

**UNLOCKING MEMORIES -
REMEMBERING THE PAST,
SHAPING THE FUTURE
GERMAN-GREEK-ITALIAN
YOUTH EXCHANGE**



27 August – 3 September 2020 (Vlotho, Germany)

A project by Gesamteuropäisches Studienwerk e.V. (D) in cooperation with Euphoria (GR) and Esplora (I), co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ Programme) and by the German Federal Youth Ministry (KJP)

The perspective on the past is formed by our socio-cultural environment. In Germany, Greece and Italy, the discourses on the history of the Second World War, National Socialism and fascism were always different. Currently, right-wing populist to neo-Nazi groups and parties in Europe are trying to influence the public discourse of memory more and more, with the aim of creating a heroic self-image of their own nation and attacking the open, liberal democracy. While these forces try to influence the public with nationalistic slogans, the discourse between people from Germany, Greece and Italy often suffers from avoiding the dark chapters of our history.

Within the framework of this exchange, young people gain knowledge about the cultures of remembrance in Germany, Greece and Italy and deal with topics and countries that were previously unknown or little familiar to them. They take a look at history and deal with the Second World War in Greece, Italy and Germany and its consequences. They understand how the past and the way we deal with it can still influence social and political discussions (see reparation payments) and arouse suspicion. In addition, they understand the power of ideologies (especially nationalism, fascism and National Socialism) and are sensitized to the structures, contents and strategies of the "new right" in Europe.

Participants must be between 18 and 26 years and ready to participate in all activities. They must be able to speak English so well that they can follow the contents of the seminar. Openness to situations of intercultural confrontation and the readiness to deal with one's own cultural background and to put the discoveries up for discussion are assumed.

The participants should be curious about the interplay between memory culture and politics and want to locate themselves in history. For this purpose, they work together in creative workshops and participate in open discussions. They research their family history and talk to contemporary witnesses about the past. They also go on several study trips to visit memorials in Detmold, Porta Westfalica and Paderborn.

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Participation Fee: **Germans, Greeks, Italians: 30€**

(included are accommodation, meals, program)

Travel Costs: Travel Costs will be partially refunded. Travel to an activity within the home country will be subsidized depending upon the distance to the location of the activity. Travel to an activity abroad will be subsidized up to 275€.



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Contact:

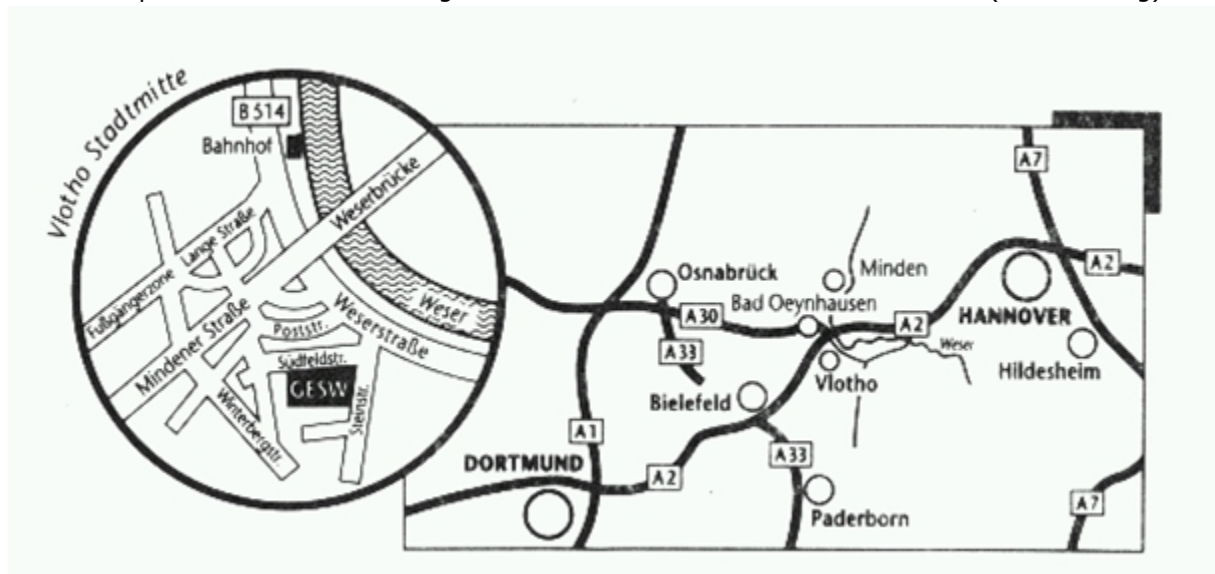
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TRANSPORTATION

