



2013 Annual Report

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A Word from the President



The year 2013 was just as busy as 2012. The Platform continues to attract new Members.

The travelling exhibition continues its journey. The Platform and partners organised a conference on Modern forms of Commemoration in Warsaw.

During the year our reader for schools "Lest We Forget" was published, and the interest has been great.

On 23 August we took part in the EU commemoration ceremonies in Vilnius where we presented the reader and the exhibition.

The Council of Members meeting which took place in The Hague on 12-13 November re-elected the Board for another 2 years.

Given the lack of historical knowledge and understanding of Europe's totalitarian past, the task of the Platform is growing by the day. Without the historical background it is even more difficult to understand Russia's aggressive policy.

Yours sincerely,

Göran Lindblad

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Council of Members meeting of the Platform in Berlin, 8-9 November 2012

The first annual Council of Members of the Platform took place on 8-9 November 2012 on the premises of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial, the former remand prison of the NKVD and the Stasi, today a Member institution of the Platform. The Members of the Platform discussed their joint ongoing work in the EU-funded project "Totalitarianism in Europe - Reader for Schools and Travelling exhibition". They held a presentation for the press and unanimously approved the membership applications of further eight new Members – institutions and organisations from 5 EU Member States, Moldova and Canada. This brought the total of Platform Members, one year after its establishment by 20 founding institutions and organisations, to a total of 37, coming from 13 EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova and Canada. The Members also appointed seven further personalities of public life to the Board of Trustees of the Platform and elected the Supervisory Board of the Platform.

The new Members of the Platform elected on 9 November 2012:

Citizens` Initiative for Dismantling the Soviet Army Monument in Sofia (BG)

Kistler-Ritso Eesti Foundation. Museum of Occupations (EE)

Post Bellum (CZ)

Union of Auxilliary Technical Units of the Czech Republic - Military Forced Labour Camps (CZ)

Union of the Associations of the Victims of Communist Tyranny – UOKG (DE)

Remembrance and Future Institute (PL)

Centre for the Study of Totalitarianism (MO)

Czech and Slovak Association of Canada (CA)

The new members of the Board of Trustees appointed on 9 November 2012:

Historian Prof. Wojciech Roszkowski (PL), Members of the European Parliament Paweł Robert Kowal (PL), Werner Schulz (DE), Monica Luisa Macovei (RO), former Czech Senator Martin Mejstřík (CZ), Czech Minister of Defence Alexandr Vondra (CZ) and historian Stéphane Courtois (FR).



The members of the Supervisory Board elected on 9 November 2012:

Prof. Valters Nollendorfs (LV), Member of the Board, The Occupation Museum Association of Latvia, Andrei Muraru (RO), President of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, Ľubomír Augustín (CZ), Head of the Director's Office, Security Services Archive.





Participants of the Council of Members meeting of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, 8-9 November 2012, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial. Photo: Antje Böttinger.

Platform calls for protection of archives and preserving victims' testimonies

Press release

Berlin, 9 November 2012. Commemorating the victims of the "Reichskristallnacht" 74 years ago and the victims of Communism on the 23rd anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience calls on the European community to create a status of protected European heritage for archives harbouring documents on totalitarian crimes and to enhance the support of its goals.

Meeting on the premises of the former Stasi prison in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, the Platform calls on the European community to focus on the victims of Communist repressions, whose fates are still largely unknown and unrecognized. The preservation of memory in Central and Eastern Europe has only been possible since the 1990s and the survivors of the gravest crimes, including crimes against humanity, are quickly leaving us.

The Platform appeals for a complete opening of archives of the former Communist regimes, particularly Soviet archives, as well as the archives of former Yugoslavia. Materials contained in former security services archives form a part of the common European heritage. This information should be made accessible to the widest extent possible, in order to raise public awareness about the inhuman and criminal nature of totalitarian regimes and to enable research on them. The Platform calls on the European Union to establish a status of **protected European heritage** for these archives. They must not be closed, destroyed or altered.

