



*Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance*

**9<sup>th</sup> annual studytrip/workshop, Albania, 22-28/29 September, 2019:**  
***“Unbunkering the past: How is Albania dealing with its (communist) history?”***

Organized by

Crossborder factory, Youth Initiative for Human Rights Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Franco-German Youth Office, Forum ZFD Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with:  
Cultural Heritage Without Borders Albania, Regional Youth Cooperation Office,  
Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture, House of Leaves – Museum of Secret  
Surveillance, Justice & Peace Association, Center for Historical and Anthropological  
Research, National Museum for Contemporary History of Slovenia

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## EVALUATIONS

crossborder  
factory



OFAJ  
DFJW



MUZEJ NOVEJŠE  
ZGDUVINE SLOVENIJE



## **Evaluations by the participants**

- 1. Your general opinion on the study trip/workshop (content, structure, organisation, group)**
- 2. Please chose two moments/ places/ encounters/ sentences... from this week which you found particularly interesting, and explain why**
- 3. What are your reflections after this week / what did you learn this week ...**
  - a) ... about dealing with the past/ memory culture in Albania
  - b) ... about dealing with communist past in your own society / other European societies?
  - c) ... about yourself
  - d) otherwise
- 4. From what you have done/seen/heard this week, what will be useful for your own work?**
- 5. Suggestions/ideas/plans for the future concerning ...**
  - a) Annual Memory Lab study trips/workshops (locations, content, ...)
  - b) Memory Lab in general
  - c) Your activities with other partners from Memory Lab

*Note: The answers 1 – 9 haven been translated from Bosnian / Croatian / Serbian, and the answers 10 to 36 have been written in English.*

### **1. Your general opinion on the study trip/workshop (content, structure, organisation, group) /**

1. The content was excellently chosen. As historian, I participate in many seminars, both in the regions and abroad, but I haven't heard that someone has ever done something similar – studying communism of Enver Hoxa. And not only this ninth study trip, but any of your earlier study trips deserve great attention, precisely because of its originality. In past, you selected certain locations that were marginalized by historic research, which has to be praised. Concerning the organisation of the study trip, I could give the highest marks, for each single day, but also for the period before my formal involvement with Memory Lab. More specifically, materials you prepared and sent, as part of preparatory phase, I deem very useful and important. Never before I had such kind of preparation and I am very thankful for that. The group selection was exceptional. I was honored to be a part of such group. Unfortunately, nowadays we who are coming from countries that were part of Yugoslavia are more likely to meet and talk with a Belgian, Parisian, German, than with someone from Bosnia, Slovenia, Croatia. In that lies great value of Memory Lab. To meet people that we cannot easily meet, talk with them about difficult past and experiences.
2. Everything was great; content was well organized, it was easy to follow and the concept of the program was good. I think it is great that there were also participants from Albania, and it's a pity that there were not more of NGOs representatives dealing with this topic.
3. This-year study trip to Albania was very informative and useful. Lectures were successful in giving us a general picture about history of Albania , and especially about communist period, and visits to

memorialization sites, in my opinion, were the best part of this study trip. We had a chance to get an insight into the period of Albanian communism, including crimes against population, isolation and consequences of the regime that kept Albania in isolation for almost a half of a century. In addition, we had an opportunity to get an insight in manners and policy of dealing with a difficult past in Albania, through work of international organisations and relevant institutions. Organisation of the trip, including topics, presenters, sites, logistics was very good, and the group was inspirational, especially participants coming from the former Yugoslavian republics.

4. As each time the organization was at the highest level. By this, I mean both a content and the structure of the workshop.

5. As each year, the entire organization and everything else deserve the highest mark, interesting content that enabled us to get to know better Albania and its past, group of wonderful people to be together with, to learn and plan some new activities...

6. Memory Lab is an excellent platform for learning exchange of opinions and ideas. Such type of common learning is at the same time a possibility for realisation of new cooperation and networking. In addition to educational presentations, workshops and visits to memorialization sites are entwined with contents that enable participants to discuss, exchange opinions amongst themselves but also with persons in charge of creation of culture policies.

7. The study trip, by its content and volume was at the level of the previous ones. Albania has been closed society for a long time and traces of that have remained until these days. I believe that we went deeper and further in a research having in mind the extent to which the community was ready to open to foreigners. The only thing that might have been missing is the voice of those inheriting the heritage of the former system; those who look back at the communist rule in Albania with nostalgia.

8. The study trip was more intensive than I expected. In a short period of time we managed to get to know Albanian communist past, in touristic, analytic way and at first hand. I think that it was very good, since it meant variety of participants who in spite of coming from different structures respected everyone's opinion and respected the circumstances such as – where someone is coming from, from what professional background....

9. Very positive, and as the biggest value I emphasize a profile of the group. As a result of the selection process, the group has offered me more than I expected, and already the study visit to Albania has been useful for development of my existing and future projects concerning culture of memorialisation.

Organisation was excellent. Tirana was a discovery for me.

As far as the program is concerned, my personal opinion is that it might have been more interesting if the balance between institutional and non-institutional actors was better. Lecture on Skenderbeg was considerably better than most of lectures in institutions or ones given by institutional experts. It is recommendable to include more such type of scientists in the program.

Remarkable to me is the concept in that Memory Lab as a group within the study trip is engaged in a deliberation of a local challenge, such as prison Spac. The effect can be equal for those giving and those receiving advice.

I also think that concept: 2/3 of old participant and 1/3 of new participants is very good.

10. It was my first time with Memory Lab and I'm very pleased that I had the opportunity to be part of it, not only for the very interesting destination and content but also for the people I had the chance to meet. The organization was excellent, and I learned a lot while having a great time.

11. It was my first time in this workshop and in this wonderful group and I really enjoyed. The organization was excellent and the structure also.

12. This was one of the best Memory Lab study trips so far. Everything was working perfectly, no delays, no misunderstandings, everything right in place and on time when it was required. The group was very coherent, working very well both in plenaries and in small working groups, willing to share and accept new experiences. The content of the study trip was very rich, wonderful combination of the visits, testimonies, working sessions. Again, one of the best so far.

13. The content of this Memory Lab was an opportunity to earn new knowledge (about Albania), to meet a lot of new participants (for me), the program was well balanced between visits (museum, sites, ..), lectures and times of shared discussion with the group. And everything was well organized, so my general opinion is: 😊!

14. An excellent week, enriching, punctuated by beautiful meetings, because of a likeable and complementary group, a very good organization and a content both varied and relevant.

15. For me, this was a very valuable edition of Memory Lab. The Albanian program was rich and well balanced. I gained more historical insight on this unknown chapter of European history through visits and talks. The exchange with eye-witnesses and with Albanian participants in general made me understand better what impact this historical episode must have had on individual stories. The fact that Albania is just recently starting to tackle this history, offered the opportunity to really reflect with them on how to do this in a good way.

Once again, mixing 'old' and 'new' participants from very different professional, national, ... background proved to be a good formula for interesting conversations and for a great atmosphere.

16. I really liked the study trip, everything was perfectly organized – very rich program, well coordinated and harmonized in terms of getting to know the history of communist past in Albania and seeing and discussing practices of memory work.

17. The Memory Lab workshop in Albania was one of the most comprehensive (and fun) workshops related to Albania's communist past that I have attended. The level of organization and the quality of the chosen sites and presentations made the whole experience very informative and entertaining at the same time. The group of experienced professionals was very helpful in their insights and willing to collaborate and contribute in Albania. The organizing team was easy-going and relaxed while maintaining excellent logistics and communication.

18. The contents of this specific seminar was extremely well presented, before the meeting, on the opening of the seminar and during the study trip.

The goals, the presentation of the different sites, the issues of our meetings, workshops and visits were very well explained and wisely introduced with a special attention to the crosscultural exchange.

This meeting was a challenge if we consider the variety of participants coming from countries facing conflicts and strong prejudices. The topic dedicated to Albania, its history and memory was a perfect opportunity to raise many exposures, reflections and conclusive steps to a dialogue between participants.

The process for each activity was precisely announced and developed.

I suggest a reinforcement of attention identifying the participants and helping to quickly name them.

For next meetings it would be necessary to present a list with names and pictures of each participants.

It could be a useful support which could be sent before the meeting or at the opening of the meeting.

The mutual comprehension and language didn't provoke any problem.

We had enough time and occasions for debriefing and a good organization of large meetings and workshops in small groups.

The variety of presenters offered a large array of points of view from different witnesses, experts, and allowed the participants to encounter different perspective.

The organization team did an excellent job. The program was rich enough and allowed me to discover the history of Albania and the terrible experience of dictatorship.

I would like to emphasize the smart balance in the organization and spirit of the program between moments very well framed and moments for your own reflection and suggestions.

19. Great opportunity to be participant on that initiative for mutual knowledge, exchange experiences through different countries, how to build capacities, facilitate contacts and realize common projects.

20. The content of the study trip was very interesting for me, because in my job I often talk about societies and how to deal with their own history. The structure was very varied, as it was a mixture of discussions, museum visits and excursions to authentic places. And besides, thinking about the past few days was very useful. Everything was well organized and there was still enough time for breaks and we never had any problems getting to a particular location in time. The size of the group was perfect for a week. I had the opportunity to speak with all the participants and the composition of the group was very good. It was a pleasant atmosphere and I really enjoyed working with the inspiring participants.

21. For me, one of the best ML study trips - a lot of interesting content to discover, clear focus on one period / topic that gave opportunity to "dig in" deeper; great group.

22. Content providers (local lecturers) were good. I felt only that the key note from Enriketa was either coming too early in the program, or perhaps it was her approach of that presentation that (100 years of history in 1 hour!!!) was different. Same for the panel, I thought the odds were very good, but somehow no key messages were shared, in my own perspective.

I felt also that perhaps next Memory Labs should also integrate a "memory tour" of the main location of the activity as a way to help understanding and stimulate discussions via the city, its architecture, its people.

For the rest, I thought everything was positive and stimulating: organizers approach, group involvement, visits...

23. It was very well organized, nice accommodation, good meals, well thought program, fantastic opening on the country, and excellent group, rich of its diversity. The leading team was of a perfect efficiency, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere.

24. My personal view about this Memory Lab is very positive : first because of the the vivid contents of questions and group discussion structure organized, and second because of the different trips chosen for this Memory Lab.

25. I appreciated very much the choice of topics and locations, the structure of the program, and the composition of the group – again, the mix of old and new participants worked very well, and the colleagues and participants from Albania deserve a special mention for their welcoming and committed attitude. To have the info market with enough time at the very beginning of the program was also very important for bringing the group together. Also from the logistical point of view everything went very well. It is just a pity that the heavy thunderstorm interrupted our foreseen memory walk through the city center, so that we could only see some of the memory sites we had planned to see.

26. First of all: It was a truly thrilling experience to discover Albania and to get to know, above all through the accounts of locals, the „hidden part of the iceberg“. Mirian, Eni and Elian played a very important role, helping me/us to decode and shed new lights on primarily cliché-laden images of Albania. They were like a liaison between the topic and the places we had the chance to visit. They themselves represented in their own life different ways of dealing with the historical cycles/layers of the country, which were fascinating to explore (Eni was born in Italy; Elian studied in Canada ...). Our group had from the beginning a very nice cohesion (I never had the feeling that we were 40 persons!), due of course to the persons themselves but I think also to the methods used during the week, that allowed us to exchange more deeply in constantly renewed constellations.

The program was multifaceted, in a very good balance between presentations, work groups, excursions and exchanges. Also the format of the concluding discussion (opened to the public) was well done. I

enjoyed that you, the organisation team, gave us so much space to reflect and exchange. (And the idea of Mirian for recovering from lunch with physical movements was really excellent!!)

The first round of presentations within a smaller group of people coming from the same field was really good! We would have needed more time though, for us and then for sharing with „externs“.

I also wished a couple of time we would have had more time for the work groups, for example when we adressed the topics we would like to focus on in smaller groups. It lacked an hour or so to go a bit deeper into it.

Altogether: This study trip was a truly stimulating and inspiring experience!

27. All logistic aspects of the Memory Lab were very good, travel to Albania, accommodation and local travel. Very well organized, punctual and efficient. Content of the workshop created opportunity for learning and discovering Albanian history. Ratio between lectures, visits and trips was good. Memory walk in Tirana, before and under heavy rain wasn't necessary, it could be predicted and better facilitated. I would prefer breaks longer than 15 minutes and proper lunch and free time after it. It was difficult to be engaged on sessions just after the lunch.

