

## Answers Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

### **1. What is the main conclusion I take with me out of this workshop?**

- a) I think this is the first time that we are, in a serious, impartial and professional manner, discussing about memorials in BiH. It is important to me that this is only the beginning of an important process in which we should generally ameliorate the status of memorials and in general of memories and of dealing with the past in BiH.
- b) The workshop had a very positive influence on me, because it opened to me some new aspects in the process of dealing with the past. New experiences and perspective for me are very important as is the development of ideas for future cooperation.
- c) Dealing with a difficult past is definitely a topic that should be given more attention, time and significance.
- d) The conclusion that I carry with me at the end is that facing a difficult past is a process that requires a longer period of time and an involvement of a larger sector of actions.
- e) The main conclusion is that dealing with the past is a long process that requires time and the involvement of different actors and their commitment in the societies which go through this process.
- f) First of all that a good coordination between the representatives of various organizations and mutual respect of different perspectives facing the past can do a lot on personal attitudes and their own work.
- g) What happened during the wars, should not and can not be forgotten. As time passes really fast, people are turning to other things in life, monuments and Memorials are the way to leave a trace of heavy crimes and genocide which were committed against certain peoples. Therefore we should all fight for equal rights and the freedom to honor all the victims.
- h) That it was very useful for me to take part at this workshop. It was especially useful to meet people who have the same or similar line of work and having exchanged experience in our work as well as detected problems we all face in our daily work.
- i) The main conclusion that I take with me is that it is extremely important that people who are dealing with similar or same issues get together as soon as possible in order to exchange information, experiences and try to achieve cooperation.
- j) A workshop like this allows participants to learn about the others but also to learn about oneself by sharing experiences and confronting ideas and points of view.

---

<sup>1</sup> The answers a) to i) have been translated from Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Original, the answers j) to u) have been written in English.

k) Dealing with the past is a real question in the Balkans, there are people, NGOs, etc. involved in this work and they are willing to cooperate with Western Europe, to share experiences, practices, advices...

l) -

m) As we were able to come out of this workshop with 3 concrete projects, I would say that the main conclusion for me is that the workshop has been really useful. And it shows how important it is to meet and to have the opportunity to talk about different experiences. Even if I expected it, I must say it is very comforting to see the current result of it.

n) Dealing with the past is definitely a very delicate subject. It depends on where we are coming from. Of course, as a French or a German, it is quite easy to put a distance between the events and us, 60 years after the WW2. For people from the Balkans it is much more complicated as everyone has suffered deeply and still has to cope with that!

o) That concepts from the reconciliation process between Germany and France can only be transferred to the Western Balkans to a small extent. The reconciliation process in the Balkan region is very different (in terms of time and complexity). My main conclusion is (personally) that I want to go on dealing with the role of NGOs in this process → How can their work be strengthened to reach a broader public ?

p) Although we are dealing with different pasts and incomparable experiences, we can find a common ground to address this past, jointly. We need to keep the respect, interest and enthusiasm in taking the next steps together.

q) To allow many perspectives on complicated situations for the understanding of difficult pasts.

r) I need to come back. And I need to listen to the stories, narratives and statements of the colleagues from the region, to understand more. Finally, I am full of appreciation for the work you are doing here.

s) The difference between dealing with the past in France / Germany and Bosnia today, because of time (« Professional »/distance - emotional). The difficulty to deal with conflicting memories.

t) There is a high potential in further dealing with the subject. The importance of looking for approaches to link the subject of the WW2 to more recent conflicts like the Yugoslavian wars by links like commemoration aspects and maybe also others.

u) That the regional and broader European (EU) cooperation is welcomed in dealing with the conflictual pasts and that people involved in the workshop are willing to continue to work together and to form a group for the development of joint projects.

## **2. What did I appreciate during the workshop?**

a) Very positive atmosphere where all participants were optimistic and full of energy and impetus.

b) I appreciated the very good organization, the presentation of other experiences and the desire of all participants to learn plenty of new things.

