



5. 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]

*25 –29 October 2016, 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

Tuesday 25 October

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

Wednesday 26 October 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 Birkenau
06:00 p.m.	Dinner
07:00 p.m.	Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Thursday 27 October 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 - Karol Tendera - Anna Szalasna
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Visit of Marian Kolodziej exhibition Rev Cuber

04:00 p.m. The lasting impact of traumatised. Psycho-social dealing with severe violent experiences
Dr Gerd-Dieter Willmund, Bundeswehr-Hospital Berlin

Discussion

06:00 p.m. Dinner
07:00 p.m. Becoming an offender – being an offender. Experiences with stories of offenders
Dr Michaela Christ, Center for Interdisciplinary Memory Research, Norbert Elias Center for Transformation Design & Research (NEC), Europa-University, Flensburg

Discussion

Friday 28 October 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

Dr Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation

Dr Robert Zurek, Polish Institute of National Memory

Discussion

01:00 p.m. Lunch

03:00 p.m. The long journey from cults of sacrifice and glorification of violence towards a decent European military culture of remembrance

Dr Jörg Echternkamp, Martin-Luther-University, Halle – Wittenberg, Faculty of Philosophy I, Department of History

Discussion

06:30 p.m. Act of commemoration at Auschwitz Memorial

08:00 p.m. Festive dinner

Saturday 29 October

07:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

08:00 a.m. Breakfast

Departure

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