

Memory Lab

*Fourth international workshop and study trip, 20-26 October 2013:
Berlin, Frankfurt/Oder-Slubice, Ravensbrück*

Evaluation sheets: Answers of the participants

1. My general opinion on the study trip and/or workshop1
2. What are the three most interesting things I learned this week?7
3. What did I find disturbing / striking / irritating / moving.... Why?13
4. From what I have seen/heard, this week, what can I use for my own work?18
5. Suggestions for future workshops/ study trips22

The answers typed in *italic* have been translated from BCS into English, the other answers were written in English

1. My general opinion on the study trip and/or workshop (content, structure, organisation)

General opinion is very positive. Alike before: wide range of people, participants, and those in organisation team contributed to realisation of well arranged study trips and follow-up discussions of good quality. This group of people has already been functioning well together and have led interesting and multi-perspective discussions. The important fact is that after four years the high level of quality is still maintained.

Everything was excellent and well organised. Share between study visits and workshops was well balanced. The organisation was much better than the previous year when the schedule was overloaded. Accommodation in Ravensbrück was great logistical solution as we could visit the place and have the workshops at the same place.

Logistically, this study trip was well organized and well designed. Topics selected for workshop discussions were very interesting, discussions were fruitful, and participants were well informed and knowledgeable on memorialisation and commemorative culture. I wished I had a chance to meet some of survivors from the Ravensbrück camp.

First few days it was slightly tiring due to long walks, but generally speaking the workshop was successful. We visited interesting places and listen to some interesting people. (Although I would have to say that workshop in France gave us opportunity to meet more interesting counterparts, in comparison to this workshop in Germany). I am satisfied both with logistics support and implemented activities.

Generally I can say that both study trip and the workshop totally fulfilled my expectations. The organization advanced notably (logistics, accommodation, organization and realization of workshop activities) , and the programme itself deserve high mark.

Study trip was well designed and conceived. Content was of good quality and organisation was good. Structure of the trip itself and workshops maybe could have been slightly different, as 3 full days in Ravensbrück were strenuous for me.

Extremely well organised study trip. We saw memorials dealing with different events and topics and different periods. Workshops have been maybe slightly too intensive, as the last day it was obvious that almost all participant were worn out.

As each year, this time also, the study trip and workshop coincided with the time we in Prijedor had many activities and lots of work. In addition to having relaxed from regular activities, I had a chance to visit extraordinary places, so I am taking with me deep impressions. The workshop was extremely well organised. We all were warmly welcomed. I am sure this was very useful for all of us coming from Bosnia. I would like for everyone dealing with memorialisation in our country to get the same experience.

Very useful, alike the last study trip. It is important that new people dealing with different aspects of memorialisation joined the group. Places we visited are interesting from different aspects; each of them is comparable with the Balkans situation and examples at several levels. Discussions were OK, although something drifting away from the focus. Like the last time, organisation was excellent.

Generally, I find the organisation of the study trip was very good. The first two days were particularly interesting. Visit to Stasi prison was useful in spite the fact that the guide was an amateur, and therefore we were listening more to his opinion and his position than his experience. However, it was not a total waste of time, as it confirms once again that all the people do not think alike, and that everyone has own understanding of historical events. I was particularly moved by the Anne Frank Centre, as it follows her destiny from her birth and provides information of events that were taking place along with her childhood. Visit to the Berlin Wall, was a kind of time travelling for me. Visit to Frankfurt and Slubice was totally different in comparison to the visit of the previous day and my opinion that Germans have gone a long way in dealing with the past has slightly changed after this second day visit. Ravensbrück definitely was the most remarkable site, not only because of exhibitions, but because level of preservation of the memorial given the circumstances. The same time I think that 3-day visit is too long, and that meeting a historian or a survivor would contribute to overall impression. I've got a feeling that after three days my impressions were changed!

I think we have continued to work in a good manner, and to be on the right path. Alike the previous workshops, organisation this year was at the high level. Intention was to show as much as possible to the participants and provide new information and knowledge and encourage exchange of experiences and knowledge amongst the peers from different countries.

Generally, I think that both study trip and the workshop were well organised and everything functioned very well. The only complaint I have is related to the first day in Berlin when for a short period of time we visited so many places, so it simply was too much information for me for one day. We had enough time in Ravensbrück to visit and see all locations and exhibitions, however the time we spent there was not sufficient for in-depth investigation and research of this place and historical event related to it. Visit to Frankfurt and Slubice and exploration in groups, was well designed, but poorly realised and we did not receive enough relevant information there.

Very good concept with well balanced share between study visits and reflections and group discussions. Interesting choice of locations that we visited and opportunity to make comparison between Berlin and

province. 3 days in Ravensbrück – total privilege and chance for in-depth investigation of the site. Group was huge, but it was not a problem. On the contrary. The last day could have been little bit better structured (although in my experience the last day is always somehow “lousy and pushy”). Logistics – very well organised, without any problems. All in all, I am heading back home tired, with lots of insights, ideas, questions. I am happy that I was part of this study trip.

I found this study trip very useful. It was relevant for my work, my interests and me personally. I see it as a great privilege that I had opportunity to spend some time in place, such as Ravensbrück. Naturally, visiting Berlin’s memory places was useful as well, and Anne Frank museum in particular, where we had a chance to see very concretely and right on the spot how educational activities have been carried out, which was my primary interest. Maybe (with exception for the Anne Frank Museum) I lacked to see more clear/concrete presentation of educational work in museums we visited, and information on whether there are educational programmes at all, or just discussion. What are educational activities and what are the models applied?

A situation in which all of us were in position to learn and reassess own memorialisation processes, memorialisation processes of other countries, but also one another.

- Dealing with the past flows with a different dynamics and serves different needs of a community, or certain groups. Therefore the contrast between Berlin - Frankfurt/O, Slubice is very important.
- it is very good to get acquainted with open air exhibition concepts in context of dealing with the past, (Bernauer Strasse, Ravensbrück). In the Western Balkans educational programmes but also communication between people is quite authoritative; monolog-like.
- Exchange of opinions with participants from the neighbouring countries and some more distant countries helps one to self-evaluate and crystallise where are we at; how far did we get; what functions well, and what needs to be changed.

I am satisfied with the offered program and selection of locations we visited. I think we successfully made plans for future activities.

In my opinion the study tour organisation and implementation was great. Selection of locations and raised topics really enable wide overview of all issues related to memorialisation culture in Germany and opened many learning possibilities, and also for better understanding of cultures and memory policies on the Balkans. Workshops were well organised too; with more specific questions and results than previous years. (it seems so to me)

Extremely successful trip, both for what we have seen and for brilliant contacts with people, good atmosphere and excellent ideas that have been exchanged.

Content wise, this workshop & study trip has again given me valuable insight, offered me new perspectives and enriched me personally & professionally. I had not expected to learn so much new things about Germany. - The structure was nicely built up giving us multiple perspectives on Germany’s past and present. There was sufficient free time to exchange and relax, but also to discuss and reflect. The organisation was great. – it was nice that every part of the workshop was organised by a specialist and in Ravensbrück obviously perfect organisation of our stay.

