



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE



2018 EUROPEAN SITES OF CONSCIENCE REGIONAL MEETING: Monte Sole Peace School

Marzabotto, Italy – November 13-16, 2018

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About The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) is a global network of museums, historic sites and grassroots initiatives dedicated to building a more just and peaceful future through engaging communities in remembering struggles for human rights and addressing their modern repercussions. Founded in 1999, the ICSC now includes more than 250 Sites of Conscience members in 65 countries. The ICSC supports these members through seven regional networks that encourage collaboration and international exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Learn more at www.sitesofconscience.org.

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Designed by Lori J. Dawson



INTRODUCTION

“Can I make a difference?”

Grappling with Individual Responsibility at Sites of Conscience

From November 13-16, 2018, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), in partnership with the Monte Sole Peace School, hosted the 2018 European Sites of Conscience Regional Meeting in the mountains outside Bologna, Italy. The meeting brought together fifteen participants from fifteen European Sites of Conscience as well as a member of ICSC’s Ambassadors Circle ([please see Appendix A for list of participants](#)).

The 2018 regional meeting focused on the concept of **Individual Responsibility**, and it aimed to strengthen the efforts of the European Sites of Conscience Network to combat any form of intolerance and violence in the region by sharing and exploring lessons from the past.

To that end, the three-day meeting included working groups, plenary and open-space sessions structured to support the development of regional partnerships and collaboration; educational activities specifically designed for the group to tackle the concept of individual responsibility; and numerous opportunities for exchange of expertise and scholarship ([please see Appendix B for a meeting agenda](#)).

The meeting also allowed participants to experience the site where the Monte Sole Peace School is grounded, and immerse themselves in the work that the Monte Sole Peace School does in connecting past to present, memory to action. This report outlines the key decisions and discussions at the meeting.

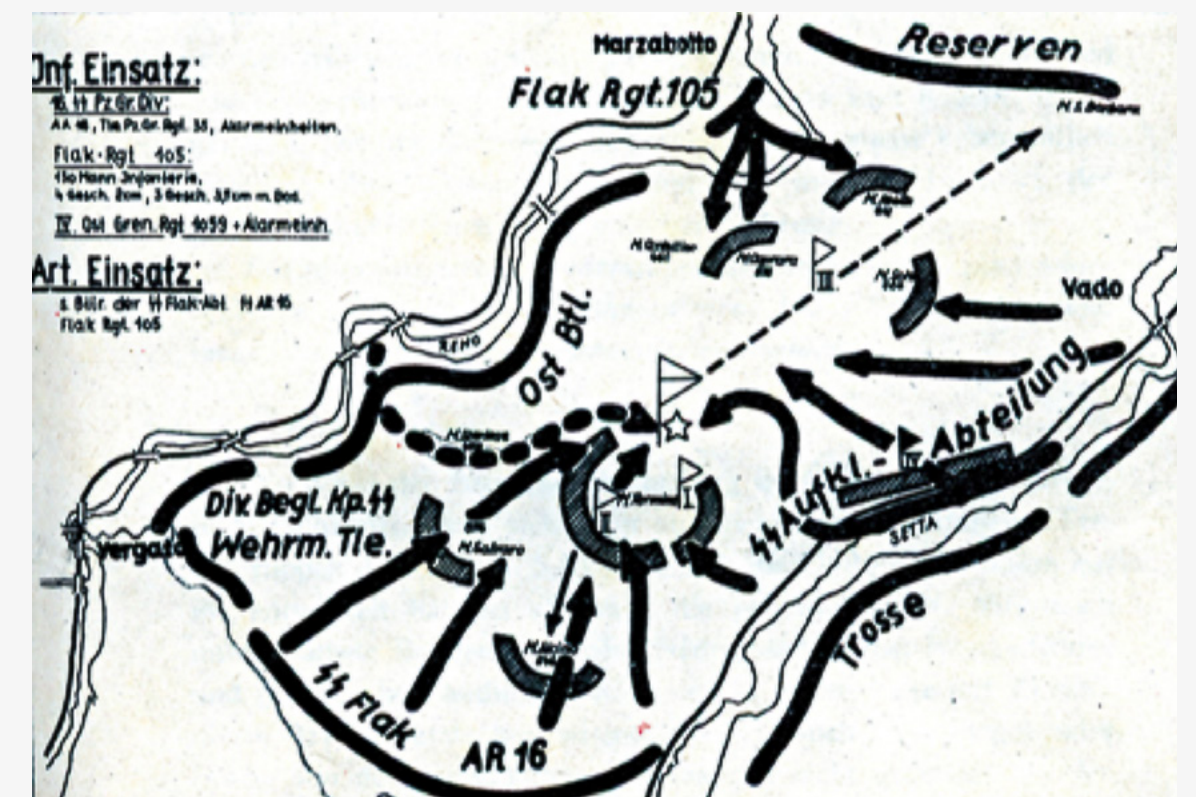


The Monte Sole Peace School

The Monte Sole Peace School is located in the Historical Park of Monte Sole, approximately 10 miles south of Bologna, where between September 29 and October 5, 1944, 770 civilians were killed by the Nazi SS troops with the help of Italian fascist elements. At the time of the massacre, the Monte Sole region was inhabited by approximately 2000 people, living in small villages and isolated houses. The Nazi operation affected 115 different places in the area, where villages, houses and churches were burned down.

