

Dealing with the aftermath of communism Working for the future of Europe

International Summer Camp in Spaç/Albania 2018 August 27 to September 1

**Organised by Association Museum Spac and Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation
Supported by Renovabis**

Mission

The experience of communist dictatorship and its aftermath is part of the European DNA. Decades of terror and repression, injustice and violence still have a strong and deep impact on the social and cultural framework of many European societies. The questions of truth and justice as well as healing, transformation and social reconciliation are at stake. Dealing with the dark heritage of communism is one of the crucial challenges for the democratic development of Europe today. This is in particular true for Albania, which suffered under one of the cruelest communist regimes. It is typical for the current state of political dealing with this past in Albania that neither the former victims received a proper treatment that would restore their dignity, honour the memory of their sufferance, rehabilitate them and pave the way to social reconciliation nor are the places of suffering treated with the necessary respect. In many ways the longlasting neglect of these places reflect the present impact of the history. The process of political-cultural transformation is still a responsibility to be taken by the state, the religious communities and the civil society.

In order to face the challenge we invite 25 young people (age 20 – 27) from Albania, Germany, Poland and Ukraine to join a European Summer Camp in the former communist Labor Camp Spac in Albania. Coming together in Spac we like to show respect to the victims and the places of suffering. The participants are invited to contribute by practical work to maintain the place, to meet former prisoners and to reflect on the base of their experiences on the meaning of this history today. Learning and working together the participants contribute to the European project.

Since the repression of religion in communist Albania – the first atheist country - was unprecedented, the summer camp will provide particular space for spiritual reflection and prayer.

Draft Program

First Day - August 27th 2018

16:00 – 17.00 – Press Conference
17:00 – 20:00 – Opening and Welcome. Mission statement. Introduction of the participants
20:30 – 21:30 – Dinner

Second Day - August 28th 2018

08:00 – Departure to Spaç
10:30 – 12:30 – Guided Visit in Spaç
12:30 – 12:45 – Prayer
12:45 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:30 – Session I – Sharing with survivors (former prisoners of Spaç)
15:30 – 16:00 – Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30 – Session II – Sharing with survivors (former prisoner of Spaç)
17:00 – 18:30 – Drive to the hotel and check-in
18:30 – 20:00 – Common reflection on the day
20:00 Dinner

Third Day - August 29th 2018

07:30 - Breakfast
08:30 – Departure to Spaç
09:00 – 12:00 – Concrete Action (Cleaning around in the premises of the prison)
12:00 – 12:15 – Prayer
12:30 – 14:00 – Lunch
14:00 – 17:00 – Workshop in 4 groups
17:00 – 18:00 – Report of the Working Groups` Conclusions in the Plenary
18:00 – 19:30 – Reflection/Discussion (Concrete Elaboration is needed)
19:30 – Departure to hotel
20:15 - Dinner

Fourth Day – August 30th 2018

07:30 Breakfast
08:30 – Departure to Spaç
09:15 – 12:00 – Concrete Action (Cleaning around in the premises of the prison)
12:00 – 12:15 – Prayer
12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch
14:00 – 16:30 – Reflection/Discussion (First session)
16:30 – 17:00 – Refreshment
17:00 – 18:30 – Reflection/Discussion (Second session)
19:00 – Dinner

Fifth Day - August 31st 2018

- 07:00 – 08:00 – The ceremony of Naming “Rruga e Lotëve”/ *The road of Tears*
- 08:00 – 12:00 – The Walking Procession from Reps to the former prison (7 Km)
- 12:00 – 13:00 – Prayer in Assisi Style + Speeches from the organizers (JPC/ MKS)
- 13:00 – Departure to the restaurant for lunch (place to be decided)
- 14:00 – 15:30 – Lunch
- 15:45 – Departure to Shkoder
- 18:00 – 19:00 Visit at the Diocesan Museum at the Cathedral in Shkoder
- 19:20 – Sightseeing Downtown Shkoder
- 20:00 – Dinner and Farewell Party at “Tradita” Restaurant

September 1st

Departure