Study trip: well organized. It is good we had chance to visit different places and learn about different approaches to culture of memory, and how different historical periods are addressed within this topic in different parts of Germany. It would be better if we had more time to reflect on things we saw and learned in Berlin. - The discussions were also interesting point, especially because we had opportunity to choose

ourselves the discussion topics that we found most interesting. It would be useful if we had more discussion about the Memory Lab itself and the way it is going to develop in future.

The study trip was very well organized. I was impressed by the amount of things and content which was included. It was all very relevant and interlinked with the overall topic and purpose of the Lab. I believe that coordination was a huge challenge but to me it seemed that everything was prepared well in advance. Spending 4 nights in Ravensbrück seems too much. I realize the importance but to me personally it was hard spending time here knowing the history of the place. I also expected to see some of the most obvious memorials, but I am glad that those presented in this study trip were showing us a different picture and another side of 'reconciliation'. Good job on everything!

Study trip: Berlin full of impressions and reflexions,

Frankfurt Oder/Slubice gave an idea that not everything is that elaborated in "Commemorative culture" in Germany.

Ravensbruck- no comment, because I work there(anonymously)

Workshop content well prepared, good organisation, sometimes quite a bit unstructured

I find very interesting and positive that each year the program is including new approaches: for example the discovery of Ravensbruek didn't start with a overview-lecture, but with the self-exploration of the site, and by staying three days within a Memorial site we could step by step discover and explore more and more layers and dimensions of the place. The fact also that we stayed in a youth hostel which has been established in the former houses of the SS-guards, together with the contrast between the beautiful landscape and weather and the horror of the past, created the necessary disturbances for going deeper in the reflexion on what we are talking about, what we are seeing and what we are doing.

Study trip: the content of the study trip was rich. The visits in Berlin were very interesting but it is a challenge to visit 4 memorials in one day. I would have needed more time for each one. As it has been said during the workshop, it was disturbing to visit Hohenschönhausen. I was really looking forward to this visit and it was worth it but it was disturbing to have an eye-witness as a guide. However, the 4 memorials were really worth a visit.

Frankfurt Oder and Slubice were very interesting. It was very useful to start with a lecture about the history of the town and to discover the place and its different actors afterwards.

Workshop: really well organized and very interesting topics. Also this year, as we got to know each other and we already had many discussions over the years, I think we saved a precious time.

Once again well planned and organised. The participants didn't have to worry about anything. The evening program was better (lighter) this year. I especially liked that both days of the study trip each had a different subject (Stasi- WWII).

As every year, I found out that study trip/workshop is improving in all above-mentioned points. As group, we have become more coherent, already working on joint projects, as outcome of 'Memory Lab'. However, the study trips had become well-thought, structured and focused on particular topics/segments of history moments. As per organization, I think that the coordination body headed by Nicolas and administratively managed by YIHRBH, had already become 'a dream-team', capable to handle over 40 people in any sense.

In general, I would say that I am full of impressions, ideas and thoughts after the study trip so as all, I find it very inspiring. - There were quite a lot of different subjects, we were talking about, so sometimes the discussions did not get to the ground of the theme, but this also made the content so diverse, what I liked a

lot. - I can't complain about the organisation, it was all managed very well. From time to time, I found the daily agenda too strict, e.g. I can hardly remember what we've done at the Otto-Weidt - Blindenwerkstatt, because it was just too many topics this day. Sometimes I would have liked a clear separation between the 'historical' and the 'what are we going to do with this' perspectives.

The study trip and the workshop were very well organised. We had the opportunity to explore different periods, with different media (lectures, visits, self exploration...) and various persons. It is also interesting that the group is in evolution, with new participants so the team made efforts (list with photos, badge names ...) in order we could know all the participants.

Very well balanced program: Berlin/Frankfurt/ Ravensbrück, which has allowed me to have a very good overview of memory places in Germany.

The quality of the visits as well as the top level of the places visited have impressed me.

The organisation was very good. Accommodation in Berlin OK, with good connection to Berlin Centre.

The Venue in Ravensbrück was perfect: accommodation 1st Class and meals really great.

The seminar was well structured and the working groups have been very fruitful.

The content was very good: interesting was the diversity of visited historical places and to chose them from different periods (GDR-history, NS-history). Concerning the structure it was good to have enough time to study and discover the Memorial of Ravensbruck. - The organisation was perfect, and also very good was the flexibility to change the programme in the afternoon of the second day in Ravensbruck. I estimated very much that it was possible to concentrate on some aspect of history shown in the memorial (for example exhibition of perpetrators). - Excellent was the atmosphere and the working together in our group. Discussions were nearly always fully interesting! The exchanges are important and with experience. A lot of thanks for this engagement and the organisation of the event: it was particularly good!!!

The structure of study trip- workshop is absolutely great. It functioned very well. I arrived Monday lunchtime, and I found the afternoon around the Berlin Wall Memorial very interesting. But I would have liked to take the opportunity to get more deeper in the difficulties and challenges of present and management of remembrances from DDR and BRD. Here I had a feeling that DDR people were more included as witnesses and as taking part in conception of this memorial.

In Frankfurt Oder we really run after the time and it was frustrating. I did not understand the choice of the Kleist museum as it was not very clear for me: was it supposed to show us a common past even if it is not the case? We would have needed some explanations.

Ravensbruck was for me very strong and well thought. The atmosphere created by the memorial site and the welcoming team was full of sensitivity, humour and „*bienveillance*“. I very much appreciated that. Concerning the practical organisation I have nothing to say except „Bravo“.

In general, I appreciated this trip and workshop a lot. It is of huge value to visit memorials and stay on such a site like Ravensbruck with a group like this: able to have empathy, eager to critically assess the site, willing to share impressions and flexible for amendments (what is not given with such a big amount of people and a tight schedule normally)

More in particular, I felt it would have been helpful to have a reflection round also at the end Berlin day. And to have more time for the session on how do we feel on a former concentration camp site for several days. Maybe the emotional impact of sites like this is underestimated by the organiser. The combination of visiting Berlin as a kind of memory hub, then Frankfurt-Slubice as memory desert and finally Ravensbruck as a memory labyrinth was well conceptualized. I hope it became transparent that what is going on in Berlin is in no way representative for memory culture in Germany. - Practical hint: offer a buffet for the first

evening diner to be more time flexible. People are tired after long travels... - Fantastic organization. Good food. Wonderful weather.

Well organised and structured- compliments to the persons who made the program – well balanced in sense of learning , experiencing, self-exploring, self-reflecting and exchanging –there was enough space for all of it. Very intense but very good five days. Also, new and different contents in comparison to the previous year make Memory Lab annual meetings vital and vibrant.

General opinion on the Study trip was good, but my opinion is that we could visit more memorial places in Berlin (Wannsee House, or Holocaust museum), because it could be linked better in the context of workshop. Trip was a bit intensive but ok. We survived ☺

Regarding workshop, content is good, moderation was good as well. Maybe we could have more group discussion on what we could apply from this trip to on present work/activities, etc. Organisation was good, accommodation and food are not my favourite... but it was ok.

I am very glad from all aspects of the trip and I have not any critical opinions both: content, structure and organisation issues were very well done.

The overall study trip and the workshop were very well organized. I found the program very interesting and helpful. The first two days were a bit overwhelming but we managed to digest the information in the stay at the camp. I do congratulate the organizers who have worked on the program for their brilliant professionalism, hospitality and their patience.