28. I found the group genuinely interested in the program of the workshop, most of the participants were very engaged. I very much enjoyed both structured and spontaneous discussions. The content of the workshop is highly relevant in contemporary Albanian context, but it is also of big importance in wider European context, as models of museum representations, mechanisms of transitional justice and memorial solutions are transnational. For instance, it was apparent at several moments in the program that there are different types and levels of cooperation between Albanian and European (Rumanian, German, Polish) memory actors. The workshop was organized very well, there was a good dynamic between indoor and on-site activities and there was a lot of time for reflection which again proved to be extremely valuable. On ground the program was running smoothly.

29. Very nicely organized, the activities chosen had a very enjoyable balance between terrain activities and indoor workshops. This year's theme was very engaging to say the least, there was a lot of new information to be digested and I think the group did a good job at internalizing the situation of current Albania, and how communist Albania influenced what we have so far in this society.

30. Although I did not participate in the first half of the study trip/workshop, I think this was one of the best Memory Lab's so far. The mix of lectures, study visits, discussions and witness testimonies was very well balanced, which made the program extremely diversified. There wasn't too much of anything (or too little). The group also functioned very well and an added value was the presence of participants from Albania who greatly contributed with their hospitality and input about the topics discussed. And there were no more earthquakes :-)

31. Memory Lab created such environment and opportunity of connecting participants and allow them to interact among each other, while the structure of the workshop was such as created the opportunity through interaction to make more familiar the participants with less knowledge about the situation in Albania. Having such a diverse group it was created an opportunity to share and learn from each other and always been able to share your point of view and hear the opinions of the participants being less familiar with a topic but still observing the whole situation from a different angle.

32. I very much appreciated the Albanian study trip: everything was very interesting and perfectly organised. The strong commitment of the Albanian partners, and their presence all along our stay, allowed us to a deeper understanding and intimate insight in the memory challenges of the country. The earthquake before our arrival, the flood after our arrival, definitely gave something to talk about and helped the group to feel united facing the elements ;-)

Joking aside, the atmosphere among the group was very nice, open and kind.

33. On a content and structure level, the program was very balanced. The build-up of the program seemed logical. The first day, there was a general exploration of the Albanian case and during the next days we focused on more specific cases like Spaç, the Sigurimi and how communism and

anticommunism is perceived nowadays. There was enough time to discuss and reflect with other participants. The Albanian participants (Mirian, Xherri, Eni, Dorina to mention only a few) were an enrichment. The information we didn't get from experts (f.i. the curator of the museum of witness and memory in Shkoder) was provided by the Albanian participants. The mix of participants from the Balkans and western European countries worked very well. Although people from France, Belgium and partially Germany didn't have a communist past, their vision on what was/is communism and anti-communism raised questions others didn't ask themselves before. Apart from the Albanian case, it was also very interesting exchanging ideas with the participants coming from other countries. The organisation was spotless, I couldn't find any negative remarks whatsoever.

34. Thanks to the Memory Lab preparation team and their cooperation partners from Albania the study trip and workshop were excellently prepared with very interesting partners and a good mixture of discussions, talks and lectures.

35. Taking part in the Memory Lab study/workshop trip in Albania was an amazing experience and I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to participate. I thought it was extremely well organised, and structured in a way that maximized my learning and understanding of the issues relating not only to Albania, but also to memory politics in general. I also really liked the mixture of ways in which we learnt about Albania's past and present – presentations, discussions, site visits, witness testimonies, reflection sessions, informal discussions over lunch, dinners and bus journeys! It was fantastic meeting people from so many countries and backgrounds. I learnt so much from the group. The group was also extremely friendly, welcoming, knowledgeable and fun to be with, which as a newcomer made it so much easier to get involved.

36. It was a fantastic study trip/workshop, with an excellent content, very well thought structure, spotless organization and very enjoyable group.

If there was one thing to change, though, it would be the info market. I was able just to talk to people from my assigned, rather eclectic group ("diverse") and it was very hard to get to understand later in the session what the others were doing. Moreover, I would have liked some feedback about an NGO project I am starting, and it was hard to figure out who is doing similar projects. While of course you get to talk to people throughout the week, this does not necessarily mean you get a chance to hear about projects and initiatives that they are doing. I realize there are many challenges to make this info market comprehensive- of course, one being time, but I feel people would benefit more from another format. One suggestion would be a "speed dating"- one side says something for 1-2 minutes, then the other reacts. This way, you hear about many things for just a bit, and if some things are of particular interest with some people, you can schedule time later to talk more.

## **2. Please chose two moments/ places/ encounters/ sentences... from this week which you found particularly interesting, and explain why**

1. It is very difficult to separate only two moments as particularly interesting, in a sea of interesting moments during the study trip/workshops. Nonetheless, I would single out a testimony of Mr. Uran Kostreci, when he spoke of his experience, how he felt worse when he got out of prison, than while he was in the prison, because of silence amongst people. People did not speak to each other. As another moment I would like to mention the discussions with people from former Yugoslavia. Laughter and humor, in spite of everything we've gone through. There is a third moment also. When I came back to my hometown, Kraljevo, (bigger city, the nearest to Kosovo, where population doubled after 1999, with displaced Serbs from Kosovo), a lady told me "I'm following you on facebook, I watched your photos from Albania, they are beautiful, but I simply can't like Albania, ... I can't".

2 On the one hand, the Site of Witness and Memory in Shkodra for the potential it has (especially because of place it is located in) and a bit strange relation towards own activities. In some moments I got impression that director is keeping distance with everything that is not related directly to his work

in museum. On the other hand, the panel discussion “The role of the state government, civil society and international community”: again, it seemed to me as a vague approach to dealing with the past, where dealing takes place only and exclusively within own narrative (almost as an imposition of it).

3. For me the most impressive were the former prison in Spac and the House of Leaves, because I believe that both places have great potential for work with youth in a context of dealing with difficult past, overcoming consequences of difficult past and work towards building better society.

4. The visits to Shkodra Museum and former Prison in Spac were the most interesting. When speaking about Spac, the reason is similarity with the situation we are having in Republic of Croatia with the site in Stara Gradiška, where a memorial could not have been established until nowadays. When speaking about Shkoder, the reason is a particularity of the museum exhibition, which describes the events from 1945 and 1946 not only as a resistance but as a battle for democratic society.

5. The visit to the prison-mine in Spac connected me in a way with personal past and present problems... The witness statements in House of Leaves that communists were “worse than fascists” shocked me a little bit, so at all times I was trying to understand proportions of the communist government terror, and what could be of anti-communist nature? And weather fascists were good anti-communists?

6. The program in Albania was really filled with extremely interesting contents and memorial sites. Here I would like to single out the House of Leaves as a place with interesting exhibition, which is in each segment deliberated upon and connected with the central idea based on which the museum has developed. It is also interesting to overview the situation around memorialization of other places. It was extremely useful to hear participants from other countries who told about their experiences in processes of marking of memorialization sites.

7. The visit to the former prison in Spac. I find the process in which this location has been transforming into memorialization site very interesting, because it is so similar to processes in the community in which I operate. Former prison/camp in a mine that is privatised and the heritage that not everyone wants to maintain in memory.

I was bothered with the terms “communist crimes” or “crimes in communism” that were used both in presentations and announcement of the Study trip. In Albania it was not communism, but a version of socialism. In the theory of Marxist thought that period is referred to as “dictatorship of proletariat”, when communist overtake the power. Communism is a utopian notion, an ideal of a society strived by socialist countries. In communist regime, according to the theory, states are dying out, thus no state ever could be a communist state. Maybe, in the future one should pay attention to terminology used in the Memory Lab working materials. For instance, in BiH the war was fought and war crimes committed by parties declaring themselves as democratic ones, and which came to power after democracy was established in BiH, instead of previous one-party system. And yet, we do not refer to those crimes as crimes in democracy or democratic war crimes.

8. Definitely the most impressive for me was visit to the House of Leaves, more specifically the room whose walls are covered with names of victims and explanation that all the names couldn't fit, and there would be needed another room, or more rooms, that is the place where everything we talk about (not only related to Albanian victims, but in general) gets materialized in a way.

9. I am amazed with the main square in Tirana, and the story about specific elevation due to former location of a monument to Enver Hoxha related to memory. The story is architectonically slightly pretentious, but the result including ambiental and residential qualities of the location is exceptional. The case is also talking about impact of the memorial to different aspects of culture and life. Some kind of memorialization exists everywhere, and it influences our life even when we are not aware of it.

The bus drive to Kruja in company of Gunther Schlusche was particularly interesting since we used the time to thoroughly discuss the process of creation of the monument to killed Jews in Berlin. As

Gunther was involved in the project since its beginning (he wrote a book about that), practical aspects of the process of creation of an important memorial with all challenges and steps was of particular benefit for me.

10. I was impressed by the vitality and humanity of the ex-prisoner Uran we met at the House of Leaves. His words about not wanting revenge but also not resigning as a victim were inspiring. I was touched by the space of ex-prison in Spac and moved by the story that ex-prisoner Zenel told us about a man who was murdered after asking a provocative but also sincere question to the prison officer: "If everything has an end does it mean that also this regime is going to end one day?"

When I was a kid, we were taught in school that communism represented the end of dialectics and as such the final historical period. A certain sort of heaven I concluded. "When is this heaven finally going to end?", was a question of this poor man. Well, he disappeared soon after that. It made me think of the necessity to spread the word of the ones without name and voice. Not just because we are witnessing the crime against humanity but also because this particular man did something that we should recognize as valuable and courageous in this senseless crime. But it also made me reflect on the significance of the term hero and of who are today representing heroes of the past. Finally, it made me think that I know nothing about the facts of this particular story and that even if I would know them it would still remain just a story that can be told in many different ways. We will never know the reason why he asked this deadly question; it was a sign of bravery or resignation.

11. Spac and Shkodra prison were the two monuments which I liked, found interesting and make me reflect.

12. Definitely the testimony of Uran Kostreci and his sentence "The communists ruined my life and I will always fight against them". In the time when we live in total hypocrisy and false political correctness, it is rare to hear people who clearly articulate cause of their problem and openly and honestly elaborating why and for which reason he/she dislike/like, fight against/support certain idea/initiative/regime, etc. Full respect for his openness, clearness and honesty.

The visit to House of Leaves : having an opportunity to visit similar places in Germany and Portugal and making parallels between them, in my opinion, House of Leaves is similar to Uran's testimony – open, transparent, backed up with statistical data and numbers – everything clearly explained and the visitor can get full picture of how one system/regime used (or abused) current state of mind of its citizens to spread the fear, suppress disobedience and take full control.

13. The visit of "The house of leaves": this museum is very well done, makes things easy to understand, I specially liked the black walls with info written in white and the bugged rooms. The scenography wasn't easy as it was a former building, with different uses, and they managed to make a museum where you learn, understand what was the life under communist period.

The visit of Spac with Zenel Drangu: The site is very impressive, because of its isolation and solitude, and I can't help wondering if I would feel the same with some outdoor facilities. Zenel's testimony made this visit unforgettable.

14. The visit of Spac prison because, although it was not my first visit to a prison inherited from communist dictatorships, it was the first one related to forced labor, while its inaccessible situation in the mountains, in ruins and the new mine behind was particularly striking. The whole is reinforced by the on-site's survivor's testimony. So I remember both the place and the meeting.

The story of the illiterate shepherd from the south of the country arrested when he visit his aunt // absurdity of the Sigurimi for whom (CIA) in phonetics is enough to imprison him. A story that summarizes the system.

15. Spac was an incredibly impressive visit. Every element contributed to that experience: the nature around, the testimony of the former prisoner, the ruins of the building, the remoteness of the place, but also the fact that we could have an insight in the project and the concept of the memorial site which stimulated us to look further and deeper. All these elements made it an extremely powerful and unforgettable experience for me.

Gjirokastra : A little bit out of the official program (which was a good idea) but a memorable day. It gave us the opportunity to see a little bit more of the rich cultural traditions of Albania. Also being out of the capital, gave us a different view of the country. It added to the general multi-layered image I got of this country.

Other valuable experiences to me were: House of Leaves, the thunderstorm (please let's have one each year ;-)), the visit of Tirana with Mirian, presentations of the three ladies (State actors, civil society and international community), ...

A bit less for me was the reception at the Embassy (but okay, I know it can be important), also gathering the project ideas should have been organized in a different way to get on a more concrete level.

The public event was a good idea, but may be the format could still grow in order to reach more people and some decision makers?

16. First : House of Leaves + meeting eyewitness. In my view a very well created exhibition at the historical place – interesting to see the collection with a lot of objects and documents – and also hearing and discussing the reception of the place in society. And of course, very energetic timewitness – interesting to analyse what he was telling, not that much on the time in the prison itself, but more how he is coping with this time, how it has affected his life.

