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MEDIEL
our world
our dignity
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DIALOG
INTERNATIONAL
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATION

MEMORIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL SITE
**HOUSE OF THE
WANNSEE CONFERENCE**


Novogrudok Museum
of History & Regional Studies


the
together
plan

FUND

KISLEV

HISTORY

MEMORY

ART

DIDACTICS

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Call for Participation

in the international project

Living Memorials

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

8 - 13 August 2021

(Phase 1 of the project)

Application Deadline¹: 16 July 2021

Are you a motivated pedagogue – teacher, enthusiastic and passionate student (future teacher), researcher, member of a museum/memorial staff, a community leader ... – currently living in Belarus?

Then you may find it fascinating to become part of our international exchange project which would offer you to:

- participate in a 6-day on-site meeting in Novogrudok and in the Naliboki Forest on 8 - 13 August, 2021 exploring the intriguing history of the Jewish

¹ For details of the application procedure please see page 3.

Bielski partisans, a story which received worldwide attention through a Hollywood movie *Defiance* (2008)²;

- become pioneers in exploring the concept of a Living Memorial through a dynamic, interactive and evolutionary approach towards presentation/interpretation of memory at a historic site which will enrich your pedagogic practice and allow you to engage young people more creatively in shaping the narrative of these sites in your future work.

Following the introduction into the topic during a two-days seminar in Novogrudok led by Tamara Vershitskaya, a leading expert on the Bielski partisans in Belarus, you will travel to the former camp site of the Bielski partisans in the Naliboki forest where you will launch yourself into the adventure of creating your personal "living memorial" (absolutely no artistic skills required!) to the Bielski partisans under the guidance of Roman Kroke, an interdisciplinary artist from Germany/France, one of Europe's leading experts in developing art workshops for youth encounters at historical sites.

- meet online an international and multidisciplinary group of educators from *other* European countries, get to know and establish personal contacts with some of them through the exchange of "old school" parcels containing handwritten letters, photos, etc. revealing information about their personal and professional life;
- work together on the concept of a Living Memorial using modern digital tools ("Miro" online white boards).

All your expenses for travelling to the on-site meeting in Novogrudok/into the Naliboki forest as well as the costs for board & lodging will be paid by the project financed by the renowned German Foundation "Erinnerung, Verantwortung, Zukunft"³.

- discover via digital exchange (zoom-conferences, live-streaming) with educators from Germany the House of the Wannsee Conference (Berlin/Germany) – a Memorial and Educational Site located in the villa where the final solution regarding deportation and murder of European Jews was reached (20.-24. September 2021).
- be part of a professional TV coverage of the project by the organisation MEDIEL which will accompany the group meetings in Belarus and Berlin to produce a multilingual documentary movie (26 min). You will speak to the camera at the historical sites sharing your experience, feelings and ideas during the project. The movie will be broadcasted on European TV Channels and also be available for free online streaming; it will thus be able to serve you as a unique professional reference in your future career.

² Movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw6Rwum7zcU>.

³ <https://www.stiftung-evz.de/eng/home.html>.

- learn and acquire competence to integrate interdisciplinary pedagogic tools (history, art, philosophy etc.) combined with the didactic approach of “outdoor education” into your own professional practice.

Project language: ENGLISH

The lectures, workshops and discussions will be held in English. Sufficient knowledge in the English language is therefore required in order to understand and actively contribute to the exchange (a Belarussian translator will be present to selectively assist if certain issues should necessitate a refined translation).

Application Procedure | Deadline for Submission

The number of participants for the on-site workshop in Belarus (8-13 August 2021) is limited: 12 places. In case that there should be more applications than places available, the selection will aim at creating a balanced, heterogenic group, in particular with respect to gender and professional/study backgrounds, taking also into consideration your letter of motivation.

For those not selected to participate on site, there will be an opportunity provided to follow the whole project and participate in some events online.

So if you are interested please send your application to Tamara Vershitskaya (E-Mail: wtamar@mail.ru or tamara@thetogetherplan.com). Please describe your professional position (name, age, institution/branch and semester of studies), potential past experiences you have had in the topics of history and memory (no prerequisite for participation), your English level (understanding, speaking, reading) and your motivation to be part of our project.

In case you have further questions, please, contact Tamara Vershitskaya by phone +375-29-8602949).

A detailed programme schedule for the on-site meeting will be sent upon request.

Deadline for submission: **Friday, 16 July 2021**

Feel free to forward this call for participation to appropriate friends and colleagues.

We are all very much looking forward to hearing from you,

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, Local Coordinators in Berlin/Germany

Tamara Vershitskaya
Local Coordinator in Novogrudok/Belarus

Konstantin Victorovich
Novogrudok Museum of History and Regional Studies, Director

Debra Brunner
The Together Plan, Chief Operating Officer

Artur Livshyts
The Together Plan, Belarus Country Director

Natan Shamsutdinov
Kislev Foundation, 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) or in partnership with the Holocaust museum "Mémorial de la Shoah" and the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah (both Paris). Documentations about his approach have been published, among others, in the Swiss pedagogical journal on history teaching DIDACTICA HISTORICA or by the Berlin University of the Arts. 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.

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.