2. What are the three most interesting things I learned this week?

The first interesting thing I have learned is about treatment of perpetrators during the several decades in German society. It is noticeable that such perception and treatment (from the legal point of view) has been subjected to changes.

Another interesting thing that I found out was fight for survival of the Ravensbrück Memorial. The fight against extremely ideologised, wrongly placed anti-fascist monument which erases diversities, except for the national one, especially when talking about Jews, Romani people, other „anti-social elements“ and homosexuals.

The third interesting issue I learned is quite problematic attitude of today's united Germany towards GDR and its heritage. I feel that ideological language is present in this area, and it discusses a little bit on abstract and vague topics, and somewhat too easy puts etiquette on GDR regime which can lead to a danger of relativisation.

I learned a lot, primarily at the exhibitions in Ravensbrück that provide lots of information on life in the camp that I was ignorant about. The most interesting for me were exhibitions about perpetrators (women guards and SS officers) which were thoroughly designed to truly provide insight in Nazi ideology and mind set of the perpetrators and their perception of the camp and detained women. (In addition, here I like the fact that generalisation is avoided, as there are presented some positive statements about some guards and officers given by imprisoned women). Another interesting detail was to find out that German still has not finalized its dealing with the past process in regard to its GDR past during the WW2. The third very interesting thing is related to topography of commemorative practices. More specifically, there is enormous difference in dealing with the past between Berlin (as a cultural centre) and Ravensbrück (as one of the key sites of commemoration of the WW2) on one side, and Frankfurt – Oder, on the other side. While in Berlin (with an exception of the problematic STASI prison) and Ravensbrück museological approaches are on the high level, in Frankfurt some basic locations, such as Jewish cemetery are not marked at all.

a) Memorialisation process is a lengthy process

b) Germany has not come to terms with its past to the extent it has been presented in German media or shown in public appearance and public addressing of German politicians. The process itself has gone much further in the former Western Germany than in Eastern Germany.

c) there are people in every country who are ready to take over a great burden of implementation of a dealing with difficult past process within respective communities

a) Memorials are under the influence of political context in which they operate.

b) dilemma regarding presentation of the perpetrators is a great challenge and very sensitive issue

c) Memorials cannot be based exclusively on statements of survivors, or on research work of scientist only, but combination of the approaches.

The three most interesting things are:

a) General information on women's camp, the way it was organized, forced labour of prisoners in today's renown German company, and information on what happened after the liberation of the imprisoned ones.

b) Story about women guards and prison keepers, how they lived, their background, and their behaviour in the camp.

c) Yet another confirmation on different dynamics in dealing with the past that could be seen in former Western and Eastern Germany (Berlin vs. Frankfurt-Oder)

That some things accepted as general knowledge e.g. that Germany has dealt with its past, does not necessarily mean it is fully accurate. Examples for this statement are:

- *Frankfurt/Oder and Slubice, and restraining in case of GDR period;*
- * story about the Berlin Wall (at the time of its existence)*
- * problems of existing memorials and those to be established*

It is hard to select only three things. Each location offered something new, but here is my choice

- a) Stasi prison – guided tour in memorial provided by ex-detainee is not good idea, because the overall context was lost. I think such survivors' narratives could be beneficial only after professional and curator led tour.*
- b) Reconciliation process is lengthy and difficult process. We saw it on example of Frankfurt – Slubice, that even in Germany this process is not quick and easy.*
- c) Youth hostel in the compound of former concentration camp.*

I learned that in spite of everything:

- a) We were not, one to another, the cruellest in the wars we had*
 - b) In spite of everything we are not the slowest ones in implementation of reconciliation and memorialisation processes*
 - c) We have the most complicated situation in the history of post conflicting communities*
- German examples of dealing with difficult past indicate that the Balkans is not delayed in the process.*
 - Presentation of a wider context and different perspectives of a historical moment (perpetrators, victims, observers) is the only right/good approach in dealing with such issues.*
 - Careful planning and reading of historical fact is necessary for the each group coming to the study trip for educational purposes, as to avoid confusion and extensive and unnecessary engagement of participants' imagination.*

**Past is never researched enough and there is always something else to find out.*

** Dealing with the past is everlasting and it is confirmed in case of Germany*

**Most countries have the same or similar problems in the memorialisation process.*

For me, personally the most important was visit to Ravensbrück Memorial. Although, I myself work in similar institution, this was great opportunity for me to get to know many details on functioning of the Memorial from the 2WWi period, in only few days; including technical details, (such as maintenance of the premises, methods of setting, arranging and structuring exhibitions) and professional aspects (mode of presentation of victims, perpetrators, ...).

Another important issue for me was cracking of own prejudice on ideal situation in context of a memory culture in Germany. As the system in Germany is far more advanced than the system in Croatia (situation is considerably better) I understood that even here there are obstacles, difficulties and dilemmas around dealing with the GDR heritage within today's' Germany.

The third important thing for me is notion that Germany and Poland have still to go long way to achieve the level of relations between Germany and France.

- a. – that women ended up in “rehabilitation institutions” and later in the camps for different reasons (mainly related to moral and decent behaviour) much earlier than WW2 (in 1933 already)*
- b.- that there was organised prostitution and women exploitation in concentration camps all over Germany, but in other European countries.*

c.- that it is possible to preserve/keep commemorative practices/memories from past regimes, and present them together with modern commemorative practices i.e. that dialogue between different modes of memorialisation is possible at one location.

**1. Dealing with the past in Germany has many faces and they need to be researched and compared with official and dominant narrative about Germany as a country that has completed its process of dealing with the past.*

**2. We, from former Yugoslavia need to calm down a little bit and to stop to push ourselves and our society with huge expectations. We can learn a lot from Germany, but we should not apply the models that have not arisen from our experience and our needs.*

**3. Opening of space for victims and witness is definitely a priority. However, one should keep in mind that witness statements by themselves do not necessarily mean a benefit for the society. Multi-layer approach needs to be applied in these processes.*

It is very important to me that visit to Hohenschlonhausen memorial made me think what approach to take when discussing the post WW2 period with children and young people. I did not know details about Ravensbrück memorial centre or dimension of crime that took place there. I was not aware that German-Poland relation is almost non-existing and I was not aware that educational programmes in Germany mean mere tour discussion.

It was confirmed to me that even amongst us who are open for discussions and dialogue about dealing with the past there are taboo topics, that our wounds are still deep and that there are narratives that need to be pushed aside, either to avoid insulting of victims or questioning of established war narratives.

- When victims speak, it is difficult to find space for other stories, as any new one that is "less horrible" becomes less worth sharing.

- Only occasionally expressed notion that equalisation of crime/perpetrators (SS officers vs. Serbian officers) and sufferings (Srebrenica – Auschwitz) is problematic. This needs to be discussed more because holocaust in the Western Balkans is instrumentalised by everyone.

- whether war criminals, their families can be publicly discussed/ include their biographies in memorialisation processes if victims, their sufferings and rights are not recognised? This issue was raised on number of occasions and I deem it very important.

The most remarkable was visit to Ravensbrück and the way this place has been turned into a memorial centre. Position towards the past that we saw on German-Poland border was very interesting as well, as it shows how, in this area, spirits of the past still are strong.

