

PREPARATION MODULE 1



What is this place?

OVERALL DURATION

45 minutes

AIMS

The workshop focuses on preparing for a visit to a place of learning and remembrance associated with Nazi forced labour. Participants should understand what kind of place they will be visiting and begin to think about how they will relate to it. A space should be created for them to identify and communicate their individual needs, expectations and aspirations.

Ideally, these should be shared with the educational team at the place of learning and remembrance.

MATERIALS

Pens, presentation cards, laptop, projector, mobile devices and stable Internet connection

WORKING MATERIALS

- Information about the place of learning and remembrance on the website Bildungsportal NS-Zwangsarbeit
- Notes for Educators on the website Bildungsportal NS-Zwangsarbeit

COURSE

- Orientation – 5 minutes
- Looking at the Place of Learning and Remembrance and discussions in small groups – 15 minutes
- Presentation and discussion in the whole class – 25 minutes

Orientation – 5 minutes

Begin your workshop with an orientation session, putting the work you'll be doing together into the context of the trip to a place of learning and remembrance. Give a short presentation of the place you and the participants are going to. State the aims of the preparation workshop.

Looking at the Place of Learning and Remembrance and discussions in small groups – 15 minutes

Have the participants work in small groups or pairs to research the place you want to visit on the Education Platform Nazi Forced Labour or on the Internet.

Possible input questions:

- What can you learn about the place on the portal?
- What do you not understand? What questions do you have?
- What was there before? Was it a prison? A camp?
- What (groups of) people were there before?
- What is the place now?
- What questions do you have?

Presentation and discussion in the whole class – 25 minutes

Participants report on their discussions. First summarise the information about the Place of Learning and Remembrance and the history of the site, then use the following questions to start a discussion.

The central question for the discussion is:

What can the history of the site and its current state tell us about how we approach the place and what we expect of it?

Possible input questions:

- Have you already visited a place like this and how was your experience?
- What do you expect from visiting the place?
- Do you have any fears or apprehensions?
- What is important to you when visiting a place like this?
- What do you need from the others for this?
- What are you bringing with you to the place in terms of what you already know, family connections, questions, etc.?

You can also use the whole group discussion to give practical suggestions to the participants and discuss them together. This could include what to wear and whether to bring food and drink.

Questions, expectations and ideas can be written down and sent to the relevant team member at the place of learning and remembrance before your visit.

Tip: the handout with educational suggestions on the Education Platform Nazi Forced Labour summarises important background information for a visit to a place of learning and remembrance under the headings “Authentic Sites”, “Emotions”, “Don’t Expect Too Much”, “Out-of-School Place of Learning”, “Attitudes”, “Your Role” and “The Framework”.