- c) It pleased me that "someone" made a good selection of people (participants), and the first time I felt surrounded by completely normal and wonderful people.
- d) I am glad that I had the opportunity to hear other examples of dealing with the past, as well as problems they are dealing with.
- e) I like the dynamics of the workshops and the participation of people from different countries with different experiences in the field of dealing with the past. Also, I liked that the last day we were working on proposals of specific projects in order to establish future cooperation, so that this workshop is not an end in itself.
- f) All presentations and discussions within the workshops were constructive and *valuable*.
- g) The visiting of the memorials in Sarajevo and the explanations concerning them.
- h) The presentations of participants especially those which were related to the work of memorials. Also, the fact that we concretized future cooperation organizing ourselves working in few groups.
- i) I appreciated the sophisticated program of the workshop, although intense it was not wearing: a well done choice of participants, interesting presentations of different programs/ projects were offered, different activities, and the possibility for participants to socialize. The "market place" was extremely helpful for socializing, because it was possible for institutions to present themselves more in detail, and especially the outdoor activities in small groups. What I think was interesting and useful was the American working method Open space, I took part in for the first time, and I consider it extremely effective. - I consider the workshop as successful because after only three days specific steps were made and further cooperation steps were developed.
- j) I really enjoy the atmosphere of the group. I mean that all the exchanges were done on a convivial way. From the point of view of the organisation, all went right. Things were thought and well led.
- k) It was quite easy to talk with all participants; the using of different methods.
- l) To discover commemoration sites together in Sarajevo and to discuss them among us and with a critical person as Nihad. The discussion about European culture of remembrance. To know more about what concerns people in dealing with the past in BiH/Croatia/Serbia. The open space method and its outcomes. Fantastic food and translation
- m) I really appreciated working and discussing in small groups during the Open Space. It was very efficient and productive and we had very interesting conversations about the situations in Western Balkans.
- n) I appreciate the very good level of the participants either in knowledge of history or in intellectual capacity of pointing out the problems. As well, I appreciate the venue which I found very comfortable.
- o) A good and friendly atmosphere was created. Everybody respected each other. I got to know a lot of interesting people and I take this workshop as a starting point.

p) Great organisation and preparations. Great balance of content. Fantastic translators and facilities. Sarajevo. Good spirit and openness between participants AND team. Cultural sensitiveness.

q) Great organisation, very nice people, extremely well being looked after.

r) The wonderful atmosphere. Open.

s) The challenge to show the topic from different perspectives and to show a multidimensional picture. The mix of methods.

t) Learning to know interesting people and organisations. Having discussions in a relaxed and open atmosphere.

u) Openness of participants to create a practical dialogue, from which each of the involved sides benefits/benefited, and willingness for the cooperation after this workshop.

### **3. What did I find problematic during the workshop / What did I miss?**

a) Lack of time for certain topics of the workshop, but that is the law of all such meetings and activities.

b) -

c) The water in the bottles was so warm. Everything was great.

d) Besides small technical problems I have no complaints about the organization and flow of the workshop. The general conclusion is that unfortunately it will take a lot of work and time in order to successfully face the past...

e) I did not like that after some presentations there was no time for discussion, and that the majority of activities took place at the hotel. Perhaps it would be good in the future to provide more time on field work and visiting places of memory in the city.

f) It would have been good if there had been more time to deepen some of the opened issues.

g) More sunshine and good weather ☺ so we can be more productive and that we can visit all the memorial monument in Sarajevo.

h) There are no missing elements. Maybe a bit of more attention should have been paid to dialogues, exchanges of experiences, and maybe more time for the questions and debates after each presentation.

i) Considering the whole program, the field work was quite present, but I think it would be good to have more outdoor activities.

j) I didn't have the opportunity to talk to all the participants. Not because of the barrier of the language but maybe by a straight entry into the subject. I don't know...

k) I missed the half of the workshop...

l) The presentations of the organisations were too long.

m) What was a bit problematic for me was to share all kinds of experience in the big group. As there were quite a lot, it was sometimes difficult to keep our concentration although it was very interesting. I certainly missed a better preparation. It would have been good for me to know more about the different projects before coming to Sarajevo but I certainly can do it when I'm back.

n) I didn't talk to everybody and I hardly know all the participants names. It could have been very interesting to propose at the very beginning a « get to know each others »-exercice which would have allowed us, in a pleasant and amusing way, to know each other and, maybe, to feel more confident together. (It has, I think, taken more or less two days to get on well).

