



Memory Lab
Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

**Is there a “Spanish model” of (not) dealing with the past?
8th annual study trip and workshop**

17 -23 September 2017: Madrid, Belchite, Barcelona, La Jonquera, Rivesaltes

Organized by:

Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH (Sarajevo),
EUROM - European Observatory on Memories (Barcelona),
Forum ZFD Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo), Franco-German Youth Office (Paris/Berlin),
Districte 11 – City to City (Barcelona), Crossborder Factory (Berlin/Sarajevo)

With the financial support of:

CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Forum ZFD Bosnia and Herzegovina
Government of Catalonia – Department for Cooperation and Development,
City Council Barcelona, Madrid City Council, Robert Bosch Foundation
European Commission / Europe for Citizens Programme, Franco-German Youth Office,

PRELIMINARY FINAL REPORT



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Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union



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PRELIMINARY FINAL REPORT

(January 2018)

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I. Aims of Memory Lab and the 8th workshop and study trip

General aim of the platform:

The trans-European exchange platform “Memory Lab” (named “Dealing with difficult pasts in Western Europe and the Western Balkans” until 2013) brings together organizations, institutions and persons working on memory sites and remembrance education in the Western Balkans and in Western/Central Europe, and promotes thereby exchange, cooperation and critical understanding of remembrance and history in Europe. The platform is mainly organized around annual study trips / workshops that are particular important occasions for mutual learning through the sharing of experiences and practices. The platform and the annual meetings aim to overcome existing gaps of knowledge, to strengthen constructive dealing-with-the-past-approaches as means for sustainable peace- and democracy-building, and to contribute to cooperation and understanding processes within South Eastern Europe and Europe in general and to the integration of the countries of the former Yugoslavia into a shared European civil society and memory space.

Specific aims of the 8th annual study trip / workshop:

- To explore and discuss the history of the Spanish Civil War and of its consequences, including its international dimensions (especially the role of the International Brigades, with a particular look on the Yugoslav participation, and the exile of Republican refugees in France and elsewhere)
- To explore and discuss memorialization processes regarding the Spanish Civil War in Spain and in Europe, from Franco’s dictatorship (1939-1975) through the transition to democracy (1975-1978/81), until today: What characterizes these processes? Which continuities and evolutions can be seen through this time period regarding the dealing with the Spanish Civil War? What local and regional differences can be seen, for example by comparing Barcelona and Madrid?
- To connect the experiences from Spain with the memory-politics and memory-work in other European countries, and especially with the question of the role of silence and memory for transition processes in post-war-societies - in order to look for differences and similarities between the Spanish and other European memory cultures, and to address the question: Is there really a ‘Spanish model’ of (not) dealing with the past?
- To deepen contacts and cooperation and to provide a space to develop future activities between the participants of the *Memory Lab* platform

II. Background

Dealing with the past (DwP) is a very sensitive issue in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, as the wounds of the wars of the 1990s are still fresh and linked with often-conflicting memories. In Western and Central Europe, although there has been no war in the last sixty years, memory questions often also remain sensitive, for example concerning the Second World War and the crimes linked to communism or colonialism. Even if each country has its specific situation and if the distance of war differs in Western/Central Europe and the Western Balkans, a lot of questions are nevertheless similar: How to deal with difficult past(s)? How to face the reluctance of people to deal with the past? What are the place and the role of memory sites in DwP-processes? What are possibilities and challenges of pedagogical and educational approaches at and around this kind of places, especially for young people? To what extent can memory sites bring conflicting memories together? If international cooperation in the field of DwP is quite well developed within the EU, exchanges in this field within SEE and also between SEE and the EU-countries are still quite rare. This mutual absence of relations and knowledge is reflecting the still existing gaps between the countries of former Yugoslavia and between these countries and the rest of Europe. Also in the perspective of the European integration of the countries of former Yugoslavia, it appears to be urgent to create regular opportunities for initiatives committed to a constructive DwP to meet, to learn from each other and to develop common activities. In this framework the general purpose of the Memory Lab-platform is to bring together initiatives in the field of dealing with difficult pasts (wars and dictatorships during different periods of the 20th century) from different countries of Western/Central Europe and the Western Balkans and to establish a long-term process of exchange and cooperation between them in order to facilitate contact, exchange experiences, overcome gaps of knowledge, learn from each other, mutually build capacities and carry out common projects and activities.

Since its creation in 2010, Memory Lab has organized eight annual study trips/workshops which alternate every year between South Eastern Europe and Western Europe, in order to reflect the Trans-European character of the platform. After trips including visits in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany, Kosovo, Macedonia, Belgium, and Serbia, the 8th annual trip and workshop took place in Spain in 2017. More than fifty bilateral or multilateral cooperation and activities involving different participating organizations have resulted until today from these annual meetings.¹

¹ Examples of these joint activities can be found on <http://www.memorylab-europe.eu/activities>

III. Participants

Participants of Memory Lab are representatives of memorial centres, historical museums, NGOs and other organizations/initiatives/individuals from the Western Balkans and from Western/Central Europe, acting practically in the field of dealing with the past, especially around memory sites and in the educational field. The involved persons and organizations are working on different “difficult pasts” related to the history of Europe in the 20th century (First World War, Second World War, communist dictatorships, Yugoslav break-up wars of the 1990s): this diversity reflects the complexity of European history and has also proven to be very stimulating and enriching for the working process. 38 persons have participated at the workshop and study trip in 2017: 10 persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6 from Croatia, 1 from Macedonia, 1 from Kosovo, 4 from Serbia, 2 from Belgium, 4 from France, 4 from Germany, 1 from Slovenia, 4 from Spain and 1 from The Netherlands. Out of the 38 persons participating in the program this year, 14 persons have participated in the Memory Lab program for the first time. The combination of “old” and “new” participants guarantees on the one hand a continuation and deepening of the existing contacts and work, and on the other hand the integration of new participants in a group which aims to be open for new persons, contacts and ideas. Concerning the choice of the participants in 2017, for the third time, it was not done by direct invitation, but by open call for applications for interested persons to apply by filling in and sending an application. The organization team received a large number of applications, but unfortunately could not accept all those who applied. The selection of candidates was based on the following criteria:

a) General criteria for the constitution of the group:

- Practitioners who are dealing with history and memory work in Europe, especially in memorials, museums, and civil society organizations
- The group should be constituted by approx. 2/3 of “old” participants (who have participated at one or several of the former annual Memory Lab study trips/workshops) and of 1/3 of “new” participants
- Different countries need to be represented in the group
- The total number of participants should not exceed 40 persons

b) Individual criteria for the applicants:

- Concrete / practical link to memory work

- For “old” participants: Own commitment to Memory Lab (for example organization of joint activities with other Memory Lab associates), and benefit for one’s own work / For new participants: potential own commitment to Memory Lab, and potential benefit for own work.

The list with the participants can be found in the annexes at the end of this report.

IV. The program

1. The preparation

The organization team gathered the 6th and 7th February 2017 in Sarajevo in order to prepare the study visit and workshop in Spain in September 2017. The detailed aims, structure and content of the 2017-program were elaborated on the basis of the evaluations of the study trip/workshop 2016 and of a brainstorming about possible sites to visit, persons to meet and activities to organize during the program in Spain in September. Some of the general decisions taken by the organization team were:

- in general, to keep the general structure of mix of visits, presentations and group work
- for the basic introductions on the topic at the beginning: to give very precise info to the speakers which points we are interested in
- for the visits: not only to make guided visits, but also sometimes use also self-exploratory approaches
- for the feedback-sessions after visits: not to make them too short, and to make them more structured, around some precise questions
- to keep the communication rules we had defined last year, to take care to find a good balance between ensuring safe spaces and allowing controversial discussions, and to be attentive to possible problems within the group so that we can address them

After discussing and deciding about the aims, the structure and the topics of the program, elaborating the budget, and preparing the open call for the participants, the months after the preparation meeting were mainly dedicated to the logistical implementation of the program on the one hand, and the securing of the budget on the other hand. It was this year more difficult than in the previous years to secure all the necessary funding – one reason was that some donors who are willing to support programs related to South Eastern Europe could not, for administrative reasons, fund a program which is taking place in Spain, even if a big part from the group comes from SEE. To control and limit the costs, the organization team for example fixed a maximum of 250 € for the reimbursement of the travel

costs for the participants from SEE. At the end, a sufficient budget for the implementation of the program could be secured, thanks to the contributions of the following organizations: CCFD – Terre Solidaire, Government of Catalonia – Department for Cooperation and Development, City Council Barcelona, Madrid City Council, Robert Bosch Foundation, European Commission / Europe for Citizens Programme, Franco-German Youth Office, Forum ZFD Bosnia and Herzegovina. As last year, the participants of the program also contributed through a small participation fee (80 € for participants from Western Europe, 40€ for participants from South Eastern Europe). However, after the finalization of the program one questionmark remains : The financial contribution foreseen by the the Catalan Government could not yet been paid out because of the ongoing crisis between the Catalan government and the Spanish government in which the latter has blocked the accounts of Catalan public institutions.

