



MEMORIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL SITE
HOUSE OF THE
WANNSEE CONFERENCE



JUGEND
ERINNERT
YOUNG PEOPLE
REMEMBER



HISTORY

MEMORY

ART

DIDACTICS

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Preliminary

PROGRAMME

International exchange project

Living Memorials

Innovative concepts for the House of the Wannsee Conference (Berlin/Germany) and the Jewish Bielski Partisans (Novogrudok/Belarus)?

BERLIN

House of the Wannsee Conference (GHWK)
– a memorial and educational site –

(20 - 24 September 2021)

Sunday, September 19

until 18.00 Arrival of the participants

19.00 Dinner at the Restaurant XXX (place still to be determined).
Meeting of participants with André Bossuroy (General Coordinator), Roman Kroke (Pedagogical and Artistic Coordinator)

and our camera-man Francois Roland, who will document the project on behalf of MEDIEL (main coordinative organization of the project, located in Belgium).

Personal introduction of each participant with two objects: one to presents yourself, one to present your family.

Unpacking of the “old-school” parcel sent to Berlin by the Belarusian Partner Group. Discovering of its content ...

Monday, September 20

09.15 – 10.30 Official opening of the seminar at the GHWK: A greeting word and explanation of the idea behind the “Living Memorial” project in connection with the first project phase in Belarus (8-14 August 2021) by Roman Kroke.

Welcoming of the Belarusian Partner Group and our External International Experts (see: <https://www.livingmemorial.app/participants/c/0>), which will partly follow and interact with the Berlin seminar via live online-streaming.

Introduction to the leading metaphors of the project through a collective sculpture created by the participants; animation by Roman Kroke

10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45 – 11.45 Opening lecture by Dr. Matthias Hass (Acting Head of the Education Department, GHWK): ‘The history of the House of the Wannsee Conference’. Q&A.

11.45 – 12.00 *Coffee break*

12.00 – 13.00 Lecture by Dr. Matthias Hass ‘The development of the GHWK as a memorial site’. Q&A.

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 Introduction to the “Permanent exhibition” of the GHWK by a member of the GHWK pedagogic staff (person still to be

determined); complemented by interdisciplinary working approaches by Roman Kroke.

15.30 – 15.45 *Coffee break*

15.45 – 17.00 Introduction to the “*Garden* exhibition” of the GHWK by a member of the GHWK pedagogic staff (person still to be determined); complemented by interdisciplinary working approaches by Roman Kroke.

Tuesday, September 21

9.15 – 10.45 Presentation of forms and methods of working with youth and professional groups (police etc.) at the GHWK by a member of their pedagogic staff (person still to be determined). Q&A.

10.45 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 13.00 Workshop on biographies of perpetrators (“*Täterbiografien*”) by a member of the GHWK pedagogic staff (person still to be determined). Interaction and discussion with the Belarusian Partner Group in small working groups via Zoom-Conferences.

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 17.00 Departure to the Memorial site “*Gleis 17*” at the train station Berlin Grunewald.

On-site workshops about the development of this historical place commemorating the deportation of Berlin Jews; comparative analysis: concepts of commemoration for places of victims vs. places of perpetrators; workshops conducted by a member of the GHWK pedagogic staff (person still to be determined) and Roman Kroke.

Wednesday, September 22

9.15 – 13.00 Interdisciplinary Art-Workshop at the GHWK on the basis of the contents explored during the first two days of the seminar; conducted by Roman Kroke. Individual (coffee) breaks included.

- 13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 17.00 Continuation of the interdisciplinary Art-Workshop conducted by Roman Kroke. Individual (coffee) breaks included.

Thursday, September 23

- 9.15 – 13.00 Continuation of the interdisciplinary Art-Workshop conducted by Roman Kroke. Individual (coffee) breaks included.
- Interaction and discussion with the Belarusian Partner Group and the External International Experts.

- 13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

- 14.00 – 15.30 Continuation of the interdisciplinary Art-Workshop. Individual (coffee) breaks included.
- 15.30 – 17.00 Presentation of the developed art-works.
Interaction and exchange with the Belarusian Partner Group and the External International Experts.
Q&A.

Friday, September 24

- 09.00 – 11.00 Summing up of the ideas concerning the concept of a “Living Memorial”. Comparative evaluation of the two sites: GHWK and the historical sites in Belarus; conducted by a member of the GHWK pedagogic staff (person still to be determined) and Roman Kroke.
- 11.00 – 11.30 Outlook towards the further project development (documentary movie about the project; exhibitions of the outcomes of the project in Berlin/Belarus)
- Around 12h End of the Berlin seminar.

The Project Team

André Bossuroy

MEDIEL, General Coordinator, Belgium

Roman Kroke

Artistic and Pedagogical Coordinator, Germany/France

Dr. Matthias Hass

The Memorial and Educational Site House of the Wannsee Conference, Acting Head of the Education Department; Local Project Coordinator in Berlin/Germany

Tamara Vershitskaya

Local Project Coordinator in Novogrudok/Belarus

Konstantin Victorovich

Novogrudok Museum of History and Regional Studies/Belarus, Director

Debra Brunner

The Together Plan/United Kingdom, Chief Operating Officer

Artur Livshyts

The Together Plan, Belarus Country Director

Natan Shamsutdinov

Kislev Foundation/Belarus, Director

Background information about the project partners

André Bossuroy | General Coordinator, MEDIEL, Belgium

As a member of the European Observatory of Memories (EUROM) network MEDIEL works with its 51 international partners on the following objectives: fostering multidisciplinary research and work on activities focused on the construction of public memory; identifying and analyzing the different memorial processes occurring in Europe and other continents from the point of view of experts, professionals and civil society (with a particular focus on European youth encounters, see: <https://www.at-home-in-europe.tv/blog/remembrance/>). André, general coordinator for the MEDIEL's projects, has developed over 20 years a specific methodology for organizing its projects supported by media and young people based on the concept of "Citizen Reporters", which meet, actively research and discuss together while meeting European history, culture and people. <https://europeanmemories.net/partners/mediel/>

