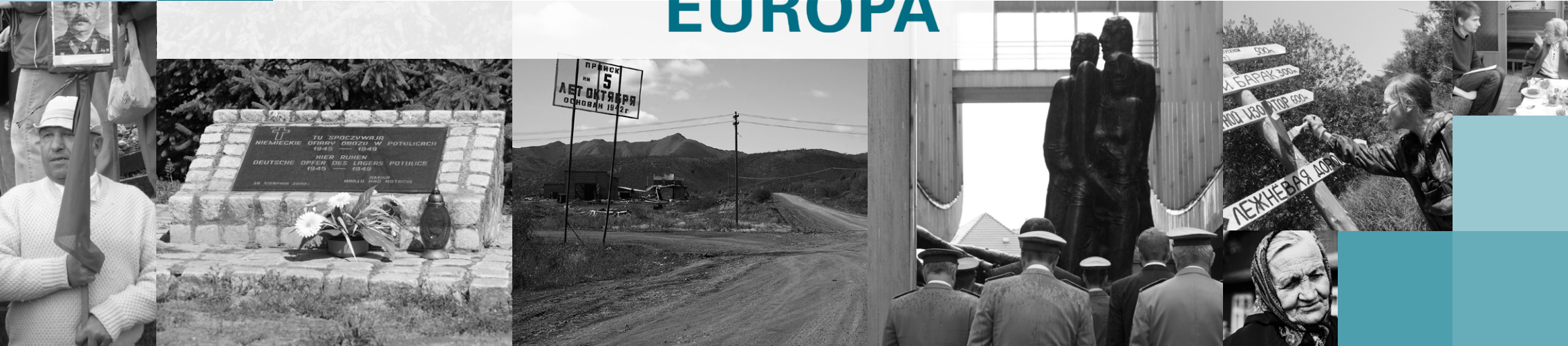


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GESCHICHTSWERKSTATT EUROPA



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2012:

WAR, POST WAR, COLD WAR

REMEMBRANCES OF WORLD WAR II AND THE NEW BEGINNING OF THE POST-WAR YEARS (1945 – 1960)

Call for applications: Grants for international projects on European remembrance

Period of funding: January until October 2012

Closing date for project outlines: 15th May 2011

In cooperation with



Institut für
angewandte
Geschichte

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG
Global and European Studies Institute



EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT
VIADRINA
FRANKFURT (ODER)

Call for Applications 2012:

WAR, POST WAR, COLD WAR

The Second World War and subsequently the Cold War led Europe into a state of enduring division. Evidence of this can be seen today in the greatly differing cultures of memory and remembrance in European societies. In the programme year 2012, within the framework of Geschichtswerkstatt Europa, funding will be given to projects that examine the after effects of the Second World War on European societies in the first 15 post-war years. These international projects should make a contribution to our understanding of the formative years of European cultures of remembrance.

WWII, the Holocaust, the genocide of the European Roma, forced labour, forced migration and other forms of persecution claimed the lives of millions or left survivors severely scarred by their experiences. The German surrender in May 1945 could only bring peace and calm to the continent to a certain extent. The laborious reconstruction of rubble-strewn cities was over-shadowed by hunger and misery, enormous migrational movement, military confrontations and continued political repression.

The experience of violence in the recent past was still very lucid for most people in the years following the war. Individual memories of personal experiences and their own behaviour during the war had an influence on how each person could position him or herself in the newly constituted society, and affected personal and family relationships but also the social climate. Individuals, groups and societies dealt with these memories in very different ways. Some wished to speak about what they had experienced, to understand, explain, to accuse. Many others, however, wanted to forget about the past and look forward to a new start. It was more important, seemingly, to overcome the everyday hardships and try to adjust to these new conditions. Under these circumstances, there was little place for an in-depth social contemplation on the events of the previous years. Furthermore, the approaching Cold War was already creating new foes and sending ideological charges through the different societies. As a part of this process, simplified historical interpretations emerged on both sides that became authoritative and definitive for each.

