



“Memory – a Memorial!” is a project which has been launched by six schools in the year of the European Cultural Heritage. It helps people find their own positions as individuals in their everyday surroundings, among their friends, in their societies, and as part of the process of learning about these contexts. Along the way it is highly important to know one’s own roots and traditions, to know and explain recipients and agents of history and social development. Schools are confronted with a situation of rapid change, a fast flow of information and a fading security in dealing with knowledge. In doing so it seems essential not only to integrate new contents and techniques into one’s teaching programme, but at the same time it is important to impart knowledge and experiences which we already have. This will lead to continuity and consistency concerning the knowledge of students and thus help them to find their bearings no longer by emulating current trends but by defining their places in general contexts. Thus, we mean to provide a solid platform for the development of the individual’s security for it is necessary to know one’s own roots, origin, history and development in order to be able to assess them within a greater (European) context. This is particularly true when the situations in people’s own countries are changing because of refugees, migration and the resettlement of strangers in addition to the inevitable transformation in a globalized world. The project “Memory – a Memorial!” is about doing research on knowledge and experiences in order to make people aware of the cultural knowledge which we already have and encourage them to collect and revise, to reform and preserve it. We intend to connect conservative i. e. Established elements (e. g. knowledge about literary theories or aesthetic positions) with progressive, i. e. Modern elements (e. g. new insights, unfamiliar emotions, new spontaneous creativity) and then to further develop them. Such a plan is not only important with us here in Germany but in all European countries. On the one hand, we will realize that we enjoy long continuities in science, art and literature, we will recognize where names of streets and schools derive from, to what or whom memorials and names of districts refer, how regional terms and linguistic peculiarities have developed. Such a process may help us find our own positions in life. On the other hand, we will learn about important persons, we will revise and modify their biographies, review their impact throughout the times up to the present and we will thus see in what kinds of “networks” they acted centuries or decades ago. This process will develop its own dynamics. It will alter the way in which we see ourselves and strengthen our self-confidence, and it will relate past, present and future. The additional value of transnational cooperation is evident as we deal with exploiting different approaches in order to achieve the best possible synergy effects. This is equally significant when we regard the challenges which schools and teachers currently know when faced with problems of migration. Here it is extremely important, on the one hand, to be open towards new impulses, and on the other hand, to be consistent and firm when we deal with protecting and confirming basic values (freedom, democracy, tolerance, and a culture of debating). Thus, everybody will learn whether they themselves, their respective origins, cultural heritage and individual personalities are taken seriously. Above all, in view of the current disruptions within the EU it seems essential to demonstrate that there have always been far reaching relations and transnational cooperation concerning the central issues in Europe in their respective times. This is equally true of the impact and appraisal of prominent persons and groups who have lived in different places and countries and who have formed them and their people up to the present. This project will focus on precisely such contexts and relations.