



8. 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]

01 – 05 April 2019, 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

Monday 01 April

- 03:30 p.m. **Introduction into the subject matter and the workshop**
Dr Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation
Kristina Tonn, zebis
Dr Rafal Zytyniec, Historical Museum in 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 02 April

The camp

- 07:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
07:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 08:40 a.m. Walk to the basic camp Auschwitz I
09:00 a.m. **Guided tour through the basic camp Auschwitz I**
- 01:00 p.m. Lunch
- 01:45 p.m. Departure by bus to camp Birkenau
02:00 p.m. **Guided tour through Birkenau**
- 06:00 p.m. Dinner
- 07:00 p.m. **Exchange in small groups and plenary session**

Wednesday 03 April

Violence experience: Survivors and offenders

- 07:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 09:30 a.m. **Meeting with survivors**
Lucja Janosz
Zdzislawa Wlodarczyk
- 11:30 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.**
Nonye Oranu, Psychologist, Bundeswehr
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 Fondazione Museo della Shoah, Roma/ Italy
Discussion in plenary

Thursday 04 April 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 of Auschwitz and World War II in Germany and Poland**
Dr Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation
Dr Robert Zurek, Foundation Kreisau
- 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
- 05:30 p.m. Departure for the Act of commemoration at Auschwitz Memorial
- 07:00 p.m. **Festive dinner with musical accompaniment**

Friday 05 April

- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- Departure**

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