

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE „KOMMANDANTUR BEŁŻEC“ - EDUCATION AND MEMORY WORK

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Recommended by Redakcja Pol-Int

Archaeology, Ethnology, Gender Studies, Geography, History, Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Literary Sciences, Musicology, Philosophy, Political Sciences, Jurisprudence, Social Sciences, Theater and Film Studies, Theology, Translation Studies, Economics, other
Miscellaneous

Between March and December 1942 at least 450.000 Jews were murdered at the German extermination camp Bełżec in today's eastern Poland. Within the so-called „Action Reinhardt“, the planned assassination of the Polish Jewish population, Bełżec was a main deportation destination amongst others after the liquidation of the big Ghettos of Lublin, Lemberg (Lviv) and Krakow. Further more, between March and June 1942, more than 50.000 Jews were deported from the territory of the former German Reich and the annexed territories to so called transit ghettos in the region between Lublin and Zamość. Many of them also died in Bełżec.

Today only small initiatives endeavour to keep the remembrance of the extermination camp, its history and its victims alive. For many years the "Bildungswerk Stanislaw Hantz e.V." has been providing annual educational trips on the topic of the „Action Reinhardt“ in the region of Lublin. In recent years we have strengthened our collaboration with local partners. In particular through cooperation with a local school first links have been built also to neighbouring Ukraine. We are continuously seeking new projects that contribute to deepen and pass on existing knowledge on the „Action Reinhardt“ and perpetuate its remembrance in Germany. We strive together with Polish partner organisations to preserve the only remaining original building of the Bełżec extermination camp: the former Headquarters of the commanding officer Christian Wirth. The whole site includes a 6200m² huge area where in times of the camp also the barack for jewish women prisoners was located. In the backyard one can find till today the farm buildings, that served not only as arsenal but also as repository for the victims valuable items.

In a few weeks, on June 22nd the building and the site will be sold by public auction in Poland. To acquire this historically unique building, we need approximately 35.000 EUR. We are currently going great lengths to explore all possible (official) funding sources to collect this sum. We are very pleased for any support.

What are our plans?

- The preservation of the Headquarters / Kommandantur Buildings, which are of high historical value in particular for remembrance / memory work
- Spatial integration of the history of Nazi-perpetrators through inclusion of the Headquarters Building in the pedagogical and memory work of the Bełżec Memorial & Museum
- Creation of an outdoor exhibition area
- Restoration of the buildings and creation of specific Meeting, Workshop and exhibition facilities for Bełżec visitors and youth groups.

What is our experience?

- The Bildungswerk Stanislaw Hantz looks back on long-standing historical, memory and pedagogical work in the region
- Extensive cooperation with the Bełżec Memorial & Museum
- Existing projects with pupils of our cooperating school partners in Rawa Ruska, Żółkiew (Ukraine), Izbica, Bełżec, Lubicza Królewska (Poland) among others.
- Long-standing cooperation in commemoration and educational work with the "Stichting Sobibor" (The Netherlands)

Please help us to achieve these goals. Any financial support is welcome and will increase our chances of realising them. Watch out for the crowdfunding campaign coming up the next days.

For further online information on the work of the Bildungswerk, see:
www.bildungswerk-ks.de

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facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bildungswerkstanislawhantz>

Polish Railway Company PKP:

<http://pkpsa.pl/nieruchomosci/sprzedaz/nieruchomosc.html?id=2699&title=Bełżec,%20Lwowska>

Crowd Funding betterplace.org
www.betterplace.org/p29733

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<https://www.pol-int.org/en/projects/preservation-and-restoration-kommandantur-belzec-education-and?j5Q6rewycZ5HtUDXTWpx7UZE=1>