Second : Former Prison of Spac. Interesting to see an abandoned place, forces creativity/ ideas what to do with an completely « empty » space and how to shape memory there. Also very interesting to hear some background knowledge from Mirian !

17. I especially loved the guided visit to Spac. It was really inspiring hearing about CHwB's efforts to reactivate the location as a memory site. Another really important part of the workshop for me were the 'off' moments of walking around the city or at cigarette breaks at Tirana International, and the evening at the German embassy, where I was able to become more intimately familiar with the varied and very interesting group that is part of the network.

Bonus moment: getting stuck and drinking beer at the National Art Gallery during the storm.

18. I was tremendously touched and informed by our two witnesses, Uran and Zenel who were presenting different faces of experiences of their sufferings and analysis of their life and the meanings of their actions today.

It allows me to "understand" how a process – historical- social- personal – can lead someone, totally innocent, to be jailed, to be tortured to be denied in his /her humanity, to be assassinated. At the same time appear the craziness and the cruelty of a dictatorial regime.

What they presented enrich my personal reflection and my professional background concerning the processes which can lead a society and ordinary individuals to become, victims or perpetrators. I also was very interested by the way the witnesses, Uran and Zenel, come to the conclusion that the responsible of all their sufferings is communism.

It seems that this is a step in their experience which could be enlightened by meetings and convergences between other memories of sufferings in different countries.

19. The visit on Spac site and the memories presented by Mr. Zenel Drangu as a human memory.

20. It was inspiring for me to see how dedicated Mirian from Albania works, and it was amazing that the contemporary witnesses still think so positively. It was also very emotional for me to talk to Ervin and Elma about their memories of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I've talked a lot to camp survivors in World War II. But it was very new for me to talk to young people who survived such a murder crime. These impressions have occupied me for a long time.

21. Spac - impressive site by itself; symbolizing of what humans are able to do to other humans; but at least as impressive was also the witness - without him and his courage to speak, Spac would have remained a place of dead stones.

House of Leaves - visualizing the paranoia of the system (and society?).

22. There are many moments. I would like to point out the discussions I had in person with other participants, in primis with Melka who gave valuable advises and seemed to have understood very quickly the context of Albania. Another interesting moment were the arrival to Spac and the few instants right-after Zenel had finished his story-telling. The look in people's eyes...so much sadness... it was the first time that I have experience this in-situ and hence my re-adjustment in trying to introduce little jokes and bitter-sweet stories to cheer it up somehow.

Also the lecture from Armanda was really good, with very clear messages.

23. The visit of the House of Leaves and the encounter with the former political prisoner who quoted Shakespeare, followed by the trip to Spac.

The visit of the fortress of Shkodra and the marvellous view on the rivers followed by the very convivial dinner in a restaurant near by the lake.

24. Between the several constructivist discussions in the whole week I was fascinated by the two testimonies of ex-prisoners and their personal experiences in Spac prison. Second I was wondered that this Memory Lab put together different professionals which some of them already new about Albania and others were deeply interested sharing our difficult past in their country of origin.

25. a) The visit of the Skanderbeg Museum in Kruja: such a surrealistic palce, it provides an idea about the over-dimensional importance of Skanderbeg for the communist regime, and also the current one, which was then greatly analyzed by the presentation of Armanda Kodar-Hysa.

b) During the final public debate, while one participant said « everything regarding communism seems black and white, it seems that there is no grey, we would need to have more grey zone », another participant, from Albania, replied «everything here is grey zone, we need much more black and white » - a very inspirational exchange about the difficult perceptions of realities.

26. Beyond the fascinating discovery of the country and its history, what impressed me the most were the human encounters. The discussions I shared with Mirian, Eni and Elian, the insights they gave me into their personal history and connections with the historical past of their country (and the story of their family) were very enlightning and therefore particularly interesting.

I experienced a very emotional situation while visiting the museum of the former prison in Shkodra. There was this watch in a vitrine. It was found in 1990 on the body of a young man (25 years old) who had been shot on the coastline while he was attempting to escape the country. One month later, in the summer of the same year, I myself was flying to Berlin and tasted there the incredible flavor of freedom. I was 19 and had the feeling that life has just started. And here I saw this watch, connected to the story of a young man shot because he was clinging to that same freedom. I felt as if time and space had shrunk in one second and as if space and time would suddenly overlay, catapulting me through a swirl of emotions. The „yugoslav war“ became suddenly very tangible; linked to me personally.

27. Visiting House of Leaves and talk with Mr Kostreci – since I have seen and understood the staggering level of espionage and control over people living in Albania in communist time.

Talk with Mrs Kodra-Hysa and understanding the importance of Albanian hero – Skenderbeg, as the only one and the role of his heritage in different times.

28. For me, the absolute highlight of the workshop was the discussion on the concept of Spac prison museum and memorial proposed by CHWB. I found the discussion to be substantially critical and yet very constructive. I appreciated respectful communication throughout this session as well as honesty of participants. I very much hope Mirian and his team will be able to use international knowledge in their work on this project.

I very much liked the whole visit to Kruja, because I was able to explore a bit the reconstructed Ottoman heritage (hamam and other) on this site and even more because of the great talk on Skenderbeg's appropriations by different ideologies and regimes. To me it was the most revealing talk/visit of the entire workshop.

29. Moment 1: Experiencing the former Prison of Spac with one of the victims that were politically persecuted, listening to his experience and memoirs in that forced labour prison made me reflect about the actual unnecessary terrors that were induced on most of the population at the time, and how scarcely we discuss the terrors of the time in this new era of denial in Albania. Wanting to turn memory into history so that the upcoming generations will know what plagued our society.

Moment 2: Meeting Mr. Uran Kostreci, a survivor of the regime that was politically persecuted for more than 20 years in the prison of Burrel. He did not want to burden us with the terror stories of his life, and instead with his positivity he happened to be the most refreshing encounter of the whole week. Still very impressed by his attitude on life, and will to inform the youth of Tirana about the communist past in Albania.

30. The first would be Armanda Kodra-Hysa's lecture which was, in my opinion, very nicely structured and informative and it gave us a very good overview of Skenderbeg's role in Albanian history and national identity building. I also really enjoyed the town of Kruja.

The second was the visit to Spac prison, because it reminded me a lot of Goli otok in Croatia. I was able to draw some parallels between the two prisons, but also to see the differences in how the prisons functioned. Since there is a similar discussion going on in Croatia about what to do with Goli otok, and NGOs and former prisoners' associations are the most active in preserving the site and memory of the prison, it was interesting to see/hear how the society is (not) dealing with a similar site of memory in Albania.

31. Having on mind that the participants coming from the Western Balkans had more information about the region and in this case particularly Albania, from my perspective there were visiting "The house of leaves" and testimonies of the victims who have experienced the imprisonment during the communist regime or better say during the dictatorship regime of Enver Hoxha. The visit in this facility was something unique as even nowadays you are able to feel the gloomy atmosphere while stepping inside the facility. Actually, in some moments I had a feeling that just by reading all the documents and by seeing all this surveillance equipments and all that propaganda material it gives you those spooky feelings regarding the life of the citizens during that time in Albania. Additional moment which was interesting was the testimony of Mr. Zenel (and not only) who have clearly stated in between sentences that the threats for the regime were educated people, as he stated: "...there were prisoners with which I spend time in prison who knew up to fifteen (15) foreign languages". This clearly shows at least to my opinion that educated people were seen as a threat at the time in Albania, especially those who dared to raise their voice about injustice and free speech.

32. I very much appreciated the visit in Spaç, thanks to Mirian and to Zenel. As it is not yet a museum or a memorial site, it allows me / us to ask myself/ourselves: when we can consider that a memorial is successful, or that it reaches its role. The combination of individual memories and the construction of collective history also came out of this visit.

I also liked very much the city walk in Shkodra because the speaker talked about everyday life during communism and she provided us with another angle on the picture.

And I loved the collective discussions on communist time, and I think we could have gone a bit further on that topic. The perceptions within our group are very diverse and still very lively. (For instance, the German perspectives on their communist past were quite different from one German participant to another).

33. It's really hard to only pick two. I guess one of the moments/places/... would have to be Spaç, for several reasons. The road to go to the former prison was already a clear indication. To have to change busses to even reach the place and then the bumpy road to finally get there gave an idea of the remoteness and the hiddenness of the former prison. For me it was also exemplifying of how Albania deals with its past. In and around Spaç, the place still carried a certain burden, the empty buildings spoke for themselves. The fact that we were accompanied by a survivor, a vivid person that was still able to recall what really happened at the place was a huge added value. I will try to keep myself updated on what will eventually happen to the place memorywise.

A second place and word would be the House of Leaves and the word ‘anticommunism’ that was used throughout almost all visits and certain conversations. I’m linking both the House of Leaves and ‘Anticommunism’ since Uran Kostreci, a survivor of a communist prison used it several times during his discourse. Both museum and conversation with the time-witness and director of the museum were very interesting. In a certain way, it is the most ‘modern’ museum we saw during the whole trip. It’s a museum that seems very accessible to youngsters, since a lot of objects are shown that are still relevant in the everyday lives of young people. I was very surprised by the museum in a positive sense. The time-witness wasn’t as ‘nuanced’ as the person we saw in Spaç, though his story certainly was of an added value. The term anticommunism he (and several other museums) used was a point of firm discussion. What is anticommunism and is it used in Albania to replace the term democracy?

34. The discussion with Uran Kostreci and Etleva Demollari in the House of Leaves  
The tour to Spac and the talks with Zenel Drangu and Mirian Bllaci  
The city tour in Shkodra with Etljana Shkreli from Go2Albania

35. The visit to Spac prison and hearing the testimony of Zenel Drangu. This was particularly interesting as it really brought home the particularly brutal nature of the Albanian communist regime; an isolated and environmentally harsh location, combined with harsh treatment of prisoners and their families by prison guards. I was also struck by the fact that even when pushed to the limits by the communist regime some guards remained human, and pushed against the system. This site was also of interest because it illustrated how difficult it is in Albania today to preserve the past. The decayed nature of the Spac prison site and the huge efforts of Cultural Heritage Without Borders to turn the site into a memorial, clashing with the mining companies who are making money in the mines where former prisoners suffered and died. Cultural and economic needs clashing.

Visit to the House of Leaves – Museum of Secret Surveillance. During this visit it was pointed out that Granitz Ruci, a current serving politician in the Albanian Socialist Party, was the last Minister of the Interior during the Communist dictatorship. This fact I think underlines the issue that is at the crux of Albanian Memory politics; that some former communist officials and politicians serve in the current government. The current government would prefer to avoid talking about the wrongs of the past in which some of them were involved. An Albanian lady working in the Albanian National History Museum told me that today’s government is not believed to be democratic. She referred to the current regime as ‘blue communism’.

36. Listening to the Spac time-witness (the possibility to have the headset and look at various things while being able to listen was also great)- it revealed details that colored the awful experience of political prison in communist Albania.

The talk by Armanda in Kruja - there were so many fascinating threads of Balkan-Ottoman-Albanian history that elucidated many missing spots and shed light on Albanian narratives.

### **3. What are your reflections after this week / what did you learn this week ...**

#### **a) ... about dealing with the past/ memory culture in Albania / ...**

1. Dealing with the past in any country that had difficult moments, doesn’t have its exclusivity. The “weight” can be very similar. Victim is victim. It is on us to encourage people to speak about difficult experiences. As silence can be devastating, the same way discussions and openness can be healing. Culture of memorialization in Albania is at its early stage, but thanks to great people involved in process of memorialization and informal education, I am hoping for the best. I came across Youtube clip from 2017 in which dealing with communist past in Albania and Montenegro is discussed side by side, related to Goli Otok. In Montenegro they follow situation in Albania with astonishment (House of Leaves is shown also), while for dealing with past in Montenegro they are pessimistic.

2. I would say it is on its very beginning. Still, there is no dealing with past, because the new narrative about suffering has just been introduced. It has not been discussed about, but it is just established as a parallel one to the “communist one “.

3. I’ve got impression that a process of dealing with the communist past in Albania is unfortunately coming from outside, through efforts of international organisations that are trying to make dealing with these issues actual in a society that, I would say, has no active need to deal with this issue at this time.

4. One may notice: 1. numerous issues; 2. Obvious division of Albanian society; 3. Specific situation when compared to former Yugoslav republics.

5. Since I had no previous knowledge, everything I saw and learned was something new, but when comparing to other countries, i can say ‘the further you go South, the more sadder it gets’ ...;)

6. I learned to what extent the history of communism in Albania is sensitive historical period with very visible consequences nowadays and how challenging is to speak about this phase of history.

