



Trans-European Exchange Platform on History and Remembrance

**„Don't know much about history...” :
The challenges we are facing when dealing with the past
in South Eastern and Western/Central Europe**

10 years - Memory Lab – Online Forum

16-18 September 2020

Organized by

Forum ZFD Bosnia and Herzegovina, Crossborder factory,
History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
in cooperation with Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft

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HISTORIJSKI MUZEJ
BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

 SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT

„Don't know much about history...” :
The challenges we are facing when dealing with the past
in South Eastern and Western/Central Europe
10 years - Memory Lab - Online Forum, 16-18 September 2020

1. Context and general aim of the Forum :

In June 2010 took place in Sarajevo a working meeting with the title “Dealing with difficult pasts in the Western Balkans and Western/Central Europe”, with representatives from Memorials, History Museums and NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany and Serbia. This was the starting point of a process which led to the creation of „Memory Lab” as a Trans-European platform, gathering practitioners in the field of dealing with the past from South-Eastern Europe and Western/Central Europe. By encouraging mutual learning, sharing of experiences and the development of new activities and partnerships, Memory Lab aims to contribute to overcome existing gaps of knowledge, to strengthen constructive dealing with the difficult past and to develop a shared memory space in Europe. Since 2010, 9 annual study trips/workshops have been organized in different countries of Europe, with around 40 participants every year, from altogether 13 different European countries. The contacts which have been established through the platform and especially during the annual study trips/workshops have contributed to realize over 80 joint activities by different associates of the platform.¹

At the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Memory Lab in 2020, we are organizing this Forum as an opportunity to reflect and discuss some of the challenges we are facing in our dealing with the past-work in South Eastern Europe and other parts of Europe, especially in the educational field and around memory sites. Reflecting the participative and interactive approach of Memory Lab, the program of the Forum has been elaborated on the basis of proposals made by Memory Lab-members. Originally planned as a physical meeting in Sarajevo, we have transformed the program into an online-format due to the ongoing pandemic. The conclusions and suggestions of the different panels and workshops of this Forum will be gathered in a written document and published on the Memory Lab-website.

2. Target group

The Forum is aimed at Memory Lab-associates and other interested persons, especially 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.

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

3. Program

Unless otherwise stated the activities will take place in English.

* For Memory Lab - associates

** For Memory Lab - associates and other interested persons

Wednesday 16.9.2020

9h30-11h *

Memory Lab 2010 – 2020 : Looking back, looking forward

Where were we 10 years ago ? Where are we now ? What does Memory Lab mean to those who are part of it? What should be our next priorities ?

11h30 – 12h30 **

« Europe's values – Europe's borders: Comparing Europe before 1989, Europe during the migration crisis , Europe in Corona times » :

Presentation by Günter Schlusche (Berlin Wall Memorial) followed by discussion

Inspired by an exhibition of the Berlin Wall Memorial, this presentation will deal with changes in Europe's recent history, through three key moments : the fall of the Berlin Wall 1989, the migration crisis 2015, and the Covid-pandemic 2020. Through these cases, the presentation will address the questions : What are Europe's borders ? And what are Europe's values ?

17h-18h15 **

How to get young people interested in history and memory work ? Presentations and discussion

- "What does the past mean for me ? Perspectives from young people : Experiences from the "Na pola putu"-festival", by Ružica Marjanović (Na pola putu, Užice)

- "Addressing the history of concentration camps with young people through comics and graphic novels", by Max Lütgens (Dachau Memorial)

Through the presentations and the subsequent discussion, we will address the following questions: What are challenges we are facing when working with young people about difficult pasts? What are educational approaches to address history and memory with young people ? How can young people become actively involved in memory work ?

Thursday 17.9.2020

9h30-10h45 **

Memory sites as sites of tourism and of guided tours – presentations followed by discussion:

- "Remembrance Tourism and the former Yugoslavia", by Vjerran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka)

- "Designing guided tours to memory sites in smaller towns in Serbia", by Tamara Šmidling (Centar za primenjenu istoriju, Belgrade)

Through the presentations and the subsequent discussion, we will address the following questions : To what extent can remembrance tourism be seen as an educational tool ? Which memory sites are (not) chosen as sites of tourism and why ? What are different ways of

organizing guided visits at memory sites ? How innovative are we when organizing visits of memory sites ?

