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ALBANIA



  
MINISTÈRE  
DES ARMÉES  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



mémoire et solidarité



**Places of violence, places of learning**  
Seminar cycle Albania - France - Germany 2020/21  
in the framework of the of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the  
Franco-German Youth Office, and of Memory Lab – Transeuropean Exchange  
Platform on History and Remembrance

## General Information

### **Organization:**

Crossborder factory (Berlin), Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial (Hamburg), Memorial of the Montluc Prison (Lyon) and Cultural Heritage without Borders Albania (Tirana), in the framework of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the Franco-German Youth Office, and of Memory Lab – Transeuropean Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

### **Phases:**

- First seminar in Fall 2020 in Hamburg /Germany : 19 – 23 October 2020 (online)
- Second seminar in spring 2021 in Albania
- Third seminar in late summer 2021 in France

### **Target group:**

Youth workers, educators, memorial / museum staff and other interested persons who are involved in educational work / memory work / civil society activism, living in Albania, France, and Germany.

7 participants from each of the 3 involved countries, 21 persons all together.

The participants should take part in the three phases of the seminar.

A good knowledge of the English language is requested.

The organizers cover the costs for the program, the accommodation (in two-bed-rooms), the meals and the transfers during the seminars, while the travel costs to the seminar places will be reimbursed up to a certain amount after each seminar on the basis of the guidelines of the Franco-German Youth Office (max. 0,24 € per km from the town of departure to the seminar place, see:

<https://www.dfjw.org/ressourcen/fahrtkostenberechnung-fur-die-forderakten-im-dfjw.html> )

The participation fee is 50 € per seminar.

## **Context and information about the sites:**

At the heart of this seminar cycle is the exploration and discussion of three places that have been places of exclusion and violence in different ways and at different times:

- the former concentration camp Neuengamme in Hamburg, where more than 100,000 people from all over Europe were imprisoned between 1938 and 1945;
- the former Montluc military prison in Lyon, which was used during the Second World War, first by the Vichy administration and then by the German occupying forces, as a detention centre where several thousand French resistance fighters and Jews were imprisoned;
- the former prison at Spaç in northern Albania, which served as a forced labour camp for political prisoners and other detainees during the communist dictatorship from 1968 to 1991.

After the end of the Second World War, respectively the dictatorship in Albania, the question of the subsequent use of these places arose for all three locations. In Neuengamme, the British occupation authorities initially set up an internment camp in the former concentration camp for three years, and from 1948 to 2006 the city of Hamburg used buildings and grounds for the penal system and built two prisons there. The Montluc prison was used as a prison under civil administration during the IV and V Republic, from 1947 to 2009, and served as a prison linked to the military trial and became a place of execution for the death penalty between 1958 and 1966, especially during the Algerian war. The prison in Spaç was closed in 1991 and was no longer used - the grounds are now abandoned and the buildings are falling apart.

There have been and still are long struggles to turn all three places into proper memorials, and these struggles were often led by survivors. In Neuengamme, after a first small memorial sign in 1953 and an international memorial in 1965, the first small museum was only built in 1981, and the Memorial in its temporary form was opened 2005 as an exhibition, meeting and study center covering most parts of the former camp. Concerning the Montluc prison, it is only in 2009 that most of the building was classified as a "monument historique" by the French state, and then in 2010 opened as a Memorial, under the authority of the French Ministry of Defence, with visits, pedagogical activities and cultural projects. And there are efforts to transform the former Spaç prison into a memorial and education site: some first information-plaques have been put there by former prisoners, and Cultural Heritage without Borders Albania is very committed to preserve this place and has presented in 2018 a comprehensive proposal to turn it into a proper memory and education site.

## **Aims and methods of the seminar cycle:**

Aims of the seminar cycle "Places of violence – places of learning"

- To learn about different historical places of violence and exclusion in Albania, France and Germany, each of them placed in its specific historical-political context
- To learn about the processes which led to the transformation of these places into memory and education sites, and reflect about differences and similarities in dealing with such places
- To reflect and discuss the possibilities and challenges linked to the transformation of places of exclusion and violence into places of historical-political education
- To reflect how especially young people can be sensitized at/through such memory sites to history and current historical-political issues
- To study the role of digitization in the work of Memorials (education, archives, ...)
- To reflect on the role of time-witnesses in memory work and how to deal with the disappearance of time-witnesses
- To bring together young multipliers from Albania, France and Germany, in order to learn from each other, to work together on common outputs during the seminar cycle, and to provide incentives for the participants to implement new approaches in their own work

Approaches used during the seminars: Visits and exploration of memory sites, meetings with experts and time-witnesses, group discussions, exercises and workshops among the participants, presentations... The participants will also discuss and decide together about a common output they will prepare together in the framework of the seminar cycle and present during the last seminar.

**Organization team/ contact:**

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