The nearest airports are Dortmund and Hannover (approx. 2 hours by train). Unfortunately, we cannot pick you up from the airport. But we can help you to find a good train connection to Vlotho. The walk from the station is 10 minutes. First information about the trains can be found at www.bahn.de. *Please plan your journey so that you arrive in Vlotho on 27 August until 18h00.* The easiest way from the station to the GESW is along Weserstraße (see graphic). This street is very busy and sometimes has no pavement - so please be careful! The registration desk is located in house Warszawa (new building).



ACCOMMODATION

You will stay in a single or double (some with bath/WC in the corridor) in the GESW guesthouse. Bed linen and towels will be provided.

The GESW offers full board. *Please inform your leaders about your allergies or special diets by 13 August.*

EVENING ACTIVITIES

The organization of the evenings is mainly in your hands. The GESW is quietly situated, Vlotho is a small town. Maybe you can think of something nice for the free hours? In Vlotho, for example, you can take nice long walks in the nature or sit together in the beautiful garden of GESW.

COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The development of the Covid-19 pandemic is being closely watched and the protection measures in force are being responsibly implemented. In our educational center, the enclosed safety measures apply ([see file](#)). *Please bring your own face mask and writing material.*

A FEW DETAILS ABOUT THE LOCATIONS

Vlotho is a small town with almost 20,000 inhabitants in the north-east of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia on the River Weser. The first historical records of Vlotho go back to the year 1185.

During our stay we visit the **Jewish cemetery** in Vlotho. Already around the year 1690 three Jewish families were living in Vlotho. The first cemetery was outside the town on the steep slope of the Amtshausberg. In 1854 - after the Jewish community had grown to about 140 people - a new Jewish cemetery was built opposite the Lutheran cemetery. The last burial took place on 24 August 1941. The synagogue was already destroyed on 10 November 1938 (November Pogroms). The Jewish citizens living in Vlotho were deported and murdered until 1942, if they did not succeed in emigrating. The cemetery of the synagogue community of Vlotho, which was intended to be dismantled and converted, survives the time of National Socialism and today commemorates the Jewish citizens of Vlotho.

When visiting the cemetery the men should cover their heads.

The **Hermannsdenkmal** (German for "Hermann Monument") is a monument located southwest of Detmold in the district of Lippe. The monument was constructed between 1838 and 1875 to commemorate the Cherusci war chief Arminius (in German: Hermann) and his victory over Rome at the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD. When the statue was built, its location was believed to be near the original battle site, although experts now consider it more likely that the



battle took place near Kalkriese. Adolf Hitler visited the monument in 1926 and after 1930 the Lippe NSDAP used the location for a number of assemblies. Events in 1935 (the monument's 60th anniversary) and 1941 (100 years since the foundation stone was laid) focused on glorifying Hitler and glamorizing him as the successor of Arminius. Post-1945, attempts were made to de-politicise the monument.

(Pic: By Hubert Berberich (HubiB) - Own work, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=50103461>)



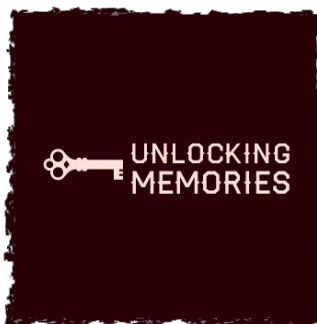
The **Emperor William Monument** (German: Kaiser-Wilhelm-Denkmal), near the town of Porta Westfalica in the district of Minden-Lübbecke, is a colossal monument above the Weser gorge of Porta Westfalica, the "Gateway to Westphalia". It was erected to honour the first German Emperor, William I (1797–1888), by the then Prussian Province of Westphalia between 1892 and 1896 and emerged against the background of a rising German national identity.