The Historical Park of Monte Sole was founded in 1989 to preserve the site as a natural and historical park, and in 2002, the Monte Sole Peace School was created to use the site as basis for the promotion of non-violent conflict transformation and respect for human rights and peaceful co-existence among people from different cultures. Under that mission, the Monte Sole Peace School develops professional trainings, summer youth camps, and educational projects aimed at building tolerant societies free from xenophobia, racism or violence towards human beings and their environment.

The Monte Sole Peace School has been an active member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience since 2006.



Individual Responsibility

In response to the current socio-political events and manifestations of hatred, national extremism and xenophobia in Europe and around the globe, the 2018 European Sites of Conscience Regional Meeting focused on the role of Sites of Conscience fostering individual responsibility. The site and work of the Monte Sole Peace School served as the perfect basis for the discussion.

To frame the conversation, the meeting launched with *The Gray Zone*, a workshop by [Archivio Zeta](#), a cultural association founded in 1999. Using theater as a medium of communication and expression, Archivio Zeta and the Monte Sole Peace School work together on citizenship education, taking the memory of WW2 and fascism in Italy as the basis for reflection and action on today's forms of intolerance and violence. Their cooperation has led to a cultural format working in the intersection of memory, education, theater and action (M.E.T.A.).

The Gray Zone workshop, conceived and developed by the Archivio Zeta and the Monte Sole Peace School in 2011, emerges from Primo Levi's book "*I sommersi e i salvati - The drowned and the saved*," and it centers around the personal story of Chaim Mordecai Rumkowski, the chief of the Jewish council in the Łódź Ghetto, Poland. The Ghetto, established by the Nazi German authorities for Polish Jews and Roma following the 1939 invasion of Poland, was the second-largest ghetto in all of German-occupied Europe after the Warsaw Ghetto.

Meeting participants were asked to sit in a circle and remain silent throughout the duration of the workshop to ensure profound reflection. By using images, original text from the book, theatrical action, and subtle participation from the audience, the workshop engaged participants in a combination of theater and education activities aimed at raising questions and sparking debate around concepts like victim/oppressor and good/bad, and breaking down stereotypes about the Shoah remembrance and commemorations.



As part of the discussion, the group tackled the notions of personal, collective and moral responsibility as well as legal liability and freedom. Participants reflected at some length on the controversial figure of Chaim Mordecai Rumkowski and with it, Primo Levi's idea of the gray zone¹ and the ambiguity of human nature.

The following morning, participants visited the Monte Sole site in depth. Sixty percent of the site is covered by woods and the rest has reverted into meadows. One can't help but feel confronted both by its beauty and the horrors its history holds. The violence of the place is evident by a few scattered ruins signaling the events that took place between September 29 and October 5, 1944.

Over three hours, participants walked the site taking in its history while establishing a personal connection with the place thanks to the numerous testimonies from survivors that the Monte Sole Peace School has collected over the years. During the visit, the Monte Sole Peace School made a conscious effort to trigger reflection about the history of the place and our reality today, asking participants to place themselves in specific scenarios and alternating facts with real-life situations past and present. Participants were moved by the experience.

Prior to the meeting, participants were encouraged to reflect on the concept of individual responsibility: its meaning, its reach, and the policies, approaches and activities implemented at their institutions to promote it both inward and outward. The reflections were presented in a plenary session.





The Monte Sole Peace School initiated the conversation inviting the group to reflect on two concepts raised during the visit to the Monte Sole site: **Sleepy Conscience**, understood as lack of action/citizenship apathy and **Awake Conscience**, understood as active citizenship. From this reflection and members' presentations, the group concluded:

- Individual responsibility is a matter of perception: "someone's sleepy conscience is someone else's awake conscience."
- State of mind, character and perception of risk/danger affect our "awake" or "sleepy" conscience.
- "Do nothing is to let do: we are responsible both for doing and not doing"
- Taking action is not a choice but a responsibility
- Individual responsibility is at the core of the work we do as Sites of Conscience:
 - It's our responsibility to promote activism and encourage our publics to take action as well as to foster empathy towards our most "immediate surroundings and communities" (participating in fundraising campaigns/recycling)
 - As Sites of Conscience we must closely work with our communities, gain their trust and be seen as "safe heavens" committed to the protection of human rights
- Sites of Conscience awaken the conscience by:
 - Tackling historical revisionism and mythological historical narratives
 - Raising awareness and providing education on established facts
 - Grounding our work in oral stories and personal testimonies
 - Providing context: placing events within a broader historical context. From here the notion of "nations cannot be blamed for crimes but individuals"
 - Collaborating with other civil society organizations/Sites of Conscience: reaching a broader public, having a greater impact



The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience – Europe (ICSC-Europe) and the European Sites of Conscience Network

In 2015, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience – Europe (ICSC-Europe) was established as an independent legal entity following more than eight years operating as one of seven regional networks of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC). Registered as a non-profit organization in Belgium, ICSC-Europe has a Board of Directors and a General Assembly that serves as the organization's sovereign body and meets every two years. Board of Directors are selected by the General Assembly for a three-year term and may be re-elected twice. The Board of Directors has responsibility for the ICSC-Europe's administration and management. ICSC-Europe was founded to solidify a unified and sustainable platform for action for the European Sites of Conscience Network.

