



Established in 1989 the Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe (Poland) brings about inter-cultural meetings of people from all over Europe with different social, national and religious background, and from the different generations.

Krzyżowa is a former meeting place of one of the most important resistance groups in the World War II totalitarian regime, the Kreisau Circle. At the risk of their lives, the members of the Kreisau Circle met here during 1942-43 under the leadership of Helmuth James von Moltke, the owner of the Kreisau estate, and developed plans for the democratic reconstruction of Germany after the war.

The estate today is an international youth meeting centre and a memorial site. Annually up to 10.000 young people from all over Europe come together in Krzyżowa to learn how to take personal responsibility for political, social and ecologically balanced development of European societies.

Founded in 1989 by East and West Berliners, the Kreisau-Initiative's main aim is to support the International Youth Meeting Centre Krzyżowa. Due to its great civic commitment of 20 years, the association's experience covers today a wide spectrum in the areas of project management and networking. The association's goal is to initiate dialogues among young East- and West-Europeans on European values, the functioning of European democracies and newly emerging topics of mutual interest, as well as to support the integration of social and ethnic minorities.



Kreisau-Initiative  
Berlin e.V.

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## My history - Your history

**History workshop for high school students from Poland and Germany**



source: German Federal Archive



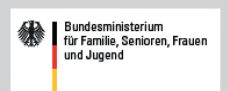
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Kreisau-Initiative  
Berlin e.V.



krzyżowa  
kreisau



Bundesministerium  
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen  
und Jugend

## About the project:

How much do young Germans know about Polish Solidarność? Have young Poles ever heard about Monday Marches in Leipzig? How important was music in conveying political messages in the former GDR and Polish People's Republic? How has the shift of borders after the World War II influenced lives of Poles and Germans? What did life look like in Poland, Western and Eastern Germany in the times of the Cold War?

History and its influence on presence are presented in different ways in German and Polish manuals, media and pop-culture. Things of great importance for the one side are hardly known to the other. What you find in history books and media about the history of your neighbouring countries gives only an incomplete picture of its past and presence.

During the project „My history – Your history“ high school students analyze and discuss Polish, German and European view on selected historical events. The project focuses on the events after 1945: the fate of both German states separated by a border and later by a wall as on the Polish People's Republic vastly influenced by the Soviet Union. All in all 28 participants work in Polish-German groups their way through articles, film excerpts, propaganda materials and pop-culture in order to prepare comparative presentations of national perspectives on mutual Polish-German history.

Apart from the historical part, the project offers space for integration, intercultural exchange and personal communication.

The project is organized by Kreisau-Initiative Berlin e.V. and Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe.

## Project data:

**Who:** High school students from Poland and Germany

**Where:** International Youth Meeting Centre in Krzyżowa (Poland)

**When:** 30th September – 5th October 2009

**Participants' fee:** 60 EUR – German participants,  
40 EUR – Polish participants

**Deadline for applications:** 30th July 2009

**Project language:** English

### Applications and further information:

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## Agenda:

### Wednesday, 30.09.2009

17:00 Arrival and room allocation  
18:00 Introduction to the project  
18:30 Dinner  
20:00 Integration evening

### Thursday, 01.10.2009

Task of the day: researching, discovering differences, discussing

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Presenting daily agenda/ Organisational issues  
9:15 Introductory session I: Creating outlines of Polish and German history  
10:45 Coffee break  
11:00 Introductory session II: My history – Your history: how to talk about mutual Polish-German and European history?  
12:00 Mission of the project  
12:30 Lunch  
14:00 Guided tour through Krzyżowa  
15:30 Coffee break  
16:30 Group work\*:  
Workshop I – analysing chosen texts from Polish and German history manuals  
18:00 Dinner  
19:30 Optional: Film screening and discussion

### Friday, 02.10.2009

Task of the day: discussing, finding similarities, summing up

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Presenting daily agenda/ Organisational issues  
9:15 Group work:  
Workshop II – analysing chosen Polish and German media/ history publications  
10:45 Coffee break  
11:00 Group work:  
Workshop III – analysing chosen Polish and German media/ history publications  
12:30 Lunch  
14:00 Trip to Książ  
18:00 Dinner  
19:30 Discussion – History lessons in Poland and Germany (question and comment box)

### Saturday, 03.10.2009

Task of the day: summary and presentation techniques

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Presenting daily agenda/ Organisational issues  
9:15 Group work:  
Workshop IV – summing up of the researched materials  
12:30 Lunch  
14:00 Workshop V – rhetorical skills and presentation techniques  
15:30 Coffee break  
16:00 Workshop VI – preparing presentations of workshop results  
18:00 Dinner  
19:30 Rehearsal: Presentations of workshop results

### Sunday, 04.10.2009

Task of the day: presenting and reflecting

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Presenting daily agenda/ Organisational issues  
9:15 Presenting the results of group work and Q&A round, part I  
12:00 Lunch  
14:00 Presenting the results of group work and Q&A round, part II  
15:30 Coffee break  
16:00 Discussion: How to use the past to make better future?  
17:30 Evaluation  
18:30 Dinner  
21:00 Farewell party

### Monday, 05.10.2009

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Farewell ceremony  
10:00 Departure

\* There will be four thematic groups working on parallel:

1. The Fall of the Iron Curtain in Poland and Germany
2. Migration and Displacement in Europe
3. Poland and Germany in European Union
4. Opposition in Poland and Germany