Since I believed that Germany has reached a high level in area of memorialisation culture and dealing with the past it was extremely interesting and surprising to find out about so many issues and problems still to be resolved, especially when it comes to issue of GDR. I found particularly interesting stay and visit to Frankfurt Oder, while out of all that we have seen Ravensbrück to me seems to be the best example of multilayered history and its complexity.

A) methods in which memory places are organised under open sky (streets, parks...). They do not require much money, and they could be realised if there is a readiness to get involved in marking of such sites.

B) permanent work on development of memorials in Ravensbrück and dedication to related activities. Awareness that memorials are not fixed categories and not forever.

C) Anne Frank Zentrum – excellent guide -curator, excellent small educational centre, good ideas that can be used in work with children, relation.../illegible/ approach.

- Border complexity Germany & Poland
- DDR history, that is being presented & dealt with in selective and one-sided manner
- Dominating 'West-German' perspective on history concerning DDR
- Dealing with living & working on a site of memory

Three most interesting things were:

Visit to Frankfurt Oder – it showed us different side of culture of memory in Germany, and participants from Balkan could in a way identify themselves with the situation, and this also brought many discussions also comparing it with the situation in Balkans.

Ravensbrück memorial site - interesting experience of staying and working in ex camp. I learned a lot about this place and gained new information that I didn't have before.

Discussion about perpetrators and bystanders was also very useful because it brought me new perspective that I didn't dedicated much thought to before.

What was the most interesting thing to learn is the role of perpetrators, especially women, in concentration camps. - Another thing that was amazing is the reconciliation example of Frankfurt/Oder – Slubice, and how actually many things are to be yet resolved and confronted.

To be with survivors, who are of my age

Through the visit of the Stasi-prison: the possible advantages and problems if guided tours are made by former inmates (or victims in general), and also the different ways these guides are dealing with "their" past.

The Berlin Wall Memorial: the concept of an open-space-Memorial in the middle of town, accessible 24 hours a day (as symbolic opposition to the Berlin Wall which meant limitation and closure), and with a stimulating diversity of memorialisation-approaches within the same space.

The Otto-Weidt-workshop for the blind: not only that rescuers get an own memorial, but also that rescue is not represented in an idealized-romanticized way: that is it talked about successful but also failed rescues, that Otto Weidt was not alone in helping the Jews, that the Jews were not passive but actively taking part in their hiding.

The way perpetrators are presented in Ravensbrück; in an analytical-critical and not a judgemental and/or demonizing way. If we take seriously the task of prevention, then it is not enough to focus only on the victims but it is also necessary to understand how perpetrators became perpetrators.

- Even if we were in Germany, I still learned a lot about the different situations in the Balkans from the participants from this area.
- I was really interested in the work made in Germany about perpetrators (exhibition by Simone Erpel + other exhibitions in Ravensbrück).
- The new exhibition (in the former Kommandantur-building) was also very informative about Ravensbrück.

1. The history of the women of Ravensbrück
2. Personal stories from the period of the Wall. I am triggered now to read more on the GDR.
3. Stasi, although it would have been even more interesting if I had had a bit more contextualizing, because this part of history is not well known by me.

- Discovery of the particular weaknesses in presentation of Germany as role-model in processes of dealing with the past.

- Outside of Berlin, people unlikely entering the processes of facing with the past.
- Most impressive is educational curricula in school systems which is obligatory for all students, but with focus on WW II only.

The most important things that remains from this study trip, is learning about the different biographies and experiences of the group members, this really made me (re)think certain topics.

Secondly, I was inspired by the discussions about representing history and the questions about historical places vs. 'authentic' places.

Finally, I learned a lot about the importance of eye-witnesses and subjectivity in the educational process on the one hand, but also about the problem of lacking expertise on the other hand.

- The story of Frankfurt/Slubice (did not know much about this before)
- I discovered how memory places are present in Berlin/Germany, and that memory is very present, visible (maybe too much...)
- I learned I can stay 3 full days in Ravensbrück and I liked this experience. The place is dedicated to memory, history and educational work and it is a great tool.

Among the interesting things I have learnt or discovered:

- The Stasi „Memorial Site“
- Museum „Otto Weidt for the Blind“ and Anne Frank Centre
- Ravensbrück itself with all the exhibitions

a) The discussion we had about perpetrators in our little working group. I learned so much about “dealing with history” in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia and what it really means that it is still the present there not the past... This led really to reflection about the different situation in 2014 concerning Western Balkans and Western Europe.

b) The discovery of crossborder cooperation in Frankfurt Oder/Slubice and better to say of the many points the cooperation is missing! This leads to important questions on the German-Polish relationship

c) Details of the Ravensbrück history (for example part of the new exhibition and the two exhibitions on the topic of perpetrators or information on the Siemens site of Ravensbrück).

That a memorial site needs to give us the place for imagination, which we had here. I very much appreciate a methodology of the workshop: self exploration, group exploration. The atmosphere was very positive

A) Three days of stay at a former concentration camp side is an awful long time. Although I was here voluntarily, although I learnt a lot, although I have been with a fantastic group of people, although I have never lived through detention and war.

B) We should stop telling about Germany's memory culture as a model for dealing with the past. The Ravensbrück exhibition on the women's guards stems from 2004, the one on the camps brothels from 2005, nothing reminds the suffering of the Polish people under Nazi Germans occupation at the German-Polish border town of FF-SL, the most visited memory side on the GDR regime in Berlin does not offer an objective conceptualisation of the Stasi prison and so on – this model is awkwardly handicapped! Or just, better simply perceive Germany's remembrance culture as a process. A process that lasts and develops. But not more.

C) Why am I doing this? I could not fill in the presentation form, because I could not find convincing answers to the question. I felt, I did not know enough of the GDR, the system and history of my parents and my childhood. I know more about WW 2, the story of my grandfather and grandmother. The question of the programme - with whom do I identify with first irritated me – why should I identify with somebody in the

concentration camp?! Me living in peace, freedom and prosperity? I found my family name in the book of names, a picture of an inmate that resembles me and in the artistic installation of Arnold Dreyblatt about the reason of detainment, I found: "Refusing to work and not allowed contact to foreigners." As an academic and being married to a Non-German, I felt I would be categorized as "asocial" if being an inmate of Ravensbrück. I appreciated my freedom the more now.

- Better to have past in front of your eyes than on your neck(shoulders)
- In-depth information-knowledge and understanding of the place of the concentration camp. Being at the site like Ravensbrück gives a special feeling. Special thanks to Matthias for great insight (and for being too)
- German experience in dealing with the past is more complex than one would expect. Divisions between East and West Germany, and one-sided narrative are present.

The entire place of Ravensbrück is story for itself. I did not know about this place before, and that it was mainly female Prison/Camp. Also I did not know about the role of Siemens in forced labour. Everything about this place is "interesting" (very bad use of word), and educative and it leaves very strong impression on me.

Second that I found interesting is Stasi prison, and how they treat with political prisoners. Finding parallel with the end of one evil and regime with the new one, I could not see that a mankind changed. It seems the one evil was replaced with another. My question is: Is it possible to avoid this. To stop evil in human behaviour?

Does the Second World War is enough warning to the mankind? I honestly doubt.

