



Memory Lab

Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

EVALUATIONS

**Fifth annual study trip and workshop,
5.-11.10.2014: Kosovo and Macedonia**

Organized by:

Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH (Sarajevo),
Forum ZFD Kosovo (Pristina), French-German Youth Office (Paris/Berlin),
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*Fourth international workshop and study trip, 5-11 October 2014:
Kosovo and Macedonia*

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

1. What I like about the Memory Lab study trip is that it is organized by people who have a lot of expertise in dealing with the past processes in the specific region and context which is visited. The value of the study trip is, therefore, that local knowledge (of the specific region which is visited) forms the content and issues of discussions and carefully chooses the memorial sites. As a participant you can see that how the study trip is structured helps you to get deeper and deeper into certain topics. In addition, the organization of the whole trip (logistics, food, etc.) is very thoughtfully done.

2. My general opinion is very positive. I like this combination of fieldwork and discussions. My only remark is that this year we didn't have so many guided tours nor opportunities to see exhibitions (I would like that we had more time and in Skopje for sightseeing and museum visits). I also regret that we didn't see socialist Modernist architecture of Skopje because it represents a world-known modernist example of urbanism. And it'd be very interesting to problematize today's relation towards the socialist heritage in Skopje (would all social cultural and economic implication). But I realise that it wasn't enough time to see all this and that such a study trip workshop would probably have to last two weeks.

3. Very good prepared; super organized; felt comfortable

4. I can say that now I know more about different monuments in Kosovo and Macedonia. Regarding the organization in general was OK, except the fact that we didn't had some free time.

5. My general opinions are that Memory Lab has grown and advanced a lot since 2011, that the content was very well compiled, we had excellent guest-speakers, excellent logistical arrangements, good selection of participants.
6. Very well organized in both places. Content well balanced. The two venues were perfect with good foot connection with city centers. The workshop, the input and the lectures were good.
7. Well organized and structured , interesting content, very interesting guests, (Nita Luci, the two experts of Skopje 2014), nice group.
8. This is probably one of the best programs I have attended. Not only that the technical organization was on a high level, but the approach uses to address the topics of memorization practices in Kosovo and Macedonia, combining visits to the places of commemoration, personal encounters with the time witnesses, presentations and group discussions provided me with the possibility to understand these processes and at the same time to perceive the differences and similarities between these and other countries in that respect.
9. Once again excellently organized workshop. The contents was in general very well balanced between providing information and reflecting ourselves. The self-exploration in Skopje was an excellent method, but it would have been better to have just a small introductory lecture about Macedonia before. (Which now only happened on the last day). All invited speakers were great. The day in Tetovo was very interesting, but I had the feeling we rushed too much: passing by monuments dedicated to Albanian victims but not stopping and not having time to talk/interact with the citizens of the town who joined the monument. The public event did not have that much added value, and perhaps the questions to the speakers should have been more concrete. It was good for promoting Memory Lab and reaching out to wider public.
10. Great experience to see people from different states and backgrounds at one table and in such a surrounding. - Content wise very broad, so questions remain about outcomes (specific). - Well organized, but lack of time for reflection on the day (too long activities).
11. My general opinion is that it was again a very successful edition. I learned a lot, got to meet new people and had enriching discussions with other participants. Organization wise everything was super!
12. The program in general was designed in way that it contained visits to two countries that at certain way have connected history related to conflicts in 1999/2000/2001. I liked the idea that we have chance to see how two states with inter-ethnic conflicts were building/ are still building their identities and to what extent one nation is threat for another one. The whole program met my expectations, since I visited all of these spots for the first time and it really helped me to better understand conflict past and problematic present in both states.
13. Overall the study trip and workshop was well organized regarding logistic. Information before starting were detailed which is important during such events that involve more people. What I liked

the most was interactive content of it, as this way I learned and heard about different opinions that made me think more afterwards.

14. Generally, everything was great. I liked the structure which consisted of visiting different sites and taking part in discussions with different people. Organization was very good. Regarding contents, I think everything was good except for the visit to Tetovo. I didn't get enough information on what we were doing and seeing there and I think we should have been given some kind of information on the Macedonian-Albanian conflict in 2001 before we were going to Tetovo. I also don't understand why we visited only monument to kidnapped and killed Macedonians, but not also Albanians.

15. The organization was good. The idea of visiting different places (including the memorial in Kicevo) was really good. It's a pity that we didn't have more time for talk/discussions with Saranda Bogujevci. I feel we missed something important about her work and experience.

16. Study trip was well organized and selection of memorials and presenters was good. It was very good to have Nita Luci all the time with us in Kosovo, she helped us with understanding the context, but the visits could last longer. Also it would be helpful if we had an insight to civil initiatives and someone from institution. The public debate was very informative but with too many speakers. Concerning the part in Macedonia, it would be helpful if we had someone to give us an introduction to the conflict 2001 and provide a context. Also more time for exploring the memorials of Skopje. Besides people from academia, it would have been good to have someone to present civic initiative and alternative who are against the dominant narrative. General organization was good and study trip was very useful.

17. The study trip was very stimulating, rich and made us meet interesting people coming to talk with us. Places that we visited were various and sometimes quite unknown, as in Kosovo for example the private schools. - I wonder if it wouldn't have been better to do the trip only in Kosovo or only in Macedonia. It would have allowed us to go deeper in the understanding of the content and the challenges. For example we didn't meet civil society actors in Macedonia and no Serbs and Roma in Kosovo. - I also appreciate the participation of new people.

18. This was my first time at Memory Lab and I am impressed with the discussions, study visits, workshops, the schedule of having visits and discussions/ workshops, external speakers worked intermittently perfectly for me.