■ **Geschichtswerkstatt Europa is a programme set up by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility, Future” (EVZ), which supports international projects addressing the issue of the culture of memory and remembrance in Europe. Its aim is to strengthen the dialogue between young Europeans comparing the differences and similarities in historical perceptions of the collective experience of oppression in the 20th century at a national, regional and local level.**

■ **The Institute for Applied History is responsible for project support in cooperation with the European University Viadrina. The Institute provides advice and support on project ideas, from sketching the initial outline to completing the application and accounting procedures. It will also organise a meeting in Frankfurt (Oder) in January 2012 that all members of the funded project groups are required to attend. Here project content and method can be discussed and individual participants can network.**

In the programme year 2012, within the framework of Geschichtswerkstatt Europa, grants will be awarded to up to 30 projects that examine how memories of the Second World War were handled in the first 15 post-war years. One of three topic areas should be considered – each of which particularly highlights the different practises of thinking and not thinking about the past: going back, exchange and the politics of history.

← GOING BACK

Millions of people were on the move in post-war Europe. Behind them lay forced labour, imprisonment, early escape and forced displacement. Many returned to their homes, only to find a strange, unfamiliar environment, completely changed by the war and its aftermath. How did people manage to adapt to these new circumstances? What were the deciding factors as to whether they wished to speak about what they had experienced or not? What sort of conversations took place within the family? What role did organisations and associations of these freed prisoners of war and persecutees play in the foundation of remembrance in each society?

↔ EXCHANGE

After 1945, communication between the East and West became more and more restricted. With new lines of conflict, sharing and exchanging their experiences of the violence of WWII was virtually impossible. In both camps, interpretations of the war years that placed the blame firmly on the other side were considered definitive. And yet, in the early years following the war, connections between the two blocks persisted. Was it possible for alternative remembrance discourse to develop over these channels? What role did informal private, economic and civil society networks play? Were common, shared memories that connected the East and West able to survive and if so, in what form?



↓ THE POLITICS OF HISTORY

The historical master narratives that came into existence in Europe after 1945 were a part of the ideological confrontation of the Cold War. They were intended to create a sense of solidarity and they blended out the fact that other alliances had existed, even during the war. They denied the victims on the other side and were designed to erase any remembrance of common experiences. What role did the politics of history play in forming the ideologies of these two opposing blocks? What forms did the state use – monuments, traditions, hero stories, songs etc. – to implement this remembrance from above? In which situations do they collide with the recollections of private protagonists?

FUNDING

Geschichtswerkstatt Europa funds international projects in which students, graduates, young academics, journalists, artists and other members of civil society between the ages of 18 and 35 can work together from January until October 2012 to examine *War, Post War, Cold War – Remembrances of World War II and the new beginning of the post-war years (1945 – 1960)*. A mentor of their own choice will accompany the project and assist with both content and method.

The projects will be planned and carried out by the applicant in collaboration with a partner from another Central or East European country or from Israel. The aim is transcultural contemplation about European cultures of remembrance. Presentation and discussion of the project should target a wider audience. It is expected that the project will result in a joint contribution to the Geschichtswerkstatt Europa internet platform in the form of text, photos or video.

Projects can be financed in one of two ways: institutions planning a project with more than 3 participants are eligible for grants for travel, accommodation, materials and communication up to a maximum of 15,000 Euro. International teams of 2 or 3 people with no attachment to an institution can claim a maximum of 2,500 Euros per person to carry out the entire project.



OUTLINES

Each project team is required to submit a plan that answers the following questions:

- What is the key issue of the project?
- What approach do you plan to address this issue?
- Which preliminary works will you be using to support your ideas? Please name 5 relevant references.
- Which methods will be used foremost for your project?
- Which international team will be carrying out the project?
- How did your team come together? What form have previous collaborations taken?
- How are ideas about concept and procedure communicated within the group?
- How do you intend to accommodate the European aspect of the culture of remembrance into your project work?
- Which experienced person of your choosing can act as a mentor to the project?
- In what form will the project results be compiled and presented to a wider audience?
- What costs will be involved in carrying out the project?

A project outline can be submitted between 1st of April and 15th of May, 2011 via the online form at Geschichtswerkstatt Europa. In September 2011, a jury of experts will decide which projects will be invited to apply for funding.

KONTAKT

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■ **Geschichtswerkstatt Europa is a programme set up by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ) addressing the issue of the culture of memory and remembrance in Europe. The Institute for Applied History is responsible for project support in cooperation with the European University Viadrina. The International Forum is organised by the Global and European Studies Institute at the University of Leipzig.**

The pictures shown here are all taken from previous projects funded by Geschichtswerkstatt Europa.