7. Closeness of that society and repression faced by the citizens during totalitarian rule of the Communist Party still today paralyse civil society which even after multiple-decades offset only now starts with the dealing with the past process. Nonetheless I was pleasantly surprised by our counterparties from Albania. They think very progressively, and they are aware of their position and issues that are burden to their society.

8. Still, this new awareness is in its creation, therefore it is still unilateral, if not emotionally colored... I think some more time needs to pass after the workshop and activities to create more objective picture about that time. If that is not accomplished, such history would be used as needed – sometimes in positive light, sometimes in negative one, as it is a case in other countries and their interpretations of own systems.

9. In the context of a limited insight (due to contact with only segments) I believe that in Albania impassioned approach to memorialization is predominant, and that scientific method is less present. Therefore, I don’t have and can’t have a full picture. I think that it was very useful for some of the local participants to face different perspectives and experiences from abroad, even starting from a terminology grounds.

10. Albania was one of the most cruel dictatorships in Europe carried out in the name of communism, something that is by definition based on equality and brotherhood. Even today, this paradox remains unsolved, especially in former socialist countries where on one hand we are witnessing the denial of historical facts that prove the crimes committed by communist regime and on the other the abuse of the same facts to discard the whole idea of communism which had fuelled the fight for liberty and social state. Historical facts are still abused and manipulated for political and economic interests of different elites. Therefore, we should be well aware of the importance of insisting on an objective and scientific research of historical facts, and at the same time accept the impossibility of a completely objective narrative that explains these same facts. The story about who we are is not something that we find out once for all, but something that has to be verified on a daily basis.

11. There are a lot of grey areas and gaps witch need to be address. For sure we have to work a lot on the aspect “dealing with the past” and to reflect it for a better future.

12. I have mixed feelings about it. On one hand, everything seems to be on display, information available, but people (especially the governing structure) show no willingness to open up this question. Instead, they understand that people, especially foreigners are curious to find out more about this period of Albanian history and they more or less are turning this period of time into profitable touristic sensation.

13. Lot of things are now in progress, and it's of course a quite recent history, we should not forget to let the historians do their job, with the archives, and then make proper exhibitions. It seems there is also a lack of foreign historians who cares about this question, sometimes an outside look is good (like Paxton's studies about Vichy in France).

14. Difficulties quite logical for a country, poor, which still has democratic progress to make, whose history remains complicated to write so where it is difficult to build a memory rid of prejudice or on the contrary of forgetfulness. - Discovery of academics, activists excited by their energy, their will, their creativity.

15. I learned everything, since I knew very very little before coming. At the same time, I sometimes had the impression that we only could scratch the first layer of this historical episod ("communism was bad and people suffered from it"). With time, other layers will have to be added through research and multiperspectivity (like the perspective of the guards and of the spies for instance, or a more biographical approach on Hoxha and his entourage).  
This week made me more sensitive on how important it is to 'chose the right ennemy' (cfr. discussions on 'was it communism that played such a problematic role or was it the way communism was implemented in a dictatorial and paranoid way?')  
What also really stroke me was the way Albanians love their country and how they do everything to show its assets to their visitors. For me, this is also a way of dealing with the past: compensating the past with a lot of positive perspectives and stories.

16. Not easy to work/ be active within the field of memory culture concerning the communist pasts. It brought up a lot of questions as : How can society reconcile/ « find peace » and move on if perpetrators (and people involved in the regime) are living next door with people who suffered under the regime ? And if people from the communist period are still in power ?  
Not dealing with the past may be a first way of dealing with it for some time but it will pop up at some point and challenge the society. How does family memory work if there is silence between the generations ?  
It was crucial to hear that a lot of people do not have any trust in politicians and even more in institutions and politics as such.

17. Albanian culture has a tendency to want to overwrite traumatic past events with the new and the flashy, and this is part of the reason why memory work is in it's infancy at an institutional level in the country, overall lacking in academic research and sometimes falling in the traps of cliché, with very few shining exceptions. Perhaps this is a chicken-and-egg question where the public needs stronger institutions to metabolize a very difficult past, while the institutions need public interest to flourish before taking any meaningful action. There are also many grassroots initiatives which seem to fill this void, but can be prone to bias and revisionism.

18. It informs me about the fact that a majority of Albanians wish to forget the difficult past and move to a new era. Lessons of the past can be dangerously quickly forgotten or debriefing on the terrible historical perid not made.  
I learnt that perpetrators of the former dictatorial period are still in charge in high rank of national authorities.  
I learnt that both former sides are living in the same society without any process of justice or social common reflection about the past. It is a big danger for democratic process and perception of responsibility in this society.  
I realize that people who want to establish a policy and actions or projects concerning dealing with the past are facing huge difficulties and need help and support.  
I learnt that our Albanian colleagues could get a good benefit in building bridges and relations with Memory Lab network in bilateral or multilateral approaches.

I am really concerned by the facts that witnesses of horror of the past focus their criticism against exclusively communism; I understand why, but I am thrilled by the fact that their experience could have also lead them to consider more generally: Why these events happend?

Would have been possible to prevent them? Who are individually or collectively responsible to make these events to happen? Would it be possible to consider the problem through the question of identifying a variety of responsibilities?

This reflection and approach could also be quite interesting and useful for each participant from any country.

A prospective seemed to me missing; it is the connections with history of Albania and impact today on our democratical systems in Europe. I can perceive the danger of what we also saw and studied in Albania. The program of the seminar included opportunities to approach this topic but it was still difficult. I understand now why.

19. Examining Albania's recent communist history appears particularly interesting regarding Southeastern and Eastern Europe.

20. I have learned a lot about the problems of society in Albania in order to deal with the history of the last century. The experts gave us a lot of information about why it is so complicated and we learned a lot about the terrible life under Enver Hoxha. It was very interesting that there are a few people who work with so much energy in places like Spac or the House of Leaves and try to bring history back into the remembrance culture.

21. Albania seems to be a little known country in Europe - with history of dictatorship that also appears to be little known, within and without the country, resp. it appears that there is little interest so far to deal with its past in a comprehensive, not black-white manner.

22. That every story is a history a part, every context is fundamentally different no matter how similar the experiences might be...

23. I discovered the presence of communist heritage, which is still visible, but not easily questioned and dealt with, except by the very courageaous efforts of persons who come from the civil society, and the first steps of a state policy.

24. I strongly believe that it is more than important dealing with the past, and not only in seminars or trainings, this issue should be also an important topic to be focused also in educational institutions : schools, universities, museums ect.

25. « We are just at the beginning », « We are at step 2 or 3 »- two quotations from two of our Albanian speakers : in the first nearly 30 years some steps have been undertaken regarding the dealing with the Communist dictatorship, in a very punctual, non-systematic way by the state, while civil society actors are now becoming much more demanding, but are facing many resistances and difficulties. All together, thanks to this Memory Lab, I learnt a lot about the communist period in Albania, how it is dealt with today, and about Albanian history more generally. I was not really interested in Albania's history and didn't know much about it before this Memory Lab – now my knowledge and especially my interest is a totally different one.

26. First of all, I was very much impressed when I realized, during our visit of the National History Museum, how old and rich the historical heritage of the country is. What a big contrast to the way Albania is perceived in the (western) world today.

Regarding our topic: I willll add to this report 2 pictures that summarize in my eyes the way the country is today dealing with its past. One was shot in Kruja, the other one in Gjirokastra. History and tourism - Ali Pasha, Skanderberg, Hoxha, (Sali Berisha, Edi Rama) and Mother Teresa gathered with their faces on muggs or magnets. In a friendly get-together. Weird.

Flashlights:

A lot of work ahead. But also a lot already achieved: the „house of leaves“; the project of a memorial site in Burrel, in Shkodra ...)

Heterogeneity of what has been achieved so far: huge discrepancy between the „House of Leaves“ (Tirana) and the Museum of the prison in Shkodra

Impressive to meet young activists eager to tackle the issues. How big are the resistances? (still not clear to me), and :

How can we, in our countries, help them facing the difficulties and challenges?

A tool perceived as a shift lever: tourism not only as an economical chance but also as an empowering factor and a possibility of dealing with a difficult past.

Young generations stuck between two options: staying and fighting or leaving the country („brain drain“) in order to survive economically and offer a good education to the children.

I'm now even more interested in learning more about the pre-period of the dictatorship, the years of Italian and German occupation, a „largely unstudied period“, as Mirian put it.

27. I lacked different perspectives of Albanian society, I have learned that everybody is dealing with the communism heritage, while I was told that nobody does it, except those we meet. I have discovered cruelty of communism in Albania, but failed to understand how many people supported that system, and what about those who speak highly about it nowadays.

28. I think there is a strong necessity and a lot of good energy invested in process of dealing with the communist past in Albania. However, I find most approaches to be black and white, one-sided and therefore problematic. In none of the sites that we visited was there any attempt to contextualize the story of the Albanian communism, nor were there any serious attempts for visitors to understand what communism in Albania was like beyond torture and prosecution. Without that, it is imposible to understand how such a repressive system was able to sustain for such a long time. One other serious issue that I have with exhibition in Shkoder and with the work of Institute for Democracy is that they are either implicitly or explicitly in line with the “two totalitarianisms”-approach seen in other parts of Europe. I find this approach essentially ahistorical and problematic. Nazism and communism were two very different historical phenomena and they should be treated as such. Moreover, both the exhibition in National Museum and in Shkoder are abundant with very explicit material on violence used by the communist regime. I find that the way in which some procedures and exhibits are described and positioned in these exhibitions are highly inappropriate. They seem to be there not to help visitors understand, but simply to shock them without providing opportunities for engagement and construction of understanding and knowledge. On the other hand, there seems to be several very dedicated and knowledgeable people who are aware of these pitfalls. Hopefully, there will be more reflection on approaches to the topic. One of the ways of surpassing the problems is precisely through cooperation with international community of different experts.

29. During this week I realized there is international interest in knowing what Albania is doing to ease the past traumas caused by the oppressing Hoxha regime, unfortunately more than there can be found in Albanian society itself. Also internalizing the effect of closure some countries and the victims of the respective wars have, in regard to memorial sites. Other societies have digested their past, even if partially, and it is helping them move on in a considerably healthy way of dealing with such distresses from the past.

Albania is not doing enough! The way Albania is dealing with the communist past is very scarce, and it makes me wonder why... Be it denial ? Not knowing how to ? Negligence ? Lack of civil society engagement? Regardless, I believe there is something more we can do to ease the traumas of the victims, and help them get over something that has damned their life irreversibly. It is a very sensible matter, but not an impossible one to deal with.

30. It was interesting to see how in Albania, unlike former Yugoslavia, communism is only ever talked about in terms of crimes and brutality of the regime and there is not much talk about the everyday life. Also, I learned a lot about the (im)possibilities of the society to deal with the past when there is a continuation of power structures from the old into the new regime. As a peculiarity of Albanian

communism, I would point out its nationalism, which was actually shaped by communism, unlike, for example, in former Yugoslavia where it was suppressed or at least not emphasized.

31. I have had some knowledge regarding the situation in Albania since we were learning in schools, hearing from parents, cousins etc., there were people visiting the family members or distant cousins and who have shared about the situation during that time. But I am seeing that actually not everything which was shared was true as majority of the people in my country have shared admiration for Albania without knowing what exactly the regime there is currently doing. I am quite aware that Albania as a country was so (self) isolated and used a lot of propaganda as majority people in neighboring countries took all this info's as a fact without being able to search a bit further. I do believe that for Albania this is going to be a long process as this topic is very sensitive and it might harm even the relations within families. My opinion is that people in Albania including the institutions are not ready yet to face this challenge as they are facing the fragility in so many aspects in daily life. I do hope that in some near or distant future I would be able to see sitting together all the (akteri) participants who are part of this history and share to Memory Lab participants their untold stories about the dictatorship regime, the past or whatever they might call it and which took place in Albania.

32. I discovered how strong is the bipolarisation of politics on communist time. I was surprised to hear so often that « it was worse than during nazi regime in Germany », which made me very uncomfortable; it also shows the deep silence which surrounds the victims and survivors of the communism in Albania.

33. The Albanian society wasn't ready to face it's difficult past for a very long time and even now it seems to be very difficult since there goes only little governmental funding to projects of remembrance. The memorial workers in Albania (especially Mirian and Dorina, but also institutions like the IDMC) are battling for their projects. These projects are very relevant and very necessary in the process of dealing with a difficult past. These stories need to be told in order to create a healthy future for young people in Albania. I have learned a lot about the past and current situation in a country I hardly knew. It was a very interesting case to study and it's clear now how present-day Albania is influenced by what happened in the past.

