



## **9. International Workshop for professional officers**

on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

A cooperation between the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation and the Zentrum für ethische Bildung in den Streitkräften (zebis) [Centre for Ethical Education in the Armed Forces]

*06 – 10 March 2023, Oswiecim, Centre for Dialogue and Prayer (Poland)*

### Idea for the project

Within the framework of the workshop, 30 professional officers from Poland, France and Germany are invited to enter a joint process of learning on dealing with the experience of violence and its consequences in the analysis of the present significance of Auschwitz, and to express their willingness to reflect on the subject matter in a way which is appropriate to the ethical seriousness of the use of violence.

Analyzing Auschwitz and its consequences – beyond the concrete case – gets an exemplary meaning for dealing with violence experience and its after-effects in general. Auschwitz stands for experiences having a lasting effect on the identity of our societies and on the identity of Europe. The different ways Auschwitz is remembered in the different contexts reflects the complexity of violent incidents.

At the same time the tensions created by the severe violence experience continue to exist in the different forms, contents, functions and ways Auschwitz is remembered by the various European societies. People must learn to understand this disposition to violence which has considerable explosive force. Only then it can be overcome and the prerequisites for a common European identity can be created which assimilates the differences without abolishing them.

The workshop wants to invite the participants to jointly visualize the experiences made in connection with Auschwitz and to reflect on the different perspectives and contexts of experience and interpretation contributed by the participants.

Special attention is to be turned to the specific challenge of a military remembrance culture when dealing with violence experience. Soldiers in particular bear responsibility for dealing with means of violence. In addition, they are especially exposed to the effects of violence. The joint workshop of professional officers from France, Germany and Poland is to be a sign of the endeavours to find a common military identity.

## **Program** (27<sup>th</sup>, February 2023 )

### Monday 06 March

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03:30 p.m.            **Introduction into the subject matter and the workshop**  
*Dr Markus Patenge, German Commission Justice and Peace*  
*Kristina Tonn, zebis*  
*Ania Szyba, historian*

**Introduction of the participants**

06:00 p.m.            Dinner

07:00 p.m.            **Remembering Auschwitz as an international challenge**  
*Andrzej Kacorczyk, Vice-Director of Auschwitz-Birkenau*  
*Memorial Site*

### Tuesday 07 March

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#### The camp

07:00 a.m.            Holy Eucharist

07:30 a.m.            Breakfast

08:40 a.m.            Departure to the **Guided tour through the basic camp Auschwitz I**

01:00 p.m.            Lunch

01:45 p.m.            Departure to the **Guided tour through Birkenau**

06:00 p.m.            Dinner

07:00 p.m.            **Exchange in small groups and plenary session**

### Wednesday 08 March

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#### Violence experience: Survivors and offenders

07:30 a.m.            Holy Eucharist

08:00 a.m.            Breakfast

09:30 a.m.            **Experiences of survivors**

*Zdzislawa Wlodarczyk*  
*Grzegorz Tomaszewski (tbc)*

11:00 p.m.            Coffee/ Tea

01:00 p.m.            Lunch

01:45 p.m.            Departure to the **visit of Marian Kolodziej exhibition**  
*Father Dr Manfred Deselaers, CDiM*

03:45 p.m.            Coffee/ Tea

- 04:00 p.m.                    **The lasting impact of traumatisation**
- Dr Yurij Zakal**, *Vice-President of the Association of Psychiatrists of Ukraine*
- Discussion in plenary
- 06:00 p.m.                    Dinner
- 07:00 p.m.                    **Becoming an offender – being an offender. Experiences with stories of offenders**
- Dr Sara Berger**, *Researcher at the Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt a.M.*
- Discussion in plenary

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Thursday 09 March                    Dealing with history as a challenge

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- 07:30 a.m.                    Celebration of the Eucharist
- 08:00 a.m.                    Breakfast
- 09:00 a.m.                    **Remembrance and the present time. On dealing with the tension-filled diversity of remembrance of Auschwitz and World War II in Germany and Poland**
- Dr. Robert Zurek**, *Director, Kreisau Foundation for European Understanding*
- Verena Bunkus**, *M.A., Research Associate, Education and Research Department, House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site*
- 11:00 a.m.                    Coffee/ Tea
- Discussion in plenary
- 01:00 p.m.                    Lunch
- 02:00 p.m.                    Departure to Oswiecim
- Visit to the Synagogue, the Jewish Center and the historic Market Square**
- 06:00 p.m.                    Departure for the **Act of commemoration at Auschwitz Memorial**
- group photo
- 07:30 p.m.                    **Festive dinner with musical accompaniment**

Friday 10 March

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08:00 a.m.

Breakfast

**Departure**

Conference languages: French, Polish and German in plenary. English in working groups.