19. As usual, the study trip and workshop have been really interesting. Unfortunately for me, my knowledge of history of Kosovo and Macedonia was not good and I found it sometimes difficult to understand what was being said as I couldn't link it to a former knowledge of the situation. It gave me an impression of superficial appreciation of the memorialization in the two countries. I would have been interested in a historic presentation at the beginning.

20. As every year, the countries were well-selected with interesting and very useful memorials that had served as great basis for discussion at the workshop that follows. Kosovo trip and visit to memorials was excellently planned and executed, while Macedonia was less well planned and prepared. In order to improve organisation for next time and to make clear to participants where they are perhaps it would be good that the organizer prepares some short presentation on background of

the country/ situation where they are. Considering the large number of the partner organizations, the coordination between them could be better.

21. Very valuable experience again! It has a big value that people know each other since years now, that makes discussions more insightful, we can go much deeper in a short time and the personal backgrounds are more or less known. It was great to see too that new participants are welcomed and quickly integrated in the group- really important! - We saw not enough in Kosovo and the division in two countries in such a short period of time caused extreme exhaustion for me. Organization and structure well done! Having such a big expertise on memory from different countries is very rich and exceptional. What impresses me even more is that nobody is reluctant to share insights and one doesn't have to be afraid to ask a basic or a complicated question.

22. I found this study trip generally very useful for me, but especially activities we had in Kosovo; - I feel that visits to memory places, museums... the places we see – is more beneficial to participants than activities including reflections, as the programme is comprehensive and often, most of the time actually we do not have time “to process” all we see!; -because of that I feel that the programme should be loosen a little bit from the planned reflections and give enough space to each individual to internally “experience” the seen , and only then to exchange impressions with others.

23. My general opinion on the study trip in Kosovo and Macedonia, workshops, public debates and the general welfare of the project, from the perspective of an organizer is very positive. I believe that through activities planned and realized in Kosovo and Macedonia, the project have managed to achieve what it aimed for, which is to provide for project participants a platform for exchange, cooperation and critical understanding of history and remembrance. The study trips in Kosovo and Macedonia subjected various memory stages, beginning from memorialization of Socialism, Parallel education system from the '90, private and public initiatives in Kosovo, to continue further with memorialization in Macedonia through projects “Skopje 2014”, communist memory, private and public commemoration initiatives etc. This subject, I believe, has helped and contributed to the better understanding of the difficult pasts in the region and initiated a proper basement for academic discussion on the past, memory, commemoration, public space etc., challenges and the vision for improvement of memory processes.

24. General opinion on the study trip and the workshop is that they fully met my expectations and even more than that. Organisation, the team and participants maintained a high level of the previous study trips and Memory Lab.

25. The level of previous workshop has been maintained, and only thing missing was organise presentation of memorials in Macedonia or in Kosovo.

26. General impression -positive. Extremely rich programme which provided opportunity to get acquainted with a number of memorials and to gain new experiences and exchange impressions with other participants.

27. Organisation was good, but it could have been better. In Kosovo we had more time for field visits, but in Macedonia only 15 minutes for each visit. The hotel was very bad. Trip was more of getting acquainted with the location, as a tourist route but a study trip. The program needs to be more dynamic. My opinion is that the Memory Lab is good, but there is a space for improvement.

28. Generally, the study trip and workshop were very good organized. In a very limited time, we arrived to visit the main memorials which represent the majority of the history of Kosova and Macedonia. During these days, I gained more knowledge about ex-Yugoslavia countries like '90s conflicts, memorialisation, reconciliation, and dealing with the past. The organization was perfect. I would like to congratulate all the organizers team, they did a great job.

29. Excellent organization. Interesting content about the recent conflicts. The speakers were often very precise offering different points of view or analytical perspectives. One limit maybe focusing too much on recent events and neglecting the historical approach of the whole 20th century. – It was my first international seminar, so I needed some time to adapt.

30. The topics / sites etc were well chosen and complemented each other well. Unfortunately there was only limited time for many things. Especially the fourth day was too full in my opinion ; there was hardly time to explore the three different sites extensively. Otherwise I find Memory Lab unique and I had a lot of fun.

31. The study trip and the workshop were organized very well. We did the whole program as scheduled, what is not necessarily the case with such a big group. The program was balanced and not so packed as in some years before, we had enough time for reflection and discussion. The discussants were excellent, in Pristina as well as in Skopje. It was great to have the possibility to reflect own impressions with the opinion of experts. - The structure of the workshop improved during the last years: The mixture between visiting memorial sites and discussion was very well organized. I also liked the idea to start discussing about the future of Memory Lab already on Thursday. - Content of the study visit was well picked: I think we have seen the memorials that illustrate the overall strategies of memorialisation in Kosovo and Macedonia very well. - Personally I felt very comfortable with the group: Most of the people have been knowing each other since 3 or 4 years. That creates an open atmosphere for discussions, what I find extremely valuable because of the difficult issues we are dealing with. - In terms of critical aspects: When we had the workshop with Saranda Bogujevci I didn't really get the point during the workshop. She was introduced as someone very special, but I personally did not understand what was so special about this kind of exhibition because of a lack of context. I understood the point only during dinner, when some locals explained me, what made this exhibition so special.

32. Generally this workshop was well organised, but not as good as the previous ones. Except for Janev and Radjenović other speakers were not as good. I believe that participants coming from the Balkans were missing a little bit of a context related to the conflict in Macedonia 2001.

33. As with the previous year, I very much appreciated the quality of the speakers and the relevance of what we visited. - The organisation was, as always, very good : the scheduling, the hotels and the "team management" was pleasant and efficient. Characteristically, I found the links sent in advance very useful and thought provoking.

