

THE COUNTRIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA
BETTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING
INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLD WAR PERIOD
TOLD FROM SITES WHERE EVENTS TOOK PLACE



HISTORICALLY VALUABLE INSTALLATIONS AND SITES FROM THE COLD WAR PERIOD

LANGELANDS MUSEUM AND THE INITIATIVE GROUP
DECEMBER 2006

The main objective of the Initiative is to strengthen the mutual understanding between the countries around the Baltic Sea through exchange of information concerning recent history, not least the understanding as between the former Soviet countries and other countries. The idea of this Initiative is that informative activities should be carried out from historically valuable sites on which events took place – “it happened here” - supplementary to information from books, TV and films.

“Historically valuable installations and sites from the Cold War period”

Langelands Museum and the Initiative Group. 2006.

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PROTECTION OF
HISTORICALLY VALUABLE
INSTALLATIONS AND SITES
FROM THE COLD WAR PERIOD

DENMARK

BEVARING AF HISTORISK
VÆRDIFULDE ANLÆG OG
LOKALITETER FRA PERIODEN
MED DEN KOLDE KRIG

ESTONIA

KÜLMA SÕJA AEGSETE
AJALOOLOSE VÄÄRTUSEGA
RAJATISTE JA PAIKADE KAITSE

FINLAND

KYLMÄN SODAN AIKAISTEN
HISTORIAALLISESTI
ARVOKKAIDEN RAKENTEIDEN
JA KOHTEIDEN SUOJELU

GERMANY

DER SCHUTZ HISTORISCH
BEDEUTSAMER ANLAGEN UND
GEDENKSTÄTTEN AUS DER
ZEITPERIODE DES KALTEN
KRIEGES

LATVIA

VĒSTURISKI NOZĪMĪGU
AUKSTĀ KARA INSTALĀCIJU
(OBJEKTU) UN VIETU
AIZSARDZĪBA

LITHUANIA

ŠALTOJO KARO PERIODO
ISTORIŠKAI VERTINGŲ
ĮRENGINIŲ IR VIETŲ
IŠSAUGOJIMAS

NORWAY

BEVARING AV HISTORISK
VERDIFULLE ANLEGG OG
OMRÅDER FRA DEN KALDE
KRIGENS TID

POLAND

OCHRONA WARTOŚCIOWYCH
POD WZGLĘDEM
HISTORYCZNYM INSTALACJI,
MIEJSC ORAZ OBSZARÓW Z
OKRESU ZIMNEJ WOJNY

RUSSIA

ОХРАНА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ
ЗНАЧИМЫХ СООРУЖЕНИЙ И
ОБЪЕКТОВ ЭПОХИ
ХОЛОДНОЙ ВОЙНЫ

SWEDEN

BEVARANDET AV
HISTORISKT VÄRDEFULLA
LÄMNINGAR FRÅN KALLA
KRIGETS EPOK

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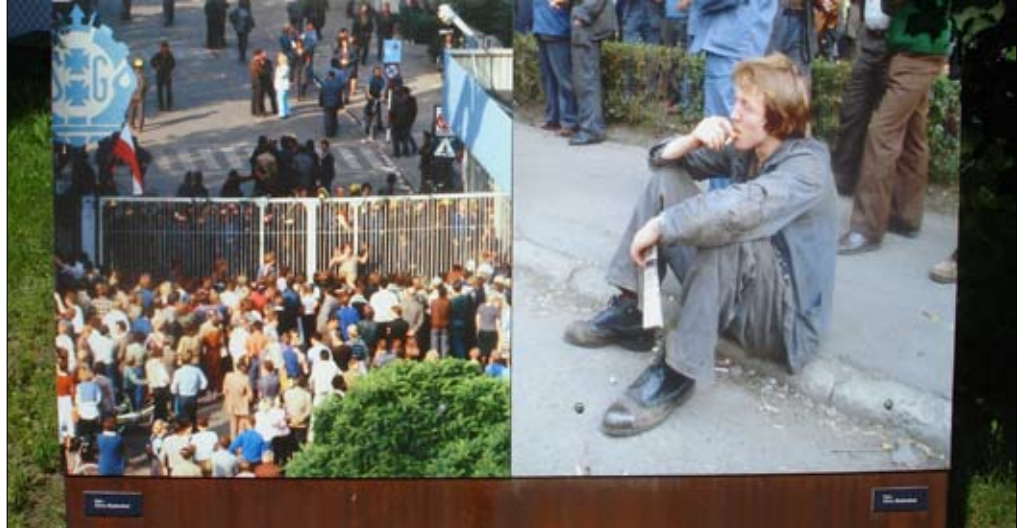
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Foreword

Protection of "story-telling" sites from the Cold War period

Langelands Museum and an Initiative Group are seeking to promote better international understanding among the neighbouring countries around the Baltic Sea, by exchanging information concerning their most recent history, notably from the Cold War period.

The main idea of the Initiative is to inform about each country's recent history from historically valuable sites on which recent history took place and from which the history can therefore be told and preserved. The Initiative thus contains a strong, international, "history-telling" element.