The European Sites of Conscience Network is comprised of a diverse group of 35 museums, historic sites and memory organizations in 16 countries. Ranging from the Red Star Line in Belgium, to the Terezin Memorial in the Czech Republic, the Museum of Free Derry in Northern Ireland and the War Childhood Museum in Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Europe Sites of Conscience Network uses the lens of memory – of historic waves of immigration and its accompanying xenophobia, of totalitarian regimes and decades of repression, and of ethnic and religious conflicts that left destruction in their wake – to inform and fortify civic action that challenges contemporary forms of intolerance and violence (**please see Appendix C for a list of European Sites of Conscience Network members**).

Annual regional meetings serve as unique platforms for members to come together and discuss internal matters affecting the life of the network (operations), and draw a common path of activities (programs). ICSC Regional Program Manager, Silvia Fernández, and Steering Committee members Iratxe Momoitio, Gernika Peace Museum (Spain) and Mirian Blacci, CHwB-Albania (Albania), facilitated the 2018 regional meeting internal sessions.



"There is a plaque in the Monte Sole cemetery that contrasts "Sleeping Conscience" with "Awoke Conscience". The important role of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is to work with member sites in reaching that latter state. Otherwise, we are doomed to repeat some very unfortunate history. Both the interpretation of the Monte Sole site and the programs offered there attest to the value of this collaboration."

– David Goldfield,
Historian and International Coalition
of Sites of Conscience Ambassador



OPERATIONS

At this year's regional meeting, the following three items were due for discussion:

- **Steering Committee Selection**
- **Network Energizing and Outreach**
- **2019 European Sites of Conscience Regional Meeting**

Steering Committee Selection:

Since 2013, the European Sites of Conscience Network has been coordinated by a group of five members and the ICSC Regional Manager. Steering Committee members serve for a period of four years, with half of the members cycling off every two years. The Steering Committee meets quarterly via Skype and is responsible for representing the network and help guide its direction. The Steering Committee holds an active role in the planning and implementation of regional meetings and regional program implementation ([please see Appendix D for Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities](#)).

At this year's regional meeting, it was planned that two new members be elected to join Mirian Blacci, CHwB-Albania (Albania), and Christelle Dethy, Le Bois du Cazier (Belgium) in their duties as Steering Committee members. The group thanked Iratxe Momoitio, Gernika Peace Museum (Spain), and Kate Turner, Healing Through Remembering (Northern Ireland), for their five years serving in the Committee, and for their ongoing commitment and leadership.

Contrary to previous years, there was some hesitation from meeting participants to serve on the Steering Committee. For some participants it was due to other commitments and/or high volume of work and others, due to their recent membership in the network. It should be noted that by now most veteran members have already served on the Committee, some of them for longer than the four years required.

During the selection process, current and former Steering Committee members encouraged their colleagues to join the Committee and stressed the importance of active leadership and participation in the network, as well as the need to share responsibilities among all members.

Since there weren't any new candidates within the group, former and current Steering Committee members nominated Will Glendenning, Diversity Challenges (Northern Ireland), and a representative to be named from the Memorial Democratic (Spain) to serve on the Committee from 2018-2022. Although not present at this year's meeting, both Diversity Challenges and the Memorial Democratic have been active members since 2009, when the European Sites of Conscience Network was officially launched at the House of the Wannsee Conference, Germany.



“Meeting colleagues from SOC Europe, ...is like charging our batteries to continue fighting for memory, conscience and individual and social responsibility, giving a sense to our everyday job. Thanks Monte Sole and colleagues for your inspiration.”

*– Iratxe Momoitio,
Gernika Peace Museum (Spain)*

Please note that at the time this report was written, Will Glendenning had officially accepted the nomination to serve in the Steering Committee, and the Memorial Democratic had declined due to internal organizational issues. ICSC Regional Manager is currently drafting a new Steering Committee membership proposal to be share with the network.

Network Energizing and Outreach

In discussing ways to strengthen the network, the group reiterated the need to develop a sustainable financial mechanism that would support long-term project activities and exchange. As part of the conversation, participants mentioned the possibility of offering training services that would help generate income and contribute to knowledge sharing among members. The following concepts were proposed:

- **A Conscience Training Program/Paths of Conscience Online Training available to members and non-members.**
- **A regional Memory-Conscience tour pack for schools, educators and/or professionals in the fields of human rights, heritage and museology.**
- **Comprehensive Resource Catalogue highlighting best practices and educational tools from the European Sites of Conscience work.**

The group also agreed on the importance of giving promotion to the network and being more present on social media. It was discussed the need to develop a social media strategy both for regional meetings and for regional activities throughout the year. ICSC Regional Manager will work with ICSC's communications department in NYC and the Steering Committee to develop a comprehensive communications plan for the network that will be shared among members by summer 2019.

In addition, participants recognized the great value of outreach as part of the network's energizing efforts. While the group acknowledged that there are different levels of engagement opportunities in the network – from participating in the Steering Committee to attending regional meetings to contributing to the members-only Sites Scene newsletter – they stressed the importance of active membership and the need to re-engage inactive members like Gernika

Gogoratuz Peace Research Centre (Spain), the Gulag.cz Association (Czech Republic), the Historical Museum of the City of Krakow (Poland), and the Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder (the Netherlands), in the network activities.