o) The Open Space session in the end was too short to talk about projects in detail. I am not sure that we keep on working together if there are no concrete appointments / obligations set up.- For the field work in Sarajevo more detailed questions should be prepared the next time.

p) In the beginning, exactly after the first day, I was afraid that we wouldn't have enough space for exchange and that the input would be overestimated. But then, during the second day, it turned out that presentations were kept short and exchange prevailed. - The city rally suffered from rain, but also from concept. There are fantastic modules to do a city rally which explores the place, the culture, specific topics AND the relations between the persons doing it. This can be improved.

q) I wished we had had more time for field-trips but you can't have it all.

r) Problematic : lack of time - as usual.

s) The focus on « results » on the third day.

t) Too many « lectures » in the first two days. It was difficult to keep concentrated all the time and to give the necessary respect to all presentations.

u) Nothing. My sincere congratulations for the best organized workshop of this nature I have participated so far !

#### **4. What did I learn on dealing with the past – in France/Germany and in BiH/Croatia/Serbia?**

a) In France and Germany there is visible progress in understanding the past and the convergence of national truths between these two countries and peoples. SEE: There is a total confusion in the way the past is treated and we have activities ahead of us to deal with war events.

b) The experience of Germany and France was very interesting for me, because the lecture showed me how they went through that phase of the process of dealing with the past and affirmed a culture of memory.

c) I learned that the experiences of Germany , France, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and other countries in Europe have so much in common, and sometimes are almost identical, especially when it comes to the problems we are facing.

d) -

e) I learned that the process of dealing with the past in France and Germany began relatively late, and that a long time there was no discussion about the events of the war. In Bosnia / Serbia / Croatia, this process necessarily requires a bigger commitment of state authorities from all three countries, and there will be probably no progress until the highest level is beginning to speak publicly about the events that were until now kept silent or were denied.

f) F/G: Despite of the great success these 2 states and nations have achieved in dealing with the past, problems are still emerging in certain rare situations, but those countries are dealing a lot easier with these issues. SEE: There are still many things left to do, we should work on facing the negative things of our own past and consider the opinions of those who were victims on „the other side“. But at the same time we see some progress ; it looks like as we are heading in the right direction.

g) I have learned that the people of one country have difficulties with dealing with the past, especially with war crimes which took place in this country or which have been committed by them, and that the victims are those who are always paying the price, even in the „peaceful“ times when justice should take place in society. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a time where the victims are being denied, as well as war crimes and genocide.

h) That it is a very difficult and demanding topic. And it's not finished yet... It requires a serious and advised approach.

i) I learned that dealing with the past in Germany/France was a long and difficult process, and verified what I already knew, that not only the Balkans is a territory of difficult history and relations (as sometimes it is presented to us), but also that other countries are still going through different phases in the process of dealing with the past. I also verified that time is one of the crucial factors. But still in the Western Balkans it should be started as soon as possible not to wait for a half a century for mutual projects that will contribute for a better understanding and overcoming the "trauma" from the past. - What I liked specially was that I learned during this workshop that there are young people in BiH who are brave, willing to work on dealing with the past, no matter that they were direct witnesses or participants.

j) I have learned what ‘cooperation’ means in a concrete way: gathering people from different countries and social backgrounds to discuss, by the means of projects involving young people for instance. I’ve learned too that it’s a hard task that requires several steps. Things can’t be solved by a finger’s snap.

k) F/G: I liked the analysis made by Matthias Heyl who linked German problems with identity to their strong willing of an European identity. - SEE: The fact that there are no / only a few links between memorials in Bosnia and Herzegovina / Croatia / Serbia. I noticed that most of people attending this seminar and working in NGOs/Memorials are quite young, like new generations trying to remember / prevent failures of the past.

l) F/G: That it gets more difficult to motivate young people to reflect their past, as WW2 gets more distant. - SEE: Rural areas have to be involved. There are very interesting / sensitive / creative monuments in Sarajevo. The difficult task to build a regional initiative on truth / establishing facts.

m) F/G: That there is still much to do. - SEE: As I come from Western Europe, I still have to learn a lot about this topic, but coming to Sarajevo for this workshop is a good start. It was really useful to meet all the participants from BiH, Croatia and Serbia, but again I will have to get more information about when I’m back.

n) Dealing with the past is definitely a very delicate subject. It depends on where we are coming from. Of course, as a French or a German, it is quite easy to put a distance between the events and us, 60 years after the WW2. For people from the Balkans it is much more complicated as everyone has suffered deeply and still has to cope with that!

o) F/G: Thanks for the good introduction / overview, but that was not new to me. - SEE: The complexity of the contesting memories.

p) F/G: French employ more creative methods and use arts more deliberately than German who follow a rather cognitive approach. Nevertheless, both deal with relatively settled conflicts and therefore, they are eager to discuss historical issues more abstractly.