Further, the purpose of the Initiative is to protect valuable sites and installations, for example: military installations, prison camps, partisan bunkers, secret police offices, cemeteries, sculptures, museums or just squares or buildings where memorable events took place. The opinion is that recent history can be told, effectively, from these sites.

Langelands Museum, which has successfully restored the Langelands Fort, has noticed a rising interest among visitors for recent history. This is likely because the main proportion of visitors have some personal experiences relating back to the Cold War period - it is a part of their "own history".

It is one of the intentions of the Initiative that the sites and installations should be visited by people not just on a domestic basis but also from neighbouring countries. The promotion of cultural tourism will therefore be an important part of the Initiative (also because income from tourism will be necessary to run the majority of protected sites).

Exchange of recent history gives better mutual understanding among neighbouring countries

It is logical to combine the rising interest for recent history with the new political realities in the Baltic Sea region since the finishing of the Soviet era. Many of the new independent countries are now members of the same international organisations – EU, NATO etc. – and, in many fields, new cooperation has emerged between Russia and western countries. However, one can still question whether or not the improved cooperation has been followed and supplemented by a broad, neighbouring understanding among people in general. Such understanding is, in our opinion, important in the effort to continue and broaden the existing co-operation – for example regarding commercial, educational and cultural fields.

The Iron Curtain has hindered a free exchange of information through mass media. The recent history of the countries is only known to a limited extent among people in general: the military power, the recent life of

*Missile silos. Missile base,
Zemaitija, Lithuania*



ordinary people etc. This Initiative must, therefore, be seen as a contribution to create more mutual understanding.

At the very least, recent history must be viewed as being equally important for the creation of people's national identity (not nationalism) on the same line as language, literature, music etc. This aspect is not least important for the many, newly independent countries.

Partners in all countries are interested in the Initiative. Still many valuable sites worthy of protection

The first activity of the Initiative has been to search for co-operative partners as well as sites worthy of protection in all countries. This activity has been supported by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

70 meetings have been arranged throughout the last year with potential partners in the 10 participating countries - authorities, organisations, museums, private people etc. 114 historically valuable sites from recent history have been visited. Around 200 people have been involved in these activities. The Initiative has been mentioned in newspapers and on radio in Germany, Poland, Latvia and Estonia. Furthermore, the Initiative has already initiated certain national activities concerning the registration of sites from recent history.

The main result of the investigation is that the interest for the Initiative is extensive in all countries, and has nowhere been met with negative attitudes. There is no doubt that the Initiative has been started at the right moment in time. There are still many sites worthy of protection in all countries, but it must also be stressed that many historically, valuable sites are either due to be destroyed or are in strong decay, either because of lack of financial resources or because the sites are simply too young to be seen with any historical value.

The main results of the visits, meetings and activities are described in this report.

Coming activities

The meetings gave rise to several ideas for further co-operation and activities (see later description in this report). The next step must be a work-shop at which people from all countries can together state the agenda for further co-operation and activities.

Langelands Museum and the Initiative Group will take the Initiative to arrange the work-shop.

Ole Mortensoen, Museum curator, Langelands Museum

Ole Loevig Simonsen, Chairman, The Initiative Group

Background of the Initiative

About the objective of the Initiative

This report presents the Initiative about protection of sites from Cold War period in countries around the Baltic Sea. The main objective of the Initiative is to create mutual understanding between the countries by informing about recent history, not least understanding between the former Soviet countries and the other countries. The idea of this Initiative is that the informative activities are linked to historically valuable sites and installations.

Many sites from the Cold War period are unfortunately either due to be destroyed or are in a strong decay. After the Soviet era some military sites in Baltic countries were destroyed with economical support from foreign countries, later this kind of support lost priority. A main intension of the Initiative is to stop demolishing of historically valuable sites and installations.

Organisation of the Initiative

The initiator of the project is Langelands Museum, Denmark. The main office is located in the town Rudkøbing on the island, Langeland, south of Funen. The museum has restored the Langelands Fort (home page: www.langelandsmuseum.dk). The museum has practical experience of restoring the fort, building up exhibitions and tourism. (The Langelands Fort is described in the annex).

The Initiative is supported by an Initiative Group, made up of people with various qualifications related to the purpose of the Initiative.

Participating countries

The co-operation involves partners from the countries around the Baltic Sea. The countries are (by alphabetic succession): Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. It will be up to each of the participating countries to define the exact geographically borders for the Initiative.

In the Cold War period there were many “functional” relations between the countries – military, political, special events etc.

Which installations and sites are included in the Initiative?

One intention of the Initiative is to tell the broad story of society in recent history. This topic has been discussed with people from many countries.

The conclusion is that the Initiative must emphasize the following two main topics:

- The military situation - the balance of power - between east (The Warsaw Pact) and west (NATO)
- The communist regime in former Soviet countries including activities relating to independence.

This means that the following sites and installations are proposed to be included in the Initiative:

- Military installations and sites from the Cold War period are included in all countries.
- Sites and installations connected to the communist regime and the new independent period are included in all former Soviet countries.



Many sites have a continuous history, also including the time before the Cold War

Several important sites from the Cold War period have a “continuous” history, including the period before the end of World War II. In this respect, the earlier history of these sites should of course be told. The important connection to this Initiative is that the sites and installations have essential functions after World War II.