34. Albania has gone a specific way of transition and dealing with the past,, but the achievements are visible.

35. I learnt that memory politics in Albania is a 'hot potato'. The government is reluctant to look at its communist past and as a result takes little interest in supporting the preservation of former communist sites, or overseeing the history curriculum to ensure that the communist history of Albania is taught to the younger generations. I think this is hugely problematic for Albania because the current mistrust of the government is linked to the actions of the past.

36. We learnt a lot about various initiatives in Albania. I was familiar with the history of the Albanian dictatorship, as well as the turbulent transition there, but did not know anything about its dealing with the past and its memory culture- this Memory Lab elucidated a lot.

In one conversation with two Albanian participants, they maintained that Albanian dealing with the past was actually very limited. When we mentioned the many initiatives that we have witnessed, they said- "It is just that the organizers were amazing to collect basically all the actors of dealing with the past in Albania in one week. There isn't much out there". First, that brings congratulations again for the organizers to be able to map the scene so thoroughly and to bring these actors to us!

The second thought relates to the engines of this lack of dealing with the past, particularly the troubling theme of continuity of power structures, which emerged during our seminar (as it did in Spain), revealing some reasons of why the memory culture is shaped the way it is. Tirana – and much of other Albania I got to see- strike me as the most transformed cityscapes and landscapes from the whole former socialist world (OK, Kosovo as well shares this uber-transformation)- the visual change is tremendous, and the youthful, vibrant culture seems to be worlds apart from the history of a closed dictatorships with significant shortages. It is somehow this contrast, as well as the troubling

continuities, that I ponder as being engines of a rather restrained dealing with the past- society seemed to be so keen on change, that the phrenetic transformation took attention from past to future (somehow akin to Mitscherlich argument that attention on uberreconstruction blocked thinking of the past in Germany, but in a different direction). And the structural violence existing today seems to be also a continuation of power hierarchies of the past.

As we have witnesses, parts of the new generations are keen to bring stories to light, while others point out to what was lost from the communist regime (factories for instance). A final thought relates to nationalism- Albanian communism seems to have deeply shaped by it, which endures in museums and many narratives. One question this opened is how this dealing with the dictatorship can address critically continuities in nationalist thought.

## **b) ... about dealing with communist past in your own society / other European societies? / ...**

1. As far as dealing with communist past in my country, I would like to hear more discussions about expulsion of about half million of Danube region Germans from Vojvodina, after 1945, and about camps established for them. I also think that Goli Otok should be more researched.

Dealing with past related to wars in nineties in Serbia is still not popular, and for many -painful. It all comes to efforts of individuals who are often labelled as traitors.

2. How in fact it is similar and difficult to work on dealing with the past that has already been institutionalised.

3. It seems to me that we did not have an opportunity to study this topic more deeply because the groups were so diverse, so everyone had only a chance to scratch upon the surface and present own communism experience. I think, it would be more useful if we were grouped by the countries of the same or similar history.

4. Situation in Albania has some common grounds with issue of dealing with communist past in Croatia. It is evident in extreme division of the society and numerous problems. On the other hand there are differences too. In Croatia, the communist past is pronouncedly anti-fascist, whereas one gets the impression that anti-communist past of Albania is anti-fascist and democratic.

5. -

6. That history of Yugoslavia is different... that to explain history of one epoque means number of phenomena and aspects need to be considered. That borders are more serious distinctions than lines in atlas.

7. We in BiH are not different much, we are even more alike than we would ever like to admit. In BiH, like in Albania, there are very few concrete moments when seriously processing past or concretely/professionally memorialize. Ugly past in BiH is put under the carpet, it is not studied in schools, and there are no serious scientific projects dealing with this issue. Unlike Albania, past of BiH is more misused for daily political and religious-national interests. BiH society is generally victimized, and yet victims are neglected in terms of their rights, compensation, symbolic reparation. The difference in Albania is that victims are much less spoken of in public space, but their position is similar to one of those in BiH, in terms of rights and recognition.

8. In Montenegro that period is generally accepted with a positive notion, maybe as something hat should be achieved again. There are similar stories on political prisoners, but that is definitely not the first association when mentioning communism. The first associations are related to harmony, unity, progress, stability...

9. Not all communist societies are necessarily and a priori negative, and comparison of Albanian and eg. Yugoslavian experience during the targeted period are two fundamentally different experiences.

10. Historical facts should always be clear, whereas their interpretations should never be easy to simplify. It seems that in Slovene society the Second World War never really ended. Partisans and white brigades are still fighting, the only difference is that not in the woods but on social media. It is showing how memory is not something that concerns our past but most of all our present and future.

11. I didn't know that were some people working on this and that there projects on this issue. So on this aspect, I was in contact with the right people witch are working on this issue and discuss with them directly, exchange ideas etc.

12. Unlike Albania, in Balkan countries, there is an attempt of revisionism in line with the nationalistic politics, where anything progressive, of citizens nature is tried to be portrayed as « communism, Yugo-nostalgia, leftism ». In Albania, people (ordinary one) knew that communism was not a good system for them, but yet, on the other hand, how they could know that there is something better, that would be able to compare with ? In that sense, Balkan communism/socialism have more room for deliberation about its « pro's and con's »unlike Albanian one.

13. In France, the communist past is more associated with Resistance against Nazism, or fight for decolonization, but France wasn't a communist republic.

14. In France, the dealing with the communist past is marginal, but some myths have a hard time. The communist candidate in the last Europeans took again the old myth of the Party of 75.000 shot during German occupation and was offended when it demonstrated the late commitment of the party (not some militants ...) in Resistance.

I was struck and annoyed by a sentence at the end of a working meeting "The difference between Nazism and communism is that Nazism existed, not communism » !! I want to understand what may be hidden behind a perverted utopia, but one must admit that the list is long of criminal regimes claiming Communist ideology. Without falling into the stupid excess that would put Nazism and communism back to back, a group like ours must not reach such a conclusion.

15. It was interesting to realize once again how this entire story is completely untold in Western Europe. Many people were more than surprised to hear what happened. On the other hand, Albania was in the seventies and eighties for some Belgians with communist sympathies an example to follow. I learned that before I was born, my father had a dog he named Hoxha! This raises questions on what information was available outside of Albania about Hoxha's regime and on our own responsibility today to get information about human rights violations elsewhere in the world.

16. I am asking myself if we are dealing enough with the socialist past in Germany. Probably not in the right way if we consider the feeling a lot of people have regarding the GDR. How can we deal with this past appropriately ? (condamning – silence – nostalgia) It is hard to compare with the communist past in Albania. But silence on the history in one way or another does not lead to reconciliation.

17. While bringing about some positive and much needed development during its initial implementation, the communist system in Albania transformed into a radical totalitarian regime very quickly, scarring much deeper the psyche of the population. Very few people joke even ironically about things being better during the communist regime in Albania, meanwhile other societies might be more honestly romanticizing about their communist pasts.

18. Good presentations done by different participants from different countries.  
I hope my suggestions to open the discussion to study processes which can lead any authoritarian or totalitarian regime to the worse can be useful.

We have to humbly consider this track; it will not be easy for our Albanian colleagues to adopt this perspective for genuine and quite understandable reasons. Communist past seems to be the explanation of all sufferings.

But we could get a good benefit in our studies, analysis, elaborating tools for prevention and education to work together and consider the convergences of our different histories, narratives and memories- in order to prevent or fight against new risks of totalitarianism in Europe and in the world.

19. How the Albanian society is dealing with its communist past until today, on memory sites and the level of the education in that field.

20. I have reflected on the conflict with the communist past of my native Germany and realized that we are also having a hard time with the history of communist times in East Germany. I have come to realize that historians and journalists in West Germany are in some cases leaders when we talk about our past. I have also learned that people in some former Yugoslav states see the time of Tito in some things as positive.

21. Germany is also not dealing on a broad manner with its communist past, resp. with the times of transition and the handling of the end of communism.

22. In Albania we have just started to scratch the surface, more conscious efforts from individuals are needed. The institutions will follow.

23. We had many links to do with the communist past in DDR or in Romania, even with chinese cultural revolution, especially in the way the prisons were ruled. It was interesting to hear the reactions of the members of the group in front of these aspects of the communist memory (discussion, methods of group dynamic).

24. Albania as other ex communist countries should focus now than more on this fragile issue. Still the perpetrators are free and victims have accumulated hate and are being neglected and abandoned from state policies.

25. Communism in Albania and Yugoslavia have not been the same, and the differences might be even much stronger than the similarities, but on the other hand : Both seemed to have very similar stalinist phases immediately after 1945. And even if Socialist Yugoslavia evolved then in a quite different direction – is that not sometimes also used as an excuse not to talk about the repressive dimensions of the regime and of the crimes committed during socialist Yugoslavia ?

26. In Spain, like in Albania, the dictator died a natural death (1975 resp. 1985). In Romania, the dictator was captured and executed (1989). It would be interesting to compare the similarities and singularities of the situations in the years following the „passing“ of the dictator. Which were the key factors for the following evolution of the societies involved?

27. In BiH, while dealing with the past we focus on other periods, that were more cruel and violent, so often we forget to talk about communism period. Although very different from Albanian, it should be addressed, discovered and discussed.

28. As I already explained above, I think it is very important to keep in sight different appropriations of certain memory models and approaches to different contexts.

29. What I noted was that there was more mobility when it came to civil societies, governmental institutions, and NGOs in regard to taking action towards war crimes and oppressive regimes in other European countries. Might be because some of them have digested what has happened and are acting accordingly whereas in Albania we are still in a state of denial, at least by the state, so action taken is again, very scarce.

30. For me, it was interesting to draw parallels between Albania and Yugoslavia and between their regimes. I think that, since it was extremely isolated, Albania is much more traumatized by its communist past and that this trauma is today reflected in people's reluctance to talk about the past. I think that in countries of former Yugoslavia, there are more discussions going on, but these discussions are not very constructive and usually not based on historical facts, but in people's personal memories and experiences and are, thus, very passionate. Both countries still have a long way to go in order to be able to talk about the communist past in a more constructive, objective and fact-based manner.

31. The people in my country have suffered quite a lot during the communist time, especially those who raised openly against communism. The fight for basic rights such as: education, democracy, freedom of speech and expression, human rights etc. At least my generation knows only about protests, demonstrations, seeking basic rights and freedom and opportunity to be equal with others.

32. Yes, it gave us an interesting opportunity to discuss communism. Communism is no more a possibility, an alternative to our capitalistic societies. So, we don't miss communism indeed but we definitely miss an alternative to capitalism. We had quite fruitful discussions on that issue.

33. My country didn't really have a communist past. The communist party was only briefly in government in the post-war period. In the beginning and during the cold war period the communist party became irrelevant. We had good discussions on how 'communism' or what we got to know by the term communism was completely different in other European countries, like for instance in Yugoslavia. What was considered 'socialism' in Yugoslavia was hard if not impossible to compare to what happened in Albania, since people in the then-Yugoslavia were much more free and the society was organised in a completely different way.

34. Perhaps the Albanian society needs more time than other countries e.g. the Post-Yugoslavian states to find a proper answer to all the questions of dealing with the past.

35. In the U.K. we have not had to deal with a communist past, but looking at Albania's past, and talking to people from countries with communist pasts, it is evident that not everyone has a negative view of the communist period. In the west the communist regimes of the past are seen as universally negative. I learnt that this is not necessarily the view of those who have lived that past. I also became more aware that the forces that contribute to the establishment of dictatorships (be that communist or not) are present in the U.K. today. The seeds are there, and have been brought out in the Brexit debate. Those on the trip who have lived through conflict and genocide were keen to point out to me that they saw similar patterns in the U.K. that preceded conflict in their own countries.

36. One of the most interesting things for me, as a scholar of former Yugoslavia, was to see how particular concepts created such controversies among Memory Lab participants from its successor states, for understandable reasons. The importance of the WW2 in the memory culture in ex-Yu made discussions of the communist past in Albania, particularly those related to those killed in the first years after the war, rather often connected to allegiances of the Second World War. Yet Albanian constellations of groups, as well as their different positioning with regards to Italy, make the context a bit different. Then, the term "anticommunist", which created so much controversies, was seen by many participants akin the right-wing mobilizations in successor states in ex-Yu today. However, in other post-socialist contexts, including the one I come from, this is used with the meaning of "forces against the communist party", which include left-wing social-democrats as well as liberals or peasant parties ex. While the term "anti-communist" might be unfortunate from the point of view of understanding "communism" as a set of ideas for human solidarity and emancipation, in many of the post-soc societies it denotes simply "anti-dictatorship"- which could be a good, non-controversial substitute in Albania or other countries (while several contexts would see authoritarian systems, but no dictatorships...). The point here was that the trip underlined how inclined we are to look at concepts from familiar contexts. That also means my own- I was more inclined here to see parallels with my



14. About me, it takes time to integrate such visits and meetings. It seems, however, that this seminar reinforces what I have been building for years, including the way I look and the way I do it.

15. See above.

16. I knew before but for me its easier to exchange in smaller groups than in plenary and as usual I need some time to let things/ informations sink in.

17. I need to be more timely with my communication :P

18. It has been a tremendous personal and professional experience; I believe that the informations, competences, experiences and expertise built during this seminar and concerning again the Balkans is a great issue. I do not know if the people involved in politics, decisions and acting in Europe can share same knowledge and very helpful comprehension in order to perform a democratic process preventing risks of new totalitarian regime.

I work every day about this concern performing actions and projects in order to learn from the past for a peaceful present and future. This program encounters young people, schools, students and people who are involved in a variety of responsibilities and decisions.

The best option would be to have this expertise to be known and recognized in the process of democratic decision.

My job and responsibilities involved this strategical consideration on a local, national and international level.

I really believe that what is elaborated wit Memory Lab platform can also be a huge concern for Camp des Milles scientific board and museum policy, contents and training and educational program.

Convergences of Memory concern also the Balkans and my job is to make this conviction to become a reality in our institution connected to our national educational institution.

I am tremendously impacted by the meetings with our colleagues from Memory Lab network. It is an incredible experience. I feel really privileged to be a participant to this incredible program.

Just look at the pictures: you can see friends and colleagues from Serbia talking with colleagues and friends from Bosnia, Kosovo, etc... these steps are great and very instructive for me.

Memory Lab Platform must receive more support to promote the varitey of experience and model of implementing knowledge, experience and sharing.

The expertise which is the result of this process must be known by the European authorities and be a part of our own program.

19. More concretely topics of common interest in future activities between human resources and witness and memory institutions

20. I learned to discuss better in that field and to be more careful and sensitive in discussions.

21. I want to read more!

22. That I felt good among these memory professionals, and that I like being involved in this field no matter that in my daily professional routines I deal with a different set of issues related to a more "classic" type of heritage.

23. It confirms my strong interest in the Memory Lab attitude, which is a way of building an European consciousness, by sharing experiences of the past and by meeting people with whom future relationship and cooperation would be possible.

24. -

25. Dealing with the communist past in Alabnia made me much more aware how difficult it seems to be, for me, and for others, to find the appropriate words to talk about communist experiences in general, and about socialist Yugoslavia more specifically.

26. I realized that I know nothing about Kosovo and Montenegro ... And that there is an Albanian community in Paris (I never heard of before and I got very interested in).

27. Learn more and discover more.

28. That I became increasingly older and therefore boring since the last Memory Lab workshop. :-)

29. I found out that I am very interested in the matter, and would definitely want to further dig into the way my society is reacting to various social, personal, and inter-personal traumas. In a way i can see myself doing something to ease the collective pain and unease that we are all, unconditionally going through. I need to know more, in order to do more, so I am working to do just about that right now.

30. I learned that I really like Albania and that I would like to explore more other parts of it, especially the coast :-)

31. I was raised in the family were none of my family members ever obtain communist party membership (card/party booklet). I do believe that those who have obtained that card were seen as appropriate for the communist system, while the other without such document seen as a potential threat to the system. As mentioned above my generation was really suffering during the communist system as we were constantly seeking and demonstrating for our own rights and equality in the society. I am really blessed as I belong to such generation that I was able to experience communist period, the war and democracy. During this week long Memory Lab I was able to feel so much empathy while talking, sharing and hearing from other participants.

32. Yes, I learned something I didn't know at all! Its not about me, but about my beloved grandmother. Once I came back to Paris, I learned that my Hungarian beloved grandmother (who is not there anymore) had the opportunity to be the interpreter of Enver Hoxha's wife during an official visit in Hungary in 1948... Because Enver Hoxha's wife and my grandmother both spoke French...

33. Reflections about myself? I surprised myself that I took the lead in smaller working groups. I really enjoyed exchanging ideas with a lot of different people. I hope from the depth of my heart to work together with some of these wonderful and motivated persons.

34. -

35. I have learnt not to take peace and democracy for granted. I think coming from the U.K. I can be complacent about this, as the younger generations have only ever known peace. That war, dictatorship and genocide can happen to anyone was brought home when Mirian said.... the crimes in Albania's past were committed by other humans, not aliens from another planet.

36. I realized how I tend to change positionality and voice depending on the contexts. At most meetings and discussions on history and memory I would voice concerns that "But the Yugoslav example contradicts this... in Serbia, one could see... But in Bosnia...", being intellectually and emotionally engaged. However, in this particular situation I acted quite differently. The first reason was that there are so many great voices from the reason. The second is that I feel that Southeastern Europe is many times reduced in many circles at the confines Western Balkans, for which is not a synonym, and I felt I needed to make a point, or to highlight why the examples from there are at times relevant or powerful, and why we should bring this experience in the conversation.

#### **d) otherwise:**

1. -

2. -

- 3. -
- 4.
- 5. -
- 6. -

7. Maybe, minor drawback was inability to visit some of original bunkers that made Albania renown for all over the world.

- 8. -
- 9. -

10. I was thinking about the sites of the past and their impact on the landscape. What to do with places like political prisons or for example border check points in my home town that lost their function and meaning and how this empty space can be restructured and rearticulated for new contents.

- 11. -

12. Love the part of Skenderbeg and whole explanation about him as central and unique figure of Albanian history

- 13. -
- 14. -
- 15. -
- 16. -

17. I learned that there are many professionals in Albania who are attempting to treat the past with the respect that it deserves. There are also many international partners that are willing to help, with expertise and otherwise.

18. Links which have been built within a week can really impact a lot our actions and ways of thinking. A big challenge is how to convey and share this experience and expertise with the different institutions and partners we have in our specific branch and project.

A general approach of this matter should be initiated among volunteers which can help Memory Lab European platform.

- 19. -

20. In addition to the main topic, I learned a lot about the problems that colleagues in countries like Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have, when they need financial support. And I learned a lot about the history of the war in ex-Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

21. Sometimes in ML workshops/study trips there seemed to be more of a "gap" between West and SE Europe, it felt always more familiar to one side - however, Albania, though in South-East Europe, was different. More or less unknown to all of us and all were more or less on a similar level of pre-knowledge.

22. Met many interesting persons, and interesting professionals that I hope I will be able to stay regularly in touch with.

23. Just one thing should be improved: the time we spend in sharing our professional experiences was too short and limited: Maybe each group should present to all participants a summary of what they have discussed and exchanged about their practice of the work of memory and transmission.

- 24. -

25. -

26. I'll definitely follow what is going to happen with the „pyramid of Tirana“ („piramida“) and with the Albanian National Theater.

I met this summer an Italo-French man, who got involved as a young adult in the work of an NGO taking care in the early 1990's of Albanian refugees in an emergency camp established on the Italian coast. I now can connect the „two sides of the mirror“.

27. -

28. -

29. -

30. I was really amazed by the hospitality and care of people in Albania in general, but Albanian participants in particular. I don't think Memory Lab was ever welcomed this much in any other country so far. I think this is the consequence of the country being very isolated in the past and no foreigners coming to Albania for a long time.

31. -

32. This topic in a country like Albania gave me good opportunity to discuss socialist times in Yugoslavia in a different manner than before.

33. It was an adventure that was over before I knew it. It was challenging, but very worthwhile.

34. I am asking myself what the socialpsychological outcomes of Albania's isolation and autarchy phase are resp. will be.

35. The trip made me realise how important it is to teach History objectively and to give young people the skills to think critically and question what they are being told. This is something I have taken for granted as part of the teaching of History, but I have realised that this way of educating young people cannot be assumed or taken for granted.

36. -

#### **4. From what you have done/seen/heard this week, what will be useful for your own work?**

1. Knowledge that I acquired is not only useful for my work with students, but also for my immediate surrounding.

2. The thing I wrote in my application: to see inner state, inner dynamics, because everything we see from outside is mere presumption. The things are, it seems to me, far more complex and entangled than one could assume. However, it is beginning of understanding the entire community and collective memory which was closed for us anyway.

3. Very useful insight in the period of Albanian communism, which we could get at an immediate location. Also, all locations we visited. What is always the most important for me is the use of such history for educational purposes, education of young people and building of democratic society. The issue of dealing with difficult past and current challenging social situations, connecting of past and presence, learning from the past and a message for future. Albania has a great potential in its difficult heritage precisely for such things.

4. Most of all relation towards communist heritage in context of revision of the World War II. Here, I primarily think of situation in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia, where under the notion of dealing with communist heritage it has been attempted to rehabilitate war criminals from the World War II.

5. -

6. Everything! I came back from Albania with new knowledge and potential partnerships.

7. In process of memorialization or generally in developing narratives and dealing with past one should use new technologies and practice. We saw quite a little in Albania, except in fragments. The contacts I renewed and new people I met, both MemoryLab participants and hosts open new possibilities for cooperation.

8. Meeting participants from different environments and different professional backgrounds, and yet working on the same subject is definitely something that will change my manner of work in future. It is always good to see one topic from more different perspectives and now I am aware that it is necessary to look for an advice outside your own profession. The most impressive moment was meeting the two former political convicts. Their calmness, fight, determination.

9. Work experiences of French and Belgium colleagues working in memorials. Their education programs targeting police, extremists and other groups was particularly interesting for me and something that is welcomed and appreciated direction of further development of my work. Generally, I am of opinion that any type of memorial (monument, institution, etc.) should not be only about memorialization, but on one hand continuation of an idea, and on the other hand a future. As Radoslav Putar, Yugoslavian art historian said, "the function of a monument is not a signal for meditation about the past, but an act for future". Education component is equally if not more important than the historic one, or each past is relevant to its future.

10. I'm sure that reflections and impressions of this week will, in one way or another, influence my work in the future, and I hope to stay in touch with some of the Memory Lab members with who I establish a contact that might lead to a future collaboration.

11. During the workshop I was in contact with plenty interesting people witch worked in areas of education and interpretation or have implemented projects related to education and interpretation, which I am interested. Exchange of contacts were quite useful for me.

12. The new contacts that I have established with the people

13. -The meeting with the two witnesses helped to compare with Oradour's witnesses. Lot of new contacts made that could help to build new exchange project or new topics to work on, like transgenerational traumas

14. I think I can expand the scope of work for my association.

15. I was able to meet new people who can be helpful in the building of our international network around dealing with polarization.

As always, the study trip deepened my understanding of the complexity of memory politics and remembrance education.

16. In general : awareness for the communist history of Albania.

Use empty/ abandoned places and spaces with young participants to foster their creativity and to explore how they would memory culture to be.

17. I intend to build close ties with CHwB Albania as I see them as being a direct potential partner in my projects, and also I think that I can contribute my expertise on a regular basis for them if they

require it. Other collaborations with international partners will be explored in the coming weeks and months.

18. Possibilities of new small projects which can be beneficial for our common goals of peace and education for peace and preventing racism, antisemitism and extremism.

19. -

20. I got useful contacts for further projects and the great work with little money in Albania inspired me for my work. I also got good ideas for working with contemporary witnesses.

21. Maybe work with official archives / include official institutions into work where possible and try to avoid "either - or" / "black - white" approach/filter

22. Contacts, many of the ideas that were expressed on Spac are worth reflecting and elaborating on.

23. The different realities I discovered and the contacts I made during this stay in Albania inspired me for my work of programming of the festival Les Rendez-vous de l'histoire: ideas of workshops, persons to invite, film to be screened...

24. From my point of view I will start introducing and focusing on discussing more about this topic with my students in university. Also plan to develop some workshops or tutorials regarding objects of memory and their impact in interpretation. Developing tutorials and group project with them shall be the next step.

25. Many things, on the one hand the new knowledge and awareness will inspire me content-wise in my work, on the other hand new contacts and deepening of already existing contacts will help me to develop new activities.

26. Interestingly enough, the „bunkers“ and their current use didn't get the focussed attention I was expecting to pay to them – even though the examples I discovered during the week (Bunk'art – exhibitions of Eljan a.o.) are certainly going to enrich my approach on possible (positive and negative) handling of concrete remains such as bunkers.

I'll benefit especially from the exchanges I had within the group and from the Europe-wide and multidisciplinary networking.

Getting a deeper insight into the current political situation (a.o. regarding the educational challenges) is furthermore very helpful for a project we just started and that will involve former Yugoslavia.

