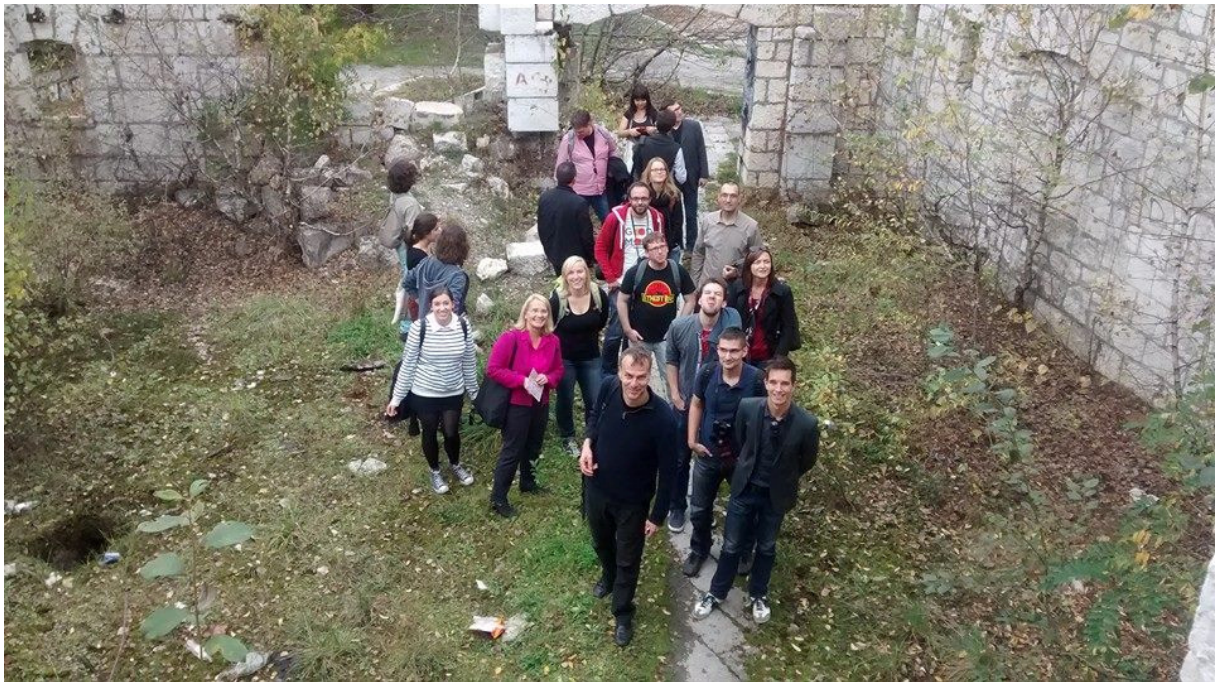


“From Sarajevo (1914) to Sarajevo (1992-1996) – Why and How to Use Memorials and Museums to Teach the History of Wars and Mass Violence in Europe?”

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia – France – Germany

Kick-Off Seminar in Sarajevo, BiH
20-26 October 2014



Summary

From 20-26 October 2014, an international group of 20 history educators and students gathered for the first phase of a project in Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The title of the seminar was “From Sarajevo (1914) to Sarajevo (1992-1996)”. The overall goal of the project is to connect history educators and students with each other in order to foster reflection on the links between the past and present of conflicts and violence. The focus is on World War I, World War II, and the Yugoslav Break-Up Wars within and between participating countries. The project is organized via cooperation of significant historical and educational institutions from the target countries of BiH, Croatia, France, and Germany. The seminar in Sarajevo was the kick-off event of the project, with two consecutive seminars following in 2015 in France and Germany.

Project Organization

The project logistics are coordinated by the following: Historical Museum BiH, Sarajevo; Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia, Zagreb; Buchenwald Memorial, Germany; Historial de la Grande Guerre, Péronne, France. The project is supported by the South-East Initiative of the French-German Youth Office.