About the partisan activities in the Cold War period. The partisans in Baltic States and Poland are not looking at themselves as participants in the Cold War between east and west, but as forces fighting for independence against occupants. It must, therefore, be mentioned that the Initiative uses the terminology “Sites from the period of Cold war” and not “Cold War sites”.

The experience from Langelands Fort is that history can be told, effectively, from the sites on which that history took place. A visit of the fort today gives people an impression of the differences in recent history between former eastern and western European countries and the military situation at that time. The whole environment, with bunkers and canons in the surrounding landscape with its view over the Store Belt, creates a special historic atmosphere. This atmosphere supports the underlying historical information, thereby making it a truly memorable experience for many people. The exhibition tells the story about the role of the fort in peace time, the role of the fort in wartime and a special story regarding the role of the fort during the Cuban missile crisis. See description of Langelands Fort on page 15.



Search for Partners and Sites Worthy of Protection

About this report. Results of the first activities carried out in 2006: registration of partners and sites worthy of protection.

The report describes the first activities of the Initiative: registration of collaborators in countries around the Baltic Sea and sites and installations worthy of protection.

The activities consisted of two main parts:

- registration of partners interested in protection of installations and sites.
- registration of installations and sites, their types and number.

70 meetings have been held to date. 114 sites have been visited and approximately 200 people have been met. The activities have been carried out by the secretary of the Initiative Group, Mr. Johannes Bach Rasmussen.

Registration of potential partners

The following scheme shows the different kinds of partners who have been contacted in most of the countries.

It has not been a goal, in itself, to get contact with potential partners representing all kinds of authorities and organisations in all countries. Rather, the goal has been to get in contact with some key partners in all countries.

Ministries – or relevant connected authorities - have been contacted in all countries and they have often referred to other relevant partners, especially museums, which are responsible for the protection and running of historically valuable sites.

All contacted, potential partners were interested in further contact and interested in receiving this report.

A more systematically search for partners must be carried out when subsequent activities of the initiative are later defined (after a coming workshop).

Kind of authority, institution or organisation met	Amount of partners interested in further co-operation	Countries represented (out of 10 countries)
Ministries responsible for protection of heritage	7	7
Other ministries (defence, economic, regional development)	8	5
Public institutions connected to history and heritage	11	8
Regional and local authorities	9	5
NGO organisations connected to protection of heritage	10	6
Museums with interest in recent history	24	9
Tourist authorities or organisations	4	4
Other organisations	9	5
In total	82 (of which meetings have been held with 70)	



Photo top: An important target group for the Initiative is young people. The Soviet era finished around 15 years ago. It means that people with an age of around 25 and younger do not have any clear memories of life and society in the Cold War period. Historically valuable sites from this period can therefore be important “story-telling sites” for new generations in all countries. From Museum of the World Ocean, Kaliningrad, Russia.

Photos bottom: The Initiative must be connected to cultural tourism, a direct way to give people from other countries information about recent history. The connection to tourism is further needed because, in all likelihood, the majority of protected sites (and connected museums) will need income so as to cover any necessary running costs. One of the main target groups for tourism is likely well educated people, a fast growing group in western tourism. Around 17% of people in western countries are more than 60 years old – in five years it will be almost double. Tourism and foreign travel is a fast growing activity for this often wealthy group. It is believed that a big part of the group gives high priority to “information about historical realities and strong emotions” and lower priority to “sun and entertainment”.

The sites from the Cold War period can be available for tourists in many ways. A rather special example is the “Forest Brother’s Farm” in southern part of Estonia, developed by Mr. Meelis Mortus, son of a so-called Forest Brother (partisan fighting against the communist regime). Meelis Mortus has, among other things, published a partisan songbook and reconstructed several partisan bunkers together with partisan friends of his father. It is possible for the visitors to stay overnight in the bunkers and eat the same meals as the partisans.





Registration of Installations and Sites. The Different Types

The installations and sites can be categorised in the following main groups:

- Installations and sites connected to military activities
- Installations and sites connected to civil society activities
- Memorials, sculptures and architecture
- Locations on which historical events took place
- Installations and sites connected to partisan activities (especially bunkers)
- Museums

It became apparent that it was impossible to put monetary amounts on valuable sites in each category. It is simply not known by authorities because protection of sites from recent history has only been on the agenda in very few countries.

Some comments in general must be added to certain sites:

About military sites

There is no doubt that military sites are most exposed to being demolished because of the big changes in military organisations in all countries since the finishing of the Soviet Union. The changes have been biggest in Poland and the three Baltic States. The military sites have – as noted from the visits – either been destructed by the military itself or handed over to local authorities, who don't know how to use the sites or don't have the economic resources to do anything. The result is demolition of the sites. In the period immediately after the finishing of the Soviet Union, some military sites were completely destroyed with economical support from foreign countries.

A few military sites are protected as museums (for example in Denmark, Germany, Lithuania and Estonia). A qualified guess is that 40-60 sites in the countries can be developed as story-telling military sites with tourist potential.