2. The general topic

In 2017, the annual study trip/workshop took place in Spain and focused on the exploration and discussion of history, consequences and memories of the Spanish Civil War. Spain has been chosen for the annual study trip/workshop mainly for two reasons:

- 1) Because of the importance of the Spanish Civil War and its consequences: for the history of Spain on the one hand, where the war led to the 35-year-long Franco dictatorship and to long-lasting divisions, and for the history of Europe in general on the other hand, with the numerous international implications of the war and its violence and political-cultural divisions which are often seen as precursors of the Second World War and other conflicts to come.
- 2) Because of the particularity of the Spanish post-dictatorship-transition which is often praised as a model to follow: After the death of Franco in 1975 and the “Amnesty Law” from 1977, for more than two decades the political elites privileged an approach of consensual historical amnesia, the so-called “Pact of Silence” (or “Pact of Oblivion”). At the same time, since the end of the 1990s, this approach has been seriously challenged, especially by the multi-layered movement for “the recovery of the Historical Memory”. All in all, the history of post-dictatorial Spain in the last 50 years raises a lot of crucial questions of general significance, as for example: Is confronting the past a necessary precondition for building a stable peace and democracy, and if yes, under which conditions? What is the role of silence on the one hand, and of memory on the other hand, and what is the relation between both, in transition processes of post-war societies?

3. Structure of the program

The program of the 8th *Memory Lab* study visit/workshop consisted of a combination of visits to memory sites, feedback-sessions after visits, presentations by/discussions with experts, and working sessions within the group. The program took place in different towns and included visits to different sites, in order to allow a differentiated approach to the existing culture(s) of remembrance in Spain, and to explore the questions of differences and similarities between different regions in Spain. It also included a visit in France, at the Memorial of Rivesaltes nearby the French-Spanish border, in combination with a visit at the Museum of Exile in La Jonquera, in order to allow a cross-border comparison regarding the topic of refugees and exile. The program ended by connecting the findings and observations from Spain with the cultures of remembrance from other European countries, and a discussion whether there is really a specific “Spanish model” of (not) dealing with the past, and to what extent “lessons from Spain” can be useful for other countries. Additionally, the program provided space for the participants to discuss about the further development of *Memory Lab* and about the organization of future joint activities.

Before the program, the organization team sent to the participants by email a general document which included basic information and reading recommendations about the Spanish Civil War and its memorialization, a glossary with important terms and names, and more specific information about the sites to be visited during the program.²

After arrival of the participants in Madrid on Sunday September 17 and a common dinner, the official program started the next day, on September 18, with an introduction and presentation of the Memory Lab platform, the overall program of the workshop / study visit, and a short presentation round of all participants. It was followed by an interactive exercise, ‘dancing chairs’, the aim of which is for participants to get to know about each other and each other’s work in a more interactive way. The program continued with lectures about the history of Spain, with a special focus on the Civil War, delivered by Gareth Stockey from the University of Nottingham, and with a lecture on “(Not) dealing with the Civil War from the Franco-era until today”, delivered by Oriol Lopez-Badell from EUROM. The final lecture in the morning part of the program was about memory politics in Madrid, and was delivered by Txema Urkijo, who is in charge of remembrance policies at the city of Madrid. After lunch, the program continued with a visit of memory sites related to the Civil War and the Franco-era at the Madrid University Campus, and was guided by José Luis González, Carolina Rodríguez López and Jara Muñoz Hernández, from the architecture department of the University. After the visit, a group work session was held at the University campus, focusing on the role of memory and silence in the

²This document can be found on <http://www.memorylab-europe.eu/workshops>

transition to democracy and peace. Participants were given several quotes on the role of silence in memorialization and remembrance processes, which they discussed among themselves in smaller groups, after which followed a discussion in the larger group (for the quotations see below Annexes / part 3).

The morning part of the second day of the program, on September 19, dealt with the question of mass graves in Spain and started with a lecture on bottom-up memory initiatives in Spain at the local level during the transition to democracy (after Franco's death in 1975), delivered by Paloma Aguilar from the National Distance Education University (UNED) in Madrid. After Paloma Aguilar's lecture, Paco Ferrandiz from Spain's National Science Council (CSIC) delivered a lecture on the Valley of the Fallen, its history, current situation and the future. The program continued outside Madrid, with a visit to the Valley of the Fallen, guided by Paco Ferrandiz, who gave the group more information about this site on the spot (at the Valley), during the visit. *Valle de los Caídos* (The Valley of the Fallen) is the most important Francoist memory site, built in the 1950s nearby Madrid, where the remains from more than 30.000 mainly nationalist soldiers have been buried, and in 1975 also Franco himself was buried there. The existence of the Valley of the Fallen raises one of the main questions in Spain's current memorialization process: How to deal with Franco's legacy today, within a democratic society?

In the second part of the day, we continued to tackle the topic of how to deal with Francoist memory sites by visiting the town of Belchite. During a guided visit, we learned about the history of Belchite during and after the Spanish Civil War. The battle of Belchite in Autumn 1937 was part of the Republican Army's major offensive in Aragon against Franco's troops; the Republicans took the town after two weeks of heavy fighting which left the town totally destroyed and several thousands killed. After Franco's victory in 1939, the town was left destroyed, intended to be a reminder of the damage wrought by the forces of communism on Spain, and Franco ordered Republican prisoners to return to Belchite and to build a new town next to the ruins. The old town of Belchite remains a ghost town until today, with guided visits organized by the municipality. In the evening of the second day, we arrived by bus to Barcelona.

The third day, on September 20, in Barcelona, started with a feedback session: Participants discussed, in two groups, themes, sites and issues that were developed and visited during the first two days of the program, which had especially raised the question on how to deal with memory sites of a criminal regime. The day continued with a lecture by Vjieran Pavlaković from the University of Rijeka, Croatia, on history and memories of the International Brigades, with a special focus on the Yugoslav dimension, which was followed by a discussion. The second part of the third day was dedicated to the topic of how Barcelona is dealing with its past, and consisted of guided memory walks through Barcelona, in two parallel groups, with Oriol Lopez Badell from EUROM and Nick Lloyd, author of

the book “Forgotten places: Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War”. We visited various memory sites within the city linked to the history of the Spanish Republic, the Civil War and the period of Franco’s dictatorship. After the walk, the entire group visited La Model Prison, which served as a prison under the Second Republic, during the Francoist era, and also in democratic Spain until its closure in 2017; currently there are discussions about its future use, of example as a memorial. After the visit of the former La Model Prison, we had a presentation and discussion there with Jordi Guixé, director of EUROM, about the debates around this site and about the memory politics of the city of Barcelona more in general. An interesting event which also happened on this third day of the Memory Lab workshop in Barcelona were street protests organized by supporters of the referendum on Catalonia’s independence, which was to be held in Catalonia on October 1, 2017. Witnessing these current events triggered a lot of discussions among the participants of the workshop, for example on the question to what extent unresolved issues from Spain’s past reflect on the country’s present and future.