34. Again a very well conceived and organized program, with some interesting innovations, for example putting the discussion on ML and joint projects not the last day but before, and making a public debate, as it was done in Pristina (but less speakers would have been better). Also the fact to organize the program it in two countries, what i think was justified with Kosovo and Macedonia,

because it allowed to see more strikingly the specific situation (but also some similarities) between both countries. Very good relations within the group, where the new participants were fastly integrated. Good that we received links with background information before the program (even if i didn't have time to read them, but that is a problem of my own time-management)

35. A well structured program with a good mixture of inputs, discussions and excursions

36. In my opinion, Memory Lab is getting better and better each year in terms of organization and structure of the study trip and workshop. This year it offered some new methods of work which I found pretty refreshing and innovative. It is also good to have new people in the group, it brings new dynamics to the work.

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

1. Firstly, I met a lot of very interesting people and got to know about their institutions including their work, aims and challenges. Secondly, I have an idea of the most important historical events in Kosovo and Macedonia since the beginning of the 90's. Thirdly, I got to know about different ways of memorialization in Western Europe and the Balkans.

2. I have learned a lot of interesting things because I didn't know much about the situation in Kosovo and Macedonia when it comes to memory. Top three things are: a) Territorialisation of ethnicity in Macedonia (on the case study of Skopje) b) The fact that the majority of monuments in Kosovo are private initiatives. c) Macedonian memory on World War II is very specific and can be combined with nationalism.

3 a) A deep step inside two countries which try to deal with their past. b) How private groups present their remembrance. The government policy behind the scenes. c) The "high-level" how this group is reflecting history, politics and itself

4. a) There is a need in intervention in a lot of memorials (language, more explanations, put out militaristic monuments...) b) Most of all monuments in Kosovo are private donations.

5. Parallel schooling in Kosovo, the architectural quality or lack of in Skopje 2014, and personal stories of participants.

6. History of Kosovo and Macedonia.

7. a) The story behind Skopje 2014: the political intentions and the political situation in Macedonia, which doesn't allow a public debate about the project b) The way in which Kosovo deals with its past: mainly though private initiatives, public initiatives are rare. c) The role which ethnic identities play in both countries.

8. It is important to provide the people who deal with topics of facing the past, reconciliation and memory processes with the opportunity to meet their colleagues dealing with similar topics. This not only makes us aware that we all have something in common even though we come from various contexts, but at the same time provides us with a platform to discuss, exchange, and make new conclusions which can help us in our work. I also learned that it is possible to make an impact on the community if one has the will, courage and an idea on how to share his/her point of view/story or emotion.

9. 1) Experiencing nation-building in the making and realizing 2) How severe the situation is in Macedonia. 3) Becoming aware of identity crisis of Kosovars and Macedonians and their struggles for recognition and self-identification.

10. The perception of the participants from EU, especially towards Skopje 2014. The parallel school system of Kosovo.

11. a) The history of the region. Once again I was confused with my very little knowledge of the region, its recent conflicts and its current problems developments and issues. b) That my own country is having bigger problems than I realized. c) The whole Skopje 2014 program, I hadn't heard about it before

12. a) Terrible ethnic divisions in Macedonia that someone cannot be aware if you don't visit it. b) Parallel education system in Kosovo – what was the purpose of it and how it functioned c) The whole hero-memory-building around Adem Jashari in Kosovo and Alexander the Great in Macedonia

13. I would say only one thing that includes a lot of elements and it is about learning the importance of monuments in societies. How people can learn properly or misleading history, how memorialization can divide or unite.

14. The most interesting was to visit Skopje and to see how the government was trying to visually build national identity in public space. To see all these monuments was for me the most interesting part of Memory Lab this year. It was also interesting to visit the VMRO museum and see how history was created in a museum. In Kosovo, the visit to Adem Jashari memorial was interesting in terms of a relationship between official and private (family) memory initiatives.

15. The Adem Jashari memorial and Albanian Mother Memorial (even I don't like that), but it was interesting.

16. Three most interesting things: Disparity between public/private initiatives in Kosovo; confusion around Skopje 2014 ; generally the situation in Macedonia.

17. I have learned a lot about the memory of the 90's in Kosovo thanks to Linda and Nita's speeches, which is a quite absent topic today. I learned a bit about Macedonia's current situation and it was totally new for me. We discovered also many initiatives remembrance that I didn't know.

18. One of the interesting things is the variety of backgrounds and perspectives the groups brings to Memory Lab - another thing is the massiveness with which Macedonia's nation builders throw

history at you thus suffocating you - no space for own, critical thinking. Two of the most inspiring presentations/ presenters were Goran Janev and Nita Luci.

19 a) The work being done by NGOs, historians, sociologists in the two visited countries b) Spending some time with people from Kosovo and Macedonia who were not part of Memory Lab helped me to get some precious information about the two countries not necessarily related to the process of memorialization. c) Skopje 2014. I had no idea before coming to Skopje of the changes at work in the city and I found it particularly interesting.

20. Learned a lot about background on discussions made regarding building of certain monuments, particularly in Skopje Project 2014. In addition, learned a lot about family initiatives to erect memorials and different treatments of the State for particular monuments versus others.

21. 1. I need to reflect more on the role of family in memory processes. 2. The ethnic discussion in Macedonia is politically instrumentalised and over-performed. The people seem to get along much better than it is politically staged. 3. Criminal prosecution of war criminals is not an issue, so short after the conflicts in both countries, it seems that there is trust in justice will be done.

