



Memory Lab
Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

Call for Applications

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 Jonquiera, Rivesaltes

Organized by the 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),
Peace Academy Foundation (Sarajevo), Districte 11 – City to City (Barcelona),
Crossborder Factory (Berlin/Sarajevo)

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1. General Information:

Memory Lab - Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance brings together organizations, institutions and persons from Southeast Europe and from Western/Central Europe, which are working on memory sites and remembrance education related to difficult pasts (wars, mass crimes, dictatorships).¹ The aims of this initiative are to deepen mutual knowledge, exchange experiences, build capacities, facilitate contacts and realize common projects. Its general purpose is to strengthen constructive approaches of dealing with the past as part of civic education and democracy-building, and to contribute to cooperation and understanding processes in South Eastern Europe and in Europe in general, as well as to the integration of the countries of former Yugoslavia into a common European civil society and memory space. The project was launched, under the name “Dealing with difficult pasts in the Western Balkans and Western Europe” in 2010 with the first gathering in Sarajevo; since then, six more annual workshops/study trips have taken place, in BiH and Croatia (2011), France (2012), Germany (2013), Kosovo and Macedonia (2014), Belgium (2015), and Serbia (2016). More than 40 bilateral and multilateral activities have been developed in this time by partner organizations which met through the *Memory Lab* platform.

¹ For more information see our website : www.memorylab-europe.eu

In 2017, the annual study trip/workshop will take place in Spain and will focus 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 Oblivion”. At the same time, since the end of the 1990s, this approach has been seriously challenged, especially by the multilayered 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?

The program of the 8th *Memory Lab* study visit/workshop will consist 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 will take part in different towns and include 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. The program will end with a comparison of 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 will provide space for the participants to discuss about the further development of *Memory Lab* and about the organization of future joint activities.

2. Target group / Selection criteria

40 representatives of memorial centers, historical museums, NGOs and other organizations/initiatives from South Eastern Europe on the one hand, and from Western and Central Europe on the other hand, who are active in the field of dealing with difficult pasts (wars and dictatorships in Europe during the 20th century) in a practical way, especially around memory sites and in the educational field.

The selection of the participants will be done on the following basis:

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 already participated at one or several of 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

3. Aims and preliminary program of the study trip/ workshop in 2017 in Spain:

- 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 mode' 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

Preliminary program:

Sunday, September 17, 2017:

Arrival of the participants in Madrid
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
- (Not) Dealing with the past from the Franco-era until today
- Memory politics in Madrid
13.15: Common lunch
15.00: Visit of memory sites at the Madrid University Campus
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

Tuesday, September 19, 2017:

9.00-10.30: **The question of mass graves in Spain**
Presentation 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: History, current situation and future of the site
13.30: Travelling to Belchite

How to deal with Francoist memory sites (2)?

17.00: Visit of Belchite: History and role of the battle, and history, current situation and future of the site

18.30: Dinner in Belchite

19.30: Continuation of the travel to Barcelona

Arrival to Barcelona approx. 22.30

Wednesday, September 20, 2017:

9.45-11.00: Feedback session: How to deal with memory sites of a criminal regime ?

11.15-12.30: History and memories of the International Brigades

Presentation and discussion, with a special focus on the Yugoslav dimension

12.30-14.30: Common Lunch break

How is Barcelona dealing with its past?

14.30: Guided memory walks through Barcelona, in two parallel groups

16.30: Coffee break

17.00-18.15: Presentation and discussion of the memory politics of the Barcelona City Council

18.15: Reception

Free evening

Thursday, September 21, 2017:

Dealing with the history of refugees and exile

9.00: Travel to La Jonquera

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

13.00: Common Lunch

14.30: Travel to Rivesaltes (France)

Memorial Site of Rivesaltes :

15.30-16.00: Introduction to the Memorial of Rivesaltes

16.00-17.30: Exploration in small groups, 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

Friday, September 22, 2017:

9.30-10.30: Feedback-session: Comparing the presentation of refugees and exile 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: Lunch Break (individual)

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?**

Presentation of the group work and discussion with guests

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

21.00: Common dinner

Saturday, September 23, 2017: Departure of participants

4. Practical information

Arrival is foreseen for Sunday, 17 September 2017 in Madrid, and departure for Saturday, 23 September 2017 from Barcelona.

The organizers will cover, for the length of the program, the costs for the accommodation, meals, program, translation, and transport during the study trip and the workshop.

Travel to Spain for the participants from the Western Balkans will or be organized directly by the organizers, or the costs for the travel will be reimbursed during the program by the organizers on the basis of the cheapest possible travel prices, up to an amount of maximum €250, upon presentation of travel tickets/bills. For participants coming from Western/Central Europe, it is expected that their travel costs are covered by their institution; if the institution cannot cover travel costs, travel ticket may be reimbursed on request up to €200 maximum, depending of the available budget.

The accommodation is foreseen in a hotel in Madrid (from 17 to 19 September, except for participants living in Madrid) and in Barcelona (from 19 to 23 September, except for participants living in Barcelona) in double-rooms or single-rooms.

The participation fee is **€40 for persons from South Eastern Europe**, and **€80 for persons from Western/Central Europe**; the fee is to be paid during the program.

Working languages will be English and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, with simultaneous or consecutive translation. Some presentations might take place in Spanish, Catalan or French, and will be translated into English and B/C/S.

5. Application

Application forms can be requested by sending an email to memorylab.2017@gmail.com or can be found on the website www.memorylab-europe.eu. The completed application form should be sent to memorylab.2016@gmail.com until **20 April, 2017** at the latest. The applicants will be notified about their participation until mid-May 2017.

For any questions please send an email to memorylab.2017@gmail.com

6. Organization team 2017 / Contact :

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