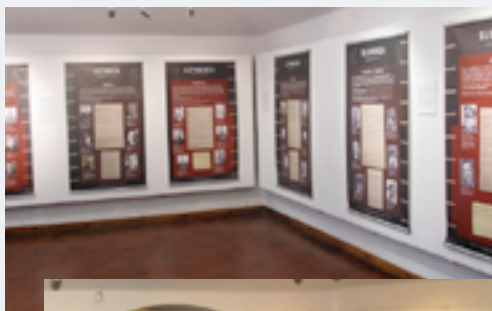
The Members further call on the European community to increase support for the goals of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience which are essential for the protection of European values. The work of institutions and organisations associated in the Platform acts as an important safeguard against the recurrence of authoritarianism and totalitarianism.

In particular, the collection and preservation of the life experiences and memories of the victims of totalitarian crimes is one of the urgent tasks for which the time is running out.

Year 2013

January 2013

“Totalitarianism in Europe” opens in Kranj, Slovenia



The international travelling exhibition continues its tour through Europe. Between 17 January - 18 February 2013 it was presented in the Gorenjski Muzej in Kranj, Slovenia, where it was visited by about 2,500 visitors, including schoolchildren. The exhibition was introduced by **Dr. Andreja Valič Zver**, Director of the Study Centre for National Reconciliation, **Darko Jarc**, Deputy Mayor of Kranj and **Marija Ogrin**, Director of the Gorenjski muzej. The solemn opening was preceded by a public roundtable discussion featuring well-known Slovenian historians **Dr. Igor Grdina**, **Dr. Tamara Griesser Pečar**, **Dr. Andreja Valič Zver** and **Jože Dežman**. Dr. Andreja Valič Zver stresses: “We have to constantly talk about this subject and reflect upon it because this way we can better understand the present and maybe influence the future”.

(Photos: Jelka Piškurić)

February 2013

“Totalitarianism in Europe” opens in Prague

The exhibition was presented in Prague as a part of the international festival against totalitarianism MENE TEKEL on 25 February - 8 March 2013, at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University. Speakers at the opening were **Prof. Dr. Aleš Gerloch**, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, **Daniel Herman**, Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, **Göran Lindblad**, President of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and **Sandra Kalniete**, Member of the European Parliament and Chairwoman of the Reconciliation of European Histories group.

(Photos: ÚSTR)



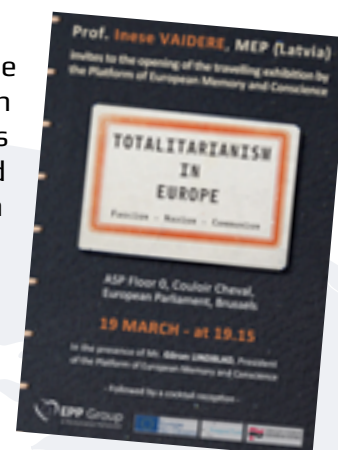
Discussion on killings along the Iron Curtain



A public panel discussion was staged by the Platform in cooperation with the Czech lawyers' association Všehrd at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University in Prague on 6 March 2013, on the topic **"Killing at the Borders - Crime against Humanity?"**. Panelists were **Václav Krbeček**, a victim who was shot down at the Iron Curtain as a teenager in 1953, **Miroslav Lehký**, a former police investigator of the crimes at the border, and **Professors Pavel Šturma** and **Jan Kuklík** of the Faculty of Law of the Charles University. Moderator was **Luděk Navara**, a well-known Czech investigative journalist.

"Totalitarianism in Europe" opens with a twist in the European Parliament in Brussels

The exhibition was hosted by MEP **Ms Inese Vaidere** (LV) in the main hallway of the Altiero Spinelli building of the European Parliament from 18 to 22 March 2013. Guest at the opening was Platform President **Göran Lindblad**. Something unprecedented happened: Bulgarian MEPs addressed the Questor of the European Parliament and achieved that the panels representing the crimes and criminals of World War II and Communism in Bulgaria were removed before the opening. The procedural rules of the European Parliament state that exhibitions which could give rise to "controversial political debate" (sic!) shall not be presented in the European Parliament! There has been no other reproach against the Platform's exhibition until this day (November 2014).



