



Report on the 5th annual workshop and study trip organized and held in Kosovo and Macedonia from 5 to 11 October 2014

Organized by:

Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH (Sarajevo),

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Group photo of participants to the 5th Memory Lab workshop and study trip – taken in Tetovo, Macedonia

I. Aims of the 5th workshop and study trip

In line with its mission, Memory Lab provides a platform for exchange, cooperation and critical understanding of history and remembrance in Europe. It connects institutions, organizations, and persons working on memory sites and remembrance education especially in the Western Balkans and in Western Europe. Through study trips, workshops and joint projects, it creates an interactive environment for mutual learning through the sharing of experiences and practices for its participants. The platform contributes to overcome existing gaps of knowledge, to strengthen constructive dealing with the difficult past and to develop a shared memory space in Europe with the Western Balkans as a fully integrated part.

After having organized four workshops and study trips in different European countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France and Germany, on the 5th year of its existence, Memory Lab brought together experts, activists, historians and representatives of human rights organizations, museums as well as direct survivors of war events, for a workshop and study trip in Macedonia and Kosovo. 43 persons from eight different countries (Belgium 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina 9, Croatia 5, France 5, Germany 6, Kosovo 9, Macedonia 3, Netherlands 1, Serbia 4) in total participated in the program. For the first time, persons from Macedonia participated at the program. From the 43 persons, 25 had participated already at one or several of the previous workshops, while 18 participated for the first time.

The aims of the workshop and study trip were, as in previous cases, adapted to the context of the specific countries visited and envisaged to:

- Explore and discuss current memorialization challenges in Kosovo and Macedonia related to three topics: Dealing with the communist past; Dealing with the recent armed conflicts (Kosovo 1998/99, Macedonia 2001); Building of new collective identities (independent Kosovo, "Skopje 2014"),
- Connect the experiences from Kosovo and Macedonia with the situations and remembrance-work in other European countries, and
- Deepen established contacts and cooperation, initiate new contacts and provide space for future activities between the participants.

II. Success in meeting the aims of the workshop and study trip

Having in mind the established aims of the workshop and study trip, it can be said that all three aims have been successfully met. Working alongside with three important organizations in the field of memorialization and dealing with the past in Kosovo and Macedonia, the Memory Lab team managed to identify several key sites of memory and several key-actors to discuss issues of interest in the two countries. Due to time

constraints, it was not possible to visit all the towns in both countries, where relevant sites can be explored with regards to the three topics (Dealing with the communist past; Dealing with the recent armed conflicts; Building of new collective identities), but in the towns which were visited (Pristina and surroundings, Skopje and Tetovo/Neprsteno/Zajas), the participants had a chance to visit the most important sites and speak to relevant actors. Through this the participants discovered, explored and learned about the different situations and challenges related to dealing with the past in both countries, as appears for example in the following answers from the evaluation sheets: *"I have learned a lot of interesting things because I didn't know much about the situation in Kosovo and Macedonia when it comes to memory."* *"[The field visits in Macedonia] were very beneficiary to my understanding of memory processes in Macedonia, political influence in shaping the history and interpretation of new narratives as part of state building and identity."* *"I have learned a lot about the memory of the 90's in Kosovo thanks to Linda and Nita's speeches, which is a quite absent topic today."* *"Thanks a lot for this interesting week, I learned much more than in a whole semester of history at university."*

In the sessions reserved during the workshop for the exchange of views, opinions and ideas, the participants had also opportunity to discuss and make links between the processes of dealing with the past in the two visited countries and those of their own countries of origin or residence. Even if the focus of this 5th study trip and workshop was on the situation in Kosovo and Macedonia, the possibility to connect these experiences with the experiences of other countries not only allowed to sharpen the view for specificities of the situations in Macedonia and Kosovo, but also to discuss about similarities and differences in the situations, challenges and approaches concerning memorialization in the different countries represented through Memory Lab. As one participant writes in her evaluation: *"It is interesting to learn in a very visual way how different Western Balkan countries, though having a lot in common, use different approaches in dealing with the past and in nation building projects."* The experiences in Macedonia and Kosovo also resulted in learning about Western Europe which can be seen from the following two quotations: *"I got to know about different ways of memorialization in Western Europe and the Balkans"*, and: *"I got also some new information about French and Belgium political processes."* Another participant underlines as particularly important during this week *"the exchange of positions, experiences between the participants from Western Europe and the Balkan states"*.

Apart from giving space for participants to explore, discuss, share experiences and knowledge, Memory Lab managed to provide participants space to exchange ideas and possibilities for further cooperation, make links between their countries, institutions and develop networks. Many new contacts were established, and bilateral or multilateral projects have been discussed. One example is the potential to develop a Balkans Youth

Exchange Office, organize new projects between partners from several countries, and include participants of Memory Lab in activities realized by other participants. Here two quotations from the evaluation sheets: *“Memory Lab serves, among other things, as a platform for people from different countries working in the same or similar fields to talk, share knowledge and practices, and possibly develop new joint projects. I used opportunity to strengthen the links with other Memory Lab members and this year came out with two very probable/visible projects and cooperation to be realized in the coming period.”* *“Not only the participation in this program provided me with the information and practical experiences on how to advance my work in memorialization processes/dealing with the past, it also provided me with a chance to establish new connections and discuss possible means of cooperation with individuals and organizations which share our visions.”*

III. The different steps of the program of the workshop and study trip

In the following section of the report, the program of the study trip and workshop will be elaborated, with information about the visited sites and organized activities, and statements and impressions of participants and guest speakers of the 5th Memory Lab.

1. Kosovo

The program for the Kosovo part of the workshop and study trip included visits to different sites (Gazimestan-Monument, Memorial Complex “Adem Jashari” in Prekaz, and a Memory Walk through Pristina with visits of the Monuments “Brotherhood and Unity”, “Boro and Ramiz” and the “Sami Frasheri”-Private School House), a workshop with Saranda Bogujecvi, author of the exhibition “The Bogujecvi – a visual history”, a “Memory market” presenting the different organisations involved in Memory Lab and a public discussion on the topic “Memory challenges in Kosovo and the region”.

