March 20, 2025

How to Deal with a Difficult Past? – Educational Perspectives on National Socialism, Shoah and the Second World War – two-part seminar for German and Polish teachers and students

July 17th-23rd, 2025 Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen Memorials and Museums

September 24th-28th, 2025 Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum together with the Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen Memorials and Museums introduces the second edition of the seminar for German and Polish teachers entitled *How to Deal with a Difficult Past? – Educational Perspectives on National Socialism, Shoah and the Second World War*.

During the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Marian Turski – the former Auschwitz prisoner and Holocaust survivor said that "Auschwitz did not fall from the sky. Auschwitz tiptoed along, treading in small steps, approaching until what happened here did happen".

It is not possible to understand the crimes committed in Auschwitz without going back to the pre-war time, putting Auschwitz into a broader context as well as confronting different points of view and ways of remembrance about them. That is why the aim of the project is to follow and analyze the history of the Nazi crimes from its origin to the way how it is remembered in contemporary world. The seminar consists of two parts – one in Germany and one in Poland and addresses teachers from these two countries who are on different levels of their professional life – from students completing their studies up to educators experienced in introducing this topic into the school lessons. During two-part programme participants will have an opportunity to visit authentic memorial sites, find out more about their educational activities, get to know the history from different perspectives and exchange experience with co-participants as well as with the staff of the memorial sites.

March 20, 2025

PROGRAMME – PART 1

Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen Memorials and Museums

THURSDAY, July 17th, 2025	
From 15.00	*Arrival and check-in at the hotel*
15.45-17.15	Experiences, personal backgrounds & expectations of the participants and organizers – a creative **getting to know each other**
17.30-19.00	**"We didn't know about Buchenwald"** - Walk into the city of Weimar with focus on the history of the city in National Socialism and its pedagogical intensions
19.15	*Dinner in the city of Weimar & walk back to the hotel*
FRIDAY, July 18th, 2025	
08.00	*Breakfast at the hotel & walk to Museum "Forced Labour"*
09.15	**"Forced Labour under National Socialism" –** Introduction into the place & its history
09.30-12.30	**Exploration of the exhibition** with tasks and discussion about pedagogical intensions
12.45-14.15	*Lunch in the city of Weimar*
14.45	*Transfer to the Buchenwald Memorial by public bus*
15.00	**"The Commemorative Buchenwald Railway Path"** – Introduction into a long-term civil society project and its historical context
16.15	*Coffee break*
17.00	**Perspectives on the history of National Socialism and Second World War in Poland and Germany and their role for school and out-of-school education** – workshop & discussion

18.24 *Transfer to the hotel by public bus*

19.00 *Dinner in the city of Weimar*

SATURDAY, Saturday 19th, 2025

08.50 *Transfer to the Buchenwald Memorial by public bus*

09.05 **The International Meeting Place of the Memorial Buchenwald** – introduction into its presence and history & talk

09.30-12.00 **Buchenwald and its diverse layers of history** – introduction & guided tour through the former concentration camp with focus on the pedagogical aims, part I

12.00-13.00 *Lunch*

13.15-14.15 **Buchenwald and its diverse layers of history** – introduction & guided tour through the former concentration camp with focus on the pedagogical aims, part II (optional)

14.30-16.00 **Buchenwald. Ostracism and Violence 1937 to 1945** – visit of the main exhibition with a focus on the museological concept & didactic aims

16.00-16.30 *Coffee break (with an open reflection about the exhibition)*

17.09 *Transfer to Weimar by public bus*

18.30 *Dinner and free time in the city*

SUNDAY, July 20th, 2025

08.50 *Transfer to the Buchenwald Memorial by public bus*

09.05 **Why to visit the place? –** Reflections and discussion about the philosophy and aims of the education work

10.00-12.00 **Learning by doing** – Workshops and reflection formats for a deeper understanding within international (& German-Polish) programs

- ***And from the loudspeakers of the camp soft music played*** – Music and its functions in the concentration camp Buchenwald
- ***Close to humans*** – Daily life in a concentration camp – The box of historical objects
- ***Means of survival - testimony - work of art - pictorial memory***– How to work with the art exhibition?