22. a) Current situation in Kosovo was totally unknown to me, and I had some wrong ideas; - this trip helped me to get to know more how in fact seems real everyday life of people living there; b) I've heard Albanian side of Kosovo conflict. c) On example of Skopje 2014, I saw how else could "look" building of national identity.

23. The most interesting things I have learned this week are mostly connected with the activities and study trip in Macedonia. Study visits to Memorials of the project "Skopje 2014", Museum of Communist Party of Macedonia, Tetovo; Macedonian Memorial of 2001 Conflict in Neprošteno Village; and "Albanian Mother" memory sight in the region of Kisevo were very beneficiary to my understanding of memory processes in Macedonia, political influence in shaping the history and interpretation of new narratives as part of state building and identity.

24. The most interesting for me was to get to know Priština and some members of the academic community in Kosovo. In addition to urbanity in architecture, urbanity of Kosovo was the most pleasant surprise for me, as we in Croatia usually meet Albanian community represented by bakers and confectioners. However, breaking down negative stereotypes about Albanians from Kosovo and level of their education, alike in BiH, imposes a question how these people are not capable, on administrative and formal level, to arrange the state they are living in, but still heavily depend on international help. Interesting to me was particularly dynamic atmosphere in Kosovo, energy of so many young people and great number of construction sites in Priština. The most interesting in Macedonia was to hear about building of Macedonian national identity, mainly through rigidly controlled marketing projects paid by the state government.

25. a) 3-D history book looks nice in the space. B) Memorialisation could be entertaining (Skopje 2014), if it was not for that sickening political background and purpose of the monuments. c) Conflicts in Kosovo and Macedonia are still visible and a process of national rounding of the territory has not been completed yet.

26. Breaking down prejudices about countries we visited, especially from the perspective and bearing in mind the perception in present in the country I am coming from. Another important knowledge gained is that there is no alternative to maintenance of peace and coexistence in the multi-ethnic societies in which minorities represent up to 30% of population. Another important thing is that knowledge that we from the former Yugoslavia are having could be used in Macedonia and Kosovo in respect of building up of memorialisation culture.

27.a) Monuments, and the way they are presented publicly, do not necessarily represent the truth, e.g. memorial complex of Albanian mother that is represented as place for open for non-Albanians, but in practice it does not function that way. b) Monuments and memorialisation can be used, or they have some kind of political background.

28. First, dealing with the past in Balkan is far from easy. Each nation, wants to create their heroes, their own history regardless of the reality. I mean that the mentality in Balkan nations is like everybody who belongs to us is hero and everybody who does not belong to our nation “is nothing”. Second, I learned that it is possible to create joint memorials. We saw some examples in Tetovo, which could be a very good example for all Balkan countries. Third, there are still tendencies to destroy everything that does not represent their history. We could very clearly see this in Skopje.

29. a) How Memory Lab is functioning. b) Approaches of memorialization in Kosovo (Memory Book ; work of Saranda Bogujevci)

30 a) Historical background information about both countries and their complex ethnic situation. b) That it is possible within a very short time to completely transform an urban landscape. c) That there are many actors and organization which are doing a wonderful work in the Balkans!!!

31. a) The dilemma Macedonia is facing with all its neighboring countries in terms of language, name of the state etc. (Thanks to Bujars presentation!). b) The absence of a state driven narrative in Kosovo, and the personal initiatives of commemorating the last war. c) That in Skopje only the plaques that commemorate the earthquake in 1963 addresses the whole community of the inhabitants of Skopje and do not offend (or exclude) any ethnical group (maybe except the sculpture of the shopping girls next to the Skopje Mall)

32. (1) The fact that Macedonia got its sovereignty before 1944 and transferred it to FНРY. (2) The fact that buildings from that era were decorated in neoclassical style. (3) The fact that citizens of Skopje 2014 are so exclusive towards Albanians. (4) Mode in which people in Macedonia want to talk about the war, and not to talk about it at the same time.

33. Among the most striking things was the visit of the school house. It is a very interesting private memorial in the sense that the place existed because of a family’s goodwill in the 90’s and still is protected because of that family. Despite the absence of funding, there is a will to preserve and develop this memorial site which goes beyond the gender and military/civilian barriers. On a more technical level, I was struck at how the group divided up as soon as we went inside because of the rain. Perhaps some people knew the story already. - I would have liked to go inside the Brotherhood and unity building.

34. a) The history of the Bogujevci-family and the way Saranda Bogujevci is dealing with it b) Background information about Skopje 2014 thanks to Goran and Sanja.

35. (1) The expanding and diversifying structure of institutions and persons participating in Memory Lab. (2) The nation-building process in Kosovo. (3) The clear and openly articulated and profound critical statements by G. Janev and Sanja Radjenovic-Jovanovic on the Skopje 2014 program

36. I arrived here with the idea to learn more about the countries and their recent past (and present) I had very superfluous or no knowledge about. I learnt more about history and present day challenges in societies of Macedonia and Kosovo, although leaving the study trip and workshop with more questions than answers. It is interesting to learn in a very visual way how different Western Balkan countries, though having a lot in common, use different approaches in dealing with the past and in nation building projects.

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

1. I found it most striking to realize how much dealing with the past and memorialization is politicized in that region (as it is mostly everywhere- but maybe more in a subtle way).

2. I am irritated by the fact that in Kosovo and Macedonia like in other ex-Yugoslav countries the national identity is based on ethnicity.

3. The presentation of Saranda Bogujevci's art work. She didn't talk about herself as a survivor → it confused me. The slow way how she included the group in her family tragedy.