There are few aspects of the project which absorbed me especially:

- a. I met very interesting people full of good will and energy directed into positive changes on the stage of interpersonal and international relationship in the Balkans and generally in Europe.
- b. I had possibility to learn about various aspects of commemoration of the events of the past in Germany and it is difficult history.
- c. I had opportunity to know the area and history of KL Ravensbrück what was especially interesting for me
- d. I got a lot of information about the situations in different countries of Yugoslavia.

Apart from certain historical facts, which were unknown to me I was exposed to new methodologies of memorialisation processes. This is one of the most important segments to the work I do when it comes to memory and placing the memory subject into public.

The second is again maybe in the line with methodology work but the idea of dealing with perpetrators and how this can serve to memory studies and why it is necessary.

The third one is that we tend to idealize Germany on how it is deals with its past, but we always see it from the tourist perspective, meaning we think of Berlin as a focal point. I have learnt that in places like Frankfurt Oder and Slubice, amnesia or forgetting is their way of dealing with the past.

3. What did I find disturbing / striking / irritating / moving.... Why?

I was quite disturbed with the guide in the STASI prison, who obviously had a problem with mixing of his personal feelings with historical events and facts. I remained speechless at his statement that none of detainees in the camp at the Soviet time was a Nazi or a collaborator. He spoke about the time he did not witness, or read enough. Also, a guide in Ravensbrück was not able to provide answers to some questions about the memorial area and methodology.

I was hit the most with the camp site itself [in Ravensbrück], meaning our accommodation in homes of the prisons' guards. It was scaring to spent days and nights in the place intended for concentration camp – so called “national style” architecture and orderly arranged pavilions, and hierarchy of the facilities (the most luxury ones located on inclined locations to ensure good view of anything that was taking place in the concentration camp below). It was discomforting to spent time at the site where Nazi ideology was so bluntly and visually manifested. Also, it was creepy to know that we were sleeping and eating where perpetrators did the same – it imposes imaginary correlation with perpetrators, which causes great discomfort. I was extremely irritated with the cognition on the Siemens company attitude towards its role during the time of Nazi regime. I was shocked with the fact that a company can be so powerful to forbid such an important memorial centre to publish the facts on its own website. That in fact is far scarier than the fact that we were accommodated in the prison guards' homes.

- a) an excuse that language is the biggest barrier for speeding up the reconciliation process between Frankfurt-Oder and Slubice*
- b) treatment of babies born in the camp by Fascists*
- c) cruelty of life in camp is not underlined and presented to the extent it should have been presented*

I was particularly moved by the details of a story about sufferings of children and babies in Ravensbrück. Story about sterilization of girls, and description of them laying on the stomach.

The biggest shock for me was the fact that in the concentration camp there was a bordello for male prisoners and that they were paying for sex. Bearing in mind conditions in which they lived, I find it hard to imagine to think about sex at all.

Another shocking moment for me was related to a movie, especially story of the prison guard's daughter, and effects it had on a woman who did not have anything to do with the concentration camp.

Guide in Stasi prison – personal perspective during guided tour; accommodation in the Ravensbrück guards' houses – feeling of uneasiness as we were accommodated in perpetrators' houses; discussion with Mirsad – specific event where he witnessed killing of his family.

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I was disturbed with the stay and accommodation in concentration camp compound. For the persons of my war experience this was bit difficult experience!

Witnessing of the survivors from Ravensbrück visible in different exhibitions (the main exhibition, SS officers exhibition, guards exhibition) was really moving for me. I was disturbed with the number of very few prosecuted war criminals (a graph that is part of the main exhibition), and of course the fact that not only officers and guards lived almost luxury lives with their families in vicinity of the barracks where

women and children were dying, but the entire city calmly observing what was going on across the lake and even using labour force of prisoners for own purposes.

I was deeply moved by the visit to the Anne Frank Centre, although I knew the story, and have read the book, it was just impossible to follow her life through the Centre and to remain calm. I was also shaken by the visit to Ravensbrück centre. I was a bit irritated by comments of ex-Yu participants on the Slovenian room in Ravensbrück. I believe that everyone has right to mourn after own victims in the way they found it suitable, and if Slovenia wants to do it differently, that is totally OK.

The only situation when I was shaken, and which I tried to explain at the workshop, was reflection of the situation in Croatia. German position towards GDR heritage has some similarities with position of Croatia towards Yugoslavian socialism heritage. Situation in Germany is quite specific and not comparable to one in Croatia, but my cognition that revisionism in Croatia often refers to German experience and its dealing with communist past results in some sensation of uneasiness. Relativisation of crimes committed in concentration camp Jasenovac is one of the main results of such tendencies in our country, and is directly related to relativisation of the partisan movement and anti-fascist fight in Croatia. When discussing this topic one should have a clear perspective of all specifics of Yugoslav past during 19th and 20th century.

I was mostly moved with the fact on all different groups of people who ended up in the camps and cognition how very easy it was to become unsuitable and unwanted in society and punished by deportation to the camp just because someone did not meet moral and social standards imposed by a certain group of people. Furthermore, I was shocked with the easiness with which such imposed morality standards were accepted by the society and how easily some people were excommunicated and watched being taken to camps with no reaction whatsoever. I was irritated with the fact that certain companies (one of them being Siemens) used labour force and actually never told that story and made a distance from their role during the war, keeping the name of the companies and continuing with their work as if nothing had happened. I am irritated with level of easiness and indolence of German society ready to accept such evasion of responsibility.

One should be aware of dimension of human suffering and existence of parallel worlds within 100 meters. I am frustrated with the notion that we from former Yugoslavia go on and on with the same stories without sincere intention to challenge and reassess fixed postulates.

I felt uncomfortable being accommodated in Ravensbrück. I felt some kind of discomfort all the time, and was thinking about victims on the other side of the gates. I am not saying it was bad, but I simply felt sad all the time which was intensified by absurdity of being accommodated in house where lived those who mistreated others; so many people with such cruelty. I was deeply shaken.

I found myself disturbed when in some situations I over-identify with one side and get over emotional and believe what I have to plea for a just treatment of those ones that are – in my view unspokenly identified as some who belongs to one national group, although we all claim that it allegedly does not matter who we are. I believe we all place expectations on the others, instead of starting a dialog with the other and show interest in her/his point of view.

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Neglected Jewish cemetery in Slubice; as it bluntly shows forgetfulness, irresponsibility, and irrevocable fact that one community has disappeared. Huge empty space in Ravensbrück and story about found ashes; the fact that we were so close to the place, and seemingly distanced from events due to course of the time. I

was moved with the squares on the streets indicating absence of people, which we often do not notice in passing by.

To sleep in the houses of former SS camp guards and wake up near the campsite became more emotionally disturbing day by day – the more I learned about this site, the more I felt uncomfortable. At the same time I experienced how I gained better understanding of the complexity of the history and the current function as a memorial. It made me realize that exactly this disturbance (what was a bit missing from the main exhibition) is maybe necessary for deep reflection, especially on perpetrator issues. I am still struggling how this could be transformed in a method of educational value (without disrespecting the suffering and the stories of the victims) but it provided a lot of food for thought.