General Aim of the Project

The aim of the project is to educate about the history of war and mass violence with regard to World War I, World War II, and the Yugoslav Break-Up Wars in the 1990s, and to stimulate reflection on the links between the past and present. The participants learn about and compare pedagogical and museographical approaches to memorials and museums related to war and mass violence in the participating countries: BiH, Croatia, France and Germany. Furthermore, the project raises the question of how schools in the four countries deal with these topics and work with memorials and museums. It aims to increase awareness about the importance of out-of-classroom activities and to develop new ideas on how to integrate these sites into historical and civic education in schools. The project program is organized in order to foment further international exchange and cooperation between the participating teachers and schools.

First Phase Objectives: Sarajevo

The specific aims of the first phase of the project in BiH and Croatia was for the group to get to know each other, raise first questions on the topic, and reflect on individual experiences, concerns, and common wishes of participants. The goal was to learn about the wars in the 20th century in the region of the Western Balkans. The participants discussed museographical and pedagogical approaches to different memorials by visiting authentic historical sites



in Sarajevo, Prijedor and Donja Gradina, BiH, and Jasenovac, Croatia. The sites invited the participants to deeply reflect on their histories, and further enabled participants to analyze different approaches to historical narratives and memories, from those that existed throughout the century until those of today.

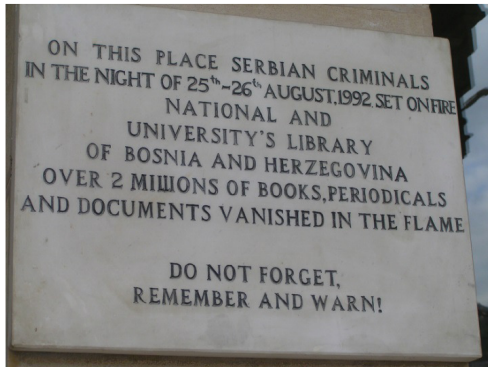
Target Group

The project aims for an exchange of disseminators of historical and civic education. The target groups are teachers in schools as well as institutions with historical-political approaches to education. The seminar also addresses teachers in training and students of history and similar disciplines. The group consists of five persons per target country from BiH, Croatia, France, and Germany. All selected participants share a common interest in an international and intercultural exchange. They wish to foster awareness for the role of museums and memorials as instruments of extracurricular knowledge transfer in youth education. All participants have experiences in teaching about sensitive historical topics like conflict, mass violence, and history of the 20th century from the perspective of their home country. They wish to enhance their knowledge on these topics, and through their individual experiences and broad backgrounds within their specific fields, they endorse the projects' program. Communication language within the group is in English.

A Multilayered Historical Mosaic – Sarajevo, Prijedor, and Jasenovac

Vraca Memorial Park – An Abandoned Memorial

The seminar began with a round of introduction and a presentation by Nicolas Moll on the topic of “Legacies and Memories of the First World War, the Second World War and the Break-Up Wars in Yugoslavia in the Western Balkans Today”. In the afternoon we used the last sunny day of the week for a “Memory Walk” through Sarajevo. Starting at the Vraca Memorial Park, we were given a great overview on the city center with the border of the Republika Srpska right next to us. The park is dedicated to the civilian victims and partisan heroes of World War II. The Yugoslav monument



ensemble inaugurated in 1981 was built around an old Austro-Hungarian fortress to mark the historical site where citizens were executed during World War II. Due to its exceptional strategic position, it also served as a spot from which the city of Sarajevo was besieged by the Army of Republika Srpska between 1992 and 1995. With the rise of ethnic nationalism and in time of economical crisis, the antifascist monument seems to be abandoned by official politics, but not by some citizens of Sarajevo who use it as a site of recreation.