One of the leading persons for the contextualization and introduction of the different relevant sites and monuments in Kosovo was Professor Nita Luci who holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. Her PhD thesis is titled “Seeking Independence: Making Nation, Memory and Manhood in Kosovo”. She also teaches at the American University in Kosovo. Her research has focused on topics of gender and manhood, state, post-socialism, nationalism, contemporary art, body, memory, and violence.



Discussion with Nita Luci at Gazimestan

Gazimestan is one of the most important memory sites in Kosovo, not only because it marks the famous Battle of Kosovo from 1389, but because the way it was revived at the end of the 1980s by Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian politics to make divisions between Albanians and Serbs and claim the territory of Kosovo as an integral and inseparable part of Serbia. The site is still being used for political purposes and to maintain alive the discussion about Kosovo as part of Serbia. What was interesting from the visit to Gazimestan were all the personal feelings of participants, especially those from Kosovo about the memorial and the Kosovo Polje battle of 1389. For example one of the participants said while visiting the memorial: "I used to be proud of the battle of Kosovo and the fact that Serbs, Albanians, Croats fought together. Gazimestan should be a place of joint memory, not used to spread nationalism and hatred". Striking also were the high security measures around the Monument which many Serbs consider as a holy place and which is situated in a neighborhood inhabited nearly exclusively by Albanians.

In order to demonstrate the specificities of memory politics in Kosovo, and the existence of fragmented, family memories, histories and narratives which mark certain important events and individuals from the recent war, the group visited the Adem Jashari memorial in Prekaz. Apart from having Nita Luci as a resource person for this site, the group had the possibility to hear about the site from an official guide.



The Jashari memorial is one the biggest and the most visited memorial site in Kosovo. The narrative behind it is the one of Adem Jashari, one of the founders and the commander of Kosovo Liberation Army. In 1998, Adem Jashari and 52 members of his family (including his mother, wife and children, his brothers and their families) were killed by the Serbian police and army. This memorial site has become a national pilgrimage destination, especially for the Diaspora Albanians.

During the visit to the memorial, there were several very interesting aspects that caught the attention of the group. One was the fact that this memorial is being maintained nearly exclusively from profit made through the organized visits and support from the Diaspora. Although the Memorial is officially recognized by the State of Kosovo, the State does not give financial support to it, even though this memorial has become a very strong the symbol of the independent Kosovo. Some of the questions which were posed after the visit, in the session for sharing impressions and opinions about the sites visited, concerned the importance of family-initiatives in the field of memorialization in Kosovo, the differentiation between state-recognized memorials and family memorials, and the sometimes unclear frontier between both as well as the absence of scientific research on the events and massacre of the Jashari family.

As a continuation of the exploration in Kosovo and especially in line with the lack of existing official memory sites, and thus, the importance of private, family ones, the participants took part in a workshop with Saranda Bogujevci, author of the exhibition "The Bogujevci – a visual history". Saranda Bogujevci survived as a 13-year-girl a massacre where 14 of her family members were killed in 1999 in Podujevo. Her exhibition includes the reconstructed living room of the Bogujevci family, the hospital room where the survivors recovered after the massacre, the court room where they testified about the event and the family tree of their murdered relatives. At an exhibit held in Belgrade in December 2013, with demonstrations of Serbian nationalists in front of the Cultural Center in Belgrade, the exhibition was seen by a number of Serbian citizens and its opening was attended even by the Prime minister of Serbia.



The photo on the left is from the workshop held with Saranda Bogujevci / the photo on the right is from her exhibition

Saranda Bogujevci started the discussion by inviting participants to share their visions of memorialization and then she shared her personal and the inner need of her relatives to visualize their suffering. What colored to a great extent her workshop and her artwork as such, was the need to make sure that her family is remembered, but without spreading hatred while doing so. The encounter with Saranda Bogujevci was very moving and striking for many of the participants, as more as it contrasted with the visit of the Jashari Memorial some hours before: two family massacres, but two different ways to remember, one through a Memorial putting the focus on the massacre and the male leader of the family and of the fight against Serbia, the other through an artistic exhibition which is about life before and after, about the family as whole and the judicial recognition of the crime.

The Memory Walk in Pristina included visits to the Brotherhood and Unity memorial and the Boro and Ramiz site, both from the Socialist period, and the visit of a house which was part of the parallel educational systems in Kosovo in the 1990s. They were all very relevant to the topics looked at the Memory Lab, but what was very specific and differentiating among them, was the parallel educational system in Kosovo, because it is a topic which is not discussed a lot.

Namely, in 1990 Slobodan Milosevic brought about the closing of Albanian universities and schools in Kosovo, a unified curricula was adopted, Albanian teachers were dismissed and two separate shifts were established for Serbian and Albanian students. As a reaction to this new situation, Albanians from Kosovo supported a parallel administrative system, including a parallel educational system. Secondary school students were attending classes in private houses which were meant for this purpose. One of the Kosovar researchers who explored this phenomenon, Linda Gusia, joined the group for a discussion at one of the sites which served as a secondary school, named Sami Frasheri.



Photo from the visit to the improvised secondary school in Pristina under the parallel educational system and talk with Linda Gusia who used to attend this school in the 90s

One of the issues which raised much interest during the talk with Linda Gusia, is how did the Kosovars hide the fact that they were attending school from the police of Serbia at the time. According to Linda, the Serbian establishment perceived the parallel educational system as a joke, often stating even in the media, that the Kosovars were playing make believe with going to school and pretending to get education. It was also interesting to note that a Sami Frasheri Memorial has not been finalized yet and it is not very known in Prishtina. This reflects also the issue of the public memorialization discourses in Kosovo having focused mainly on the military fight of the “Kosovo Liberation Army”, while other, peaceful forms of resistance are neglected.

As a tradition from previous Memory Lab workshops, a Memory Market was organized, where all participants were given the possibility to present, in an informal way, informational material, brochures, CDs, booklets about their work and the organizations and institutions which they are affiliated with.