The whole experience of Ravensbrück was new and interesting and moving because it gave us chance to explore the site in detail but it also brought up interesting topic and discussions. Self-guided exploration of the site was moving for me because it was much more based on feelings than the information that we received later. During three days of staying I put together different pieces of puzzle and thoughts about this site from different perspectives.

The most disturbing part was the Stasi prison that was guided with a survivor. Being in the basement and listening to his story was really emotionally hard to handle. - Also, seeing a crematorium was disturbing. Ravensbrück in total was a very strange experience. Especially, the fact that we slept in the former SS barracks.

Moving: To be with survivors, who are of my age

Striking: Coming to Frankfurt/Oder after being in Berlin: the impression of being suddenly in a “memory-desert”, with very few visible traces of memorialization - after being in Berlin where you have the impression to run into a monument all 100 meters ; through this realizing that Berlin is not necessarily representative for entire Germany.

Irritating/Disturbing: Not that the University of Frankfurt Oder is accomodated in the building which has also been the Gestapo-headquarters during the Third Reich, but that the University, supposedly a place of critical thinking, is not able or willing to acknowledge this past by fixing at least a little commemorative plaque related to the history of this building.

Moving: The discussion in our small group about the question how it is to live and work for a few days on the site of a former concentration camp: a great atmosphere of open and personal telling and listening.

I found the guided tour in Hohenschönhausen disturbing because, as already said, of the confusion between history & memory.

What moved me the most were the personal stories of the women of Ravensbrück, in the exhibition and in the movie with the mothers and daughters. Why? Because they bring this clean and stylish space back to live, they give it a face. Maybe because I'm a woman and that I felt like it could have been me, I don't know.

Lack of discussion and readiness to open another chapter in history of Germany- DDR period, and everything related to Berlin Wall issues, I strongly believe that chapter of history is also very important for full dealing with the past issue in whole Germany that also might help enlightening totally new perspective on current issues relevant to today's German society (e.g. rising of far-rights, migrant issues, Eastern Europe immigrants, etc.).

I was disappointed by the self-guided exploration of the memorial site. I had the feeling that it was not the right concept for this particular group. I wanted much more information than the guide could give me. Matthias Heyl on Thursday was much much better and had more content. I missed a Jewish perspective/ Jewish institution.

The visit of the Stasi prison with the German prisoner, not really prepared, emotionally still moved by this period, and making 20 visits/ week...

Witnesses are not professional they should not be asked to make such visits; or fewer, and I feel I could not ask him lot of questions because he would be disturbed, and sometimes he made some strange statements about the prison used by the soviets.

I was a bit irritated by the visit of the „Jewish Heritage“ in Frankfurt/Slubice, the guide was not really talking about what we were expecting, I think he could have made the same visit with a group of scholars.

Nothing irritating really, but all the time I was intellectually and emotionally challenged.

The beauty of the site of Ravensbruck in autumn, the wonderful landscape there in opposition of the horror of the camp was for me one of the most disturbing questions. Also, it is still very emotional to see in picture the faces of the victims.

Moreover looking at the pictures of the perpetrators, their wives and children we are put directly into the centre of human beings: the place of evil.

Nothing

- The trip to Frankfurt was too superficial for me. And the goals of the meeting were not clear. I had a feeling that we stay at the surface.

- Being in Ravensbruck was very moving to me. It was not easy. At the beginning I wanted to be alone, and we had this occasion to walk alone. It was exactly what I needed. After that I was able to be part of the group. Now, I think it is very complicated to „visit“ a concentration camp. I really liked the fact that we didn't „visit“ it, but were there, we stayed there, discovering step by step.

- I was very shocked by the female guard house. I felt bad inside because the exhibition showed to me their humanity and their incredible brutality at the same time.

Disturbing – The beauty of the nature in combination with the horrors of the history here.

Striking – That women receive special attention in the presentation of the history of the 2.WW

- That survivors organizations are heard and interpreted in the memorial of Ravensbruck concept and work

Impressive – the complexity of the site of Ravenbrück:

- Large area
- Different remembrance layers
- Experts and witnesses interpretation
- Psychologically demanding/stressful
- The competition around visitors with other memory sites (Berlin, Sachsenhausen)

Moving and helpful:

- Great humour on the side of organizes and participants

Facing the perpetrators issue was the most striking experience for me; I have not thought of it that much before. It is good that it is addressed at the Ravensbruck Memorial and well developed/displayed/explained.

Disturbing – to be in this place all the time. I could feel like in prison. Silence of this place, beautiful landscape, lake, colours of autumn that reminds on coming winter and dying such perfectly combines with the ghost of this place.

Moving – was the stories of the victims (Stasi, movies and records that I saw at the exhibition...)

Irritating – being here all the time was disturbing and irritating at the same time. When I came into my room I was starting to think who used to be here during 43, 44, 45...who slept in this bed, and what kind of person it was...

Striking – face of one female survivor on the movie when she was talking about perpetrators (female guard) that force them to sing a song so that she could cry. Her eyes I will never forget.

Also small artefacts, amulets that I saw in museum (a small boot made with bread, sculpture of elephants for good luck...), was quite striking as well.

There are no things which irritates me from the organisation or participants side. I was moved, irritated, angry, ashamed and sad because of the way in which the cemetery in Slubice was liquidated by my countrymen. I was moved also by the visit on the former concentration camp area, because of its tragic history. This place is good preserved and celebrated. Thanks to my German colleges for this!

The most moving and disturbing for me was the stay in Ravensbrück. Somehow it connects the past with the present, and gives a life experience on the dealing with difficult past. I found very moving the discussions we have had in the working groups and the perspective of the participants. At times very conflicting statements, but also interesting.

4. From what I have seen/heard, this week, what can I use for my own work?

Mode of work we applied in Frankfurt/Slubice seems acceptable for most of the activities for people of all ages. Method where we research the environment on our own and ask questions, with minimum intervention from the organiser side, seems to be particularly useful in working with young people, who are curious to learn a lot, and avoid any kind of imposition in such communication. Matthias's approach itself is very interesting and it is shame that more people in this branch cannot realise such contact with visitors. Lots of information related to functioning of the Ravensbrück Memorial will be helpful to me when considering modes of presentation of totalitarian regimes.

I find so many things useful for my work – the most useful was visit to Ravensbrück. All details related to presentation of the trauma: numerous drawings made by imprisoned women, photos of SS propaganda, subsequent architectural marking of the memorial area (different historical layers and decision on what to keep and what to destroy), memorial rooms of different countries (presence of ideologies in the countries self-presentation, change of the museum practices depending in line with the changes in political and social systems).

- *Mode and method of the memorial centre concept and arrangement*
- *Approach to memorialisation process*
- *“To do/not to do “ models – in transferring memories to the memorial visitors*
- *Knowledge shared by friends I met at the workshop*

The workshop will be helpful for me in terms of arranging and setting the exhibitions in the community where I work, especially when presenting perpetrators.

In Frankfurt and Slubice I learnt that nothing relevant would happen unless there are specific and efficient efforts directed towards bringing people closer, and that knowledge I will put in use in Prijedor, the city I am coming from.

Lots of information I received during this week I can use in my work. I found particularly interesting comments and opinions of the workshop participants, as during the discussions we often drew a parallel between learned and new information, and applicability thereof in context of everyday's political problems that surround us.