It must be stressed that military authorities in nearly all countries are open for registration and evaluation of former and existing military sites – probably also because the military sites are part of their own military history.

About buildings with other functions

Many buildings with civil functions in the communist period – such as secret police offices, factories, holiday centres – have normally developed new and other functions, and very often with private ownership.

A special problem is connected to enormous constructions where maintenance is needed, such as Prora, Germany (built as a nazi holiday centre on Rügen) and Linnehall, Estonia (event centre on harbour area in Tallinn). Another problem is connected to protection and development of former “closed” towns.

About museums

Many new museums about the Cold War period have been founded (Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Germany), and many individuals working at museums are very open minded towards the protection and running of sites representing recent history. Several museums in the former Soviet countries are very interested in cooperation with foreign museums.

About sculptures

The sculptures from the Soviet period represent a special problem. The sculptures of former Soviet leaders, especially Stalin and politicians from the Stalin period, have either been destroyed or removed to depots or special areas (such as Graveyard of Fallen Monuments in Moscow). Lenin statues are still present in Russia, but removed in other countries. More “neutral” sculptures from the Soviet period (often without dominating Soviet symbols) such as ordinary workers and sculptures/memorials for ordinary soldiers, are often not removed and can also still be found in the Baltic States.



Main group of installations and sites	Types of visited installations and sites
Installations and sites connected to military activities	Sites: - missile bases - forts with special tasks - military camps/training grounds - “closed” military towns Installations/equipment: - battle ships - submarines - planes - emplacements
Installations and sites connected to civil society activities	- prisons - prison camps (gulag camps) - headquarters of communist party - secret police headquarters - cemeteries - “closed” soviet towns - collective farms - factories - holidays centres (for communist nomenclature)
Memorials, sculptures and architecture	- memorials from Soviet period - memorials from independence period (for example remembering demonstrations, victims and/or part of barricade from demonstrations) - Soviet sculptures (Soviet leaders etc.) - characteristic architecture from different soviet periods (for example Stalin period) - architecture with communist ornamentation and symbols
Locations on which historical events took place	Locations for: - demonstrations - executions
Installations and sites connected to partisan activities	- camp areas - bunkers
Museums	Museums connected to: - soviet period in general - special topic (such as military) - independence period - special events (such as demonstrations)

Coming Activities and Subjects for Discussion

Langelands Museum and The Initiative Group will take the initiative to arrange a work-shop with the objective to appoint and discuss further co-operation among partners as well as potential activities.

The following subjects have, until now, been the most discussed subjects for further co-operation (here mentioned without priority):

Registration of historically valuable installations and sites

The starting point for most activities will be the national registration of valuable sites, including the set up of criteria for the registration process. (The Initiative has already initiated certain registration activities). The registrations must go on in cooperation with several national partners.

Main questions will be: Which criteria must be the basis for the registrations (such as different types of installations) and how can the registrations be carried out in practice? What will the role be of different public authorities (national, regional and local) and independent organisations?

Information activities

It will also be necessary to start some national information activities directed towards certain target groups to prepare the ground for protection of sites: national authorities with responsibility of sites and installations, regional and local authorities, tourist authorities, private organisations together with protection of heritage, museums and private and public owners of sites.

In particular the private owners of sites and installations will be an important target group for the information activities. Many buildings now have private ownership with other, different functions than before. Often the owners are simply not aware of the historical values, so protection will in the first instance only be a question of contact and information. How can such information activities be carried out in practice?

Organisation of the Initiative

A fundamental question will be how the network can be organised and managed in the future. Which kind of organisation can be appropriate for this kind of Initiative?

Many sites from the Cold War period are, unfortunately, either due to be destroyed or are in strong decay. A fundamental purpose of the Initiative is to stop the demolishing of historically valuable sites and installations. An early initiative must be to register all valuable sites with story-telling potential.



Renovation of installation and sites

It is important to define, carefully, the concept of each site that has to be protected and often restored.

An extensive maintenance and restoration of sites is not always necessary to get an excellent starting point for story-telling activities. It is also important to define which part of history that has to be told from each protected site. What is going to be renovated and which story has to be told?

The eyewitnesses

The eyewitnesses can play an important role in the information activities. How can they, in practice, be connected to the protected sites and involved in information activities?

Information to young people and new generations

How can the Initiative inform younger people about recent history in practice? How can school teachers be involved in the Initiative?

A special feature of recent history is that many witnesses are still living and can deliver important information about the story-telling sites – people who have been present at the sites as prisoners, participants in demonstrations as well as military staff.

It will be an important task to find out how those people can be involved in the coming activities of the Initiative.

Photo of Adam Gotner, worker on shipyard in Gdynia, Poland, and eye witness to the demonstration in Grudzien in 1970, and on which occasion Adam Gotner was wounded. Here telling his history on the site at which the event took place.

Co-operation between partners/museums

Several museums are interested in corporation with foreign partners. One of the concrete activities can be exchange of exhibitions and objects. Many museums in former Soviet countries have produced excellent exhibitions with themes related to the period of the Cold War – and exchange of the exhibitions is a question about translation and transport. How can such corporation be carried out in practice?

