

**Request:**

Institution: Global and European Studies Institute, University of Leipzig, Germany

Date: June 20-25, 2011, Kiev, Ukraine

Deadline: February 28, 2011

**International Forum**

The Global and European Studies Institute at the University of Leipzig and the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" will provide up to 30 travel grants for participation in the International Forum 2011 of GESCHICHTSWERKSTATT EUROPA on "1941: German War of Extermination in Ukraine and its Acteurs".

The International Forum is part of the programme GESCHICHTSWERKSTATT EUROPA initiated by the German Federal Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ). It will take place in Kiev, Ukraine, from June 20 to 25, 2011. The Forum looks at the conflicting recollections of the contemporary history of Europe and at recent debates and research on the collective and cultural memory of the Europeans. It will be led by the Leipzig historians Matthias Middell and Stefan Troebst.

On June 22, 2011, it will be seventy years since the invasion of the Soviet Union by the German Wehrmacht, so-called "Operation Barbarossa". Occupation, terror, internment, forced labour, ethnic cleansing and mass murder culminated in a German war of extermination in the East taking place primarily on the territory of the then Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic. June 22, 1941, also stands for the medium- and long-term planning for an expansion of Nazi Germany up to the Ural Mountains--including the forced relocation of more than thirty million people. At the same time, the concept of a "New Europe" dominated by Hitler reached its aim: From Taganrog on the Sea of Azov to Brest on the Atlantic and from to the North Cape to the island of Crete extended the German reach of power. A central component was the destruction of the Jews of Europe which started in 1941 with mass shootings in Ukraine, Belarus and Serbia, and culminated in industrial annihilation in the years 1942 to 1944.

The European dimension in the German war of extermination against the USSR was underlined by the fact that Italian, Hungarian, Austrian, Romanian and Slovak troops as well as volunteers from many parts of Europe fought on the German side, whereas the officers, NCOs and the rank and file of the Red Army consisted next to Russians of Ukrainians, Belarusians, Armenians, Georgians, Azeri, Kazakhs and many others. Ukrainian combatants were to be found, however, not only in the Soviet Army but also in pro-Soviet partisan detachments and some of them collaborated temporarily with the German occupation forces.

The Forum will also refer to a discussion on the character of the events of 1941 to 1944/45 going on for some time in the Ukraine: Were they a Great Patriotic War against Nazi aggression—now no longer with the Soviet Union but with the new Ukraine as a frame of reference? Were they a German-Soviet War, that is a conflict between two foreign powers taking place tragically on Ukrainian territory? Or were they a constituent part of the global Second World War which had not begun 1941 but already in 1939? Finally, special attention will be given to the Holocaust and the fate of Ukrainian Jewry in it.

During this one-week event seminars and lectures will be delivered. Furthermore, visits to museums like the National Museum of the History of The Great Patriotic War and excursions to Babyn Jar will take place. Scholars from various fields of study and different parts of

Europe will lecture on and discuss with the participants contemporary discourses and conflicts in Ukrainian and European culture of remembrance.

English will be the language spoken in lectures, seminars and during the excursions. Thus, active knowledge of English is a precondition. Lectures in Ukrainian will be translated into English.

### **Grants and Requirements**

Travel grants cover costs for travel and accommodation (in shared rooms) and include a daily allowance.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the statutory purpose of the Foundation, travel grants are primarily given to applicants from Central and Eastern Europe. Applicants should be between 18 and 35 years of age.

We expect a letter of motivation in English with 600 to 1000 words maximum expressing personal interest in this year's topic of the International Forum and giving details of experience and knowledge in the field.

Please send your applications by e-mail together with a letter of motivation and a curriculum vitae to the coordination office of the International Forum. Closing date for applications will be February 28, 2011. Applications will be reviewed by March 15, 2011, and applicants will be notified immediately thereafter.

### **Contact:**

Coordinator Ulrike Breitsprecher

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GESCHICHTSWERKSTATT EUROPA is a programme of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" addressing the issue of European remembrance. The institute for Applied History coordinates the funding of projects in cooperation with the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. The International Forum is organised by the Global and European Studies Institute of the University of Leipzig.



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<sup>1</sup> The exact amount of travel reimbursement depends on the actual costs of participation and on statutory regulations for travel grants in Saxony.