The fourth day of the program, on September 21, was dedicated to the topic of dealing with the history of refugees and exile. In the morning, we had a guided visit in the Memorial-Museum of Exile of La Jonquera (nearby the French border). It was inaugurated in 2008 and the main exhibition takes a visual and written journey to the border area of La Jonquera-El Portús (between Catalonia and France) in January and February 1939, a period that saw a huge exodus by supporters of the Spanish Republic in the face of the definitive occupation of Catalonia by Francoist troops. In the afternoon, we travelled to memorial site of Rivesaltes in France. The multi-layered and newly inaugurated Memorial of Rivesaltes also tackles the Spanish Civil War, as the site was used as a camp for Spanish Republican refugees in 1939 and 1940, following the “Retirada” (the exodus of about half a million refugees from Spain to France in early 1939) and the establishment of the Franco- dictatorship. We were welcomed there by Agnès Sajaloli and Elodie Montès from the Rivesaltes Memorial. The visit consisted of an individual exploration of the Memorial, with specific focus on the presentation of the refugees and exile from the Spanish Civil War. The day ended with travelling back to Barcelona.

The last day of the program started with a feedback-session on comparing the Memorials in La Jonquera and in Rivesaltes, which participants discussed in two groups. It continued with a working session about Memory Lab and discussing possible common activities of Memory Lab’s partners. In the afternoon, participants connected, during group work, the experiences of Spain to other European countries. Also, each group formulated two-three questions which they wanted to address later to Jordi Guixé from EUROM, and Mark Freeman from the Institute for Integrated Transitions, during a final joint discussion on the topic: “Is there a specific ‘Spanish model’ of (not) dealing with the past? Sharing comparative international examples and experiences”. The following questions were collected from group work and addressed by the two guests:

1. Can a society move on without dealing with issues from the past?
2. How much memory do we need; when is it “enough”?
3. Is transition to democracy possible without doing justice? Is it still accepted in Spain that justice has not been done?
4. How many people still support fascism / Franco regime in Spain?
5. To what extent is the Spanish Civil War used as an argument in the independence movement for Catalonia? Is the legacy of the Republicans appropriated by the independence movement ?
6. Do you have suggestions how to integrate the Spanish Civil War and the Franco regime in the educational system?
7. What is the current state of civil society in Spain regarding dealing with the past? Are civil society organizations spin-offs of political parties?

After this discussion, the program ended with a final plenary session consisting of an oral evaluation, conclusions, and perspectives of Memory Lab’s work.

In the days after the program, the organization team sent to the group the email-list of all participants, as well as additional reading material and recommendations related to the history of the Spanish Civil War and its legacies.

V. Evaluation by the participants

For the evaluation of the study trip/workshop, a questionnaire with five questions was sent to the participants via email after the program (*1. Your general opinion on the study trip/workshop (content, structure, organisation). 2. Please chose two moments/ places/ encounters/ sentences... from this week which you found particularly interesting, and explain why. 3. Concerning the question “Is there a specific ‘Spanish model’ of (not) dealing with the past?”, what are your reflections after this week? And to what extent do you think that experiences from Spain raise interesting questions for other post-war-societies? 4. From what you have done/seen/heard this week, what will be useful for your own work? 5. Suggestions/ideas/plans for the future concerning: a) Annual Memory Lab study trips/workshops (locations, content, ...), b) Memory Lab in general, c) Own activities with other partners from Memory Lab.*)

33 evaluation sheets were completed and sent back, and the main results can be summarized as follows:

1. The overall opinion about the Memory Lab-program in Spain is very positive. As positive are highlighted in particular the following four dimensions: the organization, the program, the transmitted content related to the Spanish Civil War and its legacies, and the diversity of the group and the

exchanges within this group (see point 2 below). Within the program, a lot of different aspects were seen as particularly interesting by the participants, with a special mention of the visit to the “Valley of the Fallen” (see point 3 below). It can be stated that the confrontation with the Spanish experience triggered a lot of stimulating reflections and questions among the participants, also regarding other post-war societies in Europe (see point 4 below). Nearly all participants also emphasized that this year’s study trip/workshop would be useful for their own work, emphasizing, for example, new insights regarding memory culture in general or the Spanish case in particular, concrete methods which can be applied in their own work, or new contacts (see point 5 below). There are also critical points mentioned in the evaluations regarding some specific aspects of the program, but none of them is dominating, and none of the specific critical aspects is mentioned by more than four respondents (see point 6 below). For the destinations of the future annual Memory Lab study trips/workshops, different suggestions have been formulated, Albania being mentioned by nearly one third of the respondents (see point 7 below). Other suggestions were formulated concerning the future of Memory Lab more in general: while many insist to keep the concept as it is, others also formulate suggestions how to develop the platform further (see point 8 below). Finally, more than two thirds of the respondents mentioned their own activities they would like to implement – or are already organizing - with other partners of Memory Lab (see point 9 below).

2. Four dimensions of this year’s study trip/workshop have been highlighted as particularly positive by the participants in their evaluations: the overall organization, the concept and structure of the program, the transmitted content about the Spanish Civil War, and the diversity of and the exchanges within the group of participants - and often several of these aspects or all of them together were mentioned within one answer. Concerning the organization, it was highlighted as very successful, even more as the program had been quite demanding, especially with the different trips within the program (“*Organisation was at high level.*” - “*The program was rich and well balanced, with a good time-management which within 5 days combined two main places quite distant to each other.*”), and sometimes also more specific aspects of the organization were mentioned, as the information material on the Spanish Civil War which had been sent by the organization team to the participants prior to the program (“*I appreciated particularly the reading material, which gave a very important introduction to the history of Spanish Civil War and helped to frame the discussions during the workshops.*”) - Concerning the program, the well-thought overall concept and the good balance between the different parts of the program were emphasized (“*The workshop was conceptualized very well!*” - “*This visit to Spain offered an excellent mixture of lectures, workshops and visits to memorials and museums.*” - “*A well-balanced mix of presentations/excursions/workshops and enough time for discussions in little*

groups”), as well as the choice of the visited places and of the speakers (*“Everything that we have seen was worth seeing and it is obvious that the memory spots were selected with great attention.” - “The speakers in Madrid and in Barcelona were very good and their lectures illuminated the background in detail.” - “The lectures were precise and interesting, especially those of Oriol, Paloma and Paco.”*) Thirdly, a lot of participants insisted that the choice of Spain had been an excellent idea, and that it provided them with a lot of new knowledge and food for thought. (*“Having in mind that Spain is very specific case when it comes to dealing with the past, I believe that it was of extreme importance to organize program there.” - “I learned a lot, because I didn’t know much about Spain before, and because Spain is such a particular case in the dealing-with-the-past-history of contemporary Europe, and this allowed to raise and discuss a lot of interesting and stimulating questions.” - “I have learned a lot of very interesting aspects about Spanish Francoist regime but also about the political and academic difficulties to deal with the hot issue.”*) Finally, several persons underlined that they appreciated particularly the diversity within the group, the possibility to make acquaintance with new colleagues, and the exchanges within the group, be it in more formal or in more informal moments. (*“On the „human level“, I very much enjoyed the constitution of the group, constantly switching languages and geographical/historical backgrounds.” - “I did not participate in many study trips, but I feel like highlighting the fact it’s the first time I’ve been experiencing so much interaction between the participants throughout the week ; there was a great space arranged to be able to exchange experiences and elaborate collective reflection about different subjects : that I found a particularly challenging, enriching and valuable experience.”*) All together, the very positive impression about this year’s workshop/study trip can be found among the new participants (*“I do feel urge to point out really excellent organisation. This was my first Memory Lab study trip, so I can’t make comparison to previous programmes, which does not undermine the spotless organisation from the very beginning, even before arriving to Spain.” - “It was my first time attending the Memory Lab. (...) I would not have expected to have that many starting points and different aspects for discussions concerning other European (and global) post-war-societies and their dealing with the past/ memorialization of crimes.”*), as well as among those who have participated several times already (*“As in the previous years of the Memory Lab study trips, this year’s visit in Spain was very well-thought out and organized.” - “Maybe one of the best Memory Labs, and I participated in 7 of them, so I know what I am writing.”*).

