



Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk
Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse



Dealing with difficult pasts in the Western Balkans and Western Europe – possibilities and perspectives for trans-European cooperation

*An international workshop organized by the French-German Youth Office, the Centre André Malraux in Sarajevo and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH
Sarajevo, 2-4 June 2010*

Context :

The idea for this workshop was born after the realization of several exchange seminars organized by the French-German Youth Office and Centre Malraux in Sarajevo with students from France, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia on the topic of “difficult memory places in Europe”. These exchanges illustrated, on the one hand, how insufficient the knowledge of people on the specific situation in other parts of Europe is, and, on the other hand, how enriching and stimulating a comparison and an exchange of experiences between partners of different countries can be. Even if each country has its specific situation and if the distance of war is a very different one in Western Europe and in the Western Balkans, a lot of questions are similar: How to deal with difficult past(s)? How to face the reluctance to deal with the past? How to aggregate reconciliation and dealing with the past? What can be the role of bottom-up-initiatives and civil society actors in developing constructive dealing-with-the-past-processes? How to bring together different and competitive memories? What are possibilities and difficulties to build up a European memory?

Purpose of the workshop:

To bring together initiatives in the field of dealing with difficult pasts (wars, dictatorship) from different countries of Western Europe and the Western Balkans, in order to exchange on their approaches and experiences and to work on concrete possibilities of European cooperation for the future in these fields.

Specific aims :

- To present and discuss the current “Dealing with difficult pasts”- situations and challenges in Western Europe and the Western Balkans
- To present different national and European initiatives of dealing with the past coming from Western Europe and the Western Balkans
- To learn about the differences in “dealing with the past”-processes (Intercultural Learning)
- To develop concrete cooperation and networking ideas about dealing with the past between Western Europe and the Western Balkans

Target groups:

Representatives of memorial centers, museums, NGOs, research centers, different initiatives acting in the field of dealing with the past and historians - from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany, Kosovo and Serbia.

One person representing each initiative in a group of 20 participants.

The participation takes place upon invitation.

For practical reasons, the participants in the first workshop will be limited to persons coming from these six countries. But in the long-term further steps / projects will include initiatives coming from other European countries.

Working Languages: English and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (with simultaneous translation)

Practical information: The workshop will take place in Sarajevo in the Hotel Grand (Muhameda ef. Pandze 7, 71000 Sarajevo, www.hotelgrand.com).

Team / Contact:

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Preliminary Program:

Day 1: Wednesday, 2 June 2010

9h-9h30 : Registration of the participants

Morning session (9h30-12h45):

- Introduction / Short first presentation of the participants (9h30-10h15)
- Differences and similarities: Context overview regarding the “dealing with difficult pasts”-situation:
Part 1: “Dealing with the past in France and Germany”, Input by Nicolas Moll (Centre André Malraux), followed by discussion (10h15-11h15)

Coffee break (11h15-11h30)

Part 2: “Dealing with the past in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo”, Input by Sinan Alic (Helsinki Committee for Human Rights BiH), followed by discussion. (11h30-12h45)

Lunch break (12h45-14h15)

Afternoon session (14h15 -19h30):

- *Set up of the market-place (14h15-14h30)*
- Market place: exchange of information between the represented organisations and presentation of their activities in the field of dealing with the past and the challenges they are facing (14h30-16h30)

Coffee break (16h30-16h45)

- Traces and commemoration of War in Sarajevo (1): Exploration in small groups of sites in Sarajevo which are relevant to the process of dealing with the past such as memorials, places of mass suffering and similar (16h45 – approx. 19h30)

Common dinner outside

Day 2: Thursday, 3 June 2010

Morning session (9h30 – 13h00):

- Traces and commemoration of War in Sarajevo (2): Presentation of the findings and impressions concerning the sites visited the day before, and discussion with Nihad Kresevljakovic (“Modul Memorije” / MESS-Festival) about the memories of war and the commemoration policy in Sarajevo. (9h30-11h30)

Coffee break (11h30-11h45)

- Examples of regional and international cooperation in Europe in the field of dealing with the past: Short presentations followed by discussion (1) (11h45-13h)
 - RECOM: Marijana Toma (Impunity Watch)
 - Regional exchange program YIHR: Alma Masic (YIHR)

Lunch break (13h-14h45)

Afternoon session (14h45-18h15):

- Examples of regional and international cooperation in Europe in the field of dealing with the past: Short presentations followed by discussion (2) (14h45 – 16h30):
 - European Path of Memory: Muhizin Omerovic (Municipality Srebrenica)
 - Czech-German-Kosovar History Project: Timon Perabo
 - History-NGO-Network EU-SEE: Juliane Tomann (Viadrina-Universität Frankfurt/Oder)
 - FGYO exchange program “Difficult Memory places in Europe”: Carine Leveque (ONAC)

Coffee break (16h30-16h45)

- “The challenge to build an European memory”, Input by Matthias Heyl (Memorial Ravensbrück), followed by discussion (16h45-18h15)

18h30: Cocktail-reception offered by the French Embassy and the German Embassy in BiH

Evening: Documentary screening / Video-Archives (Mjedenica 33, Sarajevo)

Day 3: Friday, 4 June 2010

Morning session (9h30-12h30):

- “Open Space”:
On what topics and issues it would be interesting to work further on? What kind of concrete trans-European cooperation and common action in the field of dealing with the past could be useful for the future?

Lunch break (12h30 – 14h)

Afternoon session (14h-18h):

- Continuation and termination of the “Open Space”: defining concrete future projects including action plans (14h-15h30)
- Presentation of the results and conclusions of the workshop, in presence of invited representatives of other organisations (15h30-16h45)

Coffee break (16h45-17h)

- Evaluation and perspectives (17h-18h)

18h: End of the workshop

Dinner

With the support of



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