Photos from the Memory Market

As a new approach which the organizing team of Memory Lab has not explored before, the Kosovo visit included a public discussion. This was done in order to give the possibilities to other interested persons to join discussions about memorialization, and also to make Memory Lab more known within the visited town. The chosen topic was “Memory challenges in Kosovo and the region”, and the discussion was held in the EU Information and Cultural Center Pristina (EUICC). Days before the holding of the event, an invitation was published in the media and social networks, inviting all those interested to join. The panelists invited for the event were Bekim Blakaj (Executive Director, *Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo*), Ljiljana Milić (President *Božur*), Marie-Ursula Kind (Senior Adviser on Transitional Justice, United Nations Kosovo Team), Orli Fridman (Academic Director, *Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans*, Belgrade), Kushtrim Koliqi (Executive Director, *Integra*) and Abdullah B. Ferizi (Project manager, *Forum ZFD Kosovo*). They presented their work and vision, and discussed processes of Dealing with the Past and memorialization in Kosovo and region, and the main challenges they are facing, especially lack of education, domination of myths, and the position of Serbs in Kosovo. The session was followed with an interactive debate between participants and panelists. After the visit of different sites in the two days before, it gave the participants the possibility to learn about the role of civil society actors in Kosovo in the field of dealing with the past and transitional justice.



Photos from the panel discussion at the EUICC

With the end of the panel discussion, the visit to Kosovo also ended, even though the sites seen, individuals met and issues discussed in Kosovo, were reiterated or further elaborated and evoked during the visit to Macedonia.

2. Macedonia

Macedonia's program was envisaged to also merge the workshop and the study trip, just as done in the Kosovo program. The program was drafted based on discussions within the organizing team, which also encompassed the organization “Loja” from Tetovo, but also with external actors who are relevant in this field. This was done during

the February 2014 preparatory meeting held in Skopje. As a result of this meeting, most of the agenda was drafted and speakers identified for the events in Kosovo and Macedonia. The program in Macedonia was comprised of an exploration of the “Skopje 2014”-project by a self-exploration of down-town Skopje in small groups, followed by an exchange of impressions from the exploration and discussion with guests, and the next day of visits of other Memory Sites outside of Skopje: Museum of Communist Party of Macedonia in Tetovo, Macedonian Memorial of 2001 Conflict in Neprošteno Village, visit to the Albanian Mother memorial in Zajaz, followed by a feedback session about the visits.

The main resource persons for the visit of different sites in Macedonia were the actual participants and organizers of the workshop and study trip, as well as experts and local guests.

The first day of the program was dedicated to the exploration and discussion of “Skopje 2014”, the project officially launched in 2010 by the Macedonian government which has radically changed the urban landscape of down-town Skopje. This was done through the construction of monuments and buildings, designed to illustrate the history of the Macedonian nation, and represents one of the most striking nation-building-projects through architecture and urbanism in contemporary Europe.

The Memory Lab - program started with a self-exploration of the center of Skopje, where participants divided in six groups were discovering and exploring different sites, memorials, visit museums and reflect on Skopje 2014. For the joint discussion in the afternoon, each group was invited to come back from the exploration with two photos and explain why they had chosen these photos, share their impressions about what they have seen and formulate questions the exploration had provoked. Participants were also encouraged to speak to by passers and ask them for their opinion about “Skopje 2014”. At the session where the participants were to share their photos, impressions and questions, there was a presence of two guests in order to discuss with them the Skopje 2014 project, which were Dr. Goran Janev, Social Anthropologist teaching at the St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, who has published several articles about Skopje 2014, and Sanja Radjenovic-Jovanovic, architect and President of the Association of Architects in Macedonia. The two guests were asked not to do presentations, but to listen to the presentations of the groups, and reflect on that and share their opinions.

The results from the six groups were as follows:

The first group discussed the interaction between old and new memorials in Skopje and the fact that the feeling which prevails when walking around the center is a suffocating

feeling, a feeling that history is being thrown at you. The two guests were asked by the members of the first group: “How does one person living in Skopje cope with this?”



Photos taken by the first group

The monument commemorating the catastrophic earthquake in Skopje in the 60s was discussed by the second group. The question asked was why memorial that commemorates a natural disaster is the only memorial which is accepted and not controversial for anyone, whilst commemorating wrongdoings of man is always offensive or unacceptable to one side.



Photo taken by the second group

The masculine aspect of Skopje 2014 was elaborated by the third group and the fact that the city is filled with sculptures of strong men, riding horses and carrying swords, while women are reduced to the role of maternity.



Photo taken by group 3

The project of Skopje 2014 was perceived as one-sided i.e. as something that hails and glorifies the Macedonian and their history, but completely leaves aside the place and history of other nationalities, predominantly the Albanians, as the second largest population. In this regard the fourth group mentioned the sculptures of Cyril and Methodius which demonstrate giving a blessing, and are placed on such a location at the bottom of the Stone Bridge to send the message that those who cross to the other side of the River Vardar – the side of predominantly Orthodox Macedonian population - will be blessed.



Photo taken by group 4

Skopje 2014 lacks written explanations and narratives behind the monuments that are being built: This was the observation made by participants at the fifth group during their exploration, who expressed also their irritation about the fact that behind the statue of a beggar is situated a fancy fashion shop.



Photos taken by group 5

The gender aspect of the Skopje 2014 project, or the lack of it, was what was striking for the sixth group of explorers. Women are solely presented as mothers, with hips and big breasts, usually in the presence of a child. On the other hand quotes of Mother Theresa against abortion are being placed as plaques at the Triumph Gate in Skopje.



Photos taken by group 6



“Skopje 2014 project is the elephant in the room, but no one sees it.”

This was one of the thoughts of the guests who were joining the Memory Lab participants to explain their take on the project, from the angle of their profession and educational background. The Social Anthropologist Goran Janev and the architect Sanja Radjenovic-Jovanovic reacted to different questions and remarks of the participants, and gave additional information, in order to better understand the “Skopje 2014”-project and place it in a historical and political context. Janev elaborated the political background and the historical development of Skopje 2014, explaining the aim of the Macedonian government for “the creation of an ethnocratic spatial order through the installation of symbolic markers in the built environment that practically fragment the city into ethnically-defined territories”. His colleague Radjenovic-Jovanovic insisted of the importance to look not only at the monuments, but also at the construction of all the monumental buildings in a “neo-classical style”, which are an integral part of the “Skopje 2014”: “Monuments can easily be torn down one day, but this is much more difficult with whole buildings...” She also spoke of the poor quality of the monuments, buildings and facades of buildings which are redressed in neo-classical style, and also how the innovative, modernist architecture of Skopje, which characterized the rebuilt down-town after the earthquake in 1963, is destroyed by “Skopje 2014”. She also spoke of the obligations which architects have to warn about projects which are not urbanistically well planned and of poor quality.