3. When looking at the answers to the question “Please chose two moments/ places/ encounters/ sentences... from this week which will probably stay in your memory”, a lot of different sites, encounters and moments were mentioned by the participants, from all days of the program, what

confirms that the entire week was considered as interesting by the participants. Nevertheless, one moment stands out from all others: the visit of the “Valley of the Fallen”, mentioned by 25 of the 33 respondents, which means by more than two thirds of participants. (*“The ‘Valley of the Fallen’ was remarkable in many ways - whether when it comes to its massive structure or the fact that you cannot find any context of its formation, meaning or ideas of dealing with this difficult heritage on site. For me it raised again the question of how to handle fascist heritage in an ‘appropriate’ way – realizing myself how impressive places and buildings (‘stone’) can be.” - “The Valley of the Fallen: An amazing place in every possible way. This is exactly why Memory Lab is such an important thing for me – it allows us to see places that are often part of the “hidden” history and places that we would maybe miss in another context.” - “Valley of the Fallen is definitely a must-see memory site for anyone interested in memory related issues (...). It triggered so many questions related to what to do with contested memorials, what the role of the state and other memory agents is in it and so many more.”*) One factor which undoubtedly contributed to this choice was the fact that the visit was made in presence of Paco Ferrandiz, who is explicitly mentioned in 8 answers which relate to the Valley of the Fallen. (*“The narrative behind it is also fascinating and I like the fact that Paco Ferrandiz visited it with us so we could have asked him on the spot everything we wanted to know.” - “Visit to the Valley of the Fallen, mostly because of scaring monumentality of the place, but even more because of the amazing presentation by Paco Ferrandiz who revealed (unmasked) facts about the place and intentions of those who built the monument.”*) Besides the Valley of the Fallen, there are several other program items which qualified as particularly interesting by at least one quarter of all respondents. First, these are two other sites, on the one hand Rivesaltes (*“Rivesaltes: the way in which this memorial analyses two central concepts (undesired elements and camps) through film, footage, images, testimonies and more was an example to me. Their discrete but clear call to action is very convincing.” - “This memorial does a very good job at connecting different periods in time and tells several important stories in French and European history. Something that you do not see very often in memorials.”*), and on the other hand the visit to the ghost-town of Belchite (*“Belchite: a moving but weird place with a very unclear narrative.” - “One felt that the space was not staged and this is exactly what makes the strength of this site.”*). Secondly, several moments of exchange with other participants during formal or informal parts of the program are named (*“Important (...) were all the possibilities to exchange with the other participants. Without that it would not have been possible for me to reflect and think of all that we have seen, as I did together with others.” - “Besides all the visits and lectures I found particularly important the different moments of group work and feedback-sessions, because they allowed to digest what we had seen and heard, and to share and confront our different personal perceptions, opinions and experiences.” - “The working group on the role of*

*memory and silence in the transition to democracy and peace: the chosen sentences were very inspiring.”). Thirdly, in one way or another, the street demonstrations in Barcelona around the Catalan independence movement are mentioned, which could of course not be foreseen when the program was planned, but which provided a lot of food for thought for our program. (“*Joining the manifestation on the streets of Barcelona on the first night after the arrest of 13 representants of the Catalanian government was „history pure“. We were dealing with the story of the civil war, had just visited historical places of the war and here we were, in the middle of a (peaceful) mass of people going on the street to defend their rights, chanting „no pasaran“, singing „bella ciao“.*” - “*I particularly liked how contemporary events unfolding- the Catalan referendum and the prequel demonstrations- were weaved in our discussions about memory in Spain but also personal reflections of participants from ex-Yugoslavia. It was a fantastic experience, chilling, emotional and profound.*”) Fourthly, one quarter of the respondents mention explicitly as particular interesting some of our speakers and guides (besides Paco Ferrandiz, see above): the introduction on the Spanish Civil War by Gareth Stockey (“*I have learnt a lot about Spanish history. His presentation was clear, full of information and really entertaining*”), the guided Barcelona-tour with Nick Lloyd (“*Nick’s tour was informative and passionate, an excellent mix of an academic knowledge and knowledge acquired from other, various sources*”), the presentation about International Brigades by Vjieran Pavlakovic (“*Specific and well-structured overview*”), and the presentation about memory politics in Madrid by Txema Urkijo. Other moments were also mentioned by participants, which cannot all be listed here, and as one participant formulated: “*In general I have to say that it is not an easy choice to emphasize only two moments, encounters or sites – it was a very rich week and I am happy about the program.*”*

4. In the evaluation sheet we asked more specifically the participants about their reflections and ideas, after this week, regarding the question “Is there a specific ‘Spanish model’ of (not) dealing with the past?”, and to what extent they think that experiences from Spain are raising interesting questions for other post-war-societies. To this complex question there have been a lot of different answers which can be summarized here only in a very rudimentary form. Some respondents had issues with the term “model” (“*I’ve been struggling all along with the notion of ‘Spanish model’. Then can you really speak from a ‘Spanish model’, a ‘French model’, a ‘German model’ ?*” - “*I don’t believe in models, only in good and bad experiences.*”), others insisted on necessary differentiations within Spain, between the state level and the local level, or between different parts of the country (“*For me, the biggest impression was the big gap between different regional memories, and if something is specific about Spanish case, this is it.*”). Nevertheless, a majority of the respondents emphasized that in their opinion there is undoubtedly a specific way in which Spain has - not - dealt with its past after the end

of the Franco-dictatorship and during its transition to democracy, illustrated by the “agreed silence” (between government and opposition) about the past on the political level, and by the total impunity for crimes committed during the Franco-era. (“*It is terminology issue, whether to use term ‘Spanish model’, ‘Spanish case’, or something else. In any case, there are some specifics that may be found in Spain.*” - “*I think there is a Spanish model of amnesty and amnesia, prioritizing democratization over memory.*” - “*The silence and amnesia are not just characteristic of the Spanish society, but what is specific is that silence about past atrocities prevented bloodshed, unlike for example in the former Yugoslavia, although the past seems to be coming back to haunt Spain.*” - “*I think there is Spanish model of (not) dealing with the past, and it is exactly that – not dealing with the past. For sake of peace and democracy there is a pact of silence.*”) At the same time this “being specific” also needs to be relativized: Some respondents insist that each country has a specific way of dealing with the past (“*It seems that all countries have their specific model of dealing or not dealing with the past. Spain is no exception.*”) and others underline that parallels can nevertheless be found between Spain and other post-war societies. (“*Yet this approach on amnesty and amnesia and almost Stunde Null is by no means an exclusive Spanish approach: with a few exceptions such as Czechoslovakia and its famous lustration and to some extent the agglutinated DDR, most Eastern European societies had similar approaches on their socialist past in the 1990s.*”) What is obvious for many respondents is that the Spanish case raises very stimulating questions also for other post-war societies. (“*Does the ‘Spanish experience’ raise interesting questions for other post-war societies? Indeed it does, as it seems to contradict the dominating transitional-justice-theories about the importance of actively dealing with the past for the development of democracy in a post-war/post-dictatorship-society. Spain has developed into a democracy in the decades after 1975 – despite and/or because the ‘pact of silence’? For other post-war-societies one might ask: Is there sometimes too much memory? Under which circumstances can silence be beneficial for the development of peace and democracy? Which balance to find between silence and memory?*”- “*The questions that Spain - and other similar situations - raise are whether an approach focused first on building strong institutions of democracy and economy in name of a societal consensus and only later prone to open up questions about the past makes sense more than an immediate concern for truth and justice at all levels of society. One argument in favour could be that time- and a relative sense of stability- could be perhaps more constructive for deeper dialogue afterwards rather than starting immediately with a deep societal self-inquiry, and with understandable feelings of anger which are directed in punishment and retaliation.*”) - Does that mean that the Spanish “pact of silence” is seen as something positive by the respondents? Many are very critical or sceptical about it, partially for moral reasons (“*I am convinced that this model resp. its actual practice and execution is not compatible with international standards and regulations*

regarding human rights.”), while others estimate that the grassroots-movement which has led to an awakening of historical memories in Spain in the last 20 years, or also the current crisis in Catalonia, clearly illustrate the socio-political limits of the “pact of silence” (“Spanish model shows that regardless the official agreement on silence about the past, social memory cannot be so easily suppressed and that it appears in the current society in variety of forms.“ - ”The current events demonstrate that it is impossible to just keep your mouth shut, forget and move on. Memory work is essential for healing and reconciliation. Otherwise, the traumatizations of the past will take revenge on society.”)

