



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

REFLECT TO CONNECT

23.08.-29.08.2025 | Weimar (Germany)

Welcome to REFLECT TO CONNECT!

This August, we invite young people from **Belarus, Italy, and Germany** to join an interdisciplinary training at the European Youth Education and Meeting Centre in Weimar (EJBW).

For one week, we will explore – creatively and critically – the emergence of totalitarian systems in the 1930s, guided by professionals from the fields of history, art, and political education.

Political context & shared challenges

In the face of rising right-wing populism, increasing anti-democratic tendencies across Europe, and the full scale unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia, engaging with both historical and contemporary forms of authoritarian rule is more urgent than ever.

Due to temporal distance, the awareness among the young generation in Italy and Germany for their fascist national history is declining. This stands in contrast to Belarusian youngsters that experience ongoing repression and dictatorship in Belarus. These varying political contexts influence people's sense of personal involvement and show why historical-political education — as well the understanding of current political polarisations — is essential for resisting authoritarian tendencies by investigating the patterns of fascism that can be traced back to the beginning of the previous century.

Reflect to Connect offers a space where young people from these three countries can share experiences and perspectives, build cross-border networks, and develop resilient, empowering narratives and practical approaches for democratic youth education.

The core questions we will explore:

- How did dictatorships in Germany, Italy, and Belarus emerge?
- What forms of repression shaped them?
- What traces of these regimes are still present in our societies today?
- How can we promote agency and develop effective educational tools to engage with the past?

Learning approach & objectives

Alongside a fixed framework program (see below), a participatory design of the seminar is key. Participants will present their own projects and initiatives, drawing on their experiences and collective activities as a resource for mutual learning. We focus on informal and non-linear learning, including exercises, discussions, presentations, and guided tours.

A highlight of the seminar is a collaborative workshop day with selected artists, offering new and potentially unconventional tools for creative educational work.

Who can apply?

We are looking for **young adults (aged 20–27) from Belarus, Italy, and Germany** who:

- Are (emerging) artists, social workers, educators, or historians, or are pursuing professionalization in these fields
- Have worked on topics related to the seminar or are personally affected by them
- Are already active in international or local civil society initiatives or connected to our partner organizations
- Are motivated to become multipliers in historical-political education or youth work

As the training will be held in English, a good command of English is required.

Key dates:

- Application period: June 16–29, 2025
- Notification of acceptance: by July 7, 2025
- Online preparation meetings: July 28 & August 4, 2025
- On-site training in Weimar: August 23–29, 2025
- Online follow-up: September 22, 2025

Program overview:

Preparation (Online):

A first online meeting will offer a chance to get to know each other and exchange expectations and interests, which will feed into the program planning. Participants will also have time between the online and on-site phases to begin preparing content.

On-site training (Weimar):

A six-day training featuring group work, excursions, and creative workshops, including:

- Guided tours of the Buchenwald Memorial and the Topf & Söhne Remembrance Site in Erfurt
- Art workshops, on:
 - Memory Landscapes – Rethinking the Nature of Memorial Camps
 - Social Art
 - Storytelling

Peer exchange formats, expert inputs, and time for both individual and collective learning.

Follow-Up (Online):

In our final online session in September, we'll reflect on how you can apply the seminar's outcomes to your work – and explore what a shared continuation of "Reflect to Connect" might involve.

Costs & practical information

- Travel costs will be reimbursed within a set budget, based on the most affordable option (2nd class train, economy flights)
- Accommodation, meals, and activities: Participants and the team are accommodated in double rooms in EJBW, Weimar. Meals will be provided (breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee breaks).
- No participation fee – costs for accommodation, board and activities are covered.
- For the transfers between Weimar and the different event venues a transport is organised.
- More about the venue: <https://www.ejbweimar.de/en>

How to apply?

Please fill out the application form by June 29, 2025: <https://forms.gle/y7zBLvLPmBSEfVM7>

Any questions? Please mail us via reflecttoconnect@razam.de

We look forward to your application and will get back to you as soon as possible!

Who is behind “REFLECT TO CONNECT”?

- [RAZAM – Representation of Belarusians in Germany \(Berlin\)](#)
- [RADA – National Youth Council of Belarus](#)
- [Piano Piano – Theatre-based inclusion and youth work, Italy](#)
- [EJBW – European Youth Education and Youth Meeting Center Weimar](#)

Funded by the [Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future \(EVZ\)](#)



A YOUNG PEOPLE remember international project



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