One question which was discussed was about the reactions to this project. Both guests mentioned that there have been some attempts of protest by civil society actors and academics, but they also stated that it is nearly impossible to openly criticize the project because of the autocratic nature of the regime. Concerning the question how to deal in

daily life with the transformed Skopje down-town, Goran Janev said that he, as a native resident of Skopje, avoids to walk down-town, because of the suffocating effect of buildings and monuments. He also mentioned that Skopje Old Bazaar, on the other side of the River Vardar, which for many years had been abandoned, has had a social revival since the start of "Skopje 2014". This was so because many, especially young people enjoy much more this authentic site than the new artificial down-town Skopje, and perceive this also a form of resistance. The panel discussion lasted for two hours and many questions were posed, issues raised and discussed.

On the next day, the visit to Tetovo, included the visit to the Museum of the Communist Party of Macedonia, where the Communist Party of Macedonia was set up, and a talk with the Director of the Museum.



Photo from the visit to the Museum of the Communist Party

Some of the thoughts of participants after seeing the Museum and hearing from its Director, were about the "Communist-times nostalgia", the combination of a communist discourse and Macedonian-national discourse, the contrast of this Museum with the room of "victims of communist terror" in the VMRO-museum in Skopje, the different approaches towards the Communist past in Macedonia, partially rejecting it, partially integrating it in the general Macedonian national discourse.

As part of the exploration of the way in which the recent conflict of 2001 was commemorated in Macedonia, the group visited the memorial of killed Macedonian in

Neprosteni, Tetovo. This memorial was built in July 2014 to commemorate the lives of 12 Macedonians who were kidnapped by Albanian rebels in 2001.



For the visit, the group had the members of the initiation board for the memorial to join and speak to participants about the reasons behind the building of the memorial and the current situation in Neprosteni. According to the statements given by the representatives of the Board, the situation between the two groups is fine now, and Albanians from surrounding villages were even supporting the memorial financially. However, the discussion within the Memory Lab group after the visit was tangled around the question of “to what extent was this discourse made because we are an international visitors group and is the multicultural discourse presented because it is what is supposed that we want to hear?”

The last visit within the study tour was a visit to the memorial Albanian Mother in Zajaz, in the Kicevo region, a very new Memorial which had been opened in November 2013.



At this Memorial, the group was guided by Ilmi Veliu, Director of the National Liberation War Museum of Kicevo ; he had been part of the initiation board of the Zajas-Memorial but then had left it because he did not agree with certain aspects of the Memorial, for example that it has been built directly on ancient graves which are now recovered by the Memorial. Similar to the discourse heard in Neprosteni from the side of Macedonians, Ilmi Veliu stated to participants that this is a memorial which is intended for all those who are from the area of Zajas and who lost their lives in different wars in the last hundred years: the Balkan Wars, the First and the Second World War and the conflict of 2001. Of course it was not easy for the director to answer questions on why is the memorial called the Albanian Mother and is decorated with an Albanian flag, if it concerns also Macedonian and other victims and whether the families of other victims (non-Albanians) accept the memorial which is supposed to represent also their family members. Here once again the question which came up was how much the discourse of the guide was adapted to what he thought or perceived as being acceptable to the group to hear.

After the visits in Tetovo, Neprosteni and Zajas, the next day started with a feedback-round about these visits, which allowed to give additional information about the visited monuments. Bujar Luma, member of the Memory Lab-team 2014, used this opportunity to give also a useful overview about the complex relations of Macedonia with its different neighbors on the one hand, and about the 2001 conflict and the difficult relations between Albanians and Macedonians on the other hand.

After all these visits, encounters and exchanges in Kosovo and Macedonia, the last day of the program was largely dedicated to put what had been seen and heard in these two countries in a larger European context. The session was called “Mapping Similarities and Differences in Memorialization in Europe”. In parallel country-groups the participants first discussed the question how their societies are dealing with the three main memorialization-topics which had been in focus on during the week: Dealing with Communist Past, Dealing with Recent Armed Conflicts, National Identity Building. The groups were invited to choose key-words for the situation of their country related to the three topics, which were then put on a European map on the wall, and summarize their findings in a plenary session.

Concerning the topic “dealing with communist pasts”, the participants from Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and BiH, formulated similar answers to characterize the situation in their countries: a mix of (private) nostalgia (or “indifference” for Croatia) and (public) revisionism and reinterpretation of antifascism. For Western Europe, the situation is very different, as the represented countries have not been under communist regime (except one part of Germany); therefore in Belgium dealing with the communist past is not a topic at all, while the participants from Germany stated that the situation in their country is characterized by a plural approach, focusing in the same time on the repression and on the everyday-life during the GDR.

Big differences between Western and South Eastern Europe could also be seen concerning the topic “Dealing with recent conflicts”. The represented countries of SEE were all confronted with armed conflicts in the last 20 years which are still strongly influencing today’s political and social life. The groups from SEE named similar challenges, as the politisation of memories and manipulation of facts for nationalist purposes, but they also pointed out differences: while the participants from Croatia said that in their country there is one dominating “monolithic narrative” about the “Homeland War”, the participants from BiH focused on “the existence of multiple narratives” in BiH, and the persons of Kosovo insisted on “the non-recognition of civilian victims of the 1999-war” as one main challenge. Concerning Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands “recent conflicts” have another meaning, and was also understood differently by the groups: the participants from Germany and from France mentioned recent military interventions outside of Europe, where French soldiers (as in Africa) or German soldiers (as in Afghanistan) have been or are involved. While the participant from Belgium focused on World War Two as something which is still stimulating debates today.