Platform concerned about developments at the Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes

In April 2013, Daniel Herman, Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague and one of the founders of the Platform, was dismissed in the middle of his 5-year term. Several Platform Member institutions and organisations as well as a group of 25 Members of the European Parliament sent protest letters to the Czech Government and Parliament. Excerpt from the letter sent by Platform President Göran Lindblad:

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is concerned by the recent developments in the Czech Republic where the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes is being targeted by a political campaign which is aimed against its state-of-the-art digitization department as well as at changing the focus of the Institute's work.

There will be no true integration, freedom, peace and prosperity in Europe without a full disclosure of the crimes of the totalitarian past, without a broad dissemination of and

reflection on this knowledge, without justice and reconciliation in society. Any attempts to thwart this process will lead to a weakening of democracy and increase the danger of recurrence of non-democratic regimes, which is of special concern today, at the time of the ongoing economic crisis in the Eurozone.

The Platform therefore calls upon all democratic forces in the Czech Republic to ensure that the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes can continue fulfilling its mission.

May 2013

Conference “Modern Forms of Commemoration of Totalitarian Genocide Places” on 14-15 May 2013 in Warsaw



Dr. Łukasz Kamiński,
President of IPN

on 14-15 May 2013. During the conference a reflection was carried out on the role memorials played in the past, their role today and in the future. An equally important goal of the conference was to exchange experience among the participants – eminent practitioners in the field. The conference programme included several panel discussions, to which representatives of numerous international institutions commemorating totalitarian crimes were invited. The discussions in the sessions covered issues such as the role of memorials in modern society, modern forms of commemoration (how to talk about the committed crimes), education at the memorial sites and the message for the future. (Photos: IPN)

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience, the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, the Warsaw Rising Museum and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague organised an international conference “**Modern Forms of Commemoration of Totalitarian Genocide Places**” which was held at the Public Education Office of the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw



June 2013

Ján Langoš Award presented to Sandra Kalniete in Bratislava

The laureate of the international Ján Langoš Award 2013, presented in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 20 June by Platform Member Ján Langoš Foundation, was **Ms Sandra Kalniete**, Member of the European Parliament, former dissident, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Latvian EU Commissioner, Chairwoman of the Reconciliation of European Histories group in the European Parliament and member of the Board of Trustees of the Platform.



Catalogue of the international travelling exhibition “Totalitarianism in Europe” published



The travelling exhibition presents a first-ever overview of the available statistics on **civilian victims of the gravest crimes committed by the 20th century totalitarian regimes in 12 European countries**: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia (former Czechoslovakia), Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria. The statistics are framed by **photographs of some of the main perpetrators** and complemented by data on the **criminal prosecution of the perpetrators** after the fall of the regime. The catalogue is a reduced version of the travelling exhibition; it consists of 12 double-sided panels in a cardboard cover and is ideally suited for interactive use, also in the classroom.

Platform Reader “Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe” published in English, German and French

A READER FOR OLDER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ANYWHERE IN EUROPE



Edited by **Gillian Purves**. An illustrated collection of **30 remarkable life stories of people affected by totalitarianism from 16 European countries**, containing photographs and facsimiles of documents. Contributions by 23 public and nongovernmental institutions, organisations, museums and memorials dealing with the totalitarian past of Europe, associated in the Platform of European Memory and Conscience. Preface by French historian **Stéphane Courtois**, the author of the Black Book of Communism. The purpose of the reader is to educate today's young generation about Europe's tragic totalitarian past and about the importance of upholding fundamental human rights, freedoms and democratic values in society. The goal is to promote a better understanding and integration among European citizens and to help prevent the recurrence of any form of non-democratic rule in the future.

English, German and French language versions, 288 pp., hardcover. Includes a **multimedia DVD** containing 2:20 hours of documentary films from 6 countries (5 – 50 mins length, English, German and French subtitles or voiceover), the Reader in **3 e-book formats** (.pdf, .mobi, .epub), two printable essays and a map.

