

the ideas
PARTNERSHIP



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

International
Youth Camp – Dealing
with the Past and Holocaust
Histories in the Balkans

Bitola, Macedonia
September
10th to 19th, 2017

- ▶ You want to meet and exchange with young people from the Balkans and Germany?
- ▶ You would like to use a unique opportunity for intercultural exchange?
- ▶ You are interested in learning more about often forgotten histories?
- ▶ You would like to join a volunteer action for peace and remembrance?

**... THEN APPLY UNTIL
AUGUST 4th AND JOIN THE
2017 INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CAMP IN BITOLA!**





WHAT?

We are looking forward to youth activist volunteers from Macedonia, Kosovo and Germany joining us in this workcamp project about Dealing with the Past and the complex and often forgotten Holocaust Histories of the Balkans. In a joint effort for peace and inclusive remembrance, the international group of volunteers will help restoring the historical and long abandoned Jewish cemetery in Bitola, Macedonia. Next to daily archeological work, the volunteers will participate in an educational program, including a field trip to Skopje, introductory lectures and interactive workshops on the camp's main topics held by experienced trainers and researchers.



WHERE?

Bitola, Macedonia. All volunteers will be accommodated in shared rooms in a hotel in the city.



WHEN?

**September
10th - 19th, 2017**

(incl. 1 day for arrival
and 1 day for departure)

HOW MUCH?

Costs for direct traveling to Bitola and back will be reimbursed up to 200 EUR. All expenses for accommodation, food and travel on site will be covered by the organizers. An individual contribution of 25 EUR is asked from participants from Germany and has to be paid before the start of the camp.

HOW TO APPLY?

Please fill in the application form latest until **Friday, August 4th at 13h**. The selection of participants will be made by the organizers based on motivation and interest of the applicants. We additionally seek for balance and diversity within the group in terms of education and professions, gender, national/religious/ethnic backgrounds.

“AND IT IS SO ESSENTIAL THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE [...] SPREAD THE WORD FOR TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR COLOUR, CREED OR RELIGION. THERE IS ROOM TO IMPROVING THE FUTURE [...] BECAUSE THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU, TO THIS GENERATION THAT HAS OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND ANY DREAM THAT ANYBODY HAS EVER HAD.”

- ▶ Emery Jacobi, Holocaust survivor and former concentration camp prisoner in Dachau.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The project will take place in Bitola, in south-western Macedonia. The city had once been a busy intersection in which members of different religions and ethnicities have made their homes. The Jewish cemetery is considered to be one of the most important in the Balkans and it tells the history of the large Sephardic community that lived here for almost five centuries. The cemetery ceased functioning in March 1943 when nearly the entire local Jewish community was deported and murdered. Despite its historical importance and great educational potential, the cemetery has been neglected for decades.

“NOW I FEEL RAGE AND SORROW. SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE KILLED. I HAVE LEARNED TO FORGIVE THOSE THAT OCCUPIED US, BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED.”

- ▶ Jamila Kolonomos, Holocaust survivor and former inhabitant of Bitola, Macedonia.



In 2015, a local initiative started to renovate the cemetery and create a memorial park. The objective behind the idea is twofold: to transform the abandoned historical site into a meeting point for remembrance and learning from Bitola's past; to publically promote values of understanding and peace. This year's youth camp intends to support the initiative by following-up on the work of the first camp in 2016. In a spirit of comprehensive Dealing with the Past, we seek to learn about and remember the fate of discriminated and persecuted groups in the wider region during Holocaust, namely Jewish and Roma communities.



AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP?

Camps also known as workcamps are the most common form of short-term volunteering, where a group of international volunteers lives and works together on a project for the local community. Volunteers with their different backgrounds jointly experience and promote intercultural learning and grassroots peacebuilding.

Our camp project will involve 18 young volunteers from Macedonia, Kosovo and Germany. With the support of trained staff, the group will engage in daily archeological work, preserving and documenting tombstones. An educational program with special focus on Dealing with the Past intends to stimulate exchange between volunteers about ways of remembering a difficult past while linking it to current challenges that peace faces in our societies.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

WE SEEK FOR VOLUNTEERS...

- ▶ ... from Macedonia and Kosovo: min. 18 years old.
 - ▶ ... from Germany: 18-26 years old.
 - ▶ ... who are able to communicate in English (Please don't worry, perfect English is NOT required – we will invent our own “camp language”!)
 - ▶ ... who reside in either Germany or Macedonia or Kosovo (citizenship is NOT a criteria!)
 - ▶ ... who are curious to learn more about questions related to Dealing with the Past and grassroots Peacebuilding.
- ▶ ... who are open and eager to work in a dynamic, international environment with other volunteers from diverse cultural, social, religious, etc. backgrounds.
 - ▶ ... with an activist spirit and motivation to be(come) active for more justice and peace in society.
 - ▶ ... who fill in the application form and sent it by email latest until **Friday, August 4th at 13h.**

ANY QUESTIONS?

Just send us an email and we will be happy to answer 😊

bitolayouthcamp2017@gmail.com

WHO ARE WE?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
HAVE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITES



www.forumzfd.org | <http://westernbalkans.forumzfd.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/forumzfdmacedonia/>



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER FOR THE JEWS
OF MACEDONIA

<http://holocaustfund.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/fondnaholokaustot>



<http://mkcbt.org.mk/en>
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