Roman Kroke | Interdisciplinary Artist

Artist, curator, former lawyer, located in Berlin (Germany) and Lyon (France). Drawings & multimedia installations. Artistic genre: process art. Development, coordination and direction of international projects: exhibitions, workshops, lectures, teacher trainings. Partnerships with universities, scientific research institutes, schools, memorial sites, prisons, museums, foundations and TV productions. Within this project, Roman occupies the position of the Artistic and Pedagogical Coordinator. With respect to his artistic approach to history/memory and more specifically about the Shoah, Roman has been giving lectures, workshops and teacher trainings throughout Europe at many historical sites, among others at the Berlin memorial "Gleis 17" on behalf of the "Permanent Conference of Nazi Memorial Sites in the Berlin Area" (Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Memorial site and Educational Centre House of the Wannsee Conference, the Topography of Terror Documentation Center, the Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen, the German Resistance Memorial Centre), at the memorial *Maison d'Izieu* (FR), in partnership with the Holocaust museum *Mémorial de la Shoah* and with the Foundation for the

Memory of the Shoah (both Paris/FR). Documentations about his approach have been published/broadcasted, among others, by ARTE.TV, the Berlin University of the Arts and in the Swiss pedagogical journal on history teaching DIDACTICA HISTORICA.

www.Roman-Kroke.de/de

Dr. Matthias Hass | House of the Wannsee Conference

In today's Memorial and Educational Site, fifteen high-ranking representatives of the SS, the NSDAP and various Reich ministries discuss their cooperation in the planned deportation and murder of the European Jews on January 20, 1942. In addition to its exhibitions, the Memorial and Educational Site offers a wide range of educational programs to learn about the history of the persecution and murder of the European Jews, the history of National Socialism, its prehistory and its consequences. Dr. Matthias Hass is the acting head of the education department. He is the curator of the traveling exhibition "The Wannsee Conference and the persecution and murder of the European Jews" which was shown in a number of cities in North America and South Africa. Dr. Hass was the director of the U.S. program of Action Reconciliation Service for Peace in Philadelphia from 2005 – 2009. He studied Political Science at the Free University of Berlin and specialized in the field of Historical Foundations of politics and the Politics of Memory. Over the last years, Dr. Hass has organized a number of international exchange seminars for Canadian, Polish, German and American students with different organizations and universities. He has taught at the Free University in Berlin, York University in Toronto and Touro College Berlin, and worked at several museums and memorial sites to the Nazi past, among them the Topography of Terror Foundation and the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial Site and Education Center.

<https://www.ghwk.de/en/>

Tamara Vershitskaya | Jewish Heritage Specialist, The Together Plan, Belarus

Researcher, founder of the Jewish Resistance Museum in Novogrudok, author of the book *Pain and Anger. Holocaust and Resistance in Novogrudok* and dozens of publications about the Bielski partisans in materials of international conferences; researcher and producer of several documentaries about the Holocaust and Jewish resistance in Belarus, organizer of seminars for teachers on the Holocaust, history and cultural heritage of Belarusian Jews, organizer of the reunion of the Bielski partisans' descendants and an advocate of creating a Living Memorial to the Bielski partisans in the Naliboki Forest. Oral interventions by Tamara at the historical camp site (credit to WE ARE HERE! Foundation CEO Eli Rabinowitz):

[Proof of Bielski Camp - YouTube](#)

[Oak Tree Remembers - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wt1odw9pU9c>

[Partisans in the Naliboki Forest - YouTube](#)

Debra Brunner | Co-Founder and CEO of The Together Plan

As a passionate advocate for Jewish community, history, heritage and identity, Debra has been working in Belarus for over ten years. She is co-founder and CEO of The Together Plan a UK registered charity which gives agency to Jewish people coming out of a traumatic past, to empower them and give them skills and self-belief to rebuild and revive. The charity helps communities discover what can be achieved collectively and, through a range of pioneering projects, work alongside community members to develop skills and knowledge while providing the necessary training to build a sustainable future. It is Debra's mantra that together we can make a real and positive difference for a better, stronger and more cohesive Jewish landscape in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Debra has a degree in business, is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an Associate of the University of Hertfordshire.

<https://thetogetherplan.com/>

Artur Livshyts | Co-Founder and Belarus Country Director of The Together Plan Charity

Born in Minsk, Artur spent two years living with a relative in Nashville, Tennessee, where, as a child of the Soviet Union, he discovered Judaism; studied Hebrew and had his bar mitzvah. It was his first foray into Jewish life. He spent a year living in a boarding school in Israel before returning to Belarus where he completed his education in Minsk, studying Human Rights Law. Having had a taste of Jewish life, he has made it his life's work to strive for a revival of the Jewish community in Belarus. He met Debra Brunner in 2009 and together, since that time, they have worked to

build and grow The Together Plan. Artur is also the Chairman of International Charitable Organisation Dialog, The Together Plan's partner organization in Belarus.

<https://thetogetherplan.com/>

Natan Shamsutdinov | Co-Founder of the Kislev Cultural and Educational Charitable Foundation

Natan was born in Izhevsk/Russia and later moved to Belarus. He took part in the life of the Jewish community from birth. He studied at a Jewish school. Since 2016, he began active work on the preservation and development of Jewish life, the restoration of the Great Choral Synagogue in Grodno. Since 2019, he has been working as Chairman of the Council of the First Jewish Community named after I. Leib Naidus in Grodno.