Facade and the Disputed Memorial Plaque of the Sarajevo City Hall

Travelling Through the Times

In the city center, we first travelled back to Austro-Hungarian times by visiting the biggest and most representative building from that period in Sarajevo—the City Hall. Near the entrance of the Ottoman-styled building, the group gathered around a plaque commemorating the destruction of the hall in August 1992. The discussion on how to name a group of perpetrators and the question of generalizations was a crucial part of the entire seminar, returning in different places. Two groups guided by Nicolas Moll and Senada

Jusić went on a journey through different types of commemoration of violence of the last 100 years. This included, for example, the Latin Bridge, where Gavrilo Princip killed Austro-Hungarian heir presumptive Franz-Ferdinand in 1914, the eternal flame from communist times commemorating the liberation of Sarajevo in 1945, and several memorials dedicated to victims of the siege in the ‘90s.

In the evening, two participants from Sarajevo delivered to the rest of the group a spontaneous eyewitness account from their personal experiences during the times of the siege.



The *Sarajevo Roses* are scars caused by mortar shell's explosions filled with red resin to remember places where at least three people were killed during the siege. As there is no text explaining the memorial it works on a intuitive basis and focuses rather on the victims than on the perpetrators.

Teaching the history of wars and mass violence

After sharing impressions, thoughts, and feelings from the memory tour, small groups with members from each country discussed and presented their own experiences with teaching and learning about war and mass violence. All in all, the French and German participants learned a great deal about the recent challenges in BiH and Croatia in talking about conflicting memories of World War II and especially the Yugoslav Break-Up Wars. On the other hand, we all had similar experiences, with the main challenges being how to deal with extremely emotional family histories and accounts of contemporary witnesses. As a conclusion, we pointed out the importance of a combination of emotional and analytical learning as well as a multi-perspectival approach for future museum workshops or school lessons.



Seminar Group at the Guided Tour through the Exhibition
“Surrounded Sarajevo” at the Historical Museum, BiH.

City Under Siege –Sarajevo 1992-1995

The afternoon was dedicated to exploring the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on their permanent exhibition “Surrounded Sarajevo”. The once-socialist modelled museum was finished in 1963 and, visiting the Museum during a very cold day, the group directly experienced the everyday challenges of working in an institution with lacking political support and a constant struggle for funds. After a warm welcome in the freezing

entrance hall, Director Elma Hašimbegović informed us about the state of the building, which is still not completely restored after its partial destruction during the siege.

Already, the short introductory text of “Surrounded Sarajevo” showed the difficulties of such an exhibition about very recent events of mass violence, still marked by struggles concerning questions of guilt and victimhood. In a living-history approach, the story of everyday life under the siege is told through photographs and objects, from weapons and hand-made heating implements to aid items that came in from abroad.

Again the multinational working groups came together to discuss the exhibition and to develop strategies and concepts on how to use the exhibition with school groups of different backgrounds. The results provided a diverse range of approaches, from detailed workshop programs to a general discussion on advantages and challenges within the exhibition.

The introductory text states that the exhibition “is the work of all Sarajevans. It does not need a guide. (...) With this exhibition we have tried to avoid giving final judgments, ideological options and qualifications. We are leaving them to history science and time.”

Non-Places of Remembrance – Trnopolje and Omarska in Prijedor



The Former Detainment Camp in Trnopolje

After a five-hour bus ride from Sarajevo through BiH, where we could still see the consequences from the massive spring floods, we arrived in the town of Prijedor, close to the Croatian Border. Our first destinations were two former camps in Trnopolje and Omarska, where Bosnian Serb authorities from Prijedor confined and tortured many non-Serb civilians in 1992.

Both places seem to be completely abandoned by politicians, who lack any interest in remembering the sufferings of the former enemies.

Cynically, the only monument erected at the camp of Trnopolje is dedicated to Serb soldiers, although none died at this place as Sudbin Musić of the NGO “Prijedor 92” and, a survivor of the camp, pointed out during his guided tour. However, he especially welcomed the Serbian participants and apologized for the things he would talk about because they would not be easy to be heard by Serbs. He also said that he didn't want to make generalizations and during his tour he shared some of the terrible things that happened in the camps but also told us how he himself was helped by Serbs.