- *Buchenwald – **An Audio Walk***

12.15 **(Critical) feedback** about the workshops

13.15 *Lunch break*

14.00 **Prescribed history? Buchenwald narratives in times of Communism** – guided tour over and reflections about the National Memorial of 1958

15.00 *Transfer to Sachsenhausen Memorial by bus, arrival and check-in in the hotel in Oranienburg*

MONDAY, July 21st, 2025

9.25 *Transfer to Sachsenhausen Memorial by public bus*

9.35-9.45 **Official welcoming**

9.45-10.45 **With good Intention**: my own motivation – reflection and talk

10.45-11.45 **My own view on National Socialism** – reflection and talk

11.45-12.00 **Introduction** in the afternoon program of the day

12.00-12.45 *Lunch*

12.45-14.00 **Visit of the Memorial** – self-exploration with tablets

14.00-14.45 **Talk** about experience-observations-questions

Free time

TUESDAY, July 22nd, 2025

9.25 *Transfer to Sachsenhausen Memorial*

9.35-10.35 **Introduction in the History of the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp 1936-1945** – lecture

10.35-10.45 *Break*

10.45-13.15 **Meta level guided tour** at the Memorial
Learning by doing – working with educational material

13.15-14.15 *Lunch*

18.00	*Farewell dinner in the city*

WEDNESDAY, July 23rd, 2025

9.25	*Transfer to Sachsenhausen Memorial*
9.45-12.45	**Additional historical layers – The Soviet Special Camp 1945-1950** – Workshop
12.45-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-15.00	**Exercise Expectations regarding a Memorial visit**
15.00-15.15	*Break*
15.15-16.00	**Reflection** of the second part at the Sachsenhausen Memorial
after 16.00	*Departure of participants*

PROGRAMME – PART 2

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

WEDNESDAY, September 24th, 2025

by 16.45	*Arrival and check-in in hotel*
17.00-18.00	**Introduction to the seminar and presentation about the ICEAH**
19.00	*Dinner in the hotel*

THURSDAY, September 25th, 2025

8.15	*Departure for Będzin*
9.30-11.00	**Jewish community in the city of Będzin –** visit to the House of Prayer at the Cukerman's Gate
11.00-11.30	*Break and departure for Gliwice*

12.15-13.45	**Jewish community in the city of Gleiwitz (until 1945) and in the city of Gliwice (after 1945)** – visit to the House of Remembrance about Upper Silesian Jews
15.00	*Return to Oświęcim*
16.30-17.00	**Reflection about the visit to Będzin and Gliwice**
17.00-17.15	*Break*
17.15-18.45	**Auschwitz in the system of concentration camps** – lecture (introduction to the study visit of the former Auschwitz camp)
19:30	*Dinner in the hotel*

FRIDAY, September 26th, 2025

9.00-12.00	**Study guided tour of the former Auschwitz I camp**
12.00-13.30	*Lunch*
13.30-15.30	**Faces of Auschwitz** – workshop
15.30-16.00	*Break*
16.00-18.00	**How do we teach about Auschwitz and the Holocaust in Poland and in Germany? –** discussion
19.00	*Dinner in the hotel*

SATURDAY, September 27th, 2025

9.00-12.00	**Study guided tour of the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp**
12.00-13.30	*Lunch*
13.30-14.30	**History captured in objects –** visit to the Collections
14.30-15.00	*Break*
15.00-16.00	**Preserve for the future** – visit to the Conservatory Labs
16.00-16.30	*Break*
16.30-18.00	**11th commandment: Thou shalt not be indifferent** – workshop

19.00 *Farewell dinner*

SUNDAY, September 28th, 2025

9.00-10.45 Free time on national exhibitions

10.45-11.00 *Break*

11.00-12.00 Evaluation of the seminar

after 12.00 *Departure of participants*

Educational activities are realized in the building which adaptation has been financed within the project "The Adaptation of the "Old Theatre" Premises for the Functioning of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust" – Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020