



Mare 2

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez
Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska

Call for papers

International Conference
Contested places of memory of World War II

Kulice

(International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Szczecin in Kulice)

13-15 November 2025

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. This should be a period long enough for analysing and discussing its commemoration and the sites of memory connected to it. The commemoration of the war gained new relevance with the new wars in Europe and beyond and the threats of a new global conflict. The current war in Ukraine has also been a catalyst for remembering past events and memorials connected to World War II. On the one hand, new relevance and the politicisation of sites of memory is a driving force that partly turns them into tourist attractions, but on the other hand, it is also an obstacle, as these monuments are perceived as objects promoting hostile propaganda and face systematic or spontaneous destruction. The public space was and still is filled with World War II memorial sites, but their narratives have been subject to constant change since their beginnings. Thus, these sites of memory constitute living and changing palimpsests of social memory.

The aim of the conference is, in the first part, to revisit the following questions:

- who built and created these sites of memory?
- How were they created, how did the attitude towards them change within societies and politics of memory?
- Are they still necessary today in the face of a new war crisis in Europe?
- What functions did and do they fulfil?

In the second part of the conference, we will focus on new ways of presenting these sites of memory in a changing reality within public, touristic and educational spaces in museums and on tourist trails, so that they constitute important elements of educational reflection as well as tourist products. Given the destruction of many of these sites to date, the core problem will be to reveal the complexity of history and the symbolic layers of these memorial sites as an important element of cultural heritage. Thus, it shall be asked:

- How can these sites of memory be managed as tourist attractions that do not divide but reliably promote knowledge about past events and changing attitudes towards them.
- What reflections can we draw from them about wars, the past and the present for a better future?

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez
Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska



Mare 2

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez
Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska

Please apply for participation in this conference with papers on sites of memory commemorating World War II in Central Europe in a detailed, synthetic or comparative perspective, or on their practical use in the changing public, social and geopolitical spaces of Europe and the Polish-German border region.

The conference will take place on 13-15 November 2025 at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Kulice.

Please submit your presentation title with a short abstract (up to 200 words) and a short academic CV (up to 200 words) in one of the following languages: English, German or Polish to pawel.migdalski@usz.edu.pl by 30 September 2025.

The organiser reserves the right to select papers from among those submitted.

Conference languages will be Polish and English with simultaneous translation. A publication is planned after the conference.

The organisers will provide bus transport from Szczecin to the venue in Kulice and back, accommodation and meals in Kulice.

For further questions, please contact Dr. Paweł Migdalski, paw.mig@usz.edu.pl

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez
Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska



Mare 2

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska

Applications for participation as an expert – speaker

International Conference: Attitudes towards places of memory of World War II

Kulice (International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Szczecin in Kulice)
13-15 November 2025

First and last name	
Institution	
Title of presentation	
Abstract (max. 200 words)	
Short academic CV	

Interreg



Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union
Dofinansowany przez Unię Europejską

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska