



Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

Call for Applications

**From Sarajevo to Strasbourg -
10th Memory Lab Study Trip / Workshop:
A laboratory for a European memory space?
Alsace-Lorraine, September 3 to 10, 2023**

Organized by

crossborder factory (Berlin), Archives d'Alsace (Strasbourg),
Rue de la Mémoire (Strasbourg), History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo),
Centre for Public History (Belgrade)

in cooperation with and with the support of:

Franco-German Youth Office, Regional Youth Cooperation Office,
Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft and Archives d'Alsace

crossborder
factory



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From Sarajevo to Strasbourg - 10th Memory Lab Study Trip/Workshop - Alsace-Lorraine, September 3 to 10, 2023: A laboratory for a European memory space?

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1. General Information:

Memory Lab - Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance brings together organizations, institutions and persons from Southeast Europe and from Western/Central Europe, which are working on memory sites and remembrance education related to difficult pasts (wars, mass crimes, dictatorships).¹ The aims of this initiative are to deepen mutual knowledge, exchange experiences, build capacities, facilitate contacts and realize common projects. Its general purpose is to strengthen constructive approaches of dealing with the past as part of civic education and democracy-building, and to contribute to cooperation and understanding processes in South Eastern Europe and in Europe in general, as well as to the integration of the Western Balkans into a common European civil society and memory space. The project was launched, under the name “Dealing with difficult pasts in the Western Balkans and Western Europe” in 2010 with a first gathering in Sarajevo; since then, eight more annual workshops/study trips have taken place, in Prijedor, Jasenovac and Vukovar (2011), Paris, Péronne and Oradour (2012), Berlin, Frankfurt/Oder and Ravensbrück (2013), Pristina, Skopje and Tetovo (2014), Brussels, Dinant and Ypres (2015), Belgrade, Novi Sad and Kragujevac (2016), Madrid, Barcelona, La Jonquera and Rivesaltes (2017) and in Albania (2019). More than 80 bilateral and multilateral activities have been developed in this time by partner organizations which met through the *Memory Lab* platform.

After several years of interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 10th study trip/workshop will take place from 3rd to 10th September 2023. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Franco-German Cooperation Treaty, and after Albania in 2019, we will go this time again to Western Europe, choosing a key region of Franco-German and European history: Alsace-Lorraine. As a Franco-German border region with a difficult and eventful history, and at the same time as a symbol of European and Franco-German cooperation after 1945, Strasbourg and Alsace exemplify questions that are also highly relevant for South Eastern Europe: What are the possibilities and challenges of dealing constructively with a difficult common history? Under what conditions can cross-border cooperation also be developed in the field of remembrance work? As a concrete result of the workshop/study trip

¹ For more information see our website : www.memorylab-europe.eu

in Alsace, the participants will work on recommendations for the promotion of constructive and participatory memory work in Europe, and especially in and with Southeast Europe, addressed to the Franco-German Youth Office and to the Regional Youth Cooperation Office.

The workshop/study trip will take place in Strasbourg, with trips to other locations in Alsace-Lorraine during the program. Participants are scheduled to arrive in Strasbourg on 3rd September 2023 and depart on 9th September 2023, or on 10th September 2023 for those who will participate in the optional additional field trip. The program of the 10th *Memory Lab* study visit/workshop will combine visits to emblematic memory sites of the First and Second World Wars (e.g. the Hartmannswillerkopf and Struthof memorials), meetings with actors of cross-border and European cooperation (e.g. from the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau in Kehl and the "Observatory on History Teaching in Europe" in the Council of Europe), and working sessions within the group. The optional additional field trip on 9th of September will bring us to Verdun, one of the most important memory sites related to World War One in France, with visits to the Mémorial de Verdun, the Douaumont Ossuary and the former battlefields from 1916.

2. Target group / Selection criteria

35 representatives of memorial centers, historical museums, NGOs and other organizations/initiatives from South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia) on the one hand, and from France and Germany on the other hand, who are active in the field of dealing with difficult pasts (wars and dictatorships in Europe during the 20th century) in a practical way, especially around memory sites and in the educational field.

The participants are chosen through an Open Call which is launched in the beginning of May 2023 and will be open until 5th June 2023.

The selection of the participants will be done on the following basis:

a) General criteria for the constitution of the group:

- Practitioners who are dealing with history and memory work in Europe, especially in memorials, museums, and civil society organizations
- The group should be constituted by approx. 2/3 of 'old' participants (who have already participated at one or several of former annual *Memory Lab* study trips/workshops) and of 1/3 of 'new' participants
- Diversity regarding represented countries, professional backgrounds (Museums, NGOs, ...) and gender

b) Individual criteria for the applicants:

- Concrete / practical link to memory work
- For 'old' participants: Own commitment to *Memory Lab* (for example organization of joint activities with other *Memory Lab* associates), and benefit for one's own work
- For new participants: potential own commitment to *Memory Lab*, and potential benefit for own work

3. Aims of the study trip/ workshop in 2023 in Alsace-Lorraine:

- To explore the history of Alsace-Lorraine in the 20th century, as a violently disputed border region between France and Germany until 1945 and as a space of Franco-German and European cooperation after 1945