5. In which sense did the participants see their participation in this year’s program as useful for their own work? The overwhelming majority of the respondents estimates that this week has been useful for their work in one way or the other, as only two out of 33 persons did not answer this question. At the same time the range of the given answers is very wide, what reflects also the diversity of the professional profiles and biographical backgrounds within the group. We can on the one hand find very general answers, which mostly express that the participants through this week gained new insights, knowledge, awareness, perspectives or questions about memory work in general, without specifying in more detail how they would use them in their work. (*“In my work I am constantly dealing with memory and how to mediate different cultures of remembrance (and changes in memory over time) showing how construction of memory works. Learning of new perspectives was very interesting. Getting to know representatives of memory work in many different countries, listening to their experiences and discussing the importance of remembrance was really important.” - “What I have heard about the Spanish way of (not) dealing with recent past (...) gives a new perspective to remembrance policies. Oblivion can sometimes be a serious option when it comes to getting out of a vicious circle of renewed hatred between people or parts of population.” - “Based on the Spanish model of (non) dealing with the past, now I can better understand processes in my country.” - “What first came to my mind is the fact the type of learning and questioning objectives offered by this workshop invited me to open my mind and curiosity to the complexity of issues (in the past and present) by stepping beyond my usual field of work.”*). On the other hand, we have more specific answers which provide a more concrete idea about the possible impact of this week on the work of the participants. Among concrete examples why participants have seen this week as useful are :

- Networking / making acquaintance of new colleagues (*“I established and revived/refreshed contacts with some participants.” - “Connections with academics/researchers...”*)
- New knowledge about Spain, the Spanish Civil War and its legacies / comparative approach with the countries of the participants which give also ideas for memorialization processes in these countries

(“Comparative work on exhumations will certainly be something I will continue to explore, especially after discussions with Paco Ferrandiz.”; “The experience presented by several actors involved in different projects on dealing with the Spanish civil war and its legacy are the most useful and will certainly help me in how I will deal with similar topics in my country.”)

- Learning of approaches regarding exhibitions, group work, etc. which participants would like to apply in their own work *(“The conception of these exhibitions [in La Jonquera and Rivesaltes as well as La Model-Prison] (selection of pictures, for example) and the way of mediation to different groups of visitors were showing interesting (and also controversial) ways of approaching people, particularly young people. I will take this back to work with me.” - “By visiting several museums and memorials I have gained new information and knowledge about different museum-exhibition practices.”)*

- New ideas for own workshop-activities and for programs with other partners *(“Since we have a couple of exchange programmes with our partners from Spain, the knowledge I gained during this trip will be crucial for development of these programmes in the future.” - “This study trip was also a very important source of knowledge and learning in the way I will adapt my way of working with Spanish/Catalan groups in the Memorial. I will definitely start thinking about workshops that take a lot more into account their background and offer a more fine-grained reflection on the problematics they have faced/will face.”)*

- Inputs and incentives for own research *(“I plan to do some research about forced migrations and museums and about how forced migrations are presented and exhibited in different museums in Europe, so that visits to La Jonquera and Rivesaltes and everything I have seen there will be useful for this research.” - “The case of Spanish Civil War and legacies of Francosim in Spanish History Education might become a research topic in my PhD or other research.”)*

- Inputs and incentives for own teaching *(“The sites we visited all illustrate the challenges in this case study and are fantastic as data to bring to my teaching, to the syllabus and the readings I have done in the past.”)*

- Stimulation for new lectures *(“After the trip I have bought several books and movies about the Spanish Civil War and its legacies, what will help me to go deeper into the topic.” - “The texts you provided also opened for me a whole new spectrum of literature.”)*

- Publication of journalistic articles and interviews *(“Two published stories from Spain.” - “I have already given 2 interviews (index.hr and Jutarnji list) based on my experience in Spain during the workshop.”)*

- Transmitting of the acquired knowledge/insights to own colleagues *(“Just as last year, I came back from this week with more knowledge and with a lot of new insights on what memory work*

(‘remembrance education’ as we call it in Belgium) should be. I share those insights with my colleagues, our guides and the partners in our Flemish network on Remembrance Education.”)

Some participants also underlined how “everything” in this week had been useful for their work: *“Everything. How to work in groups, how to learn from group work, new interesting lectures to read more about. We do have a collection about International Brigades and I do think that we have to revisit all the collections from ex-Yugoslav museums connected to the topic.” - “Everything! The historical places we discovered (and the discussions we had around their current configuration), the presentations we heard (with interdisciplinary approaches), the discussions I had with so many inspiring persons, the new contacts it generated. If there was only reason for wishing the Memory Lab a long life, this is it: offering such an inspiring platform and a fruitful networking.”*

6. Some critical points were also raised in the evaluations, which concerned not the program in general, but specific aspects of it. Most of the time these issues were raised only by one person (for example one participant would have wished more lectures, and another more work in small groups, while another participant estimated that the time-frame was too loaded). Only three points were mentioned by more than one person: on the one hand, four different persons estimated that the guided visit of the Madrid University Campus had been too long or not focused enough (*“Only one remark – the visit of the Madrid campus might have been shorter”*) ; on the other hand three persons expressed scepticism regarding the final panel discussion (*“The only moment I wished would have been organized differently was the very last panel : the two contributors had to deal with a huge list of questions. There was no real place/space for dialogue.”*) ; and finally two persons regretted that the guided tour by Nick Lloyd in Barcelona had been too short. But none of these aspects are dominating within one evaluation, and the low percentage of critical remarks in relation to the total number of respondents seems to confirm the very positive evaluation of the program in general and regarding its specific parts.

7. What should be future destinations for Memory Lab’s annual study trips / workshops, and especially for the next one, which in any case should again take place in South Eastern Europe ? Albania was named the most often, by 11 respondents (*“In South Eastern Europe for the next time, one very interesting location would certainly be Albania, because it has a specific history in comparison to socialist Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe in general during the communist period.” - “An interesting location for consideration would be Albania, due to the fact that very little attention has been paid to its model of “not dealing” with the communist past. Only in the last five years or less has the leftist government attempted to establish its first museums and memorial sites. And, due to the fact that the*

country is still in its first steps of initiating a proper state-driven politics of remembering its communist past, Memory Lab could provide for a very fruitful platform where ideas and reflections over Albania's politics of memory and remembrance could spring off and make it to concrete projects with both state and non-state actors.”). Next followed the Slovenian-Italian border region, partially also including the border region of Croatia (6x) (“A great choice could be the Italian-Slovenian-Croatian borderlands, as it would be a perfect illustration of Memory Lab’s ambition to be Trans-European and to connect South Eastern Europe and Western Europe”), then Greece (5x) (“The history of Greek civil war is strongly connected with the history of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania. It involves more countries and still today represents a problem inside Greece and in neighboring countries.”), and Romania (5x) (“While it has many similarities with ex-Yugoslavia (...) it is not usually included in such discussions, due to divergence from 1948 in both communist experience as well as the 1990s. (...) Nevertheless, I think it would be an interesting parallel to make both for the other Southeast Europe participants, as well as for Western Europeans, to include a country that faces memory struggles with two distinctive and clashing systems : fascism and antisemitism (...) and the legacy of a heavy communist dictatorships”). Croatia (3x), Slovenia (3x), Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary and Poland (2x) were also mentioned more than once.³

8. Regarding suggestions concerning the future of Memory Lab in general, we can find three types of answers, which are approximately evenly distributed within the group: one third of the respondents didn’t answer this question, one third emphasized the importance to continue Memory Lab as it is (“The transeuropean and the interdisciplinary approaches and group mixing are fantastic!” - “I really believe that Memory Lab is the best concept of the program that I attended so far, so it should continue organizing annual study visits with the same format, since each time everyone (both participants and organizers) benefit a lot from it.” - “I never enjoyed more and people are amazing. Keep doing it, you really are enriching our lives.” - “Since this is my favourite programme of this kind, I would like very much for the tradition of annual study trip to continue.”), and one third formulated suggestions how to develop Memory Lab in the future. Among the latter, we can find the following concrete suggestions :

- To focus, during the annual study trips/workshops, more on the concrete work and projects which the participants of Memory Lab are realizing (“In my point of view, for the future, it would be important to stay close to some concrete questions or challenges that the participants bring with them (i.e. people working in the museums, or peace activists), in order to keep a strong sense to our work. I fear a bit

³ Additionally were mentioned once : Portugal, Northern Europe, Algeria, Chile, South Africa, Rwanda, Greek-Macedonian border region, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, Northern Ireland, Austria, Ukraine, Czech Republic , « border region » (without specification).

that we might lose some specificity or sharpness because we rely less on concrete projects and that we are more and more going into general debate where academics would have more to say than practitioners.”)