4. Always is irritating me project 'Skopje 2014' and will irritate me in the future.

5. I found the things learned in Pristina quite moving when thinking about their civil resistance. I was shocked about the situation in Macedonia about Skopje 2014 and beyond and I feel irritated about the fact that people of these country being hostages of a government which simply does not care about their wellbeing.

6. The center of Skopje has been newly built. This is a very challenging thing for visitors. It is by itself a subject of discussion about the political power in general and the Macedonian historical dream.

7. We discussed gender roles, especially concerning Skopje 2014, and criticized the male dominated way of looking at the past. Still, a lot of discussions we had, were also male dominated (mainly male speakers, group work often presented by male participants) and the ML structure itself also seems to be male dominated (most of the team members are male, discussions mostly led by men). It might make sense to think about gender balance within the Memory Lab workshop (= answer to question 5)

8. The workshop/presentation of Ms. Saranda Bogujevci was especially emotional and striking since I was fascinated by her willingness and courage to present her story to the public in a creative way in order to commemorate her family members. She can be a good example not only to individuals, but also organizations and other stakeholders dealing with the topic of memorialization to implement their intentions by using innovative and not often used approaches and resources in that respect.

9. Two things I found striking: (1) Suffocating Skopje. Realizing that this repressive regime leaves no space for any counter or alternative narratives and there is no escape from the discriminatory, sexist and ethnically exclusive narrative. Striking how downplayed this development is on an international level. (2) The comment of one of the participants from Macedonia: 'Home is where it hurts'. Striking because it says as much about the present day socio-political dimension in Macedonia, as well makes me reflect about my own identity and national struggles.

10. The long agenda was very irritating, it should finish as a normal working day, at 17h (8 hours of work).

11. I find it very striking to see how remembering is very important to people here but that its output is so unprofessionally, e.g. the Adem Jashari monument. It irritates me that there is very little neutral, unbiased information available for the persons that do want to do something. I found the town fountain monument in Neprosteni moving. Not so much the monument but the fact that whole town came to talk to us and as a sign of support for the monument. Too bad that we had to leave so quickly and didn't have a chance to actually talk to them.

12. Divisions in societies and lack of effort to stop this process, societies living next to each other, the usage of memorials to prove the existence of some nation, mushrooming of memorials that are supposed to emphasize whose the land is, what belongs to whom; lack of facts; inappropriate way of commemorating victims, their usage in political purposes.

13. Personal story of Saranda Bogujevci was moving. - Irritating the amount of sculptures/monuments in Skopje that by the end of the day does not give you the answers of its history. Irritating also is the way how politics influence the art and history overall.

14. The most striking was the talk with Saranda Bogujevci and hearing about what had happened to her and her family. The example of the exhibition she made was moving as an example of how victims deal with what had happened to them throughout art. It would be great for that exhibition to be also organized in other countries of the region.

15. Meeting with Saranda Bogujevci, because I feel that she did a great art project and she showed how we all could deal with traumatic past. That was so emotional and could move us to a new approach.

16. Striking- the visit to school in Prishtina, since this is not something that is enough presented in public and it's in a way opposing to dominant narrative built around the heroes' and warriors. Also Albanian mother's memorial – since it's represented to general confusion when it comes to memorials: why are we building it? For whom? What's the concept? Who should be represented there? And misuse of memorials for political purposes.

17. I was very touched by Saranda's presentation and project. The artistic discussion and the very personal story showed us how individual story can touch everyone, going beyond national or ethnical identities.

18. What strikes me are the gender roles used and promoted for nation building and identity in both countries- armed men (on horses), either from (invented) ancient times or recent fighters, but fighters all of them. There is hardly space for diversity, civic society, values other than armed fight. This is a very discouraging environment for all those who think differently resp. does not encourage the new generation to think differently.

19. I was really moved by the workshop with Saranda Bogujevci Monday evening. Obviously I was moved by her own story but I also appreciated the way it was done and all we as a group could share with her. It was good to interact with someone invited to meet the group but not in a formal way and in the classical form of questions and answers. On Monday night, we were involved in a more personal way and it created a really confident atmosphere.

20. Different treatments of the State (Kosovo) towards different memorials and how the particular ones are considered as vital national interest, while others are left to the families to take care of them.

21. **Striking:** How autocratic Macedonia functions. How few people in Kosovo address their history as an individual, and as a state. How many Albanian (not Kosovars) flags mark memory sites in Kosovo. - **Moving:** How Saranda Bogujevci transfers her family and personal stories without talking what concretely happened. How grateful people in Neprosteno village reacted that we (outsiders) were coming there → huge need for acknowledgment of their stories and pain. - **Irritating:** Gazimestan caused so much confusion to me and unfortunately our anthropologist didn't know about the history of the monument. We were lacking crucial historical information about the site that would have helped to orientate in this confusing net of memory layers.

22. I was hit and impressed the most by the story of Bogujevci family and their way of dealing with the past; - suffering of civilians is always horrible, but it is even worse for the observer who is member of nation that caused such suffering, particularly if the majority of people on "whose behalf" that was done was not aware of what was going on.

23. From my perspective, the striking moments/activities within the Memory Lab project and study trips in Kosovo and Macedonia were: Public Event/Discussion, Workshop with Saranda Bogujevci, Discussion with Dr. Goran Janev and Sanja Radjenovic-Jovanovic. Irritating was the entire project "Skopje 2014" as it was very imposing to the citizens, while moving were discussions with Nita Luci, Lindsa Gusia and visit to the Museum of Communist Party of Macedonia, Tetovo because we managed to generate so many questions and discussions on the topic of Memory and Commemoration, dealing with difficult Past and ethnic segregations.