- To explore and discuss how this past is memorialized today
- To compare and connect the experiences from Alsace-Lorraine with memory politics and memory-work in other parts of Europe
- To work on recommendations for the promotion of constructive and participatory memory work in Europe, addressed to the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ / DFJW) and to the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
- To deepen contacts and cooperation and to provide a space for networking which will help to develop future activities between the participants of the *Memory Lab* platform

4. Preliminary program

Accommodation:

European Youth Centre Strasbourg: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-strasbourg>

Sunday, September 3, 2023:

Arrival of participants in Strasbourg

Monday, September 4, 2023

Morning:

- Introduction and interactive getting to know each other among the participants
- From Sarajevo 2010 to Strasbourg 2023: 10 Memory Lab workshops/study trips

Afternoon:

- A border region between France and Germany: Introduction to the history of Alsace
- On the traces of a multi-layered history: Exploration of the city center of Strasbourg

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Departure from Strasbourg

- Visit to the Mémorial de l'Alsace-Moselle in Schirmeck, on the history of the region from 1870 to today
- Visit to the memorial site of the former German concentration camp Natzweiler-Struthof and the "European Centre of Deported Resistance Members"

Return trip to Strasbourg

Wednesday, September 6, 2023:

Morning:

- Reflection on the visits of the previous day
- Parallel group work:
 - a) How do we get young people interested in constructive remembrance work? Exchange of experiences on participatory and interactive approaches.
 - b) What does the war against Ukraine mean for our memory work?

Afternoon:

- Parallel visits / encounters:
 - a) Archives d'Alsace: the preservation, study and promotion of Alsace's historical heritage
 - b) Observatory on History Teaching in Europe from the Council of Europe
 - c) Meeting with representatives of the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict in Kehl: opportunities and challenges of cross-border cooperation

Evening:

What can South East European societies learn from France and Germany? What can Germany and France learn from South Eastern Europe? Discussion with Tobias Bütow, Secretary General of OFAJ/DFJW

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Departure from Strasbourg:

- Visit to the Hartmannswillerkopf memorial and the Historial franco-allemand, related to World War One / lecture and discussion on possibilities and challenges for the design of common places of remembrance.

Return trip to Strasbourg

Friday, September 8, 2023

Morning:

- Reflection on the visits of the previous day
- Group work: Differences and similarities between the history of and memory work in Alsace and the history and memory work in South Eastern Europe

Afternoon:

- Group work to prepare recommendations to OFAJ/DFJW and to RYCO for the promotion of constructive and participative memory work in Europe, especially in and with South East Europe.
- Evaluation of the study trip

Saturday, September 9, 2023: Optional program

Departure to Verdun

Visits to the Mémorial de Verdun, the Douaumont Ossuary and the former battlefields of Verdun from 1916. Discussion about the visits in Verdun.

Trip back to Strasbourg

Sunday, September 10, 2023:

Departure of participants (or the day before for those who did not take part in the optional visit to Verdun).

5. Practical information

Arrival is foreseen for Sunday, 3rd September 2023 in Strasbourg, and departure for Saturday, 9th September 2023 from Strasbourg, or on Sunday 10th September for those who will participate at the additional trip to Verdun.

The organizers will cover, for the length of the program, the costs for the accommodation, meals, program, and transport during the study trip / workshop.

The travel costs to Strasbourg should be covered by the institution of the participant or will be reimbursed up to a certain amount after the program, on the basis of the cheapest possible travel prices (Economy class, by bus, train or plane). Participants should organize their travel to Strasbourg. For participants from South Eastern Europe, the costs for the travel will be reimbursed after the program by the organizers, upon presentation of travel tickets/bills, up to an amount of maximum 250 € (for Croatia and Slovenia) or 350 € (for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia). For participants coming from France and Germany, it is expected that their travel costs are covered by their institution; if the institution cannot cover travel costs, travel costs may be reimbursed on request up to 160 € maximum, depending on the available budget.

The accommodation is foreseen in double-rooms (or partially in single-rooms) in the *European Youth Centre Strasbourg (EYCS)* (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-strasbourg>)

The main working language during the program will be English, with whispered or consecutive translation into Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian if needed. Some presentations might take place in French, and will be translated into English and B/C/S/M.

The participation fee is **40 € for persons from South Eastern Europe**, and **80 € for persons from France and Germany**; the fee is to be paid during the program or via bank transfer to crossborder factory before the program.

For those who wish to participate in the optional trip to Verdun on 9th September 2023, there is an additional participation fee of 40 €.

6. Preparation team:

Tamara Banjevlav, Ludovic Fresse (Rue de la Mémoire) Elma Hašimbegović (History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Jamina Lazović (Centre for Public History), Carine Leveque (Archives d'Alsace), Alma Mašić, Frank Morawietz (crossborder factory), Nicolas Moll (crossborder factory)

7. Application

Application forms can be requested by sending an email to memorylab.europe@gmail.com or can be found on the website www.memorylab-europe.eu . The completed application form should be sent to memorylab.europe@gmail.com **until 5th June, 2023 at the latest**. The applicants will be notified about their participation around mid-June 2023.

For any questions please send an email to memorylab.europe@gmail.com