Financing of activities

The financing of taking over, restoring and/or running of sites is, of course, an important subject. Some public programmes give possibilities in addition to private funds. The financial possibilities must be clarified in connection with the workshop.

Connection to tourism

It is important to involve tourist organisations in the activities – to exchange and divulge information about sites and to receive income for maintenance and running costs. How can this be achieved in practice?





Appendix

This appendix describes different types of sites and installations from the Cold War period, each telling a small part of the history of the period. The described sites represent a selection of 114 sites visited by Johannes Bach Rasmussen, secretary of the Initiative, in 2006 (except the former “closed” Soviet town of Sillimäe, Estonia).

From entrance to Gdansk Shipyard and “Roads to Freedom” Exhibition, Poland. See also photo on page 4. Today, this former part of the shipyard is a memorial site on which historically important events took place.



Military Installations and Sites

Cold War Fort

The Museum Langelandsfort, Denmark.

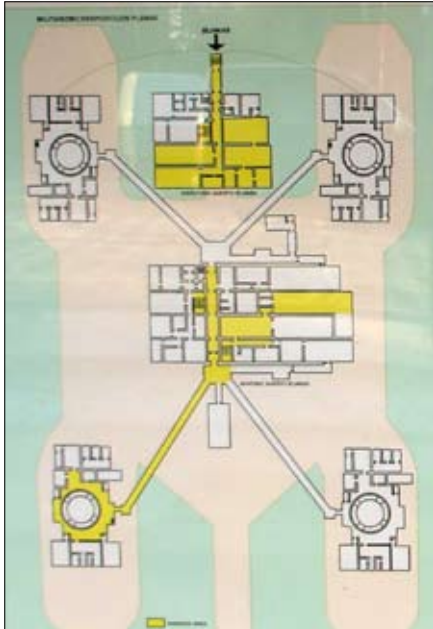
The Langelandsfort is a part of Langelands Museum. The fort is situated on the southern part of the island of Langeland at the entrance to Store Belt between Sealand and Funen. The fort was in operation during the Cold War (1953 – 1993). The military task of the fort was, in the event of war, to hinder ships from the Warsaw Pact to leave the Baltic Sea. The belt was mined and a main task of the fort was to hinder mine-sweepers from Poland from clearing the way for combat ships. In peace time one of the tasks was to register ships passing through the belt. During the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 the watch crew of the fort observed and identified Soviet ships on their way to Cuba with cargoes of gear for missiles.

In 1997 the fort was turned into a museum. The museum consists of 9 original bunkers. One is an operational centre, four bunkers are armed with 150 mm canons, one is armed with 40 mm anti aircraft guns and one is a functioning power plant. An ammunition bunker now houses a Cold War exhibition with films, models of ships, uniforms, weapons etc. The museum also has on display two fighter aircraft - one from NATO, a Saab Draken, and one from the Warsaw Pact, a MIG 23. Furthermore, in 2006 the museum obtained a mine-sweeper from 1941 and a submarine from 1964, both from the Danish navy. The Langelandsfort is today one of the most visited and popular exhibitions on Funen and nearby islands.



The Museum Langelandsfort is still developing. In 2006 the museum got a Danish submarine from 1964 and a minesweeper from 1941. Other photos from Museum Langelandsfort on page 6 and 7.





Plan of the central part of the underground missile base. In the middle, the control centre is surrounded by four missile silos.

Missile Base Zemaitija, Lithuania.

The former Soviet underground military base, with four missile silos, is situated on a ridge in Zemaitija National Park (near Plateliai Lake) in the western part of Lithuania approximately 60 kilometres from the Baltic coast.

The base was constructed in 1962. The silos were armed with SS-4 nuclear missiles (23 meters high, including 4 meters of warheads). Underground centre facilities were constructed between the silos: control room, communication facilities, stations of electric power and radio. Headquarters, officers' quarters, soldiers' barracks etc. were situated in a nearby military town.

The rockets were aimed at different western countries e.g. Norway, Great Britain, Spain, West Germany and Turkey. (Every 3-4 years the targeted countries were changed.) Eight nuclear warheads were stored in the ammunition depot near to the silos.

The personnel on the base (the 179th rocket regiment) participated in the Cuban missile programme in the 1960s: construction of the bases on Cuba and transportation of the missiles on commercial ships via Sevastopol in 1962.

All remaining base constructions are today in a bad condition. The authorities in Zemaitija National Park want to restore some of the constructions, especially the centre facilities, and build up an up-to-date exhibition. In the last years more than 50,000 people have visited the base area. This former strategic Cold War site has become a tourist attraction.



Bottom left: Depot for nuclear warheads.

Right: Inside a missile silo.





Civil Buildings and Installations

Secret Police Headquarter

Museum of Genocide Victims, Vilnius, Lithuania.

A museum of Genocide Victims has been established in part of a former KGB building in the centre of Vilnius. It is a historical-memorial museum concentrating on the following main themes: Documentary materials concerning repression taken against the inhabitants of Lithuania by occupational regimes (1940-1990), material on the anti-Soviet and anti-Nazi resistance, information about participants of struggles for freedom and victims of genocide.