24. I was mostly emotionally shaken by the workshop led by Saranda Bogujevci which seemed to me boring and unnecessary in the beginning, especially part dedicated to work in groups, as I believed that the same topics we have already tackled in much better way. However, when in the catalogue I read a destiny of this woman, I was shocked. I believe that workshop should have had different approach and that Saranda Bogujevci should have told her story and explained in the beginning the

reasons for the exhibition, as that would lead to more interaction and interest of all members of the group.

25. Lack of minimum dialogue between the members of divided ethnic communities when building the monuments. - Revision of socialist past of Kosovo and Macedonia followed by the effort to declare that system as a dark age, and present the nation as a hostage.

26. Lack of reasonable dialogue on relation between Serbs and Albanians or Albanians and Macedonians is one of the irritating issues when it comes to topic of memory culture and memorialisation. - Neglecting of the NOB Boro and Ramiz memorial in Kosovo is particularly brutal (devastation of Boro and Ramiz memorial, initiative for removal of monument of brotherhood and unity) as it is one of rare connections between Albanians and Serbs, as it could be foundation for building up a path for “healing” of relations.

27. Skopje 2014 –to what extent it in fact divided citizens into Christians and Muslims. Skopje 2014 extremely irritated me.

28. Maybe the most irritating thing is the attempt of the peoples to show only their suffering. We could see it in Tetovo when we visit the village where were killed thirteen Macedonians during 2001 conflict. But, even from that village were also eight albanians killed, they didn't mention it at all. Maybe, approximately the same thing we could find at the memorial “Albanian Mother” when even they created that memorial to remember only Albanians killed during last 100 years, the man who explained to us the significance of the memorial, all the time mentioned that this is a common memorial, and we clearly could see that it is not true.

29. Shocked by the absurdity of Skopje. Touched by the work of Saranda and by the interventions of Kushtrim Koliqi and Bekim Blakaj. Also touched by the Jewish cemetery in Pristina (which I visited outside the program)

30. I was mostly moved by Saranda's presentation. I was very impressed by her story, the way she is speaking about it, and the common decision by the family, to what extent to keep the memory of the events.

31. I have never seen a nation building process like the one we have seen in Skopje. That's what the 19th century must have looked like in Germany etc.

32. I was a bit irritated to see how much was necessary to come to surface, even when civil orientated Janev and Rasdjenović were talking, I was very disappointed when one of the colleagues used word „business“ to refer to what he is doing.

33. I am struck at how the group has developed stronger ties and how people clearly want to work together (even if it does not always become a reality...). - I liked the idea of exploring Skopje 2014 on our own and especially the fact that we got to have a discussion afterwards. Had we had a little more time, I think an explanation (a guided walk, a comment of a diaporama of six or seven “main” monuments...) would have enabled to an enhanced overall view of the monuments and the buildings of their characteristics and their meaning.

34. The confusing Memorial in Zajac: even persons from there were not sure what exactly it was supposed to be about. What raised for me an interesting question: to what extent is producing confusion part of political strategies?

35. The open discussion between the members and participants of Memory Lab esp. from the Balkan countries about the situation in their countries (positive!). - The exchange of positions, experiences between the participants from Western Europe and the Balkan states.

36. Most striking is to realize how much unreparable damage can be done in nation-building projects. It is frustrating to see that the Balkans nations are going in wrong directions and nation-building processes will take still long time and make more damage to the countries and people. Not much place for optimism.

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

1. I will definitely stay in contact with many of the participants to support and even join projects.

2. Examples of memorization and musealisation that we have visited are useful material for my PhD thesis (these from socialist period that deal with World War II). I would like to write an article for the ZFD journal on the topic of remembering World War II trauma.

3. To stay in contact with members of the group. Planning seminars at Ravensbruck memorial in the future.

4. I can use a lot in my work in the future: a) How to deal with monuments from the past. b) To work more in culture of remembrance. c) To spread my knowledge to the others

5. What I could use for my work concretely are some of the forms and concepts of the workshop itself, but the content enriched me as a human being and it was significant for me to explore my hometown Skopje with and through the lenses of my participating fellows.

6. Skopje, new capital, precisely. This is an open book to be used with thoughts about history, urbanism, etc.

7. -

8. Not only the participation in this program provided me with the information and practical experiences on how to advance my work in memorialization processes/ dealing with the past, it also provided me with a chance to establish new connections and discuss possible means of cooperation with individuals and organizations which share our visions.

9. -

10. In any case I will use the contacts made. I also will try to diversify the participants in my projects and activities. Until now, I never invited participants from EU in my projects.
11. a) The concept of construction of national identity got me thinking and realizing that I should change something in my approach, in my projects, working with young people from different communities in one country. b) Learning about the situation of these two countries enriches me to one day maybe organize these trips myself and by doing that opening up the subject, this history to a larger public in my own country.
12. I will use it for teaching about nationalism, post-conflict societies, and symbolic reparations – as examples how some states deal with this. I will also use it when dealing with different ways former Yugoslav countries went/ are still going through transition period.
13. As within my organization we lack knowledge on memorialization such as museums it was very helpful to create better idea on how we can develop possible projects with existing materials we have. Contacts and people that I met during these days will keep exchanging projects/ideas etc.
14. A lot of the things I've seen I can use in my work because I can relate and compare a lot to my own country. It is particularly interesting to compare how national identity is being built in public space in Macedonia and in other post-Yugoslav countries.
15. Information about interesting programs in Kosovo and in Macedonia. I had more information about Macedonia before than about Kosovo. - Possibilities for making new contacts with very nice and brave people from Kosovo is really important for me. I got also some new information about French and Belgium political processes.
16. What can I use: the knowledge on the gaps and bad practices when it comes to remembrance. Having in mind the mapped problems, I will focus my work in direction of bringing the positive changes within the scope of my work. More has been learned in sense of how not to do things.
17. I discovered new stories and events which gave me new ideas for film-making, or for topics to be deepened in that sense. I also met new people with who I will perhaps work in the future.
18. Apart from networking - which is very important - I can certainly use the structure of the workshop (mix of study visits, discussions, reflections, external inputs) as structure for workshops in my work. I can use the method of exploring Skopje and its monuments for own workshops.
19. The discussions between participants of Memory Lab are always a good inspiration for my own work. As the history of Kosovo and Macedonia is largely ignored in Western Europe, what we have seen this week is a good start to try to change this situation and create projects on this history.
20. The situations are quite similar, particularly in areas of education (divided and different educational programs) as well as existence of different historical narratives. Unfortunately it was just diagnosed the almost same situation which ensuring us once again how much work we need to do.
21. The trip provided me with a general understanding of what is the state of play regarding dealing with the past in Kosovo and Macedonia. And with some specific explanations of complicated issues.