Different concepts and approaches to interpretation and presentation of the past; and models and topics for educational programmes.

Many things can be used. We really have seen a lot of different and good technical solutions in the memorials we visited.

Being “a curator of nonexistent memorials”, as I call myself, I am definitely going to use each moment of Ravensbrück experience in my work. I was particularly impressed by the concept, but with aesthetics and materials used for the exhibitions (which I am definitely going to apply in Čarakovo memorial centre that is currently under the construction)

More systematic dealing with issues related to victims and perpetrators and bystanders, attempting to get as many personal narratives which may indicate motivation and circumstances for the made choices, and then putting all that in wider context.

I think I would have the best use of the visits to Frankfurt/Slubice and development of cooperation between the two cities/communities.

There is lot to be learned in Germany; even more from our colleagues in German museums. Starting from their working ethics, results of their work (exhibitions, books) and skills. I would particularly emphasize their innovations, skills and broadness of creativity in marking of the memory sites. Therefore it would be good to deepen cooperation with them in the future, as much can be learned.

For my work the most useful was visit to Hohenschonhausen prison where we were guided by ex-detainee and where we heard his experience and impressions about events from the prison. I think this was not good example of guiding in the memorial centre, and I will try to advocate engagement of professional and trained staff in my organisation, and to provide objective overview of events.

I can make a use of almost the entire trip, in different ways. I have half of a notebook with questions and ideas. What I am actually going to use is another issue. It will depend on my motivation and capability to maintain it with chronic lack of money and depending on whether I will find people ready to join me in my undertakings. I would like to do a kind of in-depth work in small communities in BiH and Serbia; communities that are often left aside from the focus of events. I am interested in generation memories and modes of storytelling, interpreting and reinterpreting. That would be all from me. Given the person, you got quite lengthy comment ☺.

Truly, any new experience is useful. After this I intend to get involved in studying of the crimes that took place after the WW2; and some issues raised in the Anne Frank Museum were very important to me.

I would like to pick up on the topics that appear to be our taboos when back in BiH. Since I have heard several times during the discussions that the “fashistoid Serbian politics in Serbia and RS” are the biggest obstacle for progress in the region, I would like to look at this statement a bit closer and continue to search for ways and approaches how to handle this.

Such study trips are helpful for better understanding of the process of dealing with the past, and length of this process; and also different possibilities to present difficult past, which strengthens my work on local level.

Ravensbrück

Ideas for marking a space in the town where Jewish people lived, and now nobody remembers them anymore; making of maps based on which participants would be able to investigate history of this city and region; exchange of young people in the region is relatively easy to organise.

Being surrounded by experts from the Western Balkans this definitely sharpened and enriched my thoughts on how to proceed with the work I do and want to do in the future. The exchange on educational approaches and teaching history to younger generations has given me new ideas and concerns.

I could use different methods that I saw employed by different organizations especially ones used in educational purposes. Also I get good base for further research of related topics.

I will mostly use the information from discussions and informal talk with other participants. Although I am not directly involved with transitional justice issues I feel that the whole experience here was very educational & informative.

It shall take some time to make a lot of ideas get more concrete

Information, ideas and questions for my own research projects and my NGO-work ; contact with new persons and deepening of contact with “old” participants ; preparation of two future projects with other organizations.

I have learnt from the educational approach performed in Ravensbrück and that could be transformed to my own work.

The conversations I had with other participants will hopefully lead to cooperation. I don't know exactly how and when, it's pretty vague, but I would really love to realise some of the ideas we talked about. As for using elements of the study trip: I would like to organise a visit to Ravensbrück with children from my own country. Why always go to Auschwitz? This place has such a special story that, I think, many youngsters could relate to.

We can definitely use 'German model' for expanding the horizons of particular young people from Balkans in the way that they can draw the parallels between post-war 'dealing with the issues' in Germany and in Balkans in order to learn, understand and possibly try to apply some of the lessons-learned at home. Therefore, the highlight of this study trip/ workshop is idea/concept of organizing of exchange programs for young people.

- A lot of ideas about memory and memorialisation important to reflect on the history in my country. Contact, that will be crucial for developing new projects

I can use for my own work how ways of visit (like self exploration and then discussion). I appreciate very much the new exhibition (in Ravensbrück), well designed, with many levels (from simple to very deeper), and the way to present biography of victims (I work on this in Oradour)

Nothing too precise, but maybe, in considering Ravensbrück Centre and its very rich documentation: to give us (and to our publics) enough time and space to see, to discover, to think and reflect from what we have seen.

I got new ideas and perceptions for my own international work!!

Concerning the situation in the Western Balkans and German-Polish relations

Good result is beginning project

Material as the film “Was bleibt” and some documentation of the exhibition

Contacts to go on working about different topics... perpetrators, justice, situation in the Western Balkans

The horizontal approach the organisation team used is very inspiring to me. The pedagogical work of Ravensbrück also.

I will propose to initiate the making of sides of university in Frankfurt-Slubice with memory plates revealing the former use of the buildings.

I have learnt a lot! ☺

- On history of Germany and on history of memory of Germany
- On museum approaches to dealing with past

Almost everything could be applicable in a way to present my experience to others, as well as experience of others. Also, I am thinking about possibility to organise study tour sometime here with the group of young people and victims representatives; and to organise a platform of CSO in BiH on topic of memorialisation.

Many information and other impressions from the visit will be very useful in my work. First of all I enjoy contact with a few people from different institutions or organisations which could give us a profit in future, in a various form of cooperation. Very, very important for my professional life was visit in Ravensbruck and opportunity to see exhibition and get information about a way of leading of the institution, organisation, methods of commemoration, exhibitions etc. In conclusion I can say that the form of interpersonal contact as well as way of visiting different sites opens eyes very effectively

The work I do it is related to memorials, in sense that we tend to have more critical approach to how memorials were built. Seeing how memory is organized, how it is presented and debated in Germany gives me a lot of knowledge on how I should address this better in my own country.

5. Suggestions for future workshops/ study trips

In the future, more time needs to be set aside for visits to certain places/ memorials and museums. For instance - Ravensbrück memorial covers a huge area, and is very informative, and it is pity to miss something due to lack of time. Also, the study trip may be extended, but also maybe workshop part should last longer, especially when discussing development of the projects and respective concepts. I have an idea for potential study trip in 2015. If the plan is to visit West Balkans region again, my suggestion is to visit Croatia, more specifically Zadar, or Šibenik, but better option is Zadar. From this city we could visit number of camps/prisons on the islands that were built under different systems. More specifically I think about the camps on islands of Goli Otok, Rab, Pag and Molat. Also, some traumatic site from the 90's wars could be visited from Zadar, such as: Skala, Varivode, Knin. Besides, there is still nice weather in Zadar during the second week of October, and hotels are not expensive. ☺

Russia and some other countries of the former USSR (treatment of the communist era heritage).

Shorter working day

Auschwitz - visit to the biggest death camp ever.

Memory Lab initiative to provide professional assistance to people working in memorials in order to reduce effects and consequences of the secondary trauma.

I am looking forward to workshop in Macedonia and Kosovo. In a meantime I expect to see activation of the website and exchange of contact information of the participants. I expect the quality to be maintained at the level of this-year workshop.