Also related to the topic “National identity building”, some major differences appeared between South Eastern Europe and Western Europe: the countries of SEE are all new countries which didn’t exist in this form twenty years ago, and which are partially strongly contested from the interior (as BiH) or from the exterior (as Macedonia). Within

the process of national identity building in the successor-states of Yugoslavia, several groups mentioned as one of the main problems that the states and societies are focusing on the development of national and ethnic identities, also through the manipulation of historical facts, and mentioned in the same time the lack of promotion of a “civic identity”.

Additionally to that, the participants from BiH insisted on “the lack of vision of supranational identity”, those from Serbia on the strong attempts to build the nation’s identity by going “back to a heroic/romantic past”, and those from Kosovo on the opposition between national symbols and state symbols, symbolizing also the ambiguous relation between a Kosovar identity and an Albanian identity. In Western Europe, states exist in their current form since a long time, as France, Belgium and the Netherlands; the only one which changed recently is Germany, but in the same time the reunification can be more seen as an expansion of the existing Western Germany rather than a new creation. Nevertheless also all these countries are going through processes of building new collective identities, in relation with demographic and social changes in the countries and in the context of a changing globalizing world.

The participants from France chose as one key-word “fragmentation”, in order to talk about the current discussion on a “national identity crisis” of the French society. Participants from Germany focused on the way the reunification is becoming part of a new collective identity (for example through new memorials for the reunification in Leipzig and Berlin), but also about struggles linked to this evolution (as appears in the split between those who focus on the 3rd October (1990), and those who focus on the 9th November (1918, 1923, 1938, 1939 and 1989) as the most significant and symbolically relevant historical date for today’s Germany).

One very interesting case, also regarding the Balkans, represents Belgium because of the ethnic divisions which have strengthened in the last decades and the calls to divide the country; besides “football and food” it is difficult to find national symbols in Belgium which are connecting the whole country.

After this European *tour d’horizon*, at the end of this session new parallel groups were formed and invited, as a sort of summary of the week, to communicate to the others in a creative way one aspect of the week they had found particularly interesting. Through little performances, as monument-imitations, some groups articulated what they found problematic in memorialization-processes in the countries we visited (as the nationalistic-militaristic messages and the absence of women or their reduction to maternity-roles in many monuments), others summarized some of the most important things they had learned this week, while others raised more general questions of the functions of monuments and the way we look at them (by the representation of an “invisible monument”)

3. Discussion about Memory Lab and future projects

Before the last day, one session was dedicated to discuss about the development of Memory Lab and about future projects. In the first part of the session, some developments since last year were presented: especially the website launched after the 2013 study trip (www.memorylab-europe.eu), and also joint projects which had been realized since October 2013. One of such projects is the “Memory Lab Junior”, which is a seminar cycle with secondary school-students from BiH, France, Germany and Serbia which started in summer 2014. Future study trips and workshops were also discussed, with the idea to alternate each year’s study trip between SEE and Western Europe. The coordination team proposed to organize next year’s trip to Belgium, and that was welcomed by the group. As mid-term planning, the edition in 2016 might take place in Serbia and the one in 2017 in the Netherlands.

Some challenges regarding the development of Memory Lab, as the lack of long-term financial security and the need to develop and to update more often the Memory Lab-website were also raised. Another challenge is the growing number of participants of Memory Lab. Taking in consideration that the total number of participants should not exceed 40, the question raised was how to keep “old” participants involved and still make room for new ones? Frank Morawietz from the French-German Youth Office spoke about the potential for the establishment of a Balkan Youth Office, which was officially discussed during the Western Balkans governmental conference in Berlin in August 2014. Several partners of Memory Lab have been discussing this idea for some time, and the next step would be to insure active participation of civil society in this process.

In the second part of this session, different working groups were formed, in order to deepen some of the mentioned topics, raise additional questions, or discuss future projects. Five groups were formed and worked on the following topics: “Balkan Youth Office”, “Development of Memory Lab”; “Joint activities in Prijedor”; “How can Memory Lab be more present in the public space”, and “How to connect Memory Lab with schools”. After the group work, five groups presented their main conclusions.

1. Concerning the idea for the establishment of a Balkan Youth Office which is envisaged to work on supporting good regional relations, organize youth exchanges in former Yugoslav countries, support the mobility and active participation, a letter will be prepared, and sent to the Governments of France and Germany, asking them to support this idea, both politically and financially, and insisting on the importance to include civil society actors in this process. All partner organizations of Memory Lab who are interested to sign this letter will be invited to do so.

2. In terms of further developing Memory Lab the following plan was created: 1) put the current website on CMS so that updating the content becomes easier; suppress the existing closed Facebook-groups and create one semi-public group (visible for everybody, but not everybody can post on it). 2) Fundraise for the 2015 Memory Lab with FGYO, Forum ZFD, CCFD, Robert Bosch Foundation, and organization and authorities in Belgium, while for 2016-17/8, explore possibilities for funding through European Union. 3) define criteria for the selection of participants such as ask old participants for preferences for the next three years; require the submission of contribution letter from each participant (which would reflect on how did he/she contribute to Memory Lab; how did memory lab contribute for him/her and his/her professional/personal environment); reserve a number of places for new participants; publish a call for applications, and make a decision in a transparent manner using established criteria.

3. The group discussed the question how to continue the consultation process about the development of a constructive culture of remembrance which had been started in December 2013 in Prijedor with several partners from Memory Lab. The participants of Prijedor insisted on the importance to continue this process with the participation of international experts from Memory Lab. Among the different elements which were discussed about the form and content of this process the actions proposed were to include local historians, artists and educational experts in the consultation process, secure cooperation with other towns on the issue of memorialization, and elaborate an analysis of the current situation in Prijedor with recommendations. On the organizational level, one possibility to be explored is whether Forum ZFD can get involved in this process.

4. How can Memory Lab be more present in the public space? The group which discussed this question reached the conclusions that there should be more work done with the media in the country where the workshop is taking place, in the form of press releases, interviews, or related. Also one suggestion was to make small artistic interventions in public space, where possible. The third and most highlighted suggestion was to include in the workshop a public debate in all countries visited, just as it was done in Kosovo. In that way, Memory Lab can engage with the wider public, establish new networks and spread the word about its existence.

