

**TITLE: THE VILLAGES PYRGI AND MESOVOUNO DURING THE GERMAN  
OCCUPATION: The presentation of the Holocaust through oral testimonies**

Mesovouno is a village of Pontic Greek refugees who came and settled there after the Asia Minor Catastrophe and the Treaty of Lausanne, when Greek and Turkish governments agreed to engage in a population exchange. This village is located on the foothills of Mount Vermio. During the German Occupation, the villagers of Mesovouno suffered from the Nazi occupiers' violence and cruelty. The first Holocaust of Mesovouno was occurred on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1941. The village was totally burned down and 142 people were executed (according to the German sources), while some other evident reveals that this number is even bigger. The second Holocaust took place on April 1944, when 150 victims were killed by the Nazis. The villagers' properties and their houses, which had been rebuilt in 1942, were destroyed once again.

Pyrgi was also a village near Mesovouno where Greek refugees came and settled after the population exchange treaty. In the spring of 1924, refugees from Pontos and Bithynia were forced to leave their Motherland and came to Greece. Before these Greek refugees overcame the Turkish atrocities in Pontus, Bithynia and the rest of Asia Minor, the Germans and their collaborators in the spring of 1944 had destroyed the whole village by burning alive 340 residents in their barns. Most of them were women, children and even unbaptised babies.

This proposed topic for presentation is part of the broader thematic unit: Memory Management. The main components of this work are the recording and the transcription of oral testimonies from residents who have experienced extremely painful situation during the German occupation and more specifically, during the Holocaust of the two villages. An attempt will be made to record and present the general situation which occurred in the whole region during the occupation and of course in combination with bibliographic research and assistance. Moreover, a worth analyzing topic is the number of the residents, who were executed and the general disasters which were caused by the German army and its collaborators. This topic is going to be analyzed during the presentation.