To activate membership within the network, it was agreed that the Steering Committee



would be primarily responsible for leading member outreach initiatives. With the help and the support of ICSC Regional Manager, Steering Committee members will arrange one-on-one conversations with each of the inactive members to reconnect, share network updates and better understand their needs, expectations and interest in being part of the network. Conversations will be minuted and shared so all involved can learn more about concerns and effective strategies for effective engagement.

The group also reiterated the urge to put into action previously discussed efforts to strengthen the work of Sites of Conscience in European countries not currently represented in the network (i.e. France and Germany). While members are encouraged to promote the work and mission of ICSC and ICSC-Europe and nominate prospective members, it was decided that ICSC Regional Manager and the Steering Committee would be responsible for cultivating new members.

Once the new Steering Committee is fully formed, ICSC Regional Manager will convene a meeting to address all the above and create an action plan.

2019 European Sites of Conscience Regional Meeting

Le Bois du Cazier, Belgium, offered to host the 2019 European Sites of Conscience Meeting in in Marcinelle, Belgium. Le Bois du Cazier is housed at a former coal mine, where in 1956, a fire spread claiming the lives of 262 men representing 12 different nationalities. More than half of the 262 victims were immigrants from Italy. The disaster was the largest industrial tragedy of its kind in Belgian history, and had important consequences in Italian-Belgian labor relations. Today, Le Bois du Cazier encourages visitors to question the costs and benefits of industrialization and to consider issues of workplace safety. It also offers visitors the opportunity to reflect on the lives and past contributions of immigrants in Belgium and the factors influencing immigration policy today.

During the session, an important issue was raised among participating members regarding financing of regional meetings. While traditionally local costs for meetings have been shared between the host and ICSC, and participants have covered their own international travel, as the network grows, it's becoming increasingly difficult to meet the meetings' financial requirements. The group agreed on the value of holding annual meetings and the need to have a budget that would support these gatherings without putting a financial strain on the organizers or the participants.

The group discussed possible sources of funding and suggested that Erasmus Plus - a European Commission funding program that supports activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport - could be a good fit. The Monte Sole Peace School volunteered to help in the application process given their experience applying to this specific funding line.

On that note, the group also suggested hiring an external consultant with deep knowledge of and expertise in European Commission funding programs who could provide support in the application processes, which are known for being tedious and highly bureaucratic.

At the moment this report was written, ICSC had already been in contact with a few consultants to work with on future project proposals.

“The 2019 European Regional Meeting not only served networking and promotion (we had several new members attending) but it also created a great learning environment suitable to intellectually, emotionally and practically challenging participants around the theme of Individual Responsibility.”

**- Mirian Bllaci,
CHwB-Albania (Albania)**



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

2018-2020 Strategic Direction Plan

Programmatically speaking, this year's meeting built on the themes identified in the Strategic Direction Plan developed during the 2017 regional meeting held at the Terezin Memorial, Czech Republic ([please see Appendix E for 2018-2020 Strategic Direction Plan](#)). The themes are:

- **THEME 1: OPENING AND ACTIVATING CIVIC SPACES:** Using Balkan cities as pilot locations, European Sites of Conscience Network members will bring youth together from across Europe to prototype pop-up exhibitions in public spaces in which historic communal action took place with the goal of engaging audiences across a wide age, race, religious and ethnic demographic to take action on contemporary issues of inequality and injustice.



- **THEME 2: CULTIVATING INCLUSION OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES:** Based on core Sites of Conscience civic engagement methodology, European Sites of Conscience Network members will develop and implement engagement program models that target host communities in the specific communities assessed, and identify common issues to be tackled in subsequently developed Europe-wide program models.

- **THEME 3: FOSTERING RECONCILIATION IN POST-CONFLICT COMMUNITIES:** European Sites of Conscience members located in countries and regions that have struggled to rebuild and foster peace in the wake of violence and conflict, such as Northern Ireland and the Balkans, will continue to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations grappling with the aftermath of violence and conflict to develop dialogue and memory initiatives that lead to healing and reconciliation.

Regional Activities

Besides the above-mentioned themes, and as done during previous meetings, participants had the opportunity to brainstorm/suggest new ideas for regional projects. To spark the brainstorming process, blank cards were given to participants to reflect on "burning issues" - themes/ideas/opportunities of most urgent need or interest - that they would like to share with the group. Expressed "burning issues" were divided into two main categories:

SOS – HELP/SUPPORT NEEDED:

- The War Childhood Museum (BiH) asked for help with the design of display cases for travelling exhibitions.
- The War Childhood Museum (BiH) and Fund B92 (Serbia) asked for help with collection management processes. In response, Giovanna Rocchi, MuMA (Italy) suggested ICOM's handbook for [Collections Management Plans and Procedures](#).

FYI: INFORMATION UPDATED

- The Red Star Line (Belgium) will be hosting the 29th annual [AEMI](#) meeting in Antwerp, Belgium, 2-5 October 2019. The meeting will focus on the relationship between memory, heritage and migration. ICSC Regional Manager will work with the Red Star Line on participation from network members.
- CHwB-BiH presented their ["Make it Yours"](#) project as an example of a successful citizen engagement program aimed to encourage ownership and participation while fostering reflection on prejudices and misunderstandings around heritage.