BiH : A kind of competition between different memorials and memories of the war. No public strategy and willingness to address questions of remembrance – reluctance. NGOs are very active and thirsty for transfer of know how transfer (but they have difficulties in articulating it!). Funding doesn't seem the biggest issue, political support is more important. There is so much spirit in that country!

Croatia: The state strongly influences memorials, but there are NGOs which confront this as well.

q) F/G: Not so much (being German). - SEE: A lot, especially about how present the consequences of the conflict are.

r) Complexity. How difficult it is to cope with this complexity, again.

s) F/G: Dealing with the past in France / Germany is not so much loaded with emotions. It is institutionalized.- BiH: Dealing with the past in Bosnia is a process which hurts but it is necessary. The challenge in Bosnia is the exclusive character of memory sites and the abusing of memory sites. The situation in Bosnia is more complex than it was in Germany / France. The « politisation » of memory sites in BiH.

t) F/G: A very cognitive and « cool » approach towards the history and memory of WW2 due to the time distance and the « clear » and researched historical facts. - SEE: Very complicated relations because of the unfinished transition process and the « fresh wounds » of what happened.

u) How long term and short term actions related to dealing with the past differ, and in which points they share the similar practices in this job.

### **5. What am I able and willing to do in the next months to secure a follow-up of the workshop?**

a) I am ready to offer my services and capacities of the NGO in which I'm working, to the projects which are planned to be implemented in the future, especially I would be glad if the project could be focused on the northeastern region of Bosnia and Herzegovina and if it could be the place of our next meeting of people and organizations who are involved in this workshop.

b) In my team about memorials we have set some concrete goals and I will try to participate in the achievement of these. Also I will try to transmit the experience and knowledge from this workshop in my further work in the processes related to dealing with the past and memorial places of suffering.

c) To stay in touch with the whole group and to support all proposals and activities of the group.

- d) I am planing to include the work of my organization in this process, especially because in the region where I come from we feel a certain need to mark the places of suffering and also to create a Memorial Centar.
- e) I am willing to be involved in the creation and implementation of projects for which we have developed a proposal on the last day of the workshop.
- f) First of all, I want to fulfill a promise regarding the establishment of a coordinated action for networking of Memorial in this region, so that during the following year we could organize a new workshop in the framework of our mutual cooperation.
- g) I am ready to support, participate in the organization and coordination of the following workshops and of course in everything else if I have the opportunity.
- h) Any kind of help and contribution from my side can be expected of course in line with my other obligations given that the mass burial is approaching on July 11th so during this time I will be very busy.
- i) Historical Museum BiH can offer its capacities for using them for a next workshop, and I will be available in the next months for helping out in organizing the follow up of the workshop.
- j) First of all I'll have to think about this workshop with a bit of time-distance. I'll be able then to share what I've lived with my colleagues and think to the role my museum could take in this process of dealing with the past. I've got some ideas ! (« Axel's » project, partnership with Oradour and so on.) - I really intend to motivate « the Historial's team » to act on a larger scale than the local or national ones. Before I've come here, I didn't know OFAJ for instance or other NGOs. Now, I know that they can support actions on an European scale.
- k) To keep in touch, to follow activities and news of the participants and their structures.
- l) To think more about what questions should be discussed further on.
- m) I really want to keep in contact with the participants and to launch some projects with some of them. Also it would be very interesting for me to follow the evolution and the next actions following this workshop in the next few months, and I'm ready to help in any possible way. I think it would be good to keep in contact with every participant and to continue the work and exchanges.
- n) Even if, for some reasons, the topic « anti-militarism and deserters » didn't receive all the interest it should have had, I carry on with the idea of proposing a seminar (French, German and a Balkan country) around this topic. Besides, I am already involved into the so called Balkan-“Karambolage” which is a very challenging and so exciting project (German - Bosnian - French) to be organized in 2011. Of course I will keep contact by email with the participants with whom I have talked and answer to those who will contact me. Not to forget the team of course.
- o) I would really like to keep on working with the people I met here. I am willing to cooperate in writing drafts for further projects and coordinate parts of it in 2011. - I would like to develop our approaches further on by getting new insights in the work of NGOs in the Western Balkans (especially methods of dealing with the past are interesting).