11h30-12h45**

“The transgenerational transmission of trauma“:

Workshop with Christel Trouvé (Denkort Bunker Valentin, Bremen)

In June 1944, a razzia was organized in the French town of Murat which led to deportation of 120 persons to Germany from whom most did not survive. The workshop will start with a film based on interviews with children and grand-children of the deportees, and which raises the following question : how did the historical events shape the story of the families/individuals and of the city, through the generations, until today ? The workshop will invite the participants to share other experiences and to discuss how to deal in memory work with issues linked to transgenerational trauma.

(Maximum 15 participants)

17h-18h15 **

“The memorialization of children who were killed during the 1992-1995-war in Bosnia and Herzegovina“:

Presentation by Edin Ramulić (Fondacija za izgradnju kulture sjećanja, Prijedor) followed by discussion

The presentation will talk about already existing examples of memorialization of children in Bosnia and Herzegovina and about the current initiative to build a monument to the 102 children who were killed in Prijedor in 1992. Through the presentations and the subsequent discussion, we will address the following questions : What are different approaches and challenges related to the memorialization of killed children ? What is specific to the situation in Prijedor ? What are experiences from other countries related to other wars ?

In B/C/S with English translation

Friday 18.9. 2020 :

9h30-10h45 **

Challenges in dealing with memory sites. Presentations and discussion

- “The case of Partisan Martyrs Cemetery in Velania, Prishtina, Kosovo”, by Fjolle Caka (independent architect, Prishtina)

- “Marked and unmarked places bearing memories of 1990s conflicts in eight cities in Serbia”, by Jasmina Lazović (Center for Public History, Belgrade)

Memory sites can be marked or remain unmarked, and once marked sites can also be forgotten, dismantled or transformed. Through the presentations and the subsequent discussion, we will address the following questions : How to deal with memory sites that are connecting the remembrance to different time periods and events ? What are potential interventions to existing memory sites which would make sense ? What types of activities could be undertaken to raise the awareness regarding unmarked sites, for example within communities which deny crimes which occurred in the past in their vicinity ?

11h30-12h45 **

“Who has the 'right to speak' in memory-work?”

Workshop with Gruia Badescu (University Konstanz)

This workshop will deal with new trends in memory practice that are focused on giving voice to the survivors and their “group” in decisions to shape memorials and other remembrance activities. How to explain the rising importance of survivors in memory work ? What is the

impact of this evolution on memory work ? After a general introduction about global trends, the workshop will facilitate an interactive exchange of experiences and opinions about the role of survivors in memory work.

15h-16h15 : Memory Lab café *

Possibility for Memory Lab-associates to discuss about ongoing or future projects, or about other activities.

17h-18h30 **

Closing event of the Memory Lab - Forum – Live from the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo - *Topic to be announced*

4. How to participate

If you are interested to participate at one or several of the activities of the Forum, please complete and send back the registration form to memorylab2018.2020@gmail.com, until 14th September at the latest.

You can find the registration form on the Memory Lab-website: <http://www.memorylab-europe.eu/upcomin/10-years-memory-lab-online-forum-16-18-september-2020>

For our Forum, we will use the online conference system *Big Blue Button* which is easy and safe to handle.

To use *Big Blue Button*, you need a sufficiently fast computer with a current operating system (Windows 10 / OS X Catalina / Linux / Android) and a current browser (Google Chrome is especially recommended, or Mozilla Firefox).

Before the start of the Forum, we will send to the registered participants an email with the link to access the Forum and the relevant technical explanations.

5. Organization team of the Forum:

Tamara Banjeglav, *Freelance researcher*, Zagreb, banjeglavt@gmail.com

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For any question please contact the Memory Lab-team by sending an email to memorylab2018.2020@gmail.com