In addition to the above, ICSC Regional Manager, Silvia Fernández, and Steering Committee member, Iratxe Momoitio, shared with the group information about the Empathy Museum's ["A Mile in My Shoes" exhibit](#), as an additional opportunity for regional cooperation. Claire Patey, Director of the Empathy Museum, was invited to Skype in during the meeting, and conduct an informational session with interested members.

From the above programmatic suggestions/opportunities, participants divided into small groups to further develop the following three projects:

- **Opening Civic Spaces: Youth Cooperation + Democracy Building efforts in the Western Balkans (CHwB-Albiana, CHwB-Bosnia I Herzegovina, YIHR-Croatia and Fund B92-Serbia)** strengthen regional coordination and grassroots-led democracy building efforts by opening historically symbolic public spaces for contemporary civic engagement. The project will bring together youth and artists from Albania, Bosnia I Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia to collaboratively develop temporary artistic installations in public spaces in which historic communal action took place with the goal of engaging audiences across a wide age, race, religious and ethnic demographic to breakdown stereotypes about their shared past and take action on contemporary issues of right-wing extremism, nationalism and xenophobia.

At the meeting, project partners finalized a draft concept note, which is currently being reviewed to be presented to two potential funders.

- **Activating/Engaging New Publics through the A Mile in My Shoes Exhibit (Le Bois du Cazier - Belgium, Red Star Line - Belgium, Mu.Ma Istituzione Musei del Mare e delle Migrazioni – Italy and the Workhouse – UK)** amplify the impact of the "A Mile in My Shoes" exhibit and prompt visitor's experience move from empathy to action. Using the Empathy Museum's "A Mile in My Shoes" exhibit as catalyst, project partners will develop and implement four civic engagement activities at their respective sites to help move visitor's experience from empathy to action against any form of intolerance. The project aims to give voice to those whose stories aren't generally heard and/or who might be stigmatized by society; provide an opportunity for the general public to hear and engage with new life stories/new life perspectives; and awaken visitors' conscience on issues around intolerance, racism and xenophobia.



At the meeting, project partners drafted an initial project outline, which is currently being developed.

- **Training Opportunities (Monte Sole Peace School – Italy, the War Childhood Museum – Bosnia I Herzegovina, Belonging – UK)** uncover the extensive experience/wide range of expertise in the network and develop a dossier of training opportunities both for network members and for professionals in the fields of museology, heritage, and human rights. At the meeting, project partners began to map out the network's expertise resulting in the following categories:

- Audience Engagement:

- › Development of innovative approaches for diversified audiences (the War Childhood Museum – BiH)
- › Engaging your audience at different phases of the project development (Red Star Line – Belgium)

- Programming:

- › Children and youth programs at museums dealing with difficult subject matters (the War Childhood Museum – BiH)
- › Intergenerational programs (Red Star Line – Belgium)
- › Educational programs for toddlers (starting at 18 months old) (Red Star Line Museum – Belgium)
- › Thematic lines:
 - Child Refugees (Red Star Line – Belgium)
 - Climate Refugees (Red Star Line – Belgium)
 - Safety at work and link between working conditions and immigration. (Le Bois du Cazier – Belgium)
 - Immigration past and present (Le Bois du Cazier – Belgium)

- Professional development:

- › Courses for freelance museum guides (Red Star Line Museum – Belgium)

- On-line campaigns:

- › Development of international on-line campaigns on human rights issues. (YIHR-Croatia).

ICSC Regional Manager will work with project partners to give shape to these training possibilities and submit a proposal to the group before the 2019 Regional Meeting.



CONCLUSION

Overall participants felt that the meeting was enriching and useful in strengthening relationships among members, advancing regional projects and collaboration, and solidifying membership in the network. Meeting participants were also inspired by the work and dedication of the Monte Sole Peace School and valued the personal, friendly and professional approach. Participants highlighted the importance of these regional meetings and ensuring on-going communication in between.

"The history between the Peace School and the Coalition is a long history and it is made of many different steps: essays, exchanges, researches, pilot projects. Nevertheless, the Peace School has always preferred the annual meetings. To be together for some days, to visit and go deep into a site methodology and vision, to discuss crucial themes for educational work with other experts and practitioners is one of the greatest benefit of being a Coalition. When this meeting is hosted at your own site, it is even better! We could show our work to interested colleagues, and work through questions with committed professionals that can help and improve what we do.... For the Peace School it was the second time of benefiting of being in this kind of situation and it was really fruitful."

- Elena Monicelli,
(Monte Sole Peace School, Italy)



APPENDIX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

2018 EUROPEAN SITES OF CONSCIENCE REGIONAL MEETING

1. War Childhood Museum (BiH)
2. CHwB – Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)
3. CHwB – Albania (Albania)
4. Fund B92 (Serbia)
5. YIHR – Croatia (Croatia)
6. Belonging (England)
7. Gernika Peace Museum Foundation (Spain)
8. Monte Sole Peace School (Italy)
9. The Montefiorino Republic and Italian Resistance Museum (Italy)
10. Museo Storico della Liberazione – Roma (Italy)
11. Istituzione Musei del Mare e della Migrazioni – MuMA (Italy)
12. Terezin Memorial (Czech Republic)
13. Red Star Line Museum (Belgium)
14. Le Bois du Cazier (Belgium)