Wewelsburg is a Renaissance castle located in the district of Paderborn. The castle has a triangular layout - three round towers connected by massive walls. After 1934, it was used by the SS under Heinrich Himmler, and was to be expanded into a complex which would serve as the central SS cult-site.

After 1941, plans were developed to enlarge it to be the so-called "Centre of the World". In 1950, the castle reopened as a museum and youth hostel. The castle today hosts the Historical Museum of the Prince

Bishopric of Paderborn and the Wewelsburg 1933-1945 Memorial Museum. (Pic: Wewelsburg_luftbild_30_09_11.jpg: Wolfram Czeschickderivative work: Hic et nunc [CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)])

The city of **Paderborn** has over 150,000 inhabitants and is a major city in the eastern part of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Paderborn was founded as a bishopric by Charlemagne in 795.



In the Night of Pogroms from 9 to 10 November 1938, during which Jewish shops and synagogues were vandalized and set on fire nationwide, there were also riots against Jews in Paderborn. The building of the Kolping-Bildungswerk Paderborn is today located on the site of the former synagogue. Many deportations took place in Paderborn: More than hundred Jews from Paderborn were killed. Some of the Jewish citizens of the city were able to flee abroad. In 1944 and 1945 Paderborn was bombed by Allied aircraft, resulting in 85% destruction, including many of the historic buildings. At the beginning of the Second World War (1939) Paderborn had 42,490 inhabitants, after the war only 29,033.

PROGRAMME IN VLOTHO AND SURROUNDING AREA

THUR, 27th

16:00-18:00 **Arrival of all participant groups**
 20:00 Dinner
 20:45 **Welcome and introduction**

FRI, 28th

Vlotho
 8:30 Breakfast
 9:30 **Teambuilding activities/ introduction to the project/ daily program**
Project Charter and Youthpass
 12:30 Lunch
 14:30 Coffee break
 15:00 **Exploring the city: How does Vlotho remember?**
 Memorial walk
 19:00 Dinner
 20:00 **Reflection Round**

SAT, 29th

Vlotho
 8:30 Breakfast
 9:30 **Family Tree: How does my family remember?**
 Workshop
 12:30 Lunch
 14:30 Coffee break
 15:00 **Timeline: Family history, national history and collective memory**
 Workshop

19:00 Dinner
19:30 **Reflection Round**
20:30 **Movie Night**

SUN, 30th

Detmold/ Porta Westfalica/ Vlotho
8:00 Breakfast (packed lunch to go)
9:00 **Hermannsdenkmal (Hermann Monument)**
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Denkmal (Emperor William Monument)
Outdoor activity, exploring two controversial national monuments
16:30 **Return to Vlotho**
17:30 **Midterm Evaluation**
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**
21:00 **Intercultural Evening**

MON, 31st

Vlotho
8:30 Breakfast
9:30 **Breaking of taboos in social media**
Workshop
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Right-wing extremism in Europe: Structure, Content, Strategies**
Workshop
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**

TUE, 1st

Wewelsburg/ Paderborn
8:00 Breakfast (packed lunch to go)
9:00 **Wewelsburg 1933-1945 Memorial Museum**
Guided tour "Ideology and Terror of the SS",
meeting and Q&A with a historian and museum's pedagogue
13:30 **Memorial Bombardments Paderborn**
Outdoor activity, visit to memorials that remind the air-strike of March 1945
Free time in Paderborn
Space for self-reflection
16:30 **Return to Vlotho**
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Reflection Round**

WED, 2st

Vlotho
8:30 Breakfast
9:30 **Seminar Evaluation**
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Coffee break
15:00 **Past meets Future**
Exhibition
19:00 Dinner
20:00 **Farewell Night**

THUR, 3rd

Vlotho
7:45 Breakfast
9:00 **Youthpass-Reflection / Youthpass Ceremony**
10:30 Departure

(subject to change)