



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations (**IFAIR**) e.V organises together with the Yugra University in Khanty-Mansiysk the Russian-German exchange “**Memory as a Tool of Change: Forgotten Places in Siberia**”, dedicated to commemorative culture. Participants will learn about current practices of commemoration, explore places of Stalinist repressions during a 12-day excursion to Siberia in July 2017 and identify the main challenges of contemporary commemorative culture.

Who do we want?

We are looking for students and young professionals who take interest in the German and Russian totalitarian past and are curious about collective memory and commemorative culture.

About our programme

The initiative is the continuation of last year's highly successful exchange programme *Memory as a Tool of Change: Lessons Learned from Germany*, which brought together Russian and German students in Berlin to analyse the cultural and political reappraisal of their countries' history of violence and the crimes committed under National Socialism and Stalinism. Through seminars, expert discussions and visits of memorial sites, the participants learned about blind spots that persist until today and discussed, whether and how German practices of commemoration could be applied to Russian commemorative culture, specifically in the context of coming to terms with deportations and Gulags in Western Siberia.

This year, we have decided to bring Russian and German participants together once more. In Siberia, we will focus on:

- 1) learning more about how crimes such as persecution, forced labour and displacement under the Stalinist regime are addressed in today's Russia
- 2) analysing local patterns and methods of remembering and forgetting the violent past
- 3) identifying the main challenges of contemporary commemorative culture and finding new approaches

The programme starts with a kick-off workshop in Berlin (June 9-11), where we will get to know each other and learn more about issues such as Stalinist totalitarianism, its perception in today's Russia and oral history. Speakers include the historians Jan C. Behrends and Karl Schlögel (tbc), member of the Bundestag Marieluise Beck (tbc) and Marit Cremer from MEMORIAL (tbc). The kick-off workshop also serves to define the main questions that will guide our excursion in Siberia (July 3-14). We will start in Khanty-Mansiysk and travel to area of Surgut and Tobolsk, where we meet with local commemoration groups and historians and visit GULags. The exact schedule is currently being finalised. After the excursion, participants will compile their impressions and main findings from discussions with local experts and visits of memorial sites in Siberia. The group will then produce an excursion brochure, which will be officially presented in Berlin in autumn (date tbc).



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If you want to apply you should:

- be a student or young professional between the age of 18 and 35 and fluent in English
- be able to show a track record that demonstrates your interest in commemorative culture, the Russian and/or German totalitarian past, or Russian-German relations;
- be willing to host a co-participant during the Berlin kick-off workshop in case you are from Berlin

What do we cover?

The participation fee is EUR 380. IFAIR reimburses your travel costs to Russia (up to 450 EUR) and provides for accommodation and transport in Siberia. As a participant of this excursion, you furthermore qualify for a humanitarian visa, which is free of charge. Food as well as expenses related to the kick-off seminar in Berlin will be covered by you. In case funding will be left, we will try to refund you for your efforts.

How do I apply?

Please click on the link below to fill in the application form. In addition, please send your CV to laura.scherer@ifair.eu. The deadline is **7 May 2017**.

Please note that IFAIR requires you to sign an agreement of participation that ensures your active participation, attendance in Berlin and travel to Russia.

Link to the application form: <https://goo.gl/forms/7fdA4nB7KNRPml8v1>

Do you have any questions?

In case you have any questions or require further information, please write to laura.scherer@ifair.eu or tom.reutemann@ifair.eu.

Our partners

We thank our cooperation partner, the Yugra University, and are most grateful for the generous support of the Federal Foreign Office.

Young Initiative on Foreign
Affairs and International
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Federal Foreign Office