APPENDIX B

LIST OF EUROPEAN SITES OF CONSCIENCE NETWORK MEMBERS

2018 EUROPEAN SITES OF CONSCIENCE REGIONAL MEETING

1. Zochrot (Israel)
2. YIHR – Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)
3. War Childhood Museum (BiH)
4. Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center and Cemetery (BiH)
5. Balkan Museum Network (BiH)
6. CHwB – Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)
7. CHwB – Albania (Albania)
8. Fund B92 (Serbia)
9. Centre for Public History (Serbia)
10. YIHR – Croatia (Croatia)
11. Museum of Free Derry (NI)
12. Healing Through Remembering (NI)
13. Diversity Challenges (NI)
14. Ulster Museum at the National Museums of NI (NI)
15. The Workhouse (England)
16. Belonging (England)
17. Gernika Peace Museum Foundation (Spain)
18. Gernika Gogoratuz Centro de Investigación por la Paz (Spain)
19. Memorial Democratic (Spain)
20. Fondo Kati (Spain)
21. Carcel de Carabanchel para la Memoria (Spain)
22. Maidan Museum (Ukraine)
23. Monte Sole Peace School (Italy)
24. The Montefiorino Republic and Italian Resistance Museum (Italy)
25. Museo Storico della Liberazione – Roma (Italy)
26. Istituzione Musei del Mare e della Migrazioni – MuMA (Italy)
27. Terezin Memorial (Czech Republic)
28. Gulag.cz (Czech Republic)
29. Red Star Line Museum (Belgium)
30. Le Bois du Cazier (Belgium)
31. Our Lord in the Attic (Netherlands)
32. Historical Museum of the City of Krakow – Oskar Schindler's Factory Museum (Poland)
33. Discovery Center (Kosovo)
34. Belarusian Documentation Center (Belarus)

“CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE? GRAPPLING WITH INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AT SITES OF CONSCIENCE”

MONTE SOLE PEACE SCHOOL, Marzabotto, Italy
November 13-16, 2018

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 13

Morning	Monte Sole Peace School Via S.Martino, 25 Participants Arrival
2:30-4:00	Lunch Monte Sole Peace School Poggiolo Hotel and Restaurant Via S.Martino, 25
4:00-4:30	Welcome Monte Sole Peace School Via S.Martino, 25 Elena Monicelli, “If it only were that simple”, Monte Sole Peace School
4:30-5:00	Introductions, Purpose and Framing of the Meeting Silvia Fernández, Regional Program Manager, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participant introductions • Brief overview of the 2018 Regional Meeting • Shared expectations
5:00-7:00	“The Grey Zone” Workshop in collaboration with Archivio Zeta Monte Sole Peace School Via S.Martino, 25
7:30	Group Dinner Monte Sole Peace School Poggiolo Hotel and Restaurant Via S.Martino, 25

Wednesday, November 14

8:30-9:00	Welcome and Framing the Day Cate Turner, Steering Committee member, Healing Through Remembering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of the day
9:30-1:30	Visit to Monte Sole including reflections/Q&A
1:30-2:30	Lunch Monte Sole Peace School Poggiolo Hotel and Restaurant Via S.Martino, 25
2:30-4:30	Conversation I: PLENARY: Presentation of Projects/Activities/ Approach to Individual Responsibility as European Sites of Conscience (5 minute-presentation per site) Moderator: Mirian Blacci, Steering Committee member, CHwB-Albania
4:30-5:00	Coffee Break
5:00-5:45	Conversation II: SPEAKER (TBC)
5:45-6:30	Reflections/Q&A Moderator: Elena Monicelli, Monte Sole Peace School
6:30-7:00	Sharing key reflections of the day Facilitator: Silvia Fernández, ICSC
7:30	Group Dinner Monte Sole Peace School Poggiolo Hotel and Restaurant Via S.Martino, 25

Thursday, November 15

8:30-9:30	Welcome and Framing the day Silvia Fernández, ICSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of the day • Presentation of activities/updates from the Global Network of Sites of Conscience • Presentation of Empathy Museum: A Mile in My Shoes Exhibit (continuation from 2017 European SoC Regional Meeting)
9:30-10:30	Conversation III: PLENARY: Time for us: Reflection and Discussion about our individual work Facilitators: Silvia Fernández, ICSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on updates/topics of interest as raised on the blank-cards
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break

- 11:00-1:30** **WORKING GROUPS I: Strategic Direction of Network + work on Regional Projects**
 Facilitator: Iratxe Momoitio, Steering Committee member, Gernika Peace Museum
- Brief review of Strategic Direction 2018-2020
 - Any new programmatic possibility?
- 1:30-2:30** **Lunch**
- 2:30-4:00** **WORKING GROUPS II: Continue work on Regional Projects**
- 4:00-4:30** **PLENARY: Report back from Working Groups Sessions (timeline/roles+responsibilities/next steps)**
 Moderator: Silvia Fernández, ICSC
- 4:30** **Coffee Break**
- 4:30-6:30** **The European Sites of Conscience Network**
- Overview of 2017-2018 European SoC Network activities
 - Outreach Strategy: Non-active members
 - Steering Committee Selection
 - 2019 Regional Meeting Location
 - Objectives + Next Steps for upcoming year
- 6:30-7:00** **Closing of the meeting**
 Facilitators:
 Silvia Fernandez, ICSC
 Elena Monicelli, Monte Sole Peace School
- 7:00** **ICSC-Europe Board Meeting (only for Steering Committee members)**
- 8:00** **Closing Group Dinner**