As we drove on to Omarska, a coal mine, Sudbin provided insights into how difficult it is to get permission to visit the place as the mine is now again industrially used and owned by steel-giant Arcelor Mittal. He told us not to take photographs from the outside of the former camp as this could lead the company to withdraw permission to visit with future groups. Received and observed by a security guard from the company, we had one hour to listen to the horrific story of Mirsad Duratović, who was tortured in the camp. Sharing his experiences of his imprisonment, he recalled the statement of an Auschwitz survivor who had said that “Omarska is an echo of Auschwitz”. It will not have been the last time on our trip that the example of Nazi camps was used to illustrate the victims suffering.

Divided Memorial – Donja Gradina and Jasenovac

The Jasenovac concentration camp was established in 1941 by the governing Ustaše, Croatian fascists, at the confluence of the Sava and Una rivers near the village of Jasenovac. Most of the victims were Serbs, Jews, and Roma. After the war, it took more than 20 years to establish a memorial site. The *Stone Flower* memorial, designed by Bogdan Bogdanović, was unveiled in 1966 and represents a sign of eternal renewal. After the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the end of the war in Croatia in



Discussion about a Picture drawn by School Children and exhibited in Donja Gradina.

1995, the memorial site was divided into two geographic and administrative units: the Jasenovac Memorial Site in Croatia and the Donja Gradina Memorial Site in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

First we visited Donja Gradina, where the administration of the Republika Srpska is currently planning to build a new memorial. Guided by a curator of the existing memorial, we heard about the crimes committed on the former execution site, where more than 41 mass graves have been discovered so far. The group had a chance to discuss approaches and challenges of memory culture and educational work in the visitor center. A heated debate broke out amongst some participants while evaluating one picture that was drawn by a student and exhibited among other works by school children. The picture showed the Catholic bishop of Zagreb, Aloise Stepinac, whose role during the Ustaše rule is highly controversial, acting in collusion with the Croat fascist leader Ante Pavelic. The participants argued about the nationalistic intention of the picture and how educators could deal with these kinds of pictures by their students.

After passing a rigorous passport check at the EU border, we entered the Croatian side of the former camp, which includes the flower monument and a museum with a permanent exhibition opened in 2006. Although there were controversies about, for example, the removal of Ustaše killing instruments from the display and a lack of explanation of the ideology, the approach to identify and count all victims of the camp was highly appreciated. However, in both guided tours through Donja Gradina as well as Jasenovac, the manner of violence and killing at the camp was presented as extremely brutal and on one occasion even described as “more primitive” than in, for example, Nazi camps. In our evaluation we recognized the importance of showing the cruelty of the camp system, yet criticized that this description of mass violence would only feed into the construction of the “backwardness” of the Balkans.



Shared Histories, Divided Memories, Conflicting Politics?

The question of victimhood challenges cultural institutions and regional politics all over former Yugoslavia while dealing with the varying and common legacies of the last century: History becomes emotionally charged and highly politicized. The narratives differ depending on the location, which creates an ambiguity of history and often an oversimplified perspective on the complex questions of guilt. The participants agreed that, for example, the fate of Serbian civilians who were killed inside of Sarajevo by the some units of the Army of BiH during the siege should be also included in the remembrance of the Siege of Sarajevo. The participants reflected on the usefulness of the visited memorials and museums for youth education. All the efforts of memorial sites, cultural institutions,

and private initiatives like “Prijedor 92” are appreciated. However, the group agrees that their results are hindered due to aggravated political conditions, a dearth of support, lack of funds, as well as under-provided training possibilities for teachers. It became clear to the participants that because of this, critical reflection on the regional history is often slowed and the capacities of historical learning ventures remain insufficient. Yet the participants believe that a more open conversation about these challenges within the region can be supported by, amongst other things, an international exchange of teachers and students. This was also stated by the French Ambassador in BiH, Claire Bodonyi, and the German Cultural Attaché, Jens Wagner, who visited our group during the program. Both embassies showed their support and emphasized the importance to develop constructive approaches in dealing with difficult pasts. Ms. Bodonyi and Mr. Wagner encouraged the group to continue in their efforts.