5. How to connect Memory Lab with schools? Additionally to the "Memory Lab Junior" launched by different associates this year, the group discussed what "Memory Lab" could furthermore do to help teachers from different countries to involve their pupils in international projects on dealing with difficult past. One main idea was to create an online platform where teachers and students could find information about memorialization topics, where they could also put own material, and through which they

could communicate and work with each other. The members of the working group also discussed how to develop contacts and cooperation between themselves: several of them plan to send pupils to the “Week of Memory” organized by the French NGO “The paths of memory” in March 2015, and the festival “Na pola putu” in Serbia plans to invite students from Kosovo to join the next edition in April 2015.

4. Evaluation

The official program ended with an evaluation which was done in written and anonymous form with help of a questionnaire. The complete answers have been compiled in a separate document (and are also available on the Memory Lab-website: <http://www.memorylab-europe.eu/activities.html>). In short the results of the evaluations can be summarized as follows:

Regarding the question “My general opinion on the study trip and workshop”, from the 36 answers 34 have been positive or very positive, and only two were more critical (*“Organization was good, but it could have been better”*). What is the most often positively emphasized are four points: 1) the general organization. 2) the concept, structure and content of the program – and here especially the combination and balance of different elements in the program (field visits, lectures with guest speakers and group work), the choice of the visited sites, and the choice of the guest speakers. 3) the fact that the study trip contributed to the increase of knowledge, better understanding and reflection especially about the visited countries and memorialization in general. 4) the composition of and the relations and atmosphere within the group. – The individual points of the program which were mentioned the most often as particularly interesting and stimulating were the discovery of the Skopje 2014-project and the workshop with Saranda Bogujevci. – Furthermore many persons wrote that this week would be very useful for their own work, through the acquisition of knowledge regarding dealing with the past in different countries and in general, through inputs for example regarding certain methods and concepts they experienced, through ideas for projects and new approaches in their organization, and through the establishment of contacts and the networking between the participants, with also the plans for several bilateral or multilateral projects.

Within the positive answers there have also been critical remarks towards specific aspects of the program. Besides more individual considerations, two points were mentioned several times: five persons spoke of the lack of time during visits, especially for the visits in Tetovo and Neprosteno; and three persons wrote they would have wished more general background information before the visits. The public discussion in Pristina was mentioned three times with mixed opinions (*“very informative but too many speakers”*). The combination of two countries was expressly seen as positive by two persons, while two others said that this division did not allow to go deep enough in each

of the countries. Comparing this study trip and workshop to the previous ones, six persons said that the quality had been maintained or even improved, while one person said it was not as good as the previous ones.

We also asked for “Suggestions for future workshops/ study trips”: From the many different suggestions will be mentioned here those which were made more than once: Concerning the program in general, three persons suggested to focus on one country instead of two. Concerning the structure and methods of the study trip and workshop, three persons mentioned “Continue as you do”; also three persons suggested to integrate general introduction into countries history into the program, while two times was proposed to have less speakers in public debates, more visits to museums and more time for the work in small groups. Some suggestions concerned also future destinations of the study trips and workshops: two persons made positive remarks about the choice of Belgium for 2015, two persons mentioned Serbia for 2016 and two the Netherlands for 2017. Concerning Memory Lab in general, two persons suggested to do more between the annual meetings.

IV. Conclusions and Perspectives

After the successful edition of the 5th annual study trip and workshops, it can be concluded that Memory Lab continues to be on a good way. The annual workshops and study trips, every year in a new country, with their program combining visits, meetings with guests and group work, and with the diversity of represented persons and countries from South Eastern Europe and from Western Europe, are seen as a highly valuable experience for those who are participating. But the positive experience of this workshop needs to be fructified and the development of Memory Lab strengthened: this includes the development of the website and of external communication, to tackle the questions of long-term-financing, and to find answers to the question how to keep the mix of old and new participants. Concerning the next study trip and workshop in Belgium in October 2015, the Memory Lab coordination team will meet beginning of 2015 in order to prepare its organization, and also work on the other challenges, on the basis of the conclusions and evaluations of the study trip and workshop 2014. As usual, partners of the visited country will join the organization team in order to insure a high quality of the program by the choice of relevant sites and experts, and by including innovative working approaches. The trip to Belgium will also be the possibility to explore new topics which have not been treated in the previous visits, as the legacies of colonialism, and the possibilities and challenges to conceive and construct a European History Museum.

This report ends with some additional quotations from the evaluation sheets which may illustrate some of the added values of Memory Lab for the building-up of capacities, of networking and joint projects in the field of remembrance-work, and through that for the development of a shared European memory space:

"This is probably one of the best programs I have attended. Not only that the technical organization was on a high level, but the approach used to address the topics of memorization practices in Kosovo and Macedonia, combining visits to the places of commemoration, personal encounters with the time witnesses, presentations and group discussions provided me with the possibility to understand these processes and at the same time to perceive the differences and similarities between these and other countries in that respect."

"The discussions between participants of Memory Lab are always a good inspiration for my own work. As the history of Kosovo and Macedonia is largely ignored in Western Europe, what we have seen this week is a good start to try to change this situation and create projects on this history."

"Having such a big expertise on memory from different countries is very rich and exceptional. What impresses me even more is that nobody is reluctant to share insights and one doesn't have to be afraid to ask a basic or a complicated question."

"Very valuable experience again! It has a big value that people know each other since years now, that makes discussions more insightful, we can go much deeper in a short time and the personal backgrounds are more or less known. It was great to see too that new participants are welcomed and quickly integrated in the group- really important!"

"What I like about the Memory Lab study trip is that it is organized by people who have a lot of expertise in dealing with the past processes in the specific region and context which is visited. The value of the study trip is, therefore, that local knowledge (of the specific region which is visited) forms the content and issues of discussions and carefully chooses the memorial sites. As a participant you can see that how the study trip is structured helps you to get deeper and deeper into certain topics."

"I established new contacts which will result in one new project; and with other colleagues we agreed about the continuation of a project we initiated last year. In general, the knowledge that there is a network of competent and interested people whom I can contact any time for different needs and ideas related to my work is extremely useful!"

"It is important to provide the people who deal with topics of facing the past, reconciliation and memory processes with the opportunity to meet their colleagues dealing with similar topics. This not only makes us aware that we all have something in common even though we come from various contexts, but at the same time provides us with a platform to discuss, exchange, and make new conclusions which can help us in our work."