- p) Read more! Answer to emails. Contribute to conceptualisation of follow up project. Meet people individually again or in small working groups.
- q) To give input on preparing an international conference on various levels - contents / trying to raise money.
- r) I am there, and I shall get in contact with possible partners for future projects.
- s) To think about a possible activity which makes sense and fits to our organisation.
- t) To continue in trinational youth meeting projects to gather more experience, raising new questions and looking for further perspectives. To keep contact to the network of the workshop participants and to support the activities of the NGOs in BiH.
- u) To take a role in organizing the further development of the group's activities in order to create joined actions (workshops, conferences, projects, forums, networks).

## **6. Suggestions for future cooperation**

- a) To achieve an active mutual communication and to include a large number of experts and organizations which have experience with dealing with the past. You may also invite representatives of the University which in their system attach a particular importance to dealing with the past.
- b) -
- c) I invite you to participate as a group at the "Peace March" to Srebrenica, and thereafter to hold a workshop in Srebrenica.
- d) The proposal is to establish a Memorial Center in Omarska, which I exposed during the workshop, and I will continue to fight for this.
- e) I suggest to continue to organize such workshops also in other countries of the region in order to include participants from other post - yugoslav countries (Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo).
- f) I suggest:
- To create a register of memorials– institutions - organization which should be involved in the future work of the workshop in.
  - If the number of the participants starts increasing, to create up sub-groups which would be in charge with work in the field of memorials, civil organizations etc., and which would be coordinated by one single body presented in the previous working group.
  - That the participation in next workshops expresses in reports of the participants, which could be published in the form of thematic proceedings. In this way we would leave a written trace which would be accessible to the public.
- g) I consider it essential that the organizers should make a email list of our organizations, so that we remain in contact with each other, and can share information about what we or our organizations have done, and wehre evryone could leave their comments and proposals etc. And of course where we could get some information about the organsiation of a future workshop. Also I suggest that the next workshop should be in the near future, because in my experience when the

gatherings and workshops are not organized frequently, the group (or the participants) is losing the will to attend them.

h) Before the workshop takes place, an organized trip should be carried out to memorial sites in few countries, then the impressions should be presented at the workshop and some conclusions made.

i) -

j) -

k) The idea of this workshop with a three-days-tour of memory places. Cooperation for exhibitions, meetings, lectures... The idea of a work around justice and war criminals (questions of trials, perpetrators, necessary or not ? Can it lead to a society with less conflicts or does it add conflicts? ...)

l) To have small working groups in order to discuss different aspects of dealing with the past.

m) It would be very good to secure a follow up and to keep working together and with other people from other countries in Europe. It would also be good to organize lectures in my country with some participants from the workshop (witnesses as well as historians) and to present exhibitions from other countries.

n) A three-days-seminar seems to work very well. This one was very well balanced between lectures, workshops and visits. The initiative is successful.

o) I need to get a deeper insight into the region before proposing new projects. The ideas I had presented during the Open Space. Thank you very much for the good organization and the friendly atmosphere.

p) To combine input and space for reaction in an earlier phase of the workshop ! Keep starting at 9h30! To move to another place (maybe more remote) of conflicting memories and include a more sophisticated city / space - discovery. Maybe to include a cultural event linked to the topic. Continue like that, you are great! Hvala puno! Merci beaucoup! Many thanks!

q) To follow up the ideas from Friday's working groups as they seem to be leading in the right direction. The next conference/meeting should have a direct impact for sites / initiatives in the successor-countries of ex-Yugoslavia.

r) To leave the conference place more often, to have even more informal contacts on « triggering » places.

s) –

t) To realize the 5-days-project in 2011 (2 days study trip and 3 days conference on specific modules like education, preservation, and bringing both together).

u) Workshops, conferences, projects, forums, networks.