Friday, November 16

- 9:30** **Depart Monte Sole Peace School**
- 10:45-12:30** **"Specially-for-us" guided tour of the City of Bologna**

APPENDIX D

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

2018 EUROPEAN SITES OF CONSCIENCE REGIONAL MEETING

Below is the revised structure for membership in the European Sites of Conscience Steering Committee including roles and responsibilities:

- The European Steering Committee membership is open to **all network members** as long as membership dues are up-to-date.
- The Committee must be composed of at least **five members** (four European members and the Europe Regional Program Manager).
- The Committee must represent in an equitable manner the **diversity of member sites** in terms of geography, gender, experience and histories.
- Committee members serve for a period of **four years** to maintain continuity of the committee. Half of the members will cycle off every two years.
- Committee members have a commitment to and ability to communicate the goals and core values of the Sites of Conscience movement.
- Committee members participate, coordinate and conduct annual European Sites of Conscience Regional Meetings, including conducting annual needs assessments to inform the agendas.
- Committee members support the implementation of the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan for the European Sites of Conscience Network's activities that will be presented and discussed during the European Sites of Conscience Meeting 2018.
- The Committee cultivates new members.
- The Committee promotes the work and mission of the Coalition to an external audience (i.e. at conferences, to funders, to press, etc).
- Committee members participate in quarterly conference calls. Additional calls might be needed in preparation for the annual Regional Meetings.
- Committee members respond to emails and review documents in timely manner.
- The Europe Regional Program Manager will lead and coordinate (i.e. maintaining communications and organizing the logistics for the quarterly conference calls) the Steering Committee.
- A quorum of 3 members should be present to make decisions and approve action plans. All discussions will be minuted.
- Membership in the Steering Committee is **non-transferable**.

APPENDIX E

BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION MARCH 2018

BACKGROUND

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience –Europe (ICSC Europe) was established as an independent legal entity in 2015, following more than eight years of operating as one of seven regional networks of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) which launched in 1999. Registered as a non-profit organization in Belgium, ICSC-Europe was founded to solidify a unified and sustainable platform for action for the diverse group of 36 museums, historic sites and memory organizations of which it is comprised.² Ranging from Cultural Heritage Without Borders in Albania to the Gilag.cz Association in the Czech Republic to Diversity Challenges in Northern Ireland and Gernika Gogoratuz Centro de Investigacion For la Paz in Spain, the members of the ICSC-Europe are dedicated to documenting past struggles for justice in order to transform the future. ICSC-Europe uses the lens of memory – of historic waves of immigration and its accompanying xenophobia, of totalitarian regimes and decades of repression, and of ethnic and religious conflicts that left destruction in their wake – to inform and fortify civic action that challenges contemporary forms of inequality and injustice.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

While confronting country-specific social justice issues, ICSC-Europe members work collectively on a regional level to amplify work on themes that impact Europe as a whole and those common to their identified organizational areas. The priorities set by ICSC-Europe for the next two-year period are as follows:

Theme 1: Opening and Activating Civic Spaces

ICSC-Europe will preserve and/or repurpose historically symbolic public spaces as new venues for contemporary civic engagement

A central characteristic of former totalitarian states and repressive regimes was the draconian curtailment of free expression and association, rights critical to the formation of resilient communities and a strong civil society. Civic activism and resistance during eras of repression was often confined to kitchens and private spaces, with public spaces reserved for displays

of official power. In those countries where agents for change eventually gained support and built momentum, public spaces – from Prague’s Wenceslas Square to Kyiv’s Maidan – became centers for democratic action during revolutions and periods of transition. In many of these venues rich with activist history, once the urgency subsided or goals were achieved, the spaces either lay moribund or were repurposed as commercial spaces.

The site-based nature of ICSC-Europe’s work makes them exceedingly well-placed to leverage the power of place to foster civic engagement on contemporary social justice issues. By exploring ways to facilitate dialogue and generate collective action in these symbolic spaces once home to historic transformational events, ICSC-Europe can catalyze communities around critical manifestations of injustice to bridge ethnic, racial and religious divides and work together for a more just future.

Planned Action:

- Using Balkan cities as pilot locations, ICSC-Europe will bring youth together from across Europe to prototype pop-up exhibitions in public spaces in which historic communal action took place with the goal of engaging audiences across a wide age, race, religious and ethnic demographic to take action on contemporary issues of inequality and injustice
- Evaluate the prototypes and disseminate best practices at the ICSC-Europe workshop and in a webinar for ICSC networks globally
- Scale plans for replicating pop-up exhibitions and accompanying engagement programs in additional European cities

Theme 2: Cultivating Inclusion of Immigrants and Refugees

ICSC-Europe, many of whose members document historic waves of migration and the difficulties faced by immigrants of the past, will leverage their position as trusted spaces sharing this history and its legacies to challenge current xenophobic attitudes toward refugees and promote inclusion in European host communities.

Europe has witnessed a groundswell of public opposition to the flood of refugee arrivals in recent years. ICSC-Europe, which specializes in tackling divisive topics through the lens of historical memory, is singularly equipped in this refugee-hostile climate to provide non-threatening channels for engaging communities in dialogue, bringing them together to respectfully and intentionally explore differences, bridge divides and begin to foster empathy.