With the kind support of the European Commission's Europe for Citizens programme and the International Visegrad Fund. The German and French versions were printed in cooperation with the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity.

August 2013

Platform protests against former Communists advising Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes

On behalf of the Platform, President Göran Lindblad sent an open letter to the Council of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague. Excerpt from the letter:

It is unacceptable to appoint former Communists to the scientific council of the Institute and to let those Communists evaluate the work of the Institute's employees. It is like recruiting former Nazis to evaluate the work in a Holocaust memorial. (...) We therefore demand the removal of these former Communists, as well as the resignation of the Institute director.

Platform's Travelling exhibition and Reader presented at EU Presidency event on 23 August 2013 in Vilnius



(Photos: A. Ufartas, E. Levin)

The Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council held a ceremony on the occasion of the **European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarian Regimes** in the presence of Ministers of Justice of the EU in Vilnius. On 22 August, a candle lighting ceremony took place at the monument to resistance fighters outside the former headquarters of the Gestapo and the KGB, today's Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania. On 23 August, Platform President **Göran Lindblad** opened the international travelling exhibition "**Totalitarianism in Europe**" in the presence of the EU justice ministers at a conference held in the Tuskulėnai Peace Park memorial complex. In the afternoon, **Göran Lindblad** and **Neela Winkelmann** opened the exhibition for the Lithuanian public. The Platform's Reader for schools "**Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe**" was presented to all delegates by the Lithuanian EU Presidency.



October 2013

Platform Reader published in Czech and starts tour of schools in the Czech Republic with star actor Ondřej Vetchý

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience together with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung published the Czech language version of the reader "**Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe**" in September 2013, with an **endorsement from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic**. Between October – December 2013, the Platform presented the Reader in secondary schools across the Czech Republic. The series was kicked off at the Sports grammar school in Kladno. Award-winning actor Ondřej Vetchý

read from the book and participated in a discussion with students. The presentation of the Reader in the schools was accompanied by former political prisoners and witnesses of totalitarian persecution who recounted their life stories to the students. Partners of the tour were the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, who presented each visited school with a set of Readers for the students, the Všechna Association of Czech



Lawyers, the Confederation of Political Prisoners of the Czech Republic, the Union of Auxilliary Technical Units – Military Forced Labour Camps and the Prague Academic Club 48.



(Photos: SG Kladno)



“European History - National Memory?” - podium discussion in Berlin, 30 October 2013

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience together with the Academy of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial staged a public podium discussion “**European History – National Memory?**” in Berlin on 30 October 2013 at the occasion of the showing of the Platform’s international travelling exhibition “**Totalitarianism in Europe**”. The speakers were **Dr. Hildigund Neubert**, Deputy Chairwoman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, **Dr. Hubertus Knabe**, Director of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial, **Dr. Pawel Ukielski**, Deputy Director of the Warsaw Rising Museum, **Prof. Dr. Dr. David Vseviov** of the Estonian Academy of Fine Arts, **Dr. Neela Winkelmann**, coordinator of the exhibition and Director of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and **Helmuth**



Frauendorfer, Deputy Director of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial. Host of the debate was **Uwe Müller** of the newspaper “Die Welt”.



(Photos: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)

“Roots of Totalitarianism” - panel debate in The Hague, Netherlands, 12 November 2013



The Platform of European Memory and Conscience together with the R.C. Spiritual Centre De Boskant held a panel debate **“Roots of Totalitarianism”** before the opening of the travelling exhibition **“Totalitarianism in Europe”** on Tuesday, 12 November 2013 at De Boskant, The Hague, Netherlands. Speakers were **Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis**, MEP, **Rev. László Tőkés**, MEP, **Prof. Stéphane Courtois**, **Prof. Theo de Wit** and **Jan Marinus Wiersma**, former MEP. The debate

was followed by a reception and it was kindly supported by the **Foundation History of Totalitarian Regimes and its Victims** and the **Czech Centres**.



