

UNLOCKING MEMORIES -
REMEMBERING THE PAST,
SHAPING THE FUTURE
GERMAN-GREEK-ITALIAN
YOUTH EXCHANGE



11 – 18 August 2022 (Vlotho, Germany)

11 – 18 October 2022 (Ioannina, Greece)

A project by Gesamteuropäisches Studienwerk e.V. (D) in cooperation with Euphoria (GR) and LINK (I), co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ Programme) and by the Greek-German Youth Office

The perspective on the past is formed by our socio-cultural environment. In Germany, Greece and Italy, the discourses on the history of the Second World War, National Socialism and fascism were always different. Currently, right-wing populist to neo-Nazi groups and parties in Europe are trying to influence the public discourse of memory more and more, with the aim of creating a heroic self-image of their own nation and attacking the open, liberal democracy. While these forces try to influence the public with nationalistic slogans, the discourse between people from Germany, Greece and Italy often suffers from avoiding the dark chapters of our history.

Within the framework of this exchange, young people gain knowledge about the cultures of remembrance in Germany, Greece and Italy and deal with topics and countries that were previously unknown or little familiar to them. They take a look at history and deal with the Second World War in Greece, Italy and Germany and its consequences. They understand how the past and the way we deal with it can still influence social and political discussions (see reparation payments) and arouse suspicion. In addition, they understand the power of ideologies (especially nationalism, fascism and National Socialism) and are sensitized to the structures, contents and strategies of the "new right" in Europe.

Participants must be between 18 and 26 years and ready to participate in all activities. They must be able to speak English so well that they can follow the contents of the seminar. Openness to situations of intercultural confrontation and the readiness to deal with one's own cultural background and to put the discoveries up for discussion are assumed.

The participants should be curious about the interplay between memory culture and politics and want to locate themselves in history. For this purpose, they work together in creative workshops and participate in open discussions. They research their family history and talk to contemporary witnesses about the past. They also go on excursions to places of remembrance and commemoration in Germany to Bergen-Belsen, Celle, Paderborn and Wewelsburg, in Greece to Ligiades and Ioannina Island.

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Participation Fee: **Germans, Greeks, Italians: xx €**
 (included are accommodation, meals, program)

Travel Costs: Travel Costs will be partially refunded. Travel to an activity within the home country will be subsidized depending upon the distance to the location of the activity. Travel to an activity abroad will be subsidized up to 275€.



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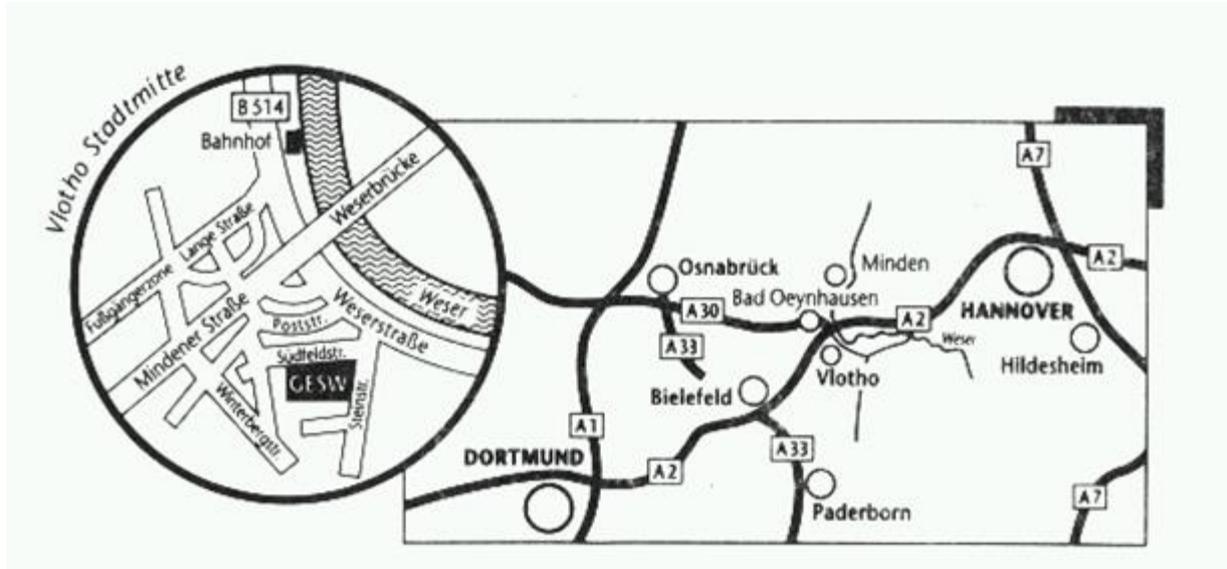
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TRANSPORTATION

The nearest airports are Dortmund and Hannover (approx. 2 hours by train). Unfortunately, we cannot pick you up from the airport. But we can help you to find a good train connection to Vlotho. The walk from the station is 10 minutes. First information about the trains can be found at www.bahn.de.