- To focus more specifically on pedagogical activities, approaches and challenges in the field of memorialization (*“Having more time dealing with questions on mediation of history and memory to young people and educational methods”*)

- To strengthen even more the diversity of the group (*“I would make one suggestion: what about enlarging our group to people working on the questions of the representation of the violent past with other tools (photographers, performers, artists from companies...)”*.)

- To disseminate more the Memory Lab-experiences (*“In my opinion, it would be interesting to share our experience in a way or another in order to spread some of the reflections and to show the interest of this experience. It could be a book with pictures, or some other way to invent.” - “Memory Lab as an experienced body for the discussion of basic principles for commemoration in Europe. Memory Lab should prepare and produce a report on this topic which should be discussed step by step and should be presented to some European institutions after all.”*)

- To ensure a stronger follow-up of the annual study trips / workshops (*“It crossed my mind, at one point, although I’m not sure if it is possible, to use the knowledge within the group and organise some on-line courses about topics selected by participants as priorities. Knowledgeable people and experts within the group could be paid to prepare 2-3 on-line courses, and courses could be designed as follow-up of certain study trips.”*)

- To organize, besides the annual study trip/workshop, more additional, smaller-size Memory Lab-activities, in the continuity of the Memory Lab-workshop at the History Museum in BiH in Sarajevo in June 2017 which was perceived very positively, and like this also involve more participants in the organization of Memory Lab-events (*“I particularly liked the activity organized by History Museum BiH this June and think that more similar activities, at which Memory Lab partners would be invited to participate, should be organized. For me, this is the purpose of Memory Lab – to create a network of experts who could ‘borrow’ their expertise for a concrete cause (in this case, rethinking of the Sarajevo siege exhibition). I also like the idea that new persons (not just the ‘old’ organization team) take initiative and organize similar events under the Memory Lab umbrella.” - “Maybe we should focus on activities that may be organised by two or more partners within the Memory Lab network, under the name of Memory Lab, and with the support of coordination/organisation team.” - “It is necessary to keep the tradition of gathering during one calendar year. Maybe include some other interested people in the organisation, and redistribute obligations regarding organisation of future*

workshops. Initiate cooperation between the participants through organisation of smaller-size events at different locations (this has been already happening, but it should be registered as a part of the Memory Lab programme), and encourage new forms of cooperation amongst the participants (in Belgrade we had additional time for this during the workshop, and it was very useful)."

- To work more in border-regions, which would allow even more to connect and compare memorialization-experiences from different countries (*"Although quite demanding (organizationally and for the participants), I loved the fact that we were able to cross the borders and follow the story of asylum seekers in Spanish Civil War through Spain and France. I would love to be able to have these kinds of thematic wholes that would connect different countries and allow us to clearly put the local/national history in the context of other events."*)

Several persons also suggested that it would be useful to engage in a more general reflection about the future development of Memory Lab. (*"I think we have reached a point at which we need to re-think the purpose, structure and aims of Memory Lab. Although each year we visit a new country and each is an interesting case study in itself, the annual gatherings are becoming a little repetitive (in terms of structure) and there are not really follow-ups to the annual event. We should somehow find a way to keep Memory Lab alive, but to refresh it with new ideas, topics and maybe even a new form of activities."* - *"I think it would be worth to rethink the structure and methodology and even the entire concept of the annual trips – sure, Memory lab has proven to be attractive and stimulating, but this should not prevent us to think about possible new paths, in order to avoid routinisation."* - *"I know Memory Lab has been created as a platform. Nevertheless, Memory Lab through all its study trips and workshops has developed in a way a unique perspective and approach. It might be interesting to think about what the group could make with this. Even though I think Memory Lab should stay a platform because it is a wonderful place of exchange, it might be interesting to think about what else it could become after all these years."*) Such a more general reflection could for example take place during a specific strategy-planning-meeting in the coming year. (*"In 2018, it would be good to make big strategy planning with clearly defined goals for the future."*)

9. One of the aims of the Memory Lab platform is to provide the space for its participants to get ideas for own activities with other partners of Memory Lab. Regarding such activities, more than two third of the respondents mentioned that they are organizing or planning activities with other members of Memory Lab, or at least wishing to do so. The answers are here partially very concrete, partially pretty vague, they concern partially activities which are ongoing (*"Study trip with a Belgian group to Bosnia which will take place in November"*), and partially ideas for one, two or even more future cooperation-activities (*"I came back from Spain with 3 concrete projects."*). The concrete ideas can be found in the

detailed answers of the evaluation (separate pdf-document). It will be interesting to see at the end of 2018 what are the ideas which will have been implemented.

VI. Conclusions and perspectives

The program in Spain can be considered as another successful edition of the annual Memory Lab study trip/workshop, and it can be stated that the goals defined before the program have been met. The successful implementation of the program could be ensured despite the fact that it had been more difficult this year to gather enough funding. The only question mark which currently remains [January 2018] is that, because of the conflict between the Catalan government and the central Spanish government, which escalated just during our program took place and which is still ongoing, the financial support foreseen by the Catalan government for our program is still blocked, but we hope that this problem will soon be resolved.

Regarding Memory Lab in general, an innovation in 2017 was an additional activity organized during the year (in June 2017), which was developed by Memory Lab partners. Over the years, participants mentioned in the evaluations that they would like to see – additionally to the annual study trip/workshop and the decentralized joint activities organized mostly by two or three partners - some other activities under the label “Memory Lab” taking place throughout the year. Therefore the Memory Lab Coordination Team had decided to give participants a chance to develop themselves such an additional activity, for which a small budget was created. The Memory Lab coordination team opened a call for proposals for interested participants for this additional activity. The call was opened in December 2016 and 4 project proposals were submitted to the call. During the preparatory meeting in February 2017 in Sarajevo the coordination team made the selection of the proposal which reflected the best the trans-European character of Memory Lab. The selected proposal was a two-day workshop organized by History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo in June 2017 with the title ““Wake up Europe, Sarajevo Calling” - Connecting Local History and International Perspectives”. The workshop brought together the team of the History Museum of BiH and curators, historians and educators from the Western Balkans and the European Union, with the aim to work on the current 'Besieged Sarajevo' exhibition and to elaborate concrete recommendations for its further development. By connecting experts from the local, regional and international level, with their respective know-how, experiences and perspectives, the workshop also tackled the question how the history and the memories of the siege of Sarajevo can be embedded in the European/international context. It was organized in cooperation with the *Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft* and *crossborder factory*.⁴

⁴ More information about this workshop can be found on <http://www.memorylab-europe.eu/activities>

Memory Lab will hopefully continue with its successful work in the coming years and see the growth of our platform not only in terms of the number of members/ participants, but also in terms of developed and implemented joint activities, future cooperation projects, and shared knowledge and experiences, also through our website www.memorylab-europe.eu. Memory Lab is not a formal organization, but an informal platform gathering different individuals and organizations, and the future of the initiative will very much depend of the commitment of these organizations and individuals on the one hand, and on the continuous support by dedicated donors on the other hand.

What are the concrete plans for 2018 and 2019? After eight annual workshops/study trips in a row and more of 50 joint activities implemented by different organizations which met through Memory Lab, it seems as a good moment, in continuity of the evaluation-workshop realized in Belgrade in 2016, to reflect more deeply in which direction Memory Lab wants to go in the future. Therefore it is foreseen to organize, probably in the fall of 2018 in Albania, a meeting of the coordination team and several other interested Memory Lab partners, in order to work more systematically on the future of Memory Lab. The same meeting could also be used to prepare the 9th annual study trip in 2019, which would take place in Albania. In the meantime, the coordination team of Memory Lab will also think about other activities and possibilities to provide in a more visible and systematic way the label “Memory Lab” to joint projects which will be organized in a decentralized way by different partners in 2018.