Workshops with concrete examples for educational programmes at memory sites and methodologies for preparation of such programmes (focus and balance – “do no harm“)

No suggestions from my side, as both workshops and study trip were well organised.

My ideas for the next workshop are: south of the Balkans and communities similar to BiH. Personally I find idea about the Balkans wars quite interesting, as we in Bosnia have not researched enough. - Thanks for everything!

More education, methodologies, models, good and bad practices of educational workshops and educational programmes. More discussion on role of media in creation of atmosphere leading to mass crimes and media role and actions during and after the crime.

I am positive that next study visit should taken back to the Balkans (Serbia, Kosovo), but also Spain should not be disregarded. Also, I think three days of work in groups is too much, maybe this should be reconsidered.

I am personally interested in the WW2 memorials and museums, particularly those located in former concentration camps in Poland and Germany. Therefore, my suggestion is to organise future study trips to Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Majdanek, Sobibor, etc.

Bit more time should be planned for plenary discussion where everyone would get a chance to comment on visited location before the others. In addition it would be useful to have some kind of introductory session (through discussion in smaller groups) the very first day, prior to study visits. In this way new participants would meet all other participant in easy and quick way, which would make 2-day study visits easier for them. It would be useful to limit quantity of information on visited /seen locations, just to allow for all the seen and heard to be processed (too much information in one day is counterproductive for work).

Locations – Poland + Russia/Ukraine. Israel/ Palestine; Serbia, Hungary (or Vojvodina and Hungary).

Method: the same, with minor improvements (e.g. Creation and development of photo and written documentation by volunteers from the group (I may be one of them ☺); more free time between the visits.

And to cut long story short – Thank you very much, you are good team, and all of you are very nice people

☺. If I may help – call me anytime - ... and as I am a bit idle, here is my list of top three locations –

**1 Ravensbrück – for its great concept and for having Matias Heyl who is pretty much a great guy, professional and stimulating (and cynical in a good way)*

** 2. Hohenschonhausen – for being a great example for a critical analysis and for HOW NOT TO DO some things.*

**3 Jewish heritage in Frankfurt-Oder/Slubice – because it is important and it represents different process of dealing with past in Germany.*

My suggestion is, for anyone interested in education work to get familiar with educational program of the “Muzej prošlosti za budućnost” (Museum of the Past for the Future) that is developed and implemented by my organisation in cooperation with “21. Oktobar” memorial centre in Šumarice/Kragujevac, and which deals with modern social problems such as discrimination, human rights violation on the basis of historical events, locally related WW2 events and event of execution of civilians and secondary school students in retaliation operation of German army. Maybe it would be useful to visit some places in former Soviet republics. I also feel it would be more useful if share between visits and workshops would be slightly different (3 days of visits, and 2 days for workshop) to allow us to see more things. My feeling is that reflections exceeded necessary level of usefulness.

It is a bit saddening that we were in a camp for women but somehow we did not touch this gender aspect of violence, crime and memory.

- I strongly believe that this aspect needs to be deepen

- another topic is: what to do with bystanders?

- also important how to analyze and collect family narratives

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Necessary to work bit more concretely, without NGO stories and general discussion. Maybe some joint and “visible” work/product after the discussions, to have specific suggestions and proposals for concrete steps. Study tour programme was dynamic (remarkable) , and workshop segment bit slow (although good!!); maybe better balance between the two.

It was a good choice not to include organizations presentation, but perhaps in the future you can do two gallery walks/ get to know each other such as we did in Ravensbrück. This would facilitate the mingling of participants a bit more. Also, perhaps ideas for joint project/discussion point during the last day can already be gathered throughout the week and don't ‘force’ people to come up with it at the spot.

It would be good to have more reflections and more discussions on different methods and approaches. Also it would be useful to have some kind of report or reflection of things we saw and topic we discussed on website.

Improve Wi-Fi access => and reconsider the accommodation options the next time, maybe not so close to the concentration camps. A few nights would be fine, but 4 is a bit too much. - Also, in terms of content, you should carefully choose the tour guides, because the one in Ravensbrück was OK but I felt like something was missing. I lacked background information, more context, etc.

Continue

I think it is very good that the workshop includes also moments of field-exploration ; perhaps it would also be good to introduce a more explicit moment of group work/ reflection already during the study trip, in order to allow to better digest the many impressions in the first days and in order to create a even better balance between study trip and workshop.

Even though it is natural to see as many sites as possible, I would like to have more time in each site during the next study trip. - I was really happy of this workshop and I hope for the future that you will continue the good work.

I thought for a long time, but I really can't think of many things, except for 1: I would like more historical background information on the sites. Not Ravensbrück of course, because we spend so much time here, but the GDR and Stasi. If next year we go to Kosovo and Macedonia, it would be helpful for me (coming from W-Europe) to have more background information.

- Belgium/Netherlands
- Poland
- Ukraine/ Russia
- Spain/ Catalonia/ Basque countries

Thanks a lot for wonderful time, hope to do the study trip/ workshop next year even better.

Let's go to Poland and talk about memory of the Second World War in post-soviet countries!

Maybe inviting some more French institutions ☺ !like Memorial de la Shoah or Memorial de Caen, but I know that the group is already big...

Having some more inputs by lectures of academics, that sometimes help to have relevant discussions on topics.

For example I appreciate very much that the program was changed on Thursday, and that Matthias guided us in the Siemens facility and the exhibition about the SS officers, it was the opportunity to learn more about the topic (without a formal lecture), and it helps and furnish the reflexion.

To allow us to use and share more effectively the produce of our working/thematic little groups, we could maybe print every day a kind of journal (*ein Blatt, une feuille journaliere*) which could be a summary of the day from different points of view.

Concerning structure : one afternoon there should be a space of free time (around 3 hours...)

Perhaps one or two hours time for presentation of the actual situation in Prijedor! Is there a progress, what obstacles do exist – thinking of the memorialisation projects

Thank you (the team!) a lot for all your engagement and what you did!!

To continue this way! To bring a guitar and song books

I felt it would have been helpful to have a reflection round also at the end Berlin day. And to have more time for the session on how do we feel on a former concentration camp site for several days.

Practical hint: offer a buffet for the first evening diner to be more time flexible. People are tired after long travels...

Thanks a lot!

Keep it fresh!

More dialogue about future activities, what we could do together in the future. Can we use one of this example in own work, how? Maybe to have detailed plan of activities or ideas what we can do, or not to do. Please to avoid in the future to accommodate participant at place like this. It is traumatic in every sense.

I am a guest from aside, so I do not know if I can suggest something, but maybe visit someday such study tour could be may on the base of former KZ Auschwitz, youth meeting centre in Oswiecim and some places and institutions in Krakow. It could be devoted for the topic of co memorialisation creating identity and relationships between Poles, Jews and Germans on the base of their difficult mutual relations in the past. The same interest in could be project based on the ways of building bridges between Poles, Lithuanians and Ukrainians on the eastern border of Poland which is carried out by various NGO on that area located by the both sides of the border.

Thank you very much for possibility to take attempt in this project. It was very, very informative and successful for me. Sorry for errors and character of writing.

I would really like to see some sort of publication out of this exchange. The discussions were so great that we could jointly produce a journal or publication with our thoughts and reasoning. It would be one way to share the experience with outside publics.