

## **Abstract**

The aim of this diploma thesis is to introduce the reader to the art-historical project Stolpersteine. Its author is the German Gunter Demnig, who first came up with the idea to honor the memory of Holocaust victims in 1992. The purpose of the project is to commemorate the victims of World War II and the Nazi regime, not only Jews but also Roma, homosexuals and Jehovah's Witnesses. Stolpersteine are in the form of paving stones with a brass surface, which are usually inserted into the sidewalk before the last known voluntary residence of the victim. The Stolpersteine project soon attracted the attention of experts and the general public throughout Europe. In the Czech Republic, the first memorial stone was laid in 2008 in Prague, then in Mikulov, and more are added to various parts of the country every year. Laying new stones is not a trivial matter and the legislative process, which begins with an application and ends with the issuance of a decision, involves a number of steps. The purpose of Stolpersteine is to get today's young generation to reflect on events that its representatives have not experienced, but whose legacy continues to shape political and social events not only in Germany but also in other European countries, including the Czech Republic. Due to their location by the ground, the stones encourage passers-by to lean towards them and thus show respect to the person whose memory these non-traditional works of art are dedicated to. In doing so, they can read some information about the victim, such as their name and surname, date of transport or death.

## **Key words**

Stolpersteine; the stones of the missing; stumbling stones; Jews; victims; the Holocaust; Gunter Demnig; brass stone; laying; legislative process