22. I got more familiar with the conflict in Kosovo and I can use it in process of education of young people in Serbia as they have one-sided and wrong idea about that conflict and its background.
23. Almost everything we went through in Memory Lab 2014, study trips in Kosovo and Macedonia is very relevant and attached to my work, therefore, I believe Memory Lab was very productive and provocative in terms of shaping more critical projects for the future in the field of Dealing with the Past, Commemoration, Truth Finding etc.
24. All information received in formal and informal parts of the study trip could be used in my work.
25. Now, I find it easier to understand and assess a comprehensive situation in area of memorialisation in my country. Certain technical solutions in the Museum of Holocaust could help me in designing of memorial areas in my community.
26. As upon completion of any study trip organized by the Memory Lab, everything seen was very useful for my own work. - My strong conviction that memorials should serve not only for memory, but for reconciliation of people/getting them together and for prevention of new crimes, was additionally confirmed by this study trip.
27. This experience, for sure, was valid experience and it will help me in realisation of some project that I am having on my mind.
28. At the moment, I'm working in a project whose aim is to promote the dealing with the past in secondary schools. Our goal is to place some lectures in public schools which will encourage the youth to deal with the past. We will organize some daily visits in memorials in Kosovo and if we can find support maybe we will continue in neighboring countries also. So, everything that I learned from this study trip and workshop I think would be very useful for this project.
29. Method: Working groups/ free visits and then feedback of impressions or analysis. - Contacts in order to organize encounters in Coutances.
30. The experiences I have had will help me in my work with the French-German Youth Office. I received a lot of inputs in order to initiate new projects in the framework of the South-Eastern-Europe-Initiative of the French German Youth Office.
31. Work-wise I had a very fruitful week. I am in contact with some of the participants about a text for the "Cultures of History"-Forum on memory culture in Kosovo and Macedonia. Furthermore I got to know interesting persons as Nita Luci and Goran Janev. I would not have had the possibility to get to know them without Memory Lab.
32. Since I am writing a paper about the transitional justice and dealing with the past for BIRN I will write a text as kind of reflection to what I have seen. Also, this process of the nation and nationality building without a proper maturity of the civil identity is very useful if I am going to write about building of Croatian national state during the 90's. I would also like to write a paper for ZFD publication.

33. Because the link to the Great War is no longer so divisive today, I believe that my museum faces a potential issue linked to indifference or even oblivion in the long run. For this reason, I strongly believe that the museum has to evolve to take into account questions related to today and the world we live in. The discussions on transitional justice (and other actions) in Kosovo were therefore of utmost importance to my work : I hope that this experience can be shared and developed so as to be used in the last room of our museum devoted to the consequences of war (and no longer just World War One).

34. I established new contacts which will result in one new project; and with other colleagues we agreed about the continuation of a project we initiated last year. In general, the knowledge that there is a network of competent and interested people whom I can contact any time for different needs and ideas related to my work is extremely useful!

35. Grouping all the participants in different workshops was very useful

36. Memory Lab serves, among other things, as a platform for people from different countries working in the same or similar fields to talk, share knowledge and practices, and possibly develop new joint projects. In used opportunity to strengthen the links with other Memory Lab members and this year came out with two very probable/visible projects and cooperations to be realized in the coming period.

5. Suggestions for future workshops/ study trips

1. For future workshops I would hope to get more contact to civil society movements and activists to learn and discuss about forms of resistance and opposition to the criticized way of memorialization.

2. Maybe to focus a bit more on field trips with professional guidance (or taking a bit more time to visit museums)- like it was in Berlin and Ravensbruck last year.

3. Memory market: more time with presentations (power point) from the actual work from the organization.

4. Being in two countries for short time is exhausting. Maybe for the future the study tips to be for 7 working days and to have some social time and to take in consideration that some participants are for first time in region and there it's a need to see also something else not only monuments.