The main part of the exposition is in the KGB Internal Jail No. 1 (confinement cell of inquisition). The jail has been retained as it was in August 1991 when the activities of the KGB were ceased. Visitors of the museum can see: a room of an officer on duty with the remaining equipment of 1975, a watch room where Soviet officers' uniforms, authentic scales for weighting parcels brought to the arrested people are displayed, a little library, the cell where finger impressions were taken and people were photographed, the cell for examination, punishment cells and the cell for execution.

On the ground floor is shown a permanent exhibition about the partisan movement in Lithuania. 20,500 partisans and their supporters were killed in period 1944–1953. The partisan story of the Baltic States and Poland is more or less unknown in Western European countries.

On the first floor there are exhibitions devoted to political prisoners in Soviet prisons and labour camps, and to deportees, exiled to the remotest regions of the Soviet Union. Activity of KGB in 1954–1991 is on display too. Visitors can view the reproduced “eavesdropping room”, documentary material about oppressions carried out by the regime and about the exceptional place of the KGB in the Soviet political system.

The museum is popular and well visited by foreign and local visitors.



Former KGB headquarter in the centre of Vilnius, Lithuania



Prison and District Court

Prison and detention Areszt Śledczy, Gdansk, Poland.

Areszt Śledczy is still functioning and not open for public admittance. The actual amount of prisoners is approximately 1040.

The most recent history of Poland can more or less be told in the prison by visiting cells inhabited by former prisoners – partisans, political prisoners, prisoners from Solidarity etc. Hidden cells from the Stalin period have been excavated in the cellar and restored. Other cells have been inhabited by prisoners from partisan organisations (during and after World War II), political organisations, Solidarity, intellectual people etc.

It is important to note that the prison authorities are aware that the prison has a story telling value from Poland's recent history. The prison complex is also an example of a historical site with a connection to history from both before and after World War II.

The district court of Gdansk (Sąd Okręgowy) is connected to the prison building complex. In the 1990's there was a trial concerning the responsibility for killing people participating in demonstrations in December 1970. General Jaruzelski, the former communist Polish president, was accused in that trial as minister of defence. A special secured inquiry room in a neighbouring courthouse was arranged for this case. Because of Jaruzelski's age and health the trial was moved to Warsaw (and is still unfinished).



Hidden cells from the Stalin period have been excavated in the cellar in Areszt Śledczy and restored. Photo right: a very small cell (approximately one cubic metre) used for several prisoners together and with possibility of filling the floor permanently with water.



Gulag Camp

Macikai Prison Camp, Lithuania

Macikai Prison Camp was a German prison camp in World War II. The camp was mainly for captured pilots from Western countries. After the war it continued as a Gulag camp – one of the very few Gulag camps for political prisoners outside of Russia.

The only thing remaining is an isolated barrack and a big cemetery with graves for soldiers from many Western European countries as well as many former Soviet countries. The site is connected to a local museum.



Execution Ground

Butovo Polygon (shooting field), Moscow, Russia

Butovo Polygon is located south of Moscow. The former execution place is today a memorial place and cemetery for people executed at the site by secret communist police, KGB (this name is used in the following text although the secret police has got several different names throughout history). The site also illustrates parts of the history of the KGB, both before and after World War II.

Butovo was a former estate taken over by the KGB after the revolution. Prisoners of the KGB produced vegetables on the fields for the KGB staff and were accommodated in the former stables which were converted to a prison.

The executions took place from 1935-38. Butovo began to be used because of lack of capacity for execution sites in the centre of Moscow. According to official information, more than 20,000 people were executed and buried here. People were normally transported to the area during the night from prisons in Moscow.

The victims of executions included people from all countries. Among the executed were several bishops, priests and monks.

After World War II Butovo was again used for vegetable production for KGB staff, and again with political prisoners as workers. The shooting place and the graves were used for strawberry production. Subsequently, KGB staff was permitted to build datchas on a part of the grave area, but without cellars or fundaments. (Datcha: small cottages with kitchen garden).

A nearby building complex was constructed by German prisoners after World War II. Until the break down of the Soviet Union, the buildings were functioning as an international school for the KGB at which people from foreign countries were educated in secret police activities. Today it is a Sunday school for local children, carried on by the orthodox Russian church. A small memorial church is built at the execution site.

Left: Part of an information board with photos of executed people and statistics of the executions (days and months).

Bottom: The mass graves are marked in the area with high grounds.



Данные о числе расстрелов

	1935 г.	1936 г.	1937 г.	1938 г.
1				
2		111		
3		140	233	230
4		260		
5		281	166	123
6				
7				
8	91	136	173	
9	115	342	144	
10		80		
11	8		81	
12				
13			147	186
14		164	111	
15	194			
16		219		356
17	130	119	129	
18				
19				186
20	134			
21	80	439	347	276
22		8		
23	256	369		
24				
25			261	226
26		294		
27		272		
28	166			136
29				
30	160			
31			284	
Итого	1290 чел.	2165 чел.	2545 чел.	1743 чел.