(Photos: Czech Centre)

Council of Members meeting in the House of Europe, The Hague, 12-13 November 2013



Kurt Schrimm,
Head of the Central Office
for the Investigation of Nazi
crimes in Ludwigsburg,
Germany

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience held its annual Council of Members meeting at the House of Europe in The Hague, Netherlands. The meeting opened on 12 November by a guest lecture by **Kurt Schrimm**, Head of the Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes, Ludwigsburg, Germany, on the new wave of prosecutions after the Demjanjuk trial. A panel discussion on the EU citizens' right to justice and totalitarian crimes followed, with **Sandra Kramer**, head of Unit 1, DG Justice of the European Commission, **Sandra Kalniete**, MEP, **Łukasz Kamiński**, President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Poland, **Boštjan Kolarič** from the Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Slovenia, and **Florian Kresse** from the Union of Victims of Communist Tyranny, Germany. Platform Members and Membership candidates then presented their international projects. On 12 November in the evening, a public panel debate **“Roots of Totalitarianism”** was held. On 13 November, internal agenda of the Platform was discussed and elections were held. A visit to the **International Criminal Court** concluded the meeting. The Platform Members attended a part of the Court hearings in the trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, alleged commander-in-chief of the Movement for the Liberation of Congo. Mr Bemba Gombo is tried on two counts of crimes against humanity and three counts of war crimes.





Participants of the Council of Members meeting of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, 12-13 November 2013, House of Europe, The Hague. Photos: Klaas van der Horst

Platform reelects Board and admits six new Members



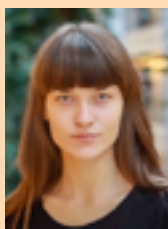
Managing Director Neela Winkelmann, President Göran Lindblad, Executive Board Members Andreja Valič Zver, Paweł Ukielski and Zsolt Szilágyi

The Council of Members of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience reelected President **Göran Lindblad** and the Executive Board of the Platform – **Andreja Valič Zver, Siegfried Reiprich, Zsolt Szilágyi** and **Paweł Ukielski** - for another two-year term. Six new Member institutions and

organisations were admitted to the Platform, raising the total number of Members to 43 institutions and organisation from 18 countries in Europe (13 EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova and Iceland) and North America (Canada and the USA). One person was elected to the Supervisory Board and one person was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Platform.

The new Members of the Platform elected on 13 November 2013:

Black Ribbon Day Foundation (CA)
celandic Research Centre for Innovation and Economic Growth (IS)
Inconspicuous Heroes (SK)
Joint Baltic American National Committee (USA)
Political Prisoners.eu (CZ)
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (USA)



The new member of the Board of Trustees of the Platform appointed on 13 November 2013:

Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė (LT), Member of the European Parliament

The new member of the Supervisory Board of the Platform elected on 13 November 2013:

Marek Mutor (PL), Director of the Remembrance and Future Institute, Wrocław



Stichting geschiedenis
totalitaire regimes
en hun slachtoffers

Foundation history
of totalitarian regimes
and their victims

Platform Reader goes on sale in bookstores in the Czech Republic

After a successful tour of secondary schools in all 14 regions of the Czech Republic and well received by regional and national media, the Platform Reader went on commercial sale in bookstores across the country, in time for Christmas.

In collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, the Platform visited schools in each of the 14 regions of the Czech Republic between October - December 2013, to present its Reader for secondary school students **"Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe"** (**"Abychom nezapomněli. Výpověď o totalitě v Evropě"** in Czech). Acclaimed actors read chapters from the book and witnesses of totalitarian crimes discussed with the students. The tour attracted attention of printed media, television and radio on regional and national level, as well as praise from history teachers.



We are pleased by the strong positive response to the Reader. There are schools on the waiting list for next year. This proves that the Platform has created an international educational tool which is very much needed. It is a success marking the second year of the Platform.

