schools from different places in the Czech Republic, including Benešov, Bohosudov, Brno, Brzová u Uherského Brodu, Česká Lípa, Frýdlant, Liberec, Lovosice, Most, and Teplice.

Part of the project is the portal eSbírky of the 20th century, which represents an extensive collection of museums, galleries, and other memory institutions and is created by experts across many disciplines. Their aim is to mediate easy access to cultural heritage for the general public. It is a unique project in the Czech environment, which makes it possible to browse the digitized collections of many different institutions in one place. It serves for working with digitized collection items and allows students and teachers to create thematic groups of subjects connected with significant events or years of the 20th century. This served as an inspiration for the creation of virtual exhibitions by pupils, made of subjects from their own resources. The essence of this activity was to undertake research within families of today’s students – about the lives of their parents and grandparents in the socialist Cze-
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choslovakia, the description of the situation in their place of residence in 1989, and their perception of political, economic and social changes in the early 90s of the 20th century. The aim was not to observe the great political history, but the history of everyday life and to establish inter-generational dialogue.

The students were to obtain information, articles, documents, photographs, newspaper articles etc., bound to the reference period. All participating teams were tasked to create a school exhibition on any topic with the obtained information and objects related to 1989. The school is a specific environment with limited exhibition opportunities, so a unique opportunity to implement virtual exhibits was created.

Pupils gained not only documents, photographs or newspaper articles, but also 3D objects. Exhibiting such objects at school grounds is problematic, because the most common exhibit spaces of educational institutions are corridors or hallways. In order to create an exhibition from objects that cannot be exhibited in standard fashion at the school buildings, a unique platform was created with a specifically simulated space for the creation of virtual exhibits where students could place pictures of the collected material, including 3D objects.

During the educational activity, a comprehensive methodology was prepared for students to guide them through individual activities step by step.
All involved teams created not only the virtual exhibitions, but also the classical exhibit at the school premises. All exhibitions were visited by the coordinator of activities and the students were introduced to educational / motivational materials for the mentioned historical period (the so-called Museum case, which contains replicas of historical realities, objects, documents, certificates, and comic books created by the National Museum), which are intended to approximate the time and create a relationship for students to the period and to serve as inspiration for the creation of exhibits. On this occasion, the students were instructed to create virtual exhibits and they were introduced to the conditions of educational activities.

Creating a virtual exhibition was very attractive for students. It developed not only their knowledge and skills in computer science, but also their ability to correctly describe the subject from a professional and subjective point of view. The exhibits were authorized by relevant teachers.

The entire educational activity Remembering the 80s in Czechoslovakia was conceived to deepen the pupils’ ability to work in a team, teach them responsibility, cooperation, perseverance, self-discipline, and diligence, and to arouse interest in modern history of the Czech state through the establishment of an inter-generational interview. Virtual exhibits are a great popularizing tool in which students can summarize the historical lessons learned. A number of educational projects allow them to work with digitized collection items of individual museums in a form of collection on their website, but none before allowed to create one’s own virtual exhibit from objects that have the potential to become collectibles. To create a virtual exhibit with one’s own content/digital content is a unique opportunity.

It is possible to create exhibitions in a 2D or 3D environment. The students were mainly addressed by creating a 3D virtual space, where they chose from 11 different exhibiting spaces (National Gallery, National Museum, etc.), most often the exhibit space of the Czech Museum of Music. Exhibits are dimensioned
for 12 artefacts; some teams even created several distinctive collections of objects.

Overall, students published more than 30 exhibitions (21 exhibitions using the 3D space) which represented a total of 307 subjects. The most popular themes were “Toys from the socialist period”, as well as “Household goods and objects of daily use”. Less interest and opportunities for the creation of exhibits were seen in the case of political events. At exhibitions of socialist games and toys, periodic or thematic presentations generally dominated, followed by gender and material assortment. At the exhibitions of household and objects of daily use, we can trace the effort to highlight the central collectibles based on the specific characteristics of the subject (the oldest, most bizarre, etc.). Students focused mainly on three-dimensional objects. The effort to obtain information about such objects and to create historical descriptions led students to study period materials about their application in everyday life in socialism and their true function. In an effort to put objects in historical and cultural contexts, in many cases an accompanying material was composed of period photographs and printed advertisements. All the student’s exhibitions can be found on the website www.dvimatestoleti.eu/exhibitions.

Expositions were evaluated in terms of logical connections between objects in the exhibition, the theme, and professional elaboration of descriptions for individual items. The winning exhibitions were presented by the authors themselves to teachers, historians and other professionals at the gala seminar held at the National Memorial tomb on 6 June 2014.

The efforts of students and the idea of the project were awarded with the diploma Co-
Students working on the exhibition creation.

Collected objects
menius, EduMedia Siegel by an international professional committee for educational projects involving media and information technology in teaching. The project was also recently awarded the international Seal of Approval by the Erasmus Euromedia Awards jury. This signals that the media production fulfils the standards of excellence of the European Society for Education & Communication. With this seal, the project is nominated for one of the other awards as well. The winners were announced during the Erasmus EuroMedia Award Ceremony on October 10th, 2014 in the Congress Hall of the Federal Chancellery in Vienna.