Over decades, and even centuries, past waves of refugees have in time assimilated and formed part of the collective national identity of the countries they call home. It is this historical lesson and example that is crucial to highlight now, as Europe struggles against the perceived threat of these new arrivals. With examples of successful integration from their own immigrant history as a lens through which to consider issues faced and raised by contemporary arrivals, host communities will deepen their understanding of the realities faced by all refugees and migrants, and the role host communities can play in building empathy and fostering integration between Europe’s newest residents – immigrants and refugees – and longer-standing communities.



Planned Action:

- Carry out needs assessments in selected ICSC-Europe member communities to determine the needs that exist and problems to be addressed around immigration/migration
- Based on core Sites of Conscience civic engagement methodology, develop and implement engagement program models that target host communities in the specific communities assessed, and identify common issues to be tackled in subsequently developed Europe-wide program models
- Evaluate the engagement programs and disseminate best practices at the ICSC-Europe workshop and in a webinar for ICSC networks globally
- Scale plans for replicating engagement programs in additional European cities
- Cultivate community-based partnerships to amplify the pan-European work on inclusion of refugees and immigrants (with organizations such as European eu, CAMOC's Migration Cities project, the Empathy Museum and Emergencia).

Theme 3: Fostering Reconciliation in Post-conflict Communities

ICSC-Europe will continue to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in countries still grappling with the aftermath of violence and conflict to develop dialogue and memory initiatives that lead to healing and reconciliation.

For countries and regions that have struggled to rebuild and foster peace in the wake of violence and conflict, and those that still struggle with its impact, such as Northern Ireland and the Balkans, memorialization- the various processes and forms of collective remembrance and engagement with the past - is a fundamental part of the reconciliation and healing process. It serves as a vital tool for building public involvement in reconciliation and social reconstruction. Based on its successful and far reaching work in this arena for the past decade, ICSC-Europe will continue to develop programs with local stakeholders in post-conflict contexts to build trust and engagement in these essential initiatives.

Planned Action:

- Building on work to date, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in select prioritized communities to identify local needs related to reconciliation, community cohesion and trust building
- Convene trainings focused on conducting dialogue programs in divided societies
- Create an online resource containing program models and lessons learned for cross-regional learning and the formulation of best practices



References

¹ *The Drowned and the Saved*, Primo Levi's last work published in 1986, is the fruit of 40 years of dialogue and reflection on the experience of the extermination, and represents the first appearance of "La zona Grigia", often mistranslated as "the grey zone" but, according to Primo Levi International study center, better conveyed in English by the expression "The gray zone". Through the use of this concept, Levi acknowledges the "manichean tendency" as well as the human need to divide the social field into 'us' and 'them', two clearly distinct and identifiable groups, but points out that such binary thinking is inadequate to face the complexity of life in the camps. 'The network of human relationships inside the Lagers was not simple', he writes: 'it could not be reduced to the two blocs of victims and persecutors'. A key facet of Nazi practice, after all, was to attempt to turn victims into accomplices. Setting out to explore 'the space which separates (and not only in Nazi Lagers) the victims from the persecutors', insight into which he considers to be of fundamental importance, Levi emphasizes that he by no means intends to obliterate the distinction between these two categories: 'to confuse [the murderers] with their victims is a moral disease or an aesthetic affectation or a sinister sign of complicity; above all, it is a precious service rendered (intentionally or not) to the negators of truth'. The gray zone is inhabited mostly by victims who compromise and collaborate with their oppressors to varying degrees and with varying degrees of freedom of choice in exchange for preferential treatment. Levi insists that one should refrain from passing easy judgment on these morally ambiguous privileged prisoners, who found themselves flung into an infernal environment and who, moreover, did not constitute a monolithic group but came in many different shades of gray, with different levels of culpability.

² ICSC-Europe members: Cultural Heritage without Borders – Albania (Albania), Belarusian Documentation (Belarus), Red Star Line (Belgium), Le Bois du Cazier (Belgium), Balkan Museum Network (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Bosnia (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center & Cemetery (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Croatia), Gulag.cz Association (Czech Republic), Terezin Memorial (Czech Republic), Belonging (England), Cantos Cautivos (England/Chile), The Workhouse (England), La Route des Abolitions de l'Esclavage et des Droits de l'Homme (France), Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder (Netherlands), Zochrot (Israel), Il Museo della Repubblica di Montefiorino e della Resistenza Italiana (Italy), Istituzione Musei del Mare e della Navigazione - Mu.MA (Italy), World Solidarity Alliance - Franco Bertoli (Italy), Fondazione Scuola di Pace di Monte Sole (Italy), Discovery Center (Kosovo), Diversity Challenges - Kingsborough Community College (Northern Ireland), Healing Through Remembering (Northern Ireland), Museum of Free Derry (Northern Ireland), Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities (Norway), Historical Museum of the City of Krakow: Eagle Pharmacy, Pomorska Street, and Schindlers Factory Branches (Poland), B92 Fund - Museum of Tolerance (Serbia), Cárcel de Carabanchel para la Memoria (Spain), Fondo Kati (Spain), Gernika Gogoratuz Centro de Investigación Por la Paz (Spain), Museo Memorial de l'Exili (Spain), Memorial Democràtic de la Generalitat de Catalunya (Spain), Gernika Peace Museum Foundation (Spain), Cultural Heritage without Borders (Sweden), Hrant Dink Foundation (Turkey), National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity - Maidan Museum (Ukraine)



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