Czech actors who participated in the project:



Ondřej Vetchý, Ondřej Malý, Norbert Lichý, Zdeňka Žádníková, Tereza Groszmannová, Vladimír Javorský

Presentations of the international travelling exhibition "Totalitarianism in Europe" in 2013

Kranj, Slovenia – January – February 2013
Prague, Czech Republic – February – March 2013
European Parliament, Brussels – March 2013
Oradea, Romania – March – April 2013
Warsaw, Poland – May – June 2013
Tallinn, Estonia – June – July 2013
Vilnius, Lithuania – August-September 2013
Berlin, Germany – October – November 2013
Den Haag, Netherlands – November 2013
Kiev, Ukraine – December 2013 – January 2014



Activities of the Platform Board

Throughout 2013, the Platform Board convened regularly to discuss online via Skype / Oovoo.

On **25 June 2013**, Platform President **Göran Lindblad** and Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann** had a meeting with **Telmo Baltazar**, Head of Cabinet of Commission Vice-President **Viviane Reding** in Brussels, to present and discuss the work of the Platform. On **26 June 2013**, they were joined by Members of the Board of Trustees **Sandra Kalniete**, **Vytautas Landsbergis**, **László Tökés** and **Tunne Kelam** for a discussion with leading representatives of the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission.

Presentations at Conferences

Members of the Platform participated in the **3rd Networking meeting of the European Commission with organisations active in the field of remembrance** on **7-9 April 2013** in Erfurt, Germany, organised in partnership with EUROCLIO.

On **6 - 7 June 2013**, Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann** presented the work of the Platform at the **Villa Vigoni discussion "Truth Commissions in Europe"** on Lake Como, Italy. Participants of the conference discussed the potential of truth commissions for dealing with the unresolved justice issues in Europe.

Platform Board Members **Paweł Ukielski** and **Andreja Valič Zver** gave presentations at events organised by Platform member Icelandic Research Centre for Innovation and Economic Growth in Reykjavik on **23 August** and on **16 September 2013**, respectively.

The Platform was partner of the **6th International Conference on Global Support for Democratization in China and Asia** held on 16-21 October 2013 in Toronto, Canada. The purpose of the conference was to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, to discuss plans for cooperation and to develop strategies for democratization in China and Asia. Platform President **Göran Lindblad** participated in the event.

Managing Director **Neela Winkelmann** gave a presentation on killings along the Iron Curtain and the right to justice at the conference of the Lithuanian EU Presidency called **"Totalitarian regimes' heritage in hate crimes"** held in Vilnius on **18 October 2013**.

Platform in the Media

The work of the Platform found echo in important German newspapers in 2013 - the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Die Welt. Here are short synopses:

Wie bricht man das Schweigen der Täter? – Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 11 June 2013

("How to break the silence of the perpetrators?")

The article summarises the discussions held at an international conference at the Villa Vigoni on Lake Como, Italy, on June 6-7, 2013 under the title "Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Europe".

The article concludes that the greatest justification for such international commissions would exist for the crimes committed by the Communist regimes in the former Eastern bloc, referring to the initiative of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience and pointing out that here, the criminal prosecution is also important.

Auf dunkle Weise mit sich selbst im Reinen - Die Welt, 22 June 2013

("In a murky way, at peace with one's conscience")

The farther in the past the crimes lie, the more stubborn the perpetrators' silence. A conference on the elucidation of political crimes.

The article summarises the main ideas spoken at an international conference at the German-Italian centre Villa Vigoni on Lake Como, Italy, on June 6-7, 2013 under the title "Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Europe".

The article reasons that there was one large historical change which would have theoretically provided an ideal chance for a truth and reconciliation commission – the fall of the Communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. However, this never happened. The smooth transitions were probably bought by a silence agreement on both sides, the Communist past remained taboo. However, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience strives to achieve a recognition of the victims of Communist crimes who suffered great injustice; the perpetrators should admit their crimes, then only reconciliation will be possible. The author however predicts that here, too, the situation will soon end like with the Nazi perpetrators – the Communist perpetrators will remain silent.

Die Vergangenheit hält Gericht – Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 7 August 2013

("The past stages a trial")

How do the East-European states handle the crimes of the Communist dictatorship? In the court cases against Czech border soldiers, the past lives on.