V: Annexes

1. Organization team
2. Program
3. Participants
4. Evaluations by the participants (separate document)

Annex I: Organization team

The organization team of the study trip and workshop 2014 was formed by several partners from the “Memory Lab”-platform which hold specific and complementary experiences concerning the dealing with the past topic:

- For the Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH, dealing with difficult pasts and promoting reconciliation, in combination with youth work, is one of the central action fields, within Bosnia and Herzegovina and on a regional level. Activities in this field in the last three years have for example been the “Srebrenica – Mapping Genocide”-project and workshops and summer camps in Kozarac and Stolac for young activists from all BiH.
- The Forum ZFD Kosovo aims to contribute to a constructive debate on Dealing with the Past in Kosovo, as a foundation for a future which provides an alternative to the violent past. The organisation is supporting existing initiatives on DwP, launching new projects in this field, and is sharing information and promoting networking between DwP initiatives, for example through the website www.dwp-kosovo.info
- “Alter Habitus - The Institute for Studies in Society and Culture” is an alternative academic and feminist institute which aims to create space for knowledge and critical and creative thinking that will further shape political and cultural engagement in Kosovo. It has realized and participated in numerous activities in the field of Dealing with the Past, and has for example launched in 2014, with Forum ZFD Kosovo, the project “Memory Mapping Kosovo” which explores practices and sites of memorialization in Kosovo.
- “LOJA - Center for Balkan cooperation” is especially active in the field of culture and education, with the aim to improve the cultural and social life in the city of Tetovo and Macedonia and to decrease the negative social impacts of increasing segregation in the country. LOJA addresses issues of dealing with the past through its cultural and education activities and through international cooperation projects, for example with the project “Monuments and Identities” (2012/3) with NGOs from France and Germany and which involved Albanians and Macedonians.

- The French-German Youth Office (FGYO), besides its experience in activities promoting intercultural learning and cooperation, is especially since the 1990ies organizing and supporting activities in the field of memory work, not only between France and Germany, but also with third countries. Since 2000, in the framework of its South Eastern Europe Initiative, supported by the Ministries for Foreign Affairs of France and Germany, it contributes to create links between civil society actors from France and Germany and the Western Balkans, including a specific work on memory sites and reconciliation linked with French-German experiences since 1945.

The organization team was composed by:

Korab Krashniqi, Project Manager of Forum ZFD Kosovo, krasniqi@forumzfd.de, <http://www.forumzfd.de/kosovo>

Bujar Luma, Director of LOJA - Centar for Balkan Cooperation, bujarluma@gmail.com

Lejla Mamut, Human Rights Activist, Sarajevo / Skopje, lejlamamut@yahoo.com

Alma Mašić, Director of The Youth Initiative for Human Rights in BiH, www.yihr.org, alma@yihr.org

Frank Morawietz, Special Representative of the French-German Youth Office (DFJW/OFAJ) for South Eastern Europe, Berlin/Paris, www.dfjw.org, frankmorawietz@web.de

Dr. Nicolas Moll (general coordination), historian and consultant, Sarajevo / Paris, www.nicolasmoll.eu, moll.nicolas@gmail.com

The study trip and workshop 2014 were organized in cooperation with and with the support of:

- Robert Bosch Foundation (Stuttgart / Berlin)
- CCFD-Terre Solidaire (Paris)
- French-German Youth Office (Berlin/Paris)
- Forum ZFD Kosovo (Pristina)
- Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft (München)

Annex 2: Program

Sunday, 5 October 2014:

Arrival to Pristina / Hotel Begolli

From 20.00 on: Welcome Dinner at hotel Begolli

Monday, 6 October 2014:

8.45: Walk to the workshop venue (EU Information and Cultural Centar)

9.00: Introduction into the program and presentation of the participants

10.30: "Kosovo, between history and memory": an introduction by Dr. Nita Luci (Cultural Anthropologist / University of Pristina)

11.30: Transfer by bus to Gazimestan, Visit of the Gazimestan-Monument commemorating the 1389-battle of Kosovo

12.45: Transfer to Prekaz, and lunch break (lunch bags)

13.30: Visit of the Memorial Complex "Adem Jashari" in Prekaz

15.00: Departure to Pristina, arrival in Pristina around 16.00

16-17.00: Break

17.00: Workshop with Saranda Bogujecvi, author of the exhibition "The Bogujecvi – a visual history"

19.30: Joint Dinner

Tuesday, 7 October 2014:

Until 9.00: Check-out of the hotel

9-12.00: Memory Walk through Pristina: visits of the Private School House "Sami Frasheri", and of the Monuments "Brotherhood and Unity" and "Boro and Ramiz". With Dr. Nita Luci (Cultural Anthropologist / University of Pristina) and Linda Gusia (Sociologist / University of Pristina).

12-13.00: Exchange about the visits

13.00: Joint lunch

15-19.00: “Memory market” and public discussion at the EU Information and Cultural Centar Pristina (EUICC)

- 15-16.00: Informal “Memory Info Market” presenting different organizations participating at Memory Lab
- 16-18.00: Public discussion: “Memory challenges in Kosovo and the region”
With Bekim Blakaj (Executive Director, *Humanitarian Law Centar Kosovo*), Ljiljana Milić (President *Božur*); Marie-Ursula Kind (Senior Adviser on Transitional Justice, *United Nations Kosovo Team*), Orli Fridman (Academic Director, *Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans*, Belgrade), Kushtrim Koliqi (Executive Director *Integra*), Abdullah B. Ferizi (DWP Project manager, *Forum ZFD Kosovo*)
- 18–19.00: Reception buffet
-

19.30: Departure by bus to Skopje, arrival at Hotel Continental in Skopje around 21.30

Wednesday, 8 October 2014:

9.30–10.00: Introduction “Exploring Skopje 2014” / Giving of tasks

10.15–14.30: Exploration of the city center of Skopje, in small groups. Lunch in small groups

15.00-18.00: “Skopje 2014” – exchange of impressions from the exploration and discussion with Dr. Goran Janev (Social Anthropologist, Sts Cyrils and Methodius University, Skopje) and Sanja Radjenovic-Jovanovic (President of the Association of Architects in Macedonia). Coffee break from 16.15-16.45.