Since I got back from Albania, I had many occasions to talk with colleagues and exchange partners about my experiences and my new insights. Albanian in particular and the „Balkans“ in general are generally speaking very badly known. In one particular situation, I could help a colleague from another institution to consider the story of Albania under the dictatorship for a serie of events planed around the topic „escape“.

27. Since I'm working in civil society with young people on peacebuilding including dealing with the past, this experience will be remarkable to understand concepts of memorialisation, the role of heroes and villains, they role in their time, comparing to their everlasting role nowadays. Also, it is interesting to discover identity of Albanians.

28. I will use footage of certain exhibits and museological representations to discuss with my students the appropriateness of museum and educational approaches.

I have already done some of the recommended readings Marjan suggested (on Remembrance Education as it is understood in Belgium and The Netherlands) and am hoping to establish different types of cooperation with her and her institution.

29. Residing the activities of our non-profit socio-cultural center in an ex-communist plant of tractor production, we want to know how to properly identify this space of ours without glorifying nor condemning the times it has endured so far. Hearing more stories regarding the era helped me learn different aspects of the regime, and as such gave me a better understanding of the role of industrialization during communist times. We do not want to idolize the regime at all, but knowing more about the disciplines of the times maybe made me personally realize that the industries at the time might've been the only good thing this regime gave our nation. Regardless we will try to further analyze this aspect without any glorification or unification of it in our concept of this revitalized space.

30. The most useful will probably be new contacts made with other people. I hope to get more involved in the future in different ML projects, because I feel like I am not involved anymore as much as I would like to be.

31. Throughout my life hearing about history from different sources and perspectives have made me be more reasonable regarding creating my opinion on different topics. Such gatherings and hearing different perspectives have always been very useful, since we try to learn ourselves first and then we pass as much as possible to young generations as well regarding the importance of creating this critical thinking. Meeting with participants at Memory Lab and expanding the network of friends it created an opportunity and it is an open window to see the opportunities for similar and different project ideas which might be implemented.

32. I bring a lot of intellectual nourishment back with me, many things to read and watch. It enriches me also for the short movies I am doing with pupils in secondary schools on another context (how do we use pictures, how do we collect individual memories and do we confront them or not to the collective history).

33. First of all, I've encountered new narratives on what it meant to live under an 'unfree' regime. The discussions on concepts like communism/anticommunism/democracy and polarization in a post-conflict country will give me more arguments in discussions with young people in my country. Apart from the more conceptual ideas, I'm convinced that we will bring a visit to Dachau with Belgian school children and vice versa. We will probably also bring memorial workers to Bosnia again.

34. The project in Spac will be useful and I hope I can help the initiators with our experience

35. Much will be useful. The case study of the situation in Albania will inform how I teach about dictatorship and human rights to school aged children. I also will be giving a talk to students involved in the Model United Nations about the problems facing countries transitioning to democracies and the issues of human rights and transitional justice. I am also due to be giving several presentations to students and staff about the Memory Lab trip to Albania.

36. For academic work- see last paragraph 3b., relevant to my work on circulating models.  
For memory-work- Spac is a great example for the network of political prisons we have been shaping.  
- For the new project on the meaning of 1989 (led by Documenta in Croatia), I will lobby to bring a series of Albanian participants we have met to the various project activities (and of course, from the wider Memory Lab participants)

## **5. Suggestions/ideas/plans for the future concerning ...**

### **a) Annual Memory Lab study trips/workshops (locations, content, ...)**

1. My idea is that along with 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, Memory Lab study trip /workshop a big conference should be organised, in order to gather as many people who previously participated as possible. Something like a retrospective, reminiscence of previous ten years. Maybe in city in which you started – Sarajevo.

2. Saša will propose, and I will gladly agree : Turkey. Also, it would be interesting to work on Poland, Ukraine, Hungary.

3. For the next study trip I propose Poland and Ukraine in combination or separately. Due to the Second World War II, revisionism, and contemporary political situation;

4. Visit to Holocaust memorial in Poland (Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec, ...)

5. -

6. Maybe it would be interesting to analyse similar historic phases in other communist countries and make parallels with visited locations ( let's say in Soviet Union).

7. Greece in the World War II – how have disappeared the traces of strong partisan movement after Greece fell under the interest zone of western countries. Parallels with Yugoslavia and Albania and countries under communist blockage.

Turkey – the World War I and destiny of Armenians

Austria-Hungary – fall of Austria-Hungarian Monarchy and consequences - heritage

8. One of the most interesting cities in Montenegro, in terms of understanding good and bad side of the system, is Nikšić. Once it was economically strong industrial city in Montenegro and Yugoslavia, which was famous for its cultural -artistic life and renown people born there. It passed through 30 years of darkness, decay and lack of investments only to start awakening a bit less than 10 years ago. Nikšić municipality is rich in monuments and architecturally unique constructions. Some are destroyed and some are still there.

9. My proposal is to consider the following:

a) Greece and Turkey as joint programme including Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Izmir. Greek -Turkish relations on one hand, or creation of completely new narrative with which the current Turkish regime is trying to position itself after the attempt of coup d'état in 2016 – these are amazing topics largely using memorialization (recently was erected the monument to victims of coup d'état, by which Turkish government tries to additionally construct new memory.)

b) Turkey as particular entity, which could include Istanbul, Ankara and Ismir.

c) Ukraine, Kiev and Odessa

d) East Germany

e) Algeria, by stepping out of Europe, Memory Lab would still continue to thematize European topics, having in mind the colonial past of Algeria, echoes in France (and other European countries), but also current migrations as pressing challenge of modern Europe.

Algeria is a country that finished its civil war in 2011. Especially strong historic links of Socialist Yugoslavia with Algeria during their fight for independence and later, are some of the supporting arguments for a visit to the country. As I used to work in Algeria, I have some contacts of possibly interested NGOs.

f) Cyprus, where the issue of artificial border is daily reminder to a war.

10. It would be great if Memory Lab comes to the border region between Slovenia and Italy where I live in the near future. In this case I would be happy to help.

11. In my opinion exchange visits in countries that have developed this issue better will be a good idea in order to make comparisons.

12. I believe that this momentum of holding Memory Lab every second year would be more productive and effective for the both, participants and organizers

13. A Memory Lab in the South of France (camp des Milles, Rivesaltes)

14. -

15. I would really be very interested to see good practices of dealing with colonial history. I was enthusiastic about Sasa's idea of visiting Greece/Turkey.

16. Like already mentioned, I would like to see Greece and maybe Turkey to be the destination of the study trip. And I think that also the Netherlands (history of WWII) could be interesting.

17. I am definitely going to be working towards having a memory tour of the south of Albania, mainly the coast and also the intermixing of military communist with ancient ruins. In Orikum near Vlore there is a derelict military base built directly on top of Ionian columns. Sazan island would be the jewel of the tour.

18. I suggest we pay a special attention in promoting experience, competences and expertise of Memory Lab people in order to make European authorities to consider the support of this action for democracy in Europe and I the word. We may have a special program built with European authorities in Strasbourg or in Brussel.

19. -

20. I am looking forward to the next Memory Lab in Slovenia, Italy and Croatia. Over the next few years, it may be possible to organize a memory lab in Greece and Turkey and see how the two countries handle their shared history. Cyprus could also be an interesting place in this context.

21. Istria

22. Fully support the idea of the meeting next year and the choice of the location.

23. The project of a memory lab trip about the borders between Slovenia, Croatia and Italy would be great. I would participate to it with enthusiasm.

24. I enjoyed all the sessions, group discussion singing chair methodology, and field trip in Spaç, Shkodra and Kruja.

25. The idea to make the 10th study trip/workshop in Slovenian/Italian/Croatian border region really seems excellent to me, as it connects Western and South Eastern Europe, what is at the heart of Memory Lab.

26. Portugal: how does the country deal with its war-time-history and the allowed deportations of political opponents detained in other countries? How does it deal with the period of the dictatorship? Romania: 30 years after the execution of the despot, how does the country deal with its past? What about Switzerland? There are a lot of very interesting issues to discuss on: the „réduit national“; the policy of the government regarding the refugees from the „Reich“; the official discourse today on the role played during the war by the swiss army, the government, the banks, the way this issues are treated in the school books, films...

27. Similar trips/workshops in different societies concerning different periods of history. Visiting areas that are under the threat of conflict today would be interesting: Spain (Catalonia, Basque), Ukraine, Moldova, Kosovo...

28. Workshop in Croatia-Slovenia-Italy sounds like a great idea and a great opportunity for old and new partners in this area. I would be happy to help with fundraising and suggestions of places to visit, guides to hire, cooperations to establish. In CHTA there is a lot of new Memory Lab fans, so I am sure

we could help in organization in different ways. Hopefully, this cooperation will only grow stronger with time. :-)

29. Another session of Memory Lab would reveal a whole lot regarding the impact of the communist regime, in the South of Albania. During the '19 MemLab we got to learn that there was an imbalance from the regime regarding severity measures and persistence in persecution between North/South Albania. The South of Albania could be considered Hoxha's spoiled child. Coming from the South of Albania himself, you could easily spot the nepotism regarding the region. The mania of protecting it with immense amounts of bunkers, military bases, and whatnot, makes this a very interesting region to study, especially aspects since the fall of the regime, contrasting the role of the South and its civil reaction at the time, and ever since.

30. I have many wishes, but I know most of them are not realistic :-) Turkey/Greece are one of the non-realistic suggestions, but I think that the Netherlands would also be interesting and that it is more possible to organize Memory Lab there than in Greece and/or Turkey. I would also like if we could organize something for the 10th anniversary that we haven't done yet, for example a mini-conference with panels on different topics that have developed during Memory Lab's visits to different countries. Or maybe we could just throw a party :-)

31. Every study trip, workshop, study visit or whatever it might be it is an opportunity for the participants to learn and share more. Every part of the globe no matter how small or big they are can have what to share, so such opportunities are creating the space for participants to hear and see from a different perspective and also to be able to create their own opinions about certain events as you are out there and hearing different perspectives. It was my first experience with Memory Lab and I was really amazed with the variety of the visits and interesting stories and meeting interesting peoples. The combination of study trip and workshop was a great opportunity for me as a participant to be able to gain more knowledge about the past in Albania and not only.

32. I would be very glad to go to Slovenia as I had great discussions with one of the Slovenian participant who is also a filmmaker. The way she's collecting individual memories in her town seems to fit perfectly into our ML programs!

I would also like our group to visit some other communist countries because I find it particularly fruitful in the discussions. The communist past is at the same time common to many participants but also very different on the way people lived it and remember it and it brings very enriching talks. The individual remembering are quite easily emerging and there is a quick common understanding. Exploring communism is quite rare, as if history was already written, solved and sold. But many ex-communists countries are still fighting with ghosts, nightmares or unsolved topics related to that past too.

33. The possible future Memory Lab in the border region Italy/Slovenia/Croatia looks very interesting. I know that there was a lot of fighting in that area during the first world war, so that could be one of the conflicts to talk about.

A possible new destination could be Poland, since it has also a very rich history. Not only on the Second World War (an absolute must are the extermination camps in the east like Treblinka, Chelmno, Belzec and Sobibor...), but also on the communist past of the country. It could be interesting to look at how the country is still influenced by what happened in the past.

34. Again I must say that the Memory Lab workshops are a very important experience because of their combination of input and output, because of the professional partners in the respective country.

35. I thought a trip to Poland or Turkey would be fascinating and important

36. As mentioned in Spain, I think Romania would be an excellent follow up for a study trip/workshop- similarities with pre-WW2 history of Yugoslavia and post-WW2 of Albania; also, a

large and relatively unknown Southeastern European country, both in Western Europe and the former Yugoslavia. I remember from previous evaluations that this was rather popular.

## **b) Memory Lab in general:**

1. I see the value of the Memory Lab in the chance for renewed gatherings. Study trips are usually organised in a way that someone can participate only once. In any way Memory Lab is more original than others. That is why it has developed, and why it lasts.
2. Only congratulations for extraordinary work and networking that is extremely important!
3. -
4. Continued expansion of partners and participants network to countries which are not part yet.
5. I am hoping to be invited for the jubilee :-)
6. Memory Lab has great number of participants (former and current members of ML team). Maybe it would be interesting to have sectors within the project (museologists, historians, pedagogues, artists...) Furthermore, Memory Lab can be interesting as a platform to people who are not direct participants in the program. Maybe it would be interesting to develop some educational materials that would be available to wider network of potential users.
7. Memory Lab should together with volunteers organise a research of commemorative practices in ex-Yu countries (Croatia, Serbia, and BiH) related to events taking place in 90's, in beginning of August. The research result should be published or presented at the next study trip.
8. Memory Lab is a very important idea that should be used as a "template" for other topics. It would be particularly good to adjust Memory Lab to pupils.
9. The module in which participants briefly present themselves to targeted groups should have extended time frame, so each participant could have an insight and information about all other participants or at least topics, and possibly in a form of 2-minute presentation, Pecha Kucha style, present certain segments of own activities. The benefit of this would be better awareness of activities and precondition for initiating future collaborative programmes among the participants. I also deem important higher level of inclusion of local partners in implementation of programs in each country, which would enable considerably better insight.
10. I hope Memory Lab continues this important mission of connecting people from different parts of Europe that research, promote and create work concerning divided but also shared memory of Europe.
11. I am quite new in family and will search more on it.
12. The best thing ever. Looking back in past 10 years, this is the one of the things that I'm proud the most in my (let's be modest), very rich career.
13. -
14. -
15. -
16. It is great as it is.
17. I loved it! Looking forward to continuing being part of the network and activities!