Please plan your journey so that you arrive in Vlotho on 11 August until 18h00. The easiest way from the station to the GESW is along Weserstraße (see graphic). This street is very busy and sometimes has no pavement - so please be careful! The registration desk is located in house Warszawa (new building).



ACCOMMODATION

You will stay in multi-bedrooms (some with bath/WC in the corridor) in the GESW guesthouse. Bed linen and towels will be provided.

The GESW offers full board. Please inform your leaders about your allergies or special diets by 1 August.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

The organization of the evenings is mainly in your hands. The GESW is quietly situated, Vlotho is a small town. Maybe you can think of something nice for the free hours? In Vlotho, for example, you can take nice long walks in the nature or sit together in the beautiful garden of GESW.

COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The development of the Covid-19 pandemic is being closely watched and the protection measures in force are being responsibly implemented.

A FEW DETAILS ABOUT THE LOCATIONS

Vlotho is a small town with almost 20,000 inhabitants in the north-east of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia on the River Weser. The first historical records of Vlotho go back to the year 1185.

During our stay we visit the **Jewish cemetery** in Vlotho. Already around the year 1690 three Jewish families were living in Vlotho. The first cemetery was outside the town on the steep slope of the Amtshausberg. In 1854 - after the Jewish community had grown to about 140 people - a new Jewish cemetery was built opposite the Lutheran cemetery. The last burial took place on 24 August 1941. The synagogue was already destroyed on 10 November 1938 (November Programs). The Jewish citizens living in Vlotho were deported and murdered until 1942, if they did not succeed in emigrating. The cemetery of the synagogue community of Vlotho, which was intended to be dismantled and converted, survives the time of National Socialism and today commemorates the Jewish citizens of Vlotho.

When visiting the cemetery the men should cover their heads.

Bergen-Belsen was a Nazi concentration camp in what is today Lower Saxony in northern Germany. Originally established as a prisoner of war camp, in 1943, parts of it became a concentration camp. Initially this was an "exchange camp", where Jewish hostages were held with the intention of exchanging them for German prisoners of war held overseas. The camp was later expanded to accommodate Jews from other concentration camps.

After 1945, the name was applied to the displaced persons camp



established nearby, but it is most associated with the concentration camp. From 1941 to 1945, almost 20,000 Soviet prisoners of war and a further 50,000 inmates died there. Overcrowding, lack of food and poor sanitary conditions caused outbreaks of various diseases, leading to the deaths of more than 35,000 people in the first few months of 1945, shortly before and after the liberation.

The camp was liberated on April 15, 1945, by the British 11th Armoured Division. The soldiers discovered approximately 60,000 prisoners inside, most of them half-starved and seriously ill, and another 13,000 corpses lying around the camp unburied. The horrors of the camp, documented on film and in pictures, made the name "Belsen" emblematic of Nazi crimes in general for public opinion in many countries in the immediate post-1945 period. Today, there is a memorial with an exhibition hall at the site.

Celle is a town and capital of the district of Celle, in Lower Saxony, Germany. The town is situated on the banks of the river Aller, a tributary of the Weser and has a population of about 71,000. During the anti-Jewish pogrom in Nazi Germany on 9/10 November 1938, the synagogue in Celle was only saved from complete destruction because there would have been a risk to the adjacent leather factory and other parts of the historic Altstadt.

The city of **Paderborn** has over 150,000 inhabitants and is a major city in the eastern part of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Paderborn was founded as a bishopric by Charlemagne in 795.

In the Night of Pogroms from 9 to 10 November 1938, during which Jewish shops and synagogues were vandalized and set on fire nationwide, there were also riots against Jews in Paderborn. The building of the Kolping-Bildungswerk Paderborn is today located on the site of the former synagogue. Many deportations took place in Paderborn: More than hundred Jews from Paderborn were killed. Some of the Jewish citizens of the city were able to flee abroad. In 1944 and 1945 Paderborn was bombed by Allied aircraft, resulting in 85% destruction, including many of the historic buildings. At the beginning of the Second World War (1939) Paderborn had 42,490 inhabitants, after the war only 29,033.

Wewelsburg is a Renaissance castle located in the district of Paderborn. The castle has a triangular layout - three round towers connected by massive walls. After 1934, it was used by the SS under Heinrich Himmler, and was to be expanded into a complex which would serve as the central SS cult-site.