At the end of this report let us quote three more extracts from the evaluations of the 2017-Memory Lab-workshop/study trip, as they underline the value of this platform and the importance for many persons participating in it:

“Memory Lab is a great opportunity to take in a lot of knowledge and experience in a very short time. It allows me to dig into different topics using the best local professionals and always shows elements of the history that would stay pretty much inaccessible in other ways. Being able to spend time with memory professionals from different countries willing to discuss and open important topics was an invaluable experience for me.”

“The concept is extraordinary both in terms of content and methodology. At the price of sounding pathetic I have to say that Memory Lab helped me to regain trust in history, methods and objectives of historic studies, because experiences at the local level are catastrophic, with only couple of exemptions.”

“The Memory Lab is the best opportunity I’ve got in area of building of a memorialisation culture, the way it was created and the connections and relations we established are invaluable. It is important that we all invest effort to maintain the platform in distant future.”

VII. Annexes

1. The organization team 2017:

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General contact: memorylab.2017@gmail.com

Websites and social networks:

www.memorylab-europe.eu

<http://europeanmemories.net/activities/spanish-model-not-dealing-past/>

Facebook: @memorylabeu

Twitter: #MemoryLab2017

2. Program “Memory Lab” 2017

Sunday, September 17, 2017:

Arrival of the participants in Madrid

Accommodation in Madrid :

Hotel Infanta Mercedes, C/ Huesca 21, 28020 Madrid

<http://www.hotelinfantamercedes.es/en/>

19.45 : Meeting in the hotel lobby

20.00 Welcome dinner

Monday, September 18, 2017:

9.00: Introduction/ Presentation of participants / Interactive exercise "Dancing Chairs"

10.45-11.00: Break

11.00: **Basic introductions**

- History of Spain in the 20th century, with special focus on the Civil War : Gareth Stockey, University of Nottingham

- (Not) Dealing with the Civil War from the Franco-era until today - continuities and evolutions: Oriol Lopez-Badell, EUROM

- Memory politics in Madrid : Txema Urkijo, in charge of remembrance policies at the city of Madrid

13.15: Common lunch in the hotel

15.00: Visit of memory sites related to the Civil War and the Franco-era at the Madrid University Campus, with José Luis González, Carolina Rodríguez López and Jara Muñoz Hernández

16.30-17.00: Break

17.00-19h.00: **The role of memory and silence in the transition to democracy and peace**

Group work

20.30: Common dinner at El Cabanon, <https://www.lafourchette.com/restaurant/el-cabanon/309301>

Tuesday, September 19, 2017:

9.00-10.30: **The question of mass graves in Spain**

- Before the ‘forensic turn’. Bottom-up memory initiatives in Spain at the local level: Paloma Aguilar, National Distance Education University (UNED), Madrid

- The Valley of the Fallen : History, current situation and future : Paco Ferrandiz, Spain’s National Science Council (CSIC)

Presentations and discussion

10.45: Travel to the Valley of the Fallen

How to deal with Francoist memory sites (1)?

11.30: Visit of the Valley of the Fallen, with Paco Ferrandiz

13.30: Travelling to Belchite / Lunch bags

How to deal with Francoist memory sites (2)?

19.00: Guided visit of Belchite: History and role of the battle, and history, current situation and future of the site

20.30: Continuation of the travel to Barcelona / Lunch bags

Arrival to Barcelona approx. 23.30

Accommodation in Barcelona:

Hall of Residence Campus del Mar, Salvat Papasseit 4, 08003 Barcelona,

<https://www.resa.es/en/residences/barcelona/residence-hall-campus-del-mar/residence/>

Wednesday, September 20, 2017:

9.30 : Transfer to El Born Cultural and Memorial Centar

10.00-11.15: Feedback session: How to deal with memory sites of a criminal regime ?

11.15-12.15: **History and memories of the International Brigades**, with a special focus on the Yugoslav dimension : Presentation by Vjeran Pavlakovic, University of Rijeka, followed by discussion

12.15-13.30: Common Lunch in El Born Cultural and Memorial Centar

How is Barcelona dealing with its past?

14.00: Guided memory walks through Barcelona, in two parallel groups, with Oriol Lopez Badell and Nick Lloyd

16.00: Coffee break

16.30-18.00: Visit of the La Model Prison, site of Francoist repression which is about to be transformed into a Memorial

18.00-19.00 : Presentation and discussion of the memory politics of the Barcelona City Council, with Jordi Guixé, director of EUROM

Free evening

Thursday, September 21, 2017:

Dealing with the history of refugees and exile

9.00: Travel to La Jonquera

11.00-13.00: Exile Memorial Museum in La Jonquera : Guided visit and individual exploration

13.00: Common Lunch in the Museum

14.30: Travel to Rivesaltes (France)

Memorial Site of Rivesaltes :

15.30-16.00: Introduction to the Memorial of Rivesaltes, by Agnès Sajaloli and Elodie Montès, Rivesaltes Memorial

16.00-17.30: Individual exploration, with specific focus on the presentation of the refugees and exile from the Spanish Civil War

18.00: Travel back to Barcelona

20.30: Arrival to Barcelona

21.00: Common Dinner in Madrid

Friday, September 22, 2017:

9.00 : Transfer to El Born Cultural and Memorial Centar

9.30-10.30: Feedback-session about the visits in in La Jonquera and Rivesaltes

10.30-10.45: Break

10.45-12.30: Working session about **Memory Lab and common activities**

12.30-14.30: Common Lunch in El Born Cultural and Memorial Centar, in presence of Manel Vila, Director of the Department for Cooperation and Development of the Government of Catalonia

14.30-16.00: Connecting the experiences of Spain to other European countries: group work

16.00-16.30: Break

16.30-18.00: **Is there a specific ‘Spanish model’ of (not) dealing with the past? Sharing comparative international examples and experiences** : Presentation of the group work and discussion with Jordi Guixé, EUROM, and Mark Freeman, Institute for Integrated Transitions

18.30-19.30: Final plenary - Evaluation, conclusions, perspectives

21.00: Common dinner in Restaurant *Ascent* (<http://www.restaurantascent.com/>)

Saturday, September 23, 2017: Departure of participants

3. Quotations about the role of silence, forgetting and remembering / Group work Memory Lab 2017

Part 1: Don't forget to forget? General quotations about the role of silence, forgetting and remembering for societies and individuals

- „Silence is the basis of all remembrance, because something can only be remembered when something else is not told.“ (Martin W. Schnell)
- „There is no remembering without forgetting“
- „The secret of redemption lies in remembrance. Seeking to forget makes exile all the longer.“ (Baal Shem Tov)
- „Memories beautify life, but the capacity to forget makes life bearable“ (Honoré de Balzac)
- „We hear ‚You have to remember‘, remembering is seen as an imperative. But what is positive about remembering? To remember and to forget are human characteristics, which are neither good or bad, but which are both part of our attempts to master our lives.“ (Jan Philipp Reemtsma)
- „Today, and for quite some time, the dominant view among decent people, good people, nice people, has basically reflected the words of the American philosopher George Santayana, who has said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The view is that it’s moral to remember the past, and if we don’t remember the past, as Santayana said, we’re going to repeat all its horrors. And by extension, or by implication, it’s immoral to forget. You have a kind of sacralization—a kind of memory of past horrors made sacred. On two grounds: one moral, that to forget is to do the most profound kind of injustice to those who suffered and those who died. And on the other hand an empirical claim, which is that if people remember, they’re less likely to either fall into the trap of these crimes, or be the victim of them. I don’t think the empirical claim is sustainable. I think you can make a more serious argument for the moral claim—I don’t dismiss that out of hand. But the empirical claim is rubbish, to be honest. I mean, the mass murder of the Jews of Europe in the 1940s did not prevent the near genocide in East Pakistan, or the country that became Bangladesh, in 1971. It didn’t prevent the Khmer Rouge from killing a million people in Cambodia; it didn’t prevent the Rwandan genocide in 1994.- Even more, there are examples—not a few, but quite a number of examples—where remembering, far from leading to truth, justice, and reconciliation, has led to more war. Three obvious examples of that are the Balkans in the 1990s, where I was a correspondent; Northern Ireland, for 30 years and, some people would say, for 800 years; and the Middle East. And in all three of those cases it seems to me that invoking history, invoking the wounds of the past, the crimes of the past, the conflict of the past, has led to more bloodshed. In these cases memory has been used as a weapon of war, and as a way of keeping grievance alive. There’s an old Irish joke that, in the darkest time in Northern Ireland, people said “This war’s going to go on forever, and even when everyone’s forgotten what it’s about, they’ll still remember the grudge.” - Sometimes we would be better off simply forgetting the grudge-filled chronicles and getting on with living our lives. I admire the suggestion of a Northern Irish writer that the next memorial to Irish history should be “raising a monument to Amnesia, and forgetting where we put it.” (David Rieff, author of „In praise of forgetting“)