18. \*\*\*\*\* Five or more stars for this platform which is a fantastic opportunity and very realistic approach to face huge difficulties and challenges. Thank you! Total gratitude for each one
19. -
20. Keep it up, it's great.
21. After the 10th study trip general evaluation of the format and re-thinking of the potential, need, necessity for adaption (or not).
22. Keep me posted about Albania and let's see what are the ways to get Memory Lab more (regularly) involved in the land of the eagles. I also would like to help-out in any other regional activities that Memory Lab might have.
23. I would like to give testimony of the work of Memory Lab, for instance in the review of the History teachers in France, or during the festival of Blois.
24. Memory Lab is an open window for further important steps to be taken. Through it I know how this topic is relevant for other participants and how it is neglected in Albania.
25. -
26. A fantastic network! Bringing together very interesting persons and stimulating new approaches and questions, new encounters, new insights, new reflections. The heterogeneity of the group is an important key.
27. Expose participants to different perspectives of local community. Enter into dialogue, challenge perspectives which are opposed to one's Memory Lab promotes. Try to understand those opposing perspectives.
28. -
29. Honestly I wouldn't have a better opinion regarding Memory Lab so far. So I'm finding it hard to come up with any suggestion on how to further improve this project except for other study trips, like the one mentioned above.
30. I think the most pressing concern is financing and think we would need to find some stable funding source soon. As before, I suggest again that we apply this year to Active European Remembrance grant and I offer myself for writing the application (with other people's assistance).
31. Since Memory Lab is consisted of people working there, I must admit that the staff is very professional, kind and caring. Memory Lab as such will have a bright perspective as it is creating the opportunity for people/participants not only to learn and share more but also connects people with similar vision to do something positive for their country, municipality, city, neighborhood or family or even to start such positive change within us so we can spread it further. Memory Lab is a place where you can learn from others and share with others.
32. Would we be able to show our ecological concerns/efforts during our study-trips? I am ready to make concrete suggestions ;-).
33. It was my first Memory Lab and everything, the whole concept, worked very well for me. I wouldn't change a thing.
34. The structure of Memory Lab and its partners are very specific and in a way unique.

35. Just that I hope to participate in another trip !

36. Memory Lab is fantastic! Keep it going in style!

### **c) Your activities with other partners from Memory Lab**

1. My activities with other partners within Memory Lab are related to exchange of students, study visits for students, work with women. But this is not final answer, because I am waiting for more new ideas that are being developed through our ongoing contacts.

2. During the last two years I've been cooperating with Forum ZFD, by writing for Dealing with the past blog, and currently within this partnership between Forum ZFD and TRIAL BiH we are developing a policy paper on possibilities to legally regulate prohibition of negation, minimising, public approval, or severe diminishing of genocide, Holocaust, crimes against humanity and war crimes against civilians. In addition, this year I led action planning of the project Social history of Banjaluka (oral history) for Oštra nula (Banjaluka).

I participated in a cycle of seminars: How can arts and culture contribute to dealing with difficult pasts and to reconciliation in Europe? (joint Memory Lab-project). I've been part of the Project Observing walls: 1989-2019 in cooperation with Museum of History BiH.

I cooperate with CZM Kwart (Prijedor) in a project Small School of Transitional justice/Small School of critical thinking of the past in 2018 and 2019, as a trainer.

3. During this study trip I had a chance to understand that there is significant need for cooperation in the region, especially between former Yugoslavian republics.

In this regard, we were discussing cooperation between my organisation C31 – Centre for development of culture of children's rights, and Museum of History BiH in Sarajevo.

In addition, we had an idea on organisation of workshops in Zagreb that would be jointly carried out by C31 and Virtual Museum Dotrščina.

4. Cooperation with the organisation "Izvor" from Prijedor on the Project of verification of the List of Victims.

5. We will cooperate with Belgium, and there is a possibility for two more projects... if there would be more than that ....

6. We are currently involved in several joint projects, and though this years Memory Lab more ideas for common activities have emerged.

7. We have a permanent partnership with Forum ZFD in relation to establishment of information-documentary centre in Prijedor, and other activities concerning dealing with past. Currently we are finalizing organisation of Ron Haviv photographs exhibition.

Cooperation with JUSP « Jasenovac », Museum of History BiH, Documenta Zagreb and FHP Beograd in collection of archival records and organisation of an archive in a documentary centre.

Cooperation with CNA in taking part in peace-time activities of veterans, taking part in commemorative processes and marking of unmarked locations.

Cooperation with Kazerne Dossin, Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights and Museum of History BiH in organisation of study visits to Prijedor for groups from Belgium.

8. -

9. I've already during the study visit to Albania suggested a new, specific program, with the working title, "Poetry of Remembrance /Textuality of Memory". The objective of the project would be to

research some of relevant textuality practices, poetry in particular, in public space (such as inscriptions on monuments) , but also application of a text/poetry in creation of new cultural layer through memorialization. The project would include different text manifestations in public space, and all that related to memorialization, eg names of streets or paroles.

During Memory Lab I also found concrete, interested partners from Albania, Croatia, Germany, Belgium and France. We plan to develop the project and apply for funding.

Also, thanks to Memory Lab, there is a possibility for my current and long-lasting project Virtual Museum Dotrščina, to be enriched with the education program for middle school students - human rights workshop, usually ran by one of the Memory Lab participants (Aleksandra). I am considering the possibility of her visit to Zagreb in order to develop this cooperation.

In addition, within the Virtual Museum Dotrščina we plan a series of public discussions thematizing memorialization, which in 2020 may host Gunther Schlusche in Zagreb, so to present a process of creation of the Berlin Memorial.

Not related to memorialization , but as a direct consequence of visit to Albania and excellent selection of the programme participants I agreed with some of them to expand (my) international poets' festival, 50 Poems for Snow to few cities (Tirana, Kraljevo, Užice, Edinburgh +some other possible city candidates).

Due to the all of above it is hard not to conclude that Memory Lab study visit to Albania for me was very successful. Thank you for that.

10. We still know too little about memories of “ordinary people” from different parts of Europe remembering historical events that shaped our present. I would like to present my films outside my region and organize presentations of films dealing with the past from other regions at my hometown. I'm looking for stories from other regions that might be articulated into a film especially if the content can be linked to Slovenian reality. I'm also interested to find partners for possible future projects dealing with memory that connect different European realities.

11. During the workshop I had the chance to communicate and exchange ideas for some future projects, why not.

12. We will see. Still in the process of exploring.

13. This workshop was the opportunity to re-activate links in Europe (that were quite asleep), possible cooperation for youth exchange could be done with Dossin (Belgium), idea of seminar about transgenerational traumas with Denkort Bunker Valentin (and more ..), and why not working again with Dachau !

14. Conference and testimonies in Coutances in February 2021 (Project to be specified)

Exchange of practices with Matilda.

Discussions are underway with Christel Trouvé (Bremen), registered with Marjan Verplancke Mechelen - Kaserne Dossin) and always Ruzica Marjanovic.

Other ideas in a few months may be.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH and sorry to be late for the evaluation but I have so many work since I'm back from Tirana .....

15. I join as separate document the project outline we wrote about our own activities (project “THUS - Connecting them and us” with Bosnia and Herzegovina).

16. We just finished a project that was born out of Memory Lab. And we would like to develop a follow-up with these partners ! But still we are always very interested in new partner organisations and new projects with a focus on educational topics since we are an education institution.

17. Perhaps a quarterly update of all the different collaborations so that the rest of the network may become voluntarily activated at specific moments when their expertise is relevant.

18. I must share as soon as possible the experience and knowledge I brought back from Albania to my colleagues in Educational field and for Museum Camp des Milles in France. It is a great challenge but not easy.

I identified people in this meeting who could be interested in common project- specially in the field of Convergences of memory. I am dealing with a lot of institutions and universities and hope that this study trip will help me to make known the convergences we have with Balkans and to build projects like a specific partnership with Spac memorial.

19. -

20. I think about an art-projet at the memorial site of Dachau with participants from Croatia. One participant from Konstanz will held a lecture at the further educations I organize in Dachau. And I startetd to plan a schooltrip with participants from Belgium, Scotland and Bosnia & Herzegowina.

21. Archives with Foundation IKS (Edin). Exhibition “Peace with women’s face” with History Museum BiH. Project “Broader Stories” with IKS, History Museum BiH and Youth For Peace.

22. The discussions with Melka on doing a visit at Le Camp des Milles – I have to follow up on that with the French Embassy. Discussions with Frank and Nicolas on Spac – perhaps a meeting in the end of October in Tirana. I am trying to figure out RYCO’s role and aspirations in the memory field, if any.

23. If ideas and opportunities of cooperation appear, I will propose to deal with some partners. The list of the participants and their contacts will be useful.

24. I planned to develop a memory walk and work on propaganda with other participants as well with my students.

25. I am involved in several ongoing projects with other Memory Lab partners, currently I am working on at least two new activities with persons met during this Memory Lab.

26. I started planning an international project around Music („How can music be a vector of transmission and reflection on difficult pasts“), together with colleagues from France (Elodie Montes, now in Strasbourg), UK (Gill Akhtar), Croatia and Germany (Matthias Heyl, Ravensbrück / „Sound in the silence“).

I got a step further within the project of dealing with the transgenerational transmission of trauma.

27. Starting cooperation with History Museum of BiH

28. As described above. :-)

29. With this being my first Memory Lab study trip/workshop, i had the chance to meet old and new participants, well, they were all new to me actually but it turned out to be quite fruitful regardless, as I have made plans to work on some projects with different participants in totally different thematics as well. I am very happy with the people i got to know during this one week, and really do believe we will work together to create social mechanisms to turn memory into history.

30. I really hope to do the research I proposed about exhibiting violence in memorial museums and for this I would try to involve different ML partners (museums). I also plan to join Saša’s project about memory and textuality (we are already discussing where to apply for funding with this project).

31. The communication for sure is ongoing even after the Memory Lab is finished and I am sure that such intense communication will bring some positive perspective regarding upcoming activities.

32. Currently nothing but many in the previous years and hopefully some in the following!

One idea would be to work on individual visual archives with some other participants. But nothing concrete at that point.

33. We will visit the Dachau Memorial Site with a Belgian school in the second part of 2020, that is a certainty. Apart from that, some of the participants will further explore the possibilities of a partnership on the basis of the reflexion we did during the actual Memory Lab in Albania. I have several ideas on the border project Anja Medved proposed. I will stay in touch with Ervin and Edin to explore the possibility to do something together. Sasa had a very good idea on poetry and monuments, also in Belgium. All of these ideas have to be finetuned, but I am convinced that fruitful collaborations will blossom from the past Memory Lab study trip.

34. -

35. Various ideas have been aired :

a) To link with various Memory Lab partners to facilitate student visits to memory sites in Belgium and Germany

b) To link with Memory Lab partners in France and Belgium to look at issues of human rights and extremism with students and teachers

c) I would also like to facilitate visits by History teachers from the Eastern Europe to Scotland.

d) I would like to use much knowledge and experiences of memory sites and visitor attractions in the UK to help with the development of the Spac visitor experiences.

All the above are being discussed with my school to see what is possible.

e) Have been discussing getting involved with the Memory Lab group looking at the use of the arts in dealing with trauma and memory. My particular interest is music. Nothing concrete yet.

f) Have agreed to link Edinburgh into the arts project '50 Poems for Snow'.

36. I plan to have follow-up activities on the political prison project that brought some people to Bucharest in December 2018. That was centered on creating bridges between organizations and museums of political violence related to prisons in both CEE and Southern Europe mainly, but this could be adjusted.

For the new project on the meaning of 1989 (led by Documenta in Croatia) I aim to include as many participants from Memory Lab as possible.