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Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk
Polsko-Niemiecka Współpraca Młodzieży

Memory and Totalitarianism
Germany, Poland, Italy
student exchange project

22-28 September 2021, Krakow, Poland

Join us!

If you are a student from Poland, Germany or Italy and you are interested in the history of the 20th century, as well as human rights, and you want to meet interesting colleagues and make long lasting friendships, and you want to spend a week in Krakow, a city full of history - this program is for you! Contact us and take part in the student exchange Poland-Germany-Italy, which will take place in Krakow, Poland on September 22-28, 2021. Very attractive conditions apply, the stay of participants is fully financed, and everyone also receives funding travel expenses. More information below. At the very bottom, we provide information on how to sign up! see you in Krakow!!

Introduction:

“The Memory and Totalitarianism” project is a six-day meeting of student youth from Germany, Poland and a third country - the Italy, the aim of which is to deepen the knowledge of young people about the Holocaust and the occupation of Polish lands by Nazi Germany during World War II and to interpret this tragic period in a contemporary way in relation to problems occurring in the world, such as human rights violations, exclusion, xenophobia or manifestations of discrimination. The program consists of two parts: the greater part covers historical knowledge about the period of National Socialism and the period of World War II. The background for these considerations will be visits to memorial sites: Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945); exploring the grounds of the former Krakow Jewish Ghetto (1941-1943), visiting the Oskar Schindler museum and the grounds of the former concentration camp in Płaszów.

The contemporary part of the program includes a discussion on antisemitism today, Islamophobia and other forms of exclusion, as well as on Holocaust and human rights in the context of values and awareness model.

The program is not a scientific project, but a youth exchange based on non-formal education, in which young people get to know each other, spend time with each other and, working in mixed teams, educate themselves by discovering the past together and through active participation. Students participating in the project do not do it as part of university duties, participation in the project cannot be recognized by the university with grades or points (this is a formal requirement).

Who should attend?:

The project will be attended by students of social sciences and humanities from Poland (12 people), Germany (12 people) and Italy (8 people) and three group leaders, one organizer and one language assistant. The meeting will be held in Krakow, Poland on 22-28 September 2021. The project also includes national group meetings (before and after the exchange) and an advance meeting of leaders.

Who are we looking for?:

Participants will be students **interested in the history** of the Second World War and the **issues of the Holocaust**, but also sensitive to **contemporary human rights abuses**, etc. Age of participants should be between 19-26 years of age. Gender balance will be maintained.

Benefits from participation in the program:

Deepening historical knowledge, getting to know places of remembrance, developing social competences, including discussions and arguments, the opportunity to meet and make friends with peers from other countries, develop intercultural competences in a friendly atmosphere of a student project, which will be conducted using non-formal education methods. Italian, German and Polish participants will be able to present their point of view on the issues of World War II, the Holocaust, but also current social challenges, and will be able to organize an intercultural evening, presenting elements of national cultures, including contemporary music, cuisine and customs in a youth friendly manner.

Financial conditions:

The project received funding from the Foundation for Polish-German Youth Cooperation (Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk). This means that the entire cost of accommodation (in double rooms, with shared bathroom), full board, local transport and the educational program will be financed by the organizers from the day of arrival on September 20, until departure on September 26. German participants will also receive up to 80 Euros of travel cost reimbursement. Italian participants will receive up to 150 EUR of travel reimbursement. Participants will receive travel expense reimbursement after submitting the relevant travel documents as invoices and boarding passes. There will be a modest fee of 30 Euros to contribute to the program overall costs, which will be collected by each organization.

Daily agenda:

| Date | Timing | Programme |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| 22.09.2021 | Morning | Arrivals of participants, accommodation |
| | Afternoon | Welcome, introduction, presentation of the program, getting to know each other, fears and expectations session, housekeeping rules, breaking down barriers. |
| | Evening | Europe and the world in the 1930s: geography, politics, economy, society, national and minority issues. |
| 23.09.2021 | Morning | Totalitarian Ideology and Totalitarian State H. Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism F. Neumann, Behemot, The Structure and practice of National Socialism 1933-1944. Nuremberg Laws: Race & Antisemitism in Legislation Laws for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor. |

| Date | Timing | Programme |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| | Afternoon | Kazimierz and the Krakow Ghetto – the history of the Jewish community of Krakow and visit to memory sites: Chairs-monuments at the Ghetto Heroes Square, Pharmacy Museum "Under the Eagle". |
| | Evening | Dinner with country presentations. |
| 24.09.2021 | Morning | II World War and the “Blood Lands”. History of 1939 – 1945. "Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning", Timothy Snyder: https://youtu.be/3zVRT49ugCY |
| | Afternoon | Visit to memory sites: Schindler's Factory (guided tour) and Płaszów - a monument and commemorative plaques in memory of the victims of the concentration camp. |
| | Evening | Group work on project materials |
| | | |
| 25.09.2021 | Morning | Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945); |
| | Afternoon | |
| | Evening | Evaluation talk for all the group (based on voluntary agreement). Time for reflection. |
| | | |
| 26.09.2021 | Morning | Nuremberg Trial and national trials. A thing about the banality of evil. Rafael Lemkin and the UN Convention on Genocide. Hersch Lauterpacht and crimes against humanity. Philippe Sands, East West Street, 2016. |
| | Afternoon | Perpetrators, victims, bystanders. Suffering as a political category. Transformations of the memory of Auschwitz and the Holocaust. History in various shades. |
| | Evening | Group work on project materials |
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| 27.09.2021 | Morning | What happened next? Post-war years. Politics and memory and the politics of memory. Cold War, human rights and the politics of great powers. Israel and “the seventh million”. Jewish diaspora. What's left of "Never Again"? German, Polish and Italian perspective. Racism, discrimination, authoritarianism and populism. |
| | Afternoon | Collegium Maius - the importance of education in the united Europe. |
| | Evening | Farewell dinner. |
| 28.09.2021 | Morning | Evaluation, summary |
| | Afternoon | Departures of participants |
| | Evening | |

How to apply?

Participants are recruited by 3 organizations whose logos are placed at the top of the invitation.

For participants from Poland: The European Institute Foundation
info@instytuteuropejski.pl
<https://www.facebook.com/InstytutEU>

For participants from Germany: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V.
E-mail: info@jkpev.de
<https://www.facebook.com/jkpev.de>

For participants from Italy: Associazione Eufemia
E-mail: youth@eufemia.eu
<https://www.facebook.com/AssociazioneEufemia>

Please send an inquiry and the organizations will inform you about the next steps in the recruitment procedure.

Thank you and we invite you to participate!