This important article describes several brutal crimes / murders committed by border guards against German and Czechoslovak citizens trying to escape across the Iron Curtain from Czechoslovakia during the Communist dictatorship and the thwarted attempts to reach justice for these killings after 1989. The reason for this failure is that former Communist judges and even former members of the Communist military judiciary are being entrusted with these cases in the courts of the Czech Republic, leading to an extreme leniency toward the perpetrators and to their acquittal. Neela Winkelmann, Director of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, comments that this represents a scandalous breach of the right to a fair trial. The author further points out that the systematic nature of the crimes and the line of command are being neglected completely by the Czech courts and that surprisingly no continuous public debate takes place in Czech society about the issue.

Acknowledgement of Support

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience gratefully acknowledges the support of the International Visegrad Fund and the European Commission's Europe for Citizens Programme which provided a grant to the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes for the work of the Platform, especially for the Reader for Schools "Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe" and the International traveling exhibition "Totalitarianism in Europe".

The Platform further thanks the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, the European Shoah Legacy Institute, the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile and the Foundation Memory of Totalitarian Regimes and their Victims for providing financial contributions toward common projects and events, as well as the Czech Lawyers' Association Všehrd, the Czech Centre in The Hague and the spiritual centre R.C. De Boskant for the good cooperation.

Financial Report

Period	1. 1. 2013 - 31. 12. 2013
Account name	Closing balance EUR
Individual movable assets	1395
Depr. individual movable assets	- 697
Cash on hand EUR	0
Bank account in CZK	153
Bank account in EUR	5
Customers	31
Customers foreign	250
Total assets	1137
Basic capital	1395
Profit or loss to be approved	4630
Suppliers	25
Donations	463
Payable to participants	3939
Profit/loss for period	- 9315
Total liabilities	1137
Office supplies	92
Travel expenses	6282
Representation expenses	306
Merchandise sold	7962
Services	7098
FX losses realized	105
FX losses unrealized	85
Shortages and damages	0
Bank fees	86
Depr. expenses	349
Total costs	22365
Bank interest	8
FX gains realized	7
FX gains unrealized	172
Revenues from merchandise	9400
Revenues from services	3463
Received contributions	0
Total income	13050

Members of the Platform as of December 2013

United States of America

Joint Baltic American National Committee
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Canada

Czech and Slovak Association of Canada
Black Ribbon Day Foundation

Iceland

Icelandic Research Centre for Innovation and
Economic Growth

Sweden

The Institute for Information on the Crimes of
Communism

Estonia

Estonian Institute of Historical Memory
Kistler-Ritso Eesti Foundation. Museum of
Occupations
Unitas Foundation

Latvia

Koknese Foundation
The Occupation Museum Association of Latvia
The Occupation of Latvia Research Society

Lithuania

Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of
Lithuania
Secretariat of The International Commission
for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and
Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

Poland

Institute of National Remembrance
Remembrance and Future Institute
Warsaw Rising Museum

Germany

Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial
Hannah Arendt Society
International Association of Former Political
Prisoners and Victims of Communism
Meetingpoint Music Messiaen
Saxon Memorial Foundation for the
Remembrance of Victims of Political Tyranny
The Federal Commissioner for the Records of the
State Security Service of the former GDR
Union of the Associations of the Victims of
Communist Tyranny (UOKG)

Netherlands

Foundation History of Totalitarian Regimes and
their Victims

Czech Republic

The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian
Regimes
Memory (Paměť)
Political Prisoners.eu
Post bellum
Prague Academic Club 48
Security Services Archive
Union of Auxilliary Technical Units (PTP)

Slovakia

Inconspicuous Heroes
Ján Langoš Foundation

Hungary

The Public Foundation for the Research of
Central and East
European History and Society, House of Terror
Museum

Slovenia

Study Centre for National Reconciliation

Bulgaria

Hannah Arendt Center – Sofia
Citizens' Initiative for Dismantling the Soviet
Army Monument in Sofia

Romania

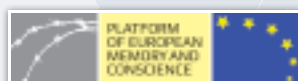
Institute for the Investigation of Communist
Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile
The Memorial to the Victims of Communism
and to the Anticommunist Resistance

Moldova

Centre for the Study of Totalitarianism

Ukraine

Center for Research on the Liberation Movement
Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People





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