With all the new impressions and background information from the intensive week, the group gathered first ideas for new pedagogical approaches and international cooperation that are to be further developed in the second and third phases in France and Germany in 2015.

Organizational Team

Frederick Hadley (Second Curator of the Historial of the Great War Péronne), Elma Hašimbegović (Director of the Historical Museum BiH), Joachim Koenig (Educational Department of the Buchenwald Memorial), Dr. Nicolas Moll (independent historian and coordinator of “Memory Lab”), Frank Morawietz (Special Representative of FGYO for South-Eastern Europe), Marko Smokvina (Program Coordinator of YIHR Croatia)

Report written by Melanie Huchler and Nina Kraus, November 2014.

Useful links

Historijski muzej Bosne I Hercegovine - www.muzej.ba

Youth Initiative for Human Rights - www.yihr.org

Buchenwald Gedenkstätte, Germany www.buchenwald.de

Historial de la Grande Guerre Péronne, France - www.historial.org

Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk - www.dfjw.org

Memory Lab – www.memorylab-europe.eu

Participants

- Henrike Bogacki, University of Frankfurt, Student Teacher, Frankfurt (D)
- Saša Buljević, Faculty of Philosophy Sarajevo, MA student, Sarajevo (BiH)
- Laurent Doucet, Lycée des Métiers Antoine de Saint-Exupery, History-Geography Teacher, Limoges (F)
- Marijan Gorečan, Private Classical Gymnasium, History Teacher, Zagreb (HR)
- Brigitte Güth-Mayr, Helmholtzschule Frankfurt, History Teacher, Frankfurt (D)
- Samir Hasanagić, Serb Orthodox Gymnasium Kantakuzina
- Katarina Branković, History Teacher, Zagreb (HR)
- Elma Hodžić, History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Volunteer, Sarajevo (BiH)
- Melanie Huchler, Free University Berlin, History Student, Berlin (D)
- Senada Jusić, Elementary School "Umihana Čuvidina", History Teacher, Sarajevo (BiH)
- Danilo Kovač, Gymnasium Banja Luka, History Teacher, Banja Luka (BiH)
- Nina Kraus, Free University Berlin, History Student, Berlin (D)
- Guillaume Lavaud, Cité scolaire J.B. Darnet, History-Geography Teacher, Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche (F)
- Adisa Marshall, Second Gymnasium Sarajevo, Geography Teacher, Sarajevo (BiH)
- Angelika Martin, Helmholtzschule Frankfurt, History Teacher, Frankfurt (D)
- Renaud Meslin, Collège André Malraux de Paron, History-Geography Teacher, Sens (F)
- Vincent Moissenet, Collège André Malraux de Paron, French Teacher and Pedagogical Advisor, Sens (F)
- Nathan Moissenet, Collège André Malraux de Paron, Student, Sens (F)
- Nikola Puharić, University of Zagreb, History Student, Zagreb (HR)
- Vedran Ristić, III. Gymnasium Osijek, History Teacher, Osijek (HR)
- Tomislav Šimić, Jewish Elementary School Lauder Hugo Kon, History Teacher, Zagreb (HR)

Program first phase: BiH and Croatia, 20. -26. 10. 2014

Monday 20 October 2014:

Arrival in Sarajevo / Accommodation: Hotel Grand, Muhameda ef. Pandže 7. BiH – 71000 Sarajevo

Tuesday 21 October 2014:

9h30:

- Introduction / presentation of the aims of the project, the program and the team
- Tandem-presentation of the participants (in tandem and then plenary)