Cemetery and Crematorium

Moscow Cemetery and Crematorium, Donskoi, Russia

From 1934 until the 1950s executed political prisoners were burnt in the crematorium of Donskoi in Moscow, mainly at night time. The ash was buried at the cemetery in three different graves, originally intended for unidentified dead people from Moscow (homeless etc.).

Several people from foreign countries, who were executed in Moscow, are buried here – from nearly all former Soviet countries, as well as several Western European and Asian countries. The cemetery is also a burial place for Jewish people executed in the Stalin period. It is very difficult to ascertain how many people are buried in the mass graves. More than 5000 are, to date, identified by name in mass grave number three. Each name is mentioned in a book beside the grave. Investigations are still ongoing to identify the victims buried here.

It can be further mentioned that the ash from former KGB chief Berija is also placed in mass grave number three together with victims of the communist regime. He was chief from 1938 until the death of Stalin in 1953 and one of the main individuals responsible for many crimes in the period. He was executed by order of Khrushjov immediately after the death of Stalin.

The family grave of Stalin general Blochin is also present at the cemetery. He was chairman of the execution committee, and the person who signed execution orders and therefore also responsible for many crimes.



Mass grave number 3, used in the period 1945-53. More than 5000 have, to date, been identified by name in this grave and the identification work is still ongoing. Each name is mentioned in a book beside the grave.



Building Complex for Events

Linnahall Event centre, Tallinn, Estonia.

The complex is built in connection with the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980. As inland Moscow had no suitable venue at which to stage the sailing event, Tallinn was chosen for these activities.

Linnahall was used as an event centre and built together with a new airport, a TV-tower, hotels, a yachting centre and beach facilities.

Linnahall consist of halls for concerts and ice hockey and rooms for several other activities. The large concrete structure is designed in Soviet style and – as many other large soviet buildings – is not connected in scale, design and building traditions with the existing and surrounding town environment. It covers an area of no less than 27.215 square metres. It is a relatively flat complex and, from distance, it has similarities with big military fortifications.

Today there are big problems with maintenance of the building and problems of filling it up with the right activities.

It is a controversial monument reminding many people of the Soviet period. On the one hand, a comprehensive work/reconstruction is, in all likelihood, not economically viable. On the other hand there is no doubt that a similar building does not exist anywhere else in the world. It can be compared with the Soviet Cultural Palaces which can be found in many capitals e.g. Warsaw and Riga – but in another design.



Linnahall. The harbour part of the building complex with helicopter landing ground.



“Closed” Soviet Town Sillamäe, Estonia.

Soviet towns can be found in several countries e.g. Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. They are often built for military purposes or special production. These towns were “closed towns” not open for visitors.

Sillamäe in Estonia is such a town located on the seaside in the north-eastern part of Estonia. It is an open green town and has been described as one of the most beautiful towns in the north-eastern industrial region.

The construction of the town and factories started in 1946 based on a decision taken in Kremlin, Moscow. The interest lay in uranium enrichment on the basis of the uranium oxide that could be found in the local oil shale. Later raw materials for the production were imported from various locations, mainly Czechoslovakia. Rumours are that the first Soviet nuclear bomb was created from the uranium mined at Sillamäe.

The building of the factory was top secret from the very beginning. The first inhabitants were 14-18-years old, homeless from Leningrad, and who were trained as workers.

In 1950 there were 70 two- and three-storey buildings, 280 one-storey buildings, a hospital with 12 separate buildings, several kindergartens, a high school, two cinemas and numerous shops and restaurants. Special recreational facilities for communist party members and leaders are built nearby.

Sillamäe is a unique town with many urban values: well-styled architecture, open green spaces and well designed urban equipment. The town as a whole is worth of protection. In 1949 Sillamäe got the architectural grand prix price from the Council of Ministers of Estonia.

Holiday Centre and Military Camp

Prora, Rügen, Germany. A comprehensive holiday resort built by the Nazi's before World War II. Mainly used for military purposes after the war.

The building complex consists of 8 buildings, each with 6 floors. It is built in a bow along the coast, only 100 metres from the broad, sandy beach. The total length is 4,5 kilometres.

It was planned that 20,000 guests should be accommodated in 10,000 double rooms, all with a sea view.

The project was lead by Robert Ley, a Nazi leader and founder of the “Kraft durch Freude” movement. The work started in 1936 but was stopped by the outbreak of war in 1939 when resources had to be used elsewhere. A planned event - a culture house - was not built. In 1940 polish prisoners of war put on roofs to hinder demolishing of the complex.

After the war, several small changes were carried out but the main structure from the nazi period is still present.

The Red Army used the complex from the end of World War II until 1951, at which time the military of DDR took over and used it as a military complex with barracks, a prison, schools, sports hall etc. From 1956 a part of the complex was used as a holiday centre for soldiers, Ferienheim Walter Ulbricht.

Today the state owned complex is used for museums, a youth hostel, sports hall, discotheque and some private holiday facilities – but all these functions constitute only a very small part of the complex as a whole. The main problem is to find a use for the empty part of the complex in order, among other things, to hinder quick decay.

Prora is a unique monument telling not only about nazi ideology but also an interesting story about the military use after World War II. The complex is protected by law and owned by the state.

Illustration of the project from periodical “Die neue Linie”, 1938.





