

“Activists against Xenocide”

A multigenerational project dealing with resistance in different political contexts

31.03.-06.04.2014 in Krzyżowa & Warsaw (Poland)

18.08.-24.08.2014 in Nelijärve & Tallinn (Estonia)

“Activists against Xenocide” invites people from Poland, Germany, Latvia, Hungary and Estonia interested in the topic of resistance and human rights violations in different political contexts to explore these themes through filmmaking. AaX consists of:

- a 7 day seminar in Krzyżowa and Warsaw, Poland (film pre-production)
- independent research and shooting over the summer (film production)
- a 7 day seminar in Nelijärve and Tallinn, Estonia (film post-production)

WHO CAN APPLY?

People of different ages (18 to ... years) who are generally interested in the topic of resistance and human rights violation in different political contexts as well as filmmaking on a basic level. Participation in both encounters, a high level of English and access to a at least a basic digital video camera are required. Applicants shall take into consideration that the project will occupy some time for film production between the two meetings in Poland and Estonia. Please apply individually by February 15th (please see application information below).

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

During the project ‘Activists against Xenocide’ 35 people of all ages from Poland, Germany, Latvia, Hungary and Estonia will deal with resistance in different political contexts, such as National Socialism, Stalinism and Communism. People from different countries and generations are bound to have varied perspectives on resistance and human rights violations in repressive regimes. This project aims to explore these perspectives in comparative terms through the medium of filmmaking. The project will throw light on different personal (family) stories, which can share perspectives of heroes, survivors/witnesses or perpetrators. As a result of the project, six teams made up of international participants will produce one short film each under the guidance of professional film educators.

CONTENT & PROGRAMME

During two seminars participants will analyse structures, contents and aims of resistance groups and try to figure out what kind of principles and general conditions one needs to act against a repressive regime. Participants are encouraged to work on certain persons and biographies. Still the stories participants are working on should not only focus on the so called heroes’ perspective. Survivors/witnesses’ and perpetrators’ points of view shall also be considered.

ACTIVISTS AGAINST XENOCIDE

To work with topics referring to resistance and human rights violations, participants will be assigned into international and intergenerational teams with a task to produce films on the theme of "Activists against Xenocide". "Xenocide" is a freshly invented, broader term to cover incidents like genocide and crimes against humanity. The term "activists" refers to people who saved others from suffering by resisting authorities committing xenocidal acts. The films are presumably shorts (max 30 min), but may be longer by the team's and mentors decision.

During a 1-week seminar in Poland (March/April), a 1-week seminar in Estonia (August) and the 4 months in between, participants will learn basic filmmaking skills that allow them to create a short movie. Equally, participants will discuss the nature of human rights and repressions as well as civic courage and ways to prevent or otherwise deal with human rights violations.

Over the first week participants will work in teams focus on three topics: 1) selecting and developing the films' storyline; 2) interviewing techniques, storyboarding and illustration; and 3) working with camera, sound, and light. In between the seminars in Poland and Estonia, participants will shoot interviews and gather illustrating materials (cover footage from relevant places, digitalized documents & photos, audio) independently. These materials will be brought to Estonia, where they will be edited into short films and premiered. During the whole production cycle each team will be guided a professional film education trainer (mentor).

Taking multiple perspectives into account plays a central role in the project to find connections and differences between xenocidal incidents in Europe. Participants belonging to different generations and countries of origin will ensure the diversity of perspectives, and we encourage all participants to be open to learning from each other.

WORKING METHODS

- * Lectures and discussion forums, excursions in Poland and Estonia
- * Filmmaking workshops for beginners
- * Creating short movies in teams, including interviewing contemporary witnesses

HOW TO APPLY?

Please fill out the [application form](#).

In case of questions, please contact your National Coordinator >

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15th, 2014

COORDINATOR CONTACT INFO

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PARTICIPATION COSTS

- **Participation fee*** (covers accommodation, food and all programme activities)
Participants from Germany: **180 EUR** / Poland, Latvia, Hungary, Estonia: **140 EUR**
- **Travel costs:** 70% of the economy class travel costs will be reimbursed after submitting travel documents (invoices, tickets, boarding passes).

**When taking over certain project tasks (e.g. accompanying the project blog), the participation fee can be partly remitted.*

Project Partners: Unitas (Estonia), Kreisau-Initiative e.V. (Germany), Foundation Krzyzowa (Poland), Warsaw Rising Museum (Poland), Museum Gross Rosen (Poland), Nowe Horyzonty (Poland), Kinobuss (Estonia), History Teachers' Association of Latvia, KÖZ (Hungary), Institute for Applied History (Germany), Foundation Freya von Moltke (Germany)

