



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 ethics education in the armed forces]

*03 – 07 November 2014, Oswiecim, Poland
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer*

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.

Programme

Monday 03 November

- 03:30 p.m. Introduction into the subject matter and the workshop
Dr. Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation
Kristina Tonn, zebis
Dr. Rafal Zytyniec, Museum Elk
- Introduction of the participants
- 06:00 p.m. Dinner
- 07:00 p.m. Remembering Auschwitz as an international challenge
Andrzej Kacorzyk, Vice-Director of Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site

Tuesday 04 November **The camp**

- 07:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 09:00 a.m. Guided tour through the basic camp Auschwitz I
- 01:00 p.m. Lunch
- 02:00 p.m. Guided tour through Auschwitz – Birkenau
- 06:00 p.m. Dinner
- 07:00 p.m. Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Wednesday 05 November **Violence experience: Survivors and offenders**

- 07:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 09:30 a.m. Meeting with survivors
Prof. Dr. Waclaw Dlugoborski
Jacek Zielinewicz
Karol Tendera

01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Visit of Marian Kolodziej exhibition <i>Rev. Dr. Manfred Deselaers, CDiM</i>
04:00 p.m.	The lasting impact of traumatisation. Psycho-social dealing with severe violent experiences <i>Prof. Dr. Zahava Solomon, University Tel Aviv</i> Discussion in small groups and plenary session
07:00 p.m.	Dinner
08:00 p.m.	Becoming an offender – being an offender. Experiences with stories of offenders <i>Prof. Dr. Wolfram Wette, University Freiburg i. Br.</i>

Thursday 06 November

Dealing with history as a challenge

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. Remembering Auschwitz and World War II in Germany and Poland <i>Dr. Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation</i> <i>Dr. Robert Zurek, Polish Institute of National Memory</i> Discussion
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
03:00 p.m.	Military remembrance cultures between cults of sacrifice and glorification of violence. Perspectives of a joint European culture of remembrance <i>Dr. Ulrich Pohlmann, Federal Ministry of Defence Germany</i> Discussion, small groups and plenary session
06:00 p.m.	Act of commemoration at Auschwitz Memorial
07:30 p.m.	Festive dinner

Friday 07 December

07:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

08:00 a.m. Breakfast

Departure

Conference languages:

Polish, French, German in plenary. English in working groups.

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