11h15-11h30: Break

11h30: "Legacies and memories of the First World War, the Second World War and the break-up wars in Yugoslavia in the Western Balkans today": Presentation by Nicolas Moll, followed by discussion

13h: Lunch, in presence of Jens Wagner, Cultural Attaché of the German Embassy in BiH

14h30-18h: Memory tour through Sarajevo / Discovering memory sites in Sarajevo, with Senada Jusić and Nicolas Moll

- Vraca Memorial Park
- Memory Sites in the Centar of the town, linked to World War One (Latin Bridge), World War Two (Eternal Flame) and the 1992-1996-siege (Vijećnica, Kovači Memorial Cemetery, Roses of Sarajevo, Markale, Monument to the killed children of besieged Sarajevo)

19h30: Diner, including specialties brought by the participants

Wednesday, 22 October:

9h-9h45: Feedback-round about the visits of the previous day

9h45- 11h: Teaching war and mass-violence: One experience from my own schooltime/childhood and one experience from my university/teaching time: exchange in small groups / similarities and differences between the experiences

11h-11h15: Break

11h15-12h30: Bringing together the different experiences: Which challenges are we facing when teaching about wars and mass violence?

13h: Historical Museum of BiH: Lunch Buffet

14h30: Presentation of the Historical Museum and guided visit of the exhibition about the Sarajevo siege 1992-1996 and the temporary exhibition about World War One, with Elma Hašimbegović and Elma Hodžić

16h-18h: How to work in Museums with school groups / Case study with "Siege of Sarajevo"-Exhibition: Working Groups, and Presentation in Plenary

Free evening / individual dinner

Thursday 23 October

7h: Departure by bus to Prijedor

13h: Lunch in Kozarac, Restaurant "Neira", with Ervin Blažević, President of "Optimisti 2004"

14h30-17h: Visits of the former camps in Trnopolje and Omarska, with Mirsad Duratović, President of "Prijedor 92" and Sudbin Musić, General Secretary of "Prijedor 92"

17h30-18h30: Visit of Monuments in the Centar of Prijedor, with Edin Ramulić, vice-president of "Izvor"

20h: Diner in Prijedor, Motel Pont

Friday 24 October:

9h30: Departure by bus from Hotel Prijedor

10h45: Visit of the Donja Gradina Memorial Zone, with Dejan Motl, curator at the Donja Gradina Memorial Zone

- Visit of the site
- Presentation of Educational Activities / Material

13h: Lunch in Jasenovac, Restaurant "Kod ribica"

14h30: Visit of the Jasenovac Memorial Site, with Ivo Pejakovic and Maja Kućan, curators at the Jasenovac Memorial Site

- Visit of the site
- Visit of the Museum
- Presentation of Educational Activities

17h30: Travel back to Sarajevo

Approx. 23h: Arrival in Sarajevo / Hotel Grand

Saturday 25 October:

9h30-12h30: Evaluation of the trip to Prijedor, Donja Gradina and Jasenovac

1. What are your main impressions and your questions concerning a) Prijedor, b) Jasenovac / Donja Gradina
2. What do you think about the museographical/ pedagogical approaches there? What possibilities do you see there for educational work and for international exchange?

- Individual work (30 minutes), Working groups (60'), Break (15'), Presentation and discussion of results in plenary (60')

12h30-13h15: Presentation by Edvin Čudić, coordinator of "Association for social research and communication", of the street action organized the same day in the center of Sarajevo to commemorate the Serb civilians killed in Kazani in 1992/3

13h15: Lunch, in presence of Claire Bodonyi, Ambassador of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina

15h-17h: Perspectives and evaluation

- How to continue? What to do between the first and second phase? Perspectives for the second phase – Collection of ideas and distribution of tasks
- Evaluation of the week (written questionnaires and in plenary)

20h30: Diner in "Park Prinčeva"

Sunday 26 October:

Departure of the participants