



Sulejówek, 15 December 2023

Final Report – DEMHIST Special Project Grant 2023

Publication of the book Other, and yet another Forefathers' Eve, How Mickiewicz travelled to the Ainu in three languages: Polish, English and Japanese, with colour illustrations.

1. Summary of the project;

The project consisted of writing by Jadwiga Rodowicz-Czechowska, and gathering from other 14 authors, in Poland and in Japan (Hokkaido) texts from the participants, about the performative project realized in 2022 by a group of the Ainu women-activists and Polish performers. The initial 2022 project included a preparation of an original scenario during online and face-to-face meetings, discussing the Polish drama written by a Romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz ("Forefathers' Eve") and the Ainu spirituality. It embraced re-working the original during many discussions the Ainu men and women, adding the Ainu-language correspondent verses, and presenting it publicly in November 2022 in Hokkaido. The book aimed at evaluation and leaving trace of the 2022 project, giving space to express thoughts of our Ainu and Japanese counterparts. The texts were originally written in either Polish or Japanese, therefore for the book we had to do cross-language translations (Polish-English-Japanese-Ainu).

The publication was aimed at bringing the Poland and our Museum's co-operation with the Ainu people, especially women, to a new level and strengthening of the Ainu identity as creators of dramatic form. It was the first international project of the Józef Piłsudski Museum with the underprivileged group of the ethnic minority.

2. Number of participants;

It total, we had 17 authors in Poland and Japan, we worked with 4 translators, 1 graphic designer, 3 photographers.

3. Communication materials where the DEMHIST logo is visible; please see the cover of the book and the chapter "Acknowledgements"; see the webpage, and the FB profile:

See the Attachment 1 – copy of the cover of the book.

4. Goals and objectives achieved;

Our goal was to bring the exchanges between the Polish people, the Ainu and the Japanese, to a new level and adding new meanings to the concept of the "feast for the departed souls" and embedding it in a 21st Century realities of the Ainu.



5. impact of the project at local, regional or national level;

The project itself was important for the Ainu women and Polish performers. We have to wait to see the impact of the book after we deliver them to the Ainu minority people in Hokkaido and their institutions (e.g. the UPOPOY Museum in Shiraoi, the Biratori Town Museum), and others.

6. Sustainable Development Goals achieved (if any);



We think that the project itself (2022) and the book (2023) contributed to achieving better gender equality (Goal 5) as it was women performers, on both the Polish and the Ainu sides, who re-interpreted the history (as herstory) and the poetry. It was the Ainu women from the Menoko Mosmos group, who participated and co-created the scenario and performed it. We also think that it contributed to the processes of Lifelong Learning (Goal 4) as many of the participants belonged to a group of seniors, including the Ainu men-activists, who were given space to publish their thoughts.

7. three high-quality photographs;

See the attachment 2.

8. the final budget or similar financial report.

See the attachment 3.

9. the proof of funds expended,

See the attachment 4.

10. invoice addressed to DEMHIST for the total amount awarded;

See the Attachment 5.

Sincerely yours

Deputy Director for Development

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