After 1941, plans were developed to enlarge it to be the so-called "Centre of the World". In 1950, the castle reopened as a museum and youth hostel. The castle today hosts the Historical Museum of the Prince Bishopric of Paderborn and the Wewelsburg 1933-1945 Memorial Museum. (Pic: Wewelsburg_luftbild_30_09_11.jpg: Wolfram Czeschickderivative work: Hic et nunc [CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)])



PROGRAMME IN VLOTHO AND SURROUNDING AREA (subject to change)

August 11th

16:00-18:00 **Vlotho**
Arrival of all participant groups
20:00 Dinner
20:45 **Welcome and introduction**

August 12th

8:30 **Vlotho**
Breakfast
9:30 **Teambuilding activities/ introduction to the project/ daily program**
Project Charter and Youthpass
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Exploring the city: How does Vlotho remember?**
Memorial walk
19:00 Dinner
19:30 **Reflection Round**
20:30 **Movie Night: Anne Frank**
Biographical film in preparation for the visit to Bergen-Belsen

August 13th

Bergen-Belsen/ Celle
7:00 Breakfast (packed lunch to go)
8:00 Transfer to Loheide

10:00-13:30 **The Bergen-Belsen Memorial**
Guided tour, meeting and Q&A with a historian and museum's pedagogue
14:00 **Free time in Celle**
Space for self-reflection
17:15 Return to Vlotho
19:30 Dinner
20:30 **Reflection Round**

August 14th **Vlotho**
8:30 Breakfast
9:30 **Stumbling in history: Discovery and recovery's project on Camp 65**
Workshop
11:30 **Family Tree I: How does my family remember?**
Workshop
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Family Tree II: How does my family remember?**
Presentation and debriefing
17:30 **Midterm Evaluation**
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**
21:00 **Evening get-together**

August 15th **Vlotho**
8:30 Breakfast
9:30 **Right-wing extremism in Europe I: Structure, Content, Strategies**
Workshop
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Right-wing extremism in Europe II: Structure, Content, Strategies**
Workshop
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**

August 16th **Wewelsburg/ Paderborn**
8:00 Breakfast (packed lunch to go)
9:00 Transfer to Paderborn
10:00 **The Jewish community of Paderborn**
Visit of the community office and the synagogue
11:30 **Free time in Paderborn**
Space for self-reflection
13:30 Transfer to Paderborn
14:00-17:00 **Wewelsburg 1933-1945 Memorial Museum**
Guided tour "Ideology and Terror of the SS",
meeting and Q&A with a historian and museum's pedagogue
17:15 Return to Vlotho
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**

August 17th **Vlotho**
8:30 Breakfast
9:30 **Drawn Representation**
Workshop
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Seminar Evaluation/ Youthpass Reflection**
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Farewell Night**

August 18th **Vlotho**
8:30 Breakfast, afterwards departure

PROGRAMME IN IONNINA AND SURROUNDING AREA (subject to change)

October 11th

Afternoon **Arrival in Thessaloniki airport and transfer to Ioannina**
Dinner
Evening **Welcome and introduction**

October 12th

Morning **Ioannina**
Breakfast
Teambuilding activities and Youthpass
Introduction to the project/ daily program/ expectations vs fears
Lunch
Afternoon **How does Ioannina remember?**
City rally game
Dinner
Evening **Reflection Round**

October 13th

Morning **Ioannina**
Breakfast
The Molho Family
Workshop
Lunch
Afternoon **Romaniotes – The Jewish community of Ioannina**
Study visit to the Jewish quarter
Dinner
Evening **Reflection Round**

October 14th

Morning **Ioannina**
Breakfast
Young people and World War II
Open event and discussion in the youth center of Epirus
Lunch
Afternoon **Movie screening**
The Balcony – Memories of Occupation
Dinner
Evening **Reflection Round**

October 15th

Morning **Liggiades**
Breakfast
Transfer to **the martyric village Liggiades**
Visit to the Cultural Association of Liggiades and discussion with survivors
Lunch
Afternoon Transfer to **Ioannina Island**
Free time and space for self-reflect
Dinner
Evening **Midterm Evaluation**

October 16th

Morning **Ioannina**
Breakfast
The 10 stages of Genocide
Workshop
Lunch
Afternoon **Oral History**
Presentation of the platform of Oral History MOG “Memories of the Occupation of Greece”
Evening **Open Space**

October 17th

Morning **Ioannina**
Breakfast
How to deal with memories today?
Workshop connecting past to present and production of a podcast
Lunch
Afternoon **Seminar Evaluation / Youthpass Reflection**
Dinner
Evening **Farewell Night**

October 18th

Morning

Breakfast, afterwards departure

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