5. I suggest for each place of visit (I mean country) we have: Introduction to its history (30min). A session open for the public. A presentation of participants with photos and two things (personal or professional) that they want the others to know about them (sent before the workshop and printed in the handouts)

6. -

7. It might make sense to think about gender balance within the Memory Lab workshop

8. Thank you for letting me be a part of this program.

9. More long term fundraising. - Video-diaries during annual study trip -> to increase (public) self-reflection and as a form of evaluation. - Serbia 2016, Netherlands 2017?
10. Try to include more people who have a different view of things, even if it is a risk. Hitting each on the shoulder and saying you've done good is nice, but confronting different views and thinking is always fruitful. And please provide single rooms for next time, reflection and relaxation is very important when you deal with these topics.
11. a) Discovering Skopje on our own was a real strong point for me, I would like to see the same approach used in a future workshops. .b) The final workshop, with the creative assignment, was as plus. More of that would be nice.
12. My suggestion would be include in program in each country some short/brief lecture on historical situation in that country in order for everyone to understand the context. Sometimes we assume that even local people know something, but it's not always the case. - We are sometimes lacking legal background on some cases and it would be useful if we had some lawyer to tell us what kind of amnesty was guaranteed from Ohrid Agreement or if really law on abortion is/not adopted in Macedonia.
13. Involve new topics and people.
14. No suggestions at this point but I will probably have some soon. 😊
15. More contact with local people and with local activists with different opinions about our main topic. For example I'd like to hear someone who is professional and he/she agrees with the project Skopje 2014. Because we only hear persons who disagree with it.
16. Suggestions: More discussion within group; they could be placed if possible, in the middle of the study trip since people tend to lose focus and concentration on the last days, discussions are more productive when we are fresh 😊
17. I would suggest to focus on one country. In order to see different kind of people, of history versions and memorialization processes. - I would like also to introduce more artistic experiences linked with memorialization in the program.
18. Keep the mixed structure. - For some sites general information of the (historic) background/context might have been useful for better understanding.
19. I had the feeling all week we were very often lacking time to go deeper into the discussed subjects. The work done in small groups in specific topics is usually more effective and it would be good in future meetings to have more time for the work in small groups. - It would also be important to do something concrete between annual meetings, as a group (not for parallel projects).
20. Already described under question 1: It would be good that the organizer prepares some short presentation on background of the country/ situation where they are. Considering the large number of the partner organizations, the coordination between them could be better. - THANK YOU.

21. Provide general information on the town/ country where we are staying. Include family stories of participants for beginning. - Take more time to discuss identity questions in small groups. I felt a huge need to go into this more in our group. - Make sure to have a joint end of the program. (German film without translation splits the group on the last evening also for the dinner.)

22. I think Belgium is an excellent destination for the next study trip. It would be interesting to get a chance to visit a former USSR country, or a country that was under the heavy protection of USSR (proper communism).

23. More space for open and academic discussions, more study visits, more visits to museums, less work in groups.

24. I would like that after Serbia we visit Poland (Auschwitz).

25. To visit province of Alsace in France for its turbulent history and parallels that can be drawn between that region and territories on the Balkans. - On the Balkans: Montenegro, for so many reasons.

26. The Board makes good choices and selection for study trips, and so should be continued.

27. People who are really interested and who actually implement memorialisation projects should get more involved in Memory Lab.

28. I would like to suggest one thing: to have more participants from former Yugoslav countries especially Kosovo and Serbia. Peoples from these two countries need much more workshops and study trip like Memory Lab. They need to deal with the past, but realistically, without propaganda and brain laundering.

29. I am too new in the program to suggest anything for the moment. – Thanks a lot for the invitation. I will need more time to digest everything and to “translate/transfer” it to my own modest level.

30. To limit the workshop and study trip to one country. I would have preferred to deepen the different topics in Macedonia and in Kosovo instead of going to explore the other country. Some things have this way only be treated in a very superficial way (sometimes I missed anyway background-information) and the resolution to acquire now the lacking knowledge will probably disappear in the problems of daily work.

31. The structure of the workshop and study trip was very well. It should be continued next year. (discussion with experts from University etc., exploring a site in small groups on our owns I found very important) - Thanks a lot for this interesting week, I learned much more than in a whole semester of history at university:) - Hope we can continue with Memory Lab and develop it further. The group has become a very valuable aspect in my personal contacts as well as for my professional work.

32. As we are visiting Belgium in 2015, and Serbia in 2016, my focus will be on 2016. I believe it would be useful then to get information about persecution and expulsion of 200 000 Germans from former Yugoslavia. Also, depending on future study trip, we should organise a presence of a History

professor who could explain a mode of learning History in schools. As far as 2017 is concerned, we would be in the Netherlands, and for 2018 I nominate Croatia and visit to concentration camp on island of Rab, and Goli Otok and also former camps Metajna and Slano on island of Pag. Then we could have a night in Zadar and visit Škuljina, place of suffering of Croats and then some locations related to „Oluja“ .

33. As discussed in our group regarding “Memory Lab and around”, an issue in the years to come might be the too big number of participants. One way to overcome this problem would be to ask potential participants to write a contribution letter in which way they see their contribution to the program and how they would like to contribute. This would be a way of having people be invested in the platform before and after the annual workshops.

34. The general approach of Memory Lab, combining study trip and workshop, combining different countries and professional groups, combining different methods, seems to me still a very valid and stimulating approach, and its also great to see that Memory Lab is not something static, but always in movement. In the framework of this general remark just some reflections and suggestions for future study trips/workshops:

I am always hesitating what I prefer more: having a overview-lecture at the very beginning, or let us discover and explore situations by ourselves, and then later put our finding into the broader context with help of experts. Both approaches have advantages and disadvantages - probably alternating both methods is the best, as Memory Lab has also done it so far. - Have less speakers in public discussions. – I think it was good to combine Kosovo and Maceodnia, but in the future I would neverthelss suggest to focus on one country, as it allows to go deeper. – Looking forward to go to Belgium in 2015, this will certainly also be highly intersting and stimulating! And one general remark: think more about what could be done between the anual meetings.

35. Focus on the nation-building process in Hungary, Bulgaria. – Future panel discussions with 3 or 4 participants maximum

36. It is good to have one-two new persons in preparing the new workshop, with an idea of bringing fresh approaches to already nicely established / recognizable structure of the study trip and workshop.