



# MUNICIPALITY OF BLEIBURG

BGA EUROPEAN EXHIBITION 2009

10. Oktober Platz 1 | 9150 BLEIBURG | CARINTHIA | AUSTRIA

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **for the “Bleiburg Dialogue Days 2020”**

**from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**



**Organiser:**

**MUNICIPALITY OF BLEIBURG**

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Submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019



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## Project description

Every year in May, Bleiburg shifts into the media spotlight due to the Croatian commemoration rally which takes place at the Loibacher Feld. The tensions between participants and opponents of this event have escalated in recent years and an objective discourse currently appears to no longer be possible. The municipality of Bleiburg sees it as its responsibility to actively address this topic, to assume a nonpartisan role and, positioning itself as a mediator and host of the Dialogue Days 2020, to encourage constructive dialogue.

It is an event format with a participatory approach, dealing with the events that took place before, during and after World War II, with the focus on memory culture in Bleiburg. Various narrative threads on historical events, as well as ideas for the forms of remembrance in Bleiburg are to be given space. The central activities will be a dialogue between all participants, to overcome a “victim-perpetrator dynamic”, the visualisation of different points of view, and the participation of the local population. The “Bleiburg Dialogue Days” can become the basis for a future (virtual) museum of memory culture in Bleiburg, and the intention is to establish them, beyond 2020, as a format for conversation and consensus, as a means of promoting the transfer of knowledge on a national and international level, and to act as a platform for the creation and maintenance of partnerships.

As part of this participatory process, the municipality of Bleiburg is extending the invitation to participate in the Bleiburg Dialogue Days.

## Framework

The Dialogue Days should be viewed as a conversation format, including dialogues with all parties concerned. The visualisation of various points of view and the participation of the local population are central. For this purpose, a three-day format is planned, with educational thematic, interactive and scientific approaches in the form of workshops, excursions and lectures.

We look forward to your papers on the topics outlined below.



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## Topics

- Description of (new) disciplines for the analysis of historical themes
  - Formats, options and creative approaches (e.g. nonpartisan)
    - such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in South Africa, 1996 to 1998
  - Scientific forums
  - Rituals – rethinking memory culture
- Formats to encourage cooperation in the context of living memory culture
- Recommended action in terms of additional adjustments and further development in the areas of the editing and presentation of historical topics (in reference to the Croatian commemoration rally and/or other socially polarising and conflictual topics)
- Gaining knowledge on the effects of relationships, allegiances and attachments in connection with afflictions caused by violent conflicts
  - What would be necessary in order to create an emotional space for constructive further development within the scope of dialogue on historical topics?
- A description of various narrative threads on the historical events at the Loibacher Feld and in Bleiburg in 1945, which focuses on overcoming a “victim-perpetrator dynamic” and finding shared values (possibly also visions for the future).

## Submissions: formal and content-related criteria

In this context we hereby call for the submission of

- existing and scheduled scientific papers,
- experiential reports from real-life application (good practice),
- proposals regarding educational concepts and
- suggestions for teaching approaches on historical topics

that are associated with one or more of the above topics and which can be transferred to the annual Croatian commemoration rally at the Loibacher Feld and its historical background.



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We are looking for submissions for individual lectures of max. 20 minutes, panel sessions (max. 3 lectures, one panel chairperson; max. 120 minutes) or other discussion and lecture formats (each max. 120 minutes) on special subject areas and/or interdisciplinary approaches.

We invite members from the sectors of science, culture, art, civil society, institutions, organisations, etc. to submit papers.

The aim is to document the papers in an anthology.

As a submission, an abstract of the paper of one to two pages (a total of maximum 4,000 characters) is requested.

The conference language is German. Presentation in a different language must be agreed with the organiser in advance.

Fee: travel costs, accommodation and meals will be covered by the organiser.

Submissions are possible until **15<sup>th</sup> December 2019** by e-mail to **bleiburg.dialogtage@ktn.gde.at**. A reply will be given by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## Contact persons:

Organisational issues:

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The project team looks forward to your papers.

Best wishes,

Mayor Stefan Visotschnig