

# **Dealing with the aftermath of communism Working for the future of Europe**

*International Summer Camp in Spaç/Albania 2018 August 27 to September 1*

**Organised by Association Museum Spac and Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation  
Supported by Renovabis**

## **Mission**

The experience of communist dictatorship and its aftermath is part of the European DNA. Decades of terror and repression, injustice and violence still have a strong and deep impact on the social and cultural framework of many European societies. The questions of truth and justice as well as healing, transformation and social reconciliation are at stake. Dealing with the dark heritage of communism, is one of the crucial challenges for the democratic development of Europe today. This is in particular true for Albania, which suffered under one of the cruelest communist regimes. It is typical for the current state of political dealing with this past in Albania that neither the former victims received a proper treatment that would restore their dignity, honour the memory of their sufferance, rehabilitate them and pave the way to social reconciliation nor are the places of suffering treated with the necessary respect. In many ways the longlasting neglect of these places reflect the present impact of the history. The process of political-cultural transformation is still a responsibility to be taken by the state, the religious communities and the civil society.

In order to face the challenge we invite 25 young people (age 20 – 27) from Albania, Germany, Poland and Ukraine to join a European Summer Camp in the former communist Labor Camp Spac in Albania. Coming together in Spac we like to show respect to the victims and the places of suffering. The participants are invited to contribute by practical work to maintain the place, to meet former prisoners and to reflect on the basis of their experiences on the meaning of this history today. Learning and working together the participants contribute to the European project.

Since the repression of religion in communist Albania – the first atheist country - was unprecedented, the summer camp will provide particular space for spiritual reflection and prayer.