Datcha for Soviet Leaders Breznev's Villa, Palanga, Lithuania.

The villa was constructed in 1979 and functioned until 1989 as a datcha (summer house) for Soviet leaders. It is located in a 23 ha park in the dune area. Today it is a private and luxurious hotel. Not much has changed in the substantial building complex.

From the dune until the sea, a concrete tunnel was built, constructed directly onto the 100 meter broad and sandy beach. The purpose was to protect visitors who wanted to take a swim in the sea. The tunnel was furthermore guarded by several machine guns. In the villa – on top of the dune nearest the beach – there was a swimming pool formed as a map of Lithuania with a 180 degree view over the sea.

In order to serve and protect the villa in full, a complex was built on the other side of the street for the personnel (now partly a police station). All buildings were served by the 9th KGB brigade, with almost the entire personnel consisting of regular KGB employees, being around 100 people. Due to security reasons there was no advance message when people arrived from Moscow. Food was prepared everyday in the kitchen if some unexpected visitors should arrive, although the villa was never visited by people with a high rank.

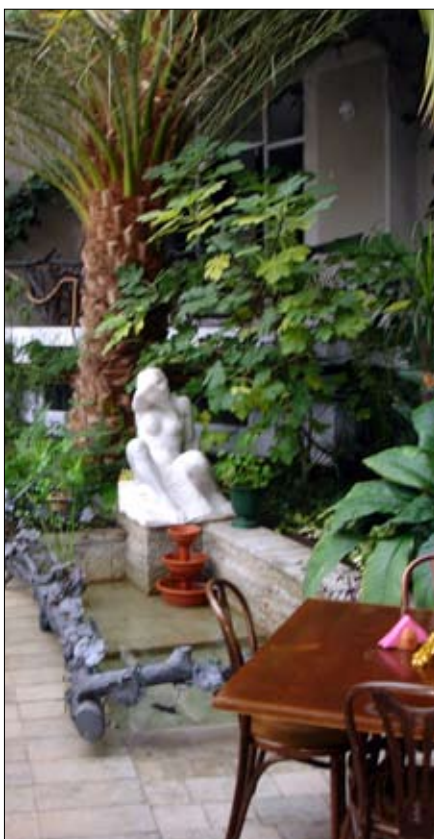




Collective Farm

Juknaiciai, Tourism and wellness centre. Former hotel on a collective farm. Lithuania.

The centre is the former hotel of a model collective farm. The very luxurious hotel is now in private ownership. The interior has not changed since the communist era and consists of a swimming pool with bar area, restaurant with small lake, palms, sculptures etc. The hotel was visited by the communist leaders and people from foreign countries who wanted to study a model collective farm. The farm was founded as an animal farm in 1972 with 5000 workers. The total area was 1500 ha. The main production was frozen chickens.



Supermarket for Communist Leaders and Foreigners Tallinn, Estonia

The former supermarket for communist leaders and people from foreign countries is today functioning as a night club in central Tallinn. The building is without any windows (there was nothing to see for ordinary people from the outside). The building is not without architectural values and has a strong symbolic character relating to the communist era. It is located in the fast growing business part of Tallinn, mainly with newly built high-rise housing. The small, former super market building is therefore in danger of being demolished.



Memorials, Sculptures and Architecture

In all former Soviet countries – except Russia – statues of former Soviet leaders have been demolished or removed. In, for example, Lithuania and Hungary privately owned sculpture parks are established with Soviet sculptures. In Moscow some former statues have been moved to the Graveyard of Fallen Monuments (outside New Tretyakov Gallery). In several countries it is still being discussed as to whether sculptures from the Soviet period, still placed at their original location, have to be removed.



Right: In Moscow the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the first leader of the secret communist police, has been removed from Lubianka Square (in front of the secret police head quarter) to the Graveyard of Fallen Monuments. A discussion has started about removing and returning the statue back to Lubjanka Square.

Left: In Vilnius four groups of ordinary workers (in Soviet sculpture style) on the bridges in centre of the city has divided the population.

From Graveyard of Fallen Monuments, Moscow.



The Bronze Soldier in centre of Tallinn was, originally, not removed because it was a memorial for ordinary Russian soldiers from World War II. Today it has developed as an event place for certain parts of the Russian population in Estonia – which include some Soviet era events. A discussion of removing the sculpture to another location is therefore ongoing.



In Estonia – contrary to most other former Soviet countries – the soviet ornamentation on buildings is still present (red stars, hammer and sickle, illustrations with workers etc.).

Right: From the building of a former club for Soviet navy officers, Tallinn, Estonia.



Typical architecture in Stalinism style, Tallinn, Estonia.



Sites Connected to Partisan Activities

The partisan war in former Soviet countries can be described as “the unknown war” in Western countries. In Lithuania around 22,000 partisans were killed in fights with the Soviet army and secret police forces from 1944. The guerrilla war started to wane in 1949 but continued until 1953. The last hiding partisan came out of hiding in 1986. (Source: “The unknown war. Armed anti-Soviet resistance in Lithuania in 1944-1953”. Dalia Kuodyte and Rokas Tracevskis. Vilnius, 2004.)

