

# „Once upon today“ ... in Europe

## **An international training on how to work with historical narratives in non-formal youth education**

**15.-21.04.2016 in Krzyżowa (PL)**

### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

People of different ages (18 years upwards) living in Estonia, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania or Ukraine who are interested in the topic of historical narratives. Participants should be committed to international cooperation or be active in youth meetings, citizenship education or related fields of work with young people.

The training is part of a two-step project. Participants of the training are invited to carry out small projects on history with young people in their home cities over the summer. They will have the chance to return to Krzyżowa with up to four young people for the international youth meeting taking place from 03.-08.10.2016. It is not obligatory to take part in the international youth meeting, but applicants with tangible ideas for carrying out projects will be given special consideration.

Since the training is going to be held in English, a high level of English is required. **Please apply individually by March 7<sup>th</sup>** (please see application information below).

### **SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT**

What if it was all just a very good story? Half true, half made up, partly touching on our personal memories and experiences, and partly reflecting the history of our communities and societies. With the project “Once upon today...” we are inviting participants to think about history, memory, and identity in this imaginative way. Not as something given, but as crafted stories.... gripping stories.

In 2016, “Once upon today.. in Europe” focuses on issues of belonging and identity in Europe: What narratives about Europe are prevalent in different local, national or other commemorative cultures? How do they end up being what they are? Which aspects are suppressed and which ones highlighted? And how can institutions for history education and active citizenship deal with these questions in a way that brings people together? With regard to these questions, new methods such as digital storytelling will be applied.

The training consists of two parts. During the first part, 29 participants from Estonia, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine will intensively deal with historical narratives about Europe that exist in different local, national or other commemorative cultures. During this training from April 15-21, 2016, they will discuss these issues, exchange their experience and methods and develop new approaches.

After the training, participants will use this expertise to carry out small projects with young people to discover hidden and interesting stories in their home towns. Up to four young people from each country and their trainer (hence a former participant of the international training) will have the possibility to take part in an international youth meeting in Krzyżowa (03.-08.10.2016).

### **CONTENT & PROGRAMME**

“Once upon a time...” – this is how fairy tales start. These words sound so familiar to most people as fairy tales have been passed on from generation to generation, told and retold. When people talk about history, memory and identity, something very similar happens. They constantly tell a story about themselves, the communities and states they live in. These so called narratives help people make sense of reality and they are made up of diverse facts, myths, official commemoration and personal memories. Like any other story, they are constantly shaped and reshaped through communication and

reflect the values, interpretations and political objectives of the communities and people who share it. Thus, any narrative could start like a tale in present: „Once upon today...in Europe.“

During the meeting youth workers will work on the linking points between their own biographies and the history of the countries they live in. The project encourages participants to reflect about different narratives considering the background of their individual identities, biographies, experiences and memories. It is the project's goal to initiate a transnational dialogue and allow for a deeper understanding of perceptions and interpretations of past and future in different countries. Additionally the exchange encourages to become clearer about questions of belonging in European societies that are shaped by diversity as well as to develop understanding and tolerance among people with different national, ethnical and religious backgrounds. Therefore, it will also be important to address so called blank spaces in the collective memory, e.g. stories that are not told or not heard.

As participants come from different communities, countries and professional backgrounds, they will exchange their experiences in the field, try new methods and develop new approaches for their educational work with young people. Those methods and selected results of the workshops will be shared on an internet blog and regularly be renewed.

## ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- \* Lectures and discussion forums
- \* Excursion to the European Capital of Culture 2016, Wrocław
- \* Workshops
- \* Micro projects

For more information visit [www.once-upon-today.org](http://www.once-upon-today.org)

## PROJECT VENUE

Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe  
Krzyżowa 7  
58-112 Grodziszczce  
Poland  
[www.krzyzowa.org.pl](http://www.krzyzowa.org.pl)

## HOW TO APPLY?

Please fill out the application form and send it back to the address mentioned in the form.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## PARTICIPATION COSTS

- **Participation fee** (covers accommodation, full board and all programme activities)  
Participants from Germany: **90 EUR** / Estonia, Poland: **50 EUR** / Moldova, Romania, Ukraine: **30 EUR**
- **Travel costs:** For participants from Germany, Estonia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine can be reimbursed **up to 275 EUR** per person, for participants from Poland **up to 180 EUR** of the economy class travel costs.

## PARTNERS

Kreisau-Initiative e.V. (Germany), Protestant Academies in Germany (Germany), Unitas (Estonia), Institute of History / Tallinn University (Estonia), The National Association of Young Historians of Moldova (Moldova), Krzyżowa Foundation (Poland), Colegiul National Mihai Viteazul (Romania), The History Meeting House (Poland), ChangeLog (Ukraine)

## PROJECT COORDINATION

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