18.45: Joint dinner

Thursday, 9 October 2014:

9–10.15: Discussion about Memory Lab

10.15-10.30: Coffee break

10.30–12.00: Parallel working groups / Planning of joint activities and projects

12.30: Travel by bus to Tetovo

13.30: Lunch in Tetovo

14.30–18.15: Visit of Memory Sites: Museum of Communist Party of Macedonia in Tetovo; Macedonian Memorial of 2001 Conflict in Neprošteno Village ; Memorial “Albanian Mother” in Zajas

18.30: Transfer to Skopje / arrival in Skopje at 20h30

Free evening / individual dinner

Friday, 10 October 2014:

9–10.00: Feedback session about the visits in Tetovo

10–11.30: Mapping Similarities and Differences in Memorialization in Europe : Preparation in country-groups, including coffee break

11.30–12.30: Plenary: Mapping Similarities and Differences in Memorialization in Europe – presentation and discussion, Part 1: Dealing with Communist Past, and Dealing with Recent Armed Conflicts

12.45–14.30: Joint Lunch

14.30–15.45: Plenary: Mapping Similarities and Differences in Memorialization in Europe: presentation and discussion, part 2: National Identity Building, and Additional Topics

15.45–16.00: Coffee Break

16–17.00: Evaluation of the workshop and study trip, and Conclusions

17–18.00: Additional time for planning of joint activities and projects

18h15: Joint Diner

Evening: Participation at the Opening of the German Film Festival in Skopje (optional)

Saturday, 11 October 2014: Departure of the participants

Annex 3: Participants « Memory Lab » 2014

Name	Organization	Function	Town
Kristina Babić	Association “Breza”	Project Coordinator	Osijek (HR)
Tamara Banjevlav		Freelance historian / PhD Student	Zagreb (HR)
Julie Biro		Documentary filmmaker	Paris (F)
Ervin Blažević	Optimisti 2004 Kozarac	President	Prijedor (BiH)
Laura Boerhout	Anne Frank House / University of Amsterdam	Freelance historian / PhD Candidate	Amsterdam (NL)
Judith Brand	Forum ZFD BiH	Program Manager	Sarajevo (BiH)
Griet Brosens	Belgium Nationals Institute for War veterans	Historian, in charge of educational remembrance-projects	Brussels (B)
Venera Čočaj	Regional Youth Memorialization project - Internews/ YIHR	Participant/ team leader	Poreč (HR)
Djurđa Djukić	Centar for Practical Policy	Project coordinator	Beograd (SRB)
Leotrim Gërmizaj	Youth Action Council - Prizren	Executive Director	Prizren (Kosovo)
Erla Gjinishi	Alter Habitus		Prishtina (Kosovo)
Alain Gueraud	DRJSCS du Limousin	CEPJ	Limoges (F)
Frederick Hadley	Historial of the Great War	Second Curator	Péronne (F)
Elma	Historical museum of BiH	Director	Sarajevo

Hašimbegović			(BiH)
Visar Haxhifazliu	IPSIA Kosovo	Program manager	Prizren (BiH)
Tanja Herrmann	University of Mainz	French-German cooperation office	Mainz (D)
Blerim Jashari-Pervisi	LOJA – Centar for Balkan Cooperation	Program manager	Tetovo (MK)
Jasmina Lazović	YIHR Serbia	Coordinator of the program for Transitional Justice	Belgrade (SRB)
Bujar Luma	LOJA – Centar for Balkan Cooperation	Director	Tetovo (MK)
Angelika Meyer	Ravensbrück Memorial	Educational Department	Ravensbrück (D)
Ana Kršinić – Lozica	Croatian Museum of Architecture	Research assistant	Zagreb (HR)
Korab Krasniqi	Forum ZFD Kosovo	Project Manager	Prishtina (Kosovo)
Carine Leveque	ONAC National office for war veterans and war victims	Coordinator Memory and communication	Montpellier (F)
Ružica Marjanović	Festival „Half way“	Program editor and the Festival founder	Užice (SRB)
Alma Mašić	Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH	Director	Sarajevo (BiH)
Djordje Mihovilović	Memorial Site Jasenovac	Senior curator	Jasenovac (HR)
Sven Milekić	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)	Journalist	Zagreb (HR)

Dr. Nicolas Moll		Historian and Consultant	Sarajevo (BiH) / Paris (F)
Frank Morawietz	French-German Youth Office	Special coordinator for the activities of OFAJ in SEE	Berlin (D)
Lejla Mamut	TRIAL	Human Rights Coordinator	Sarajevo (BiH)
Magdalena Müssig	Forum ZFD Kosovo	Intern	Pristina (Kos)
Jacqueline Nießer	Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies	PhD Student	Regensburg (D)
Egzon Osmanaj	University of Prishtina	Student and independant journalist	Mitrovica (Kosovo)
Edin Ramulić	Association of citizens of Prijedor «Izvor» /	Vice president	Prijedor (BiH)
Amira Sadiković		Interpreter BCS – English	Sarajevo (BiH)
Christian Savary	Les sentiers de la mémoire („Paths of memory“)	History teacher and founder of „Les sentiers de la mémoire“	Coutances (F)
Dr. Günter Schlusche	Berlin Wall Foundation	Architect / Planner	Berlin (D)
Igor Serafimovski	Forum ZFD Macedonia and UNICEF Regional Project	Project Consultant and Regional Project Coordinator	Skopje (MK)
Aleksandra Stamenković	C31- Center for development of culture of children's rights	Deputy President	Beograd (SRB)
Tanja Tomić	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska	Project Manager	Bijelina(BiH)

Juliane Tomann	Imre Kertesz Kolleg, Jena / Institute for applied history, Frankfurt(Oder)	PhD-Student + Project manager	Leipzig (D)
Anna Ueberham	Forum ZFD Kosovo	Intern	Pristina (Kos)
Mirzet Vinčević		Bus driver	Sarajevo (BiH)
Betim Zllanoga	Humanitarian Law Centar Kosovo	Project Manager	Prishtina (Kos)