Part 2: Quotations about the Transition after the death of Franco, the “pact of Silence” and the movement for recovery of the historical memory in Spain

→ "Spain's transition to democracy was an act of prudence after the deep wounds caused by the war and the dictatorship. We have dealt with the past little by little. Maybe we're tackling [some questions] a little late, but prudence has been the key to our peaceful transition." (Ramon Jauregui (PSOE), in an interview 2011)

→ “And what is Spain? A model for impunity. And for repressed memories. We grew up with the idea that the past is a personal and familial problem. My father told me something about my grandfather and said: “We do not talk about this outside our house”. I think the current “breaking open” of the memory has something therapeutic, because we lived in a sort of psychosis, a schizophrenia between what we were outside, and what we were at home. At home we lived our real identity: a family which had lost the war, from which everything what we had had been taken away, which was despised and tormented. Outside we were something else, a family, which normally carried out it’s work. What happened then [with the movement for recovery of the historical memory] was a sort of “balancing”, so that it became possible to be what we really are at home and outside.” (Emilio Silva, whose Republican grandfather was killed during the Civil War)

→ “The core of the debate in Spain is about the question if remembrance should be political or not. Concerning the “Transition”, historians are right when they say that there has been no forgetting. Everybody knew exactly what had happened. But the approach which was chosen was, as an historian expressed it, to “hand over the past to the forgetting”, the idea was to give no political signification to the past, in this sense the remembrance was privatized.” (Reyes Mate, philosopher, 2012)

→ „In our generation, those who were born in the 1940s, the memory of the civil war was omnipresent as the memory of the crusade, the memory of the winners. Nobody remembered the defeated. But from the 1950s on there have been also attempts to free the knowledge about the past, and also to bring together the divided memory. In the 1950s, people in opposition to Francoism, on the one hand persons coming from the dictatorship, on the other hand persons from the defeated, got into contact at the university, in the organisation *Comisiones Obreras*, where many Christians, Communists and Anarchists gathered. Alone the fact that persons from the winners sat together with persons from the defeated brought up a new version of history. I am calling this development the step from a memory of the war as a war of conquest and destruction, to a memory of the war as a war between brothers, as a civil war. Through this raised a new perception of the past, which was not any more determined by feelings of vengeance and retaliation, but by the idea of amnesty: the past has passed, and should not determine the future. Our generation knew what had happened, but decided that what had happened should have no influence on the future. So we tried to deal with the past in a way that it would not be an obstacle for the development of the future. I believe that it is exactly this memory which was activated during the Transition.“ (Santos Julia, historian, 2012)

→ „The illness of Spain is the illness of a very deep mourning which has never taken place. Real mourning existed only for families which had been fighting on the „right side“. To the others the right of mourning was refused. - The three words which come up the most often when those from the „defeated side“ today let speak their memory, are: *el miedo*, the fear, *el silencio*, the silence, *el disimulo*, the dissimulation.“ (Manolo Espina, psychoanalyst, 2005)

→ “Let us remember the victims, let us allow them to recover their rights, which they have not had, and let us cast into oblivion those who caused that tragedy in this country. That will be the best lesson. And let us do it together”. (Applause) (Prime Minister Zapatero 2008 in Spanish Parliament)

Quotations for the conclusion:

„Within a democracy what could be the task of an ethics of remembrance? To advocate that there is no one-sided or violent remembrance, that there is no one-sided or violent forgetting, that silence does not have the final say, that forgiving keeps alive the relation to the past.“ (Martin W. Schnell)

„I never want to forget what happened, but I dont want to always be remembering it“.(Quotation from a South Sudanese man reflecting on what he experienced during his country’s civil war. Quoted by Dean Peachey at the conference „Why remember“ in Sarajevo, July 2017)

4. Participants Memory Lab 2017

* = Member of the organization team

First and last name	Organization/Institution	Function	Town
Gruia Badescu	Centre for Advanced Studies-Southeastern Europe, University of Rijeka	Research fellow	Rijeka (HR)
Tamara Banjeglav*		Freelance researcher	Zagreb (HR)
Julie Biro		Documentary film-maker	Paris (F)
Ervin Blažević	Optimisti 2004 Kozarac	President	Prijedor (BiH)
Judith Brand*	Forum ZFD BiH	Program Manager	Sarajevo (BiH)
Griet Brosens	Belgium Nationals Institute for War veterans	Historian, in charge of educational remembrance-projects	Brussels (BL)
Branko Ćulibrk	Youth Centre KVART Prijedor	Project coordinaor	Prijedor (BiH)
Orli Fridman	Center for Comparative Conflict Studies (CFCCS), Faculty of Media and Communications	Associate professor	Belgrade (SR)
Lejla Gačanica	Faculty of Law, University of Mostar	Freelance researcher; PhD candidate	Sarajevo (BiH)
Miguel Adolfo Galindo Perez	University of Barcelona / EUROM	MA student	Barcelona (S)
Magdalena Geier	Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum Dachau	Educational assistant	Dachau (D)
Erla Gjinishi	Alter Habitus	Associate	Prishtina (KS)
Alain Gueraud	Altea-France		Limoges (F)
Elma Hašimbegović	Historical museum of BiH	Director	Sarajevo (BiH)
Rasim Ibrahimagić*	Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH	Program director	Sarajevo (BiH)
Rodoljub Jovanović	University of Amsterdam; EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators)	Tutor, researcher	Amsterdam (NL)

Jasmina Lazović	Faculty of Political Sciences Belgrade	MA student International Humanitarian Law	Belgrade (SRB)
Carine Leveque	ONAC National office for war veterans and war victims	Memory and Communication Coordinator	Montpellier (F)
Oriol Lopez Badell*	European Observatory on Memories (EUROM)	Coordinator	Barcelona (E)
Dea Marić	Department for History, Zagreb; Croatian Association of History Teachers	Teaching associate; president	Zagreb (HR)
Ružica Marjanović	Festival „Half way“	Programme editor and festival founder	Užice (SRB)
Maria Cristina Martinez Gomez	EUROM ; University of Barcelona / EUROM	MA student	Barcelona (E)
Alma Mašić*	Districte 11 – City to City	Project Coordinator	Barcelona (E)
Sven Milekić	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network	Jouranlist and researcher	Zagreb (HR)
Nicolas Moll*	Crossborder factory	Historian	Sarajevo (BiH) / Paris (F)
Elodie Montes	Memorial of Rivesaltes Camp	Relation with the visitors at the Rivesaltes Memorial	Salses-le- Château (F)
Frank Morawietz*	French-German Youth Office	Special coordinator for the activities of OFAJ in SEE	Berlin (D)
Mustafa Nikšić		Interpreter	Sarajevo (BiH)
Vjeran Pavlaković	Department for Cultural Studies, University of Rijeka	Associate professor	Rijeka (HR)
Ivo Pejaković	Jasenovac Memorial Centre	Director	Jasenovac (HR)
Edin Ramulić	Association of citizens of Prijedor 'Izvor'	Vice president	Prijedor (BiH)
Günter Schlusche	Berlin Wall Foundation	Architect, Planner	Berlin (D)

Kaja Širok	National Museum of Contemporary History	Director	Ljubljana (SLO)
Tamara Šmidling	Peace Academy Sarajevo	Activist and researcher	Sarajevo (BiH)
Aleksandra Stamenković	C31 – Centre for the development of childrens rights culture	Organization deputy-president	Belgrade (SR)
Petar Todorov	Institute of national history – Skopje; Center for Research of Nationalism and Culture – CRNC	Researcher	Skopje (MK)
Christel Trouvé	Denkort Bunker Valentin	Scientific director	Bremen (D)
Marjan Verplancke	Kazerne Dossin, Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights	Head of Education and Outreach	Mechelen (BEL)