

Kogu Me Lugu - History and Human Rights awareness through trans-media storytelling

Unitas Foundation

www.unitasfoundation.org

www.kogumelugu.ee

Kogu Me Lugu (Collect Our Story, also translates into Our Entire Story) is an Estonian oral history initiative to collect Estonian family stories and share them with the world through audio-visual storytelling. One of the main objectives of the Kogu Me Lugu (www.kogumelugu.ee) initiative is to study, analyze and raise awareness of the German and Soviet occupation regimes, their crimes against humanity and violations of human freedoms.

The initiative was launched on the 1941 June deportation memorial day in 2013 by the Unitas Foundation (www.unitasfoundation.org) based in Tallinn, Estonia. More than 500 stories were collected in a single day. Since the project's launch, hundreds of stories and materials have been gathered and more than 80 video interviews conducted, 35 of which were conducted during 2014 with members of the Estonian exile community in the USA. The range of the video interviews makes it possible to discover the variety of Estonian stories and to learn how different families have dealt with difficult times.

Storytelling is increasingly more important in mediating educational and awareness raising narratives. One of the particular aims of the Kogu Me Lugu oral history initiative is to bring inspiring and educational Estonian family stories and memories from recent history to life across different technologies and interfaces including, but not limited to, online platforms and tools, social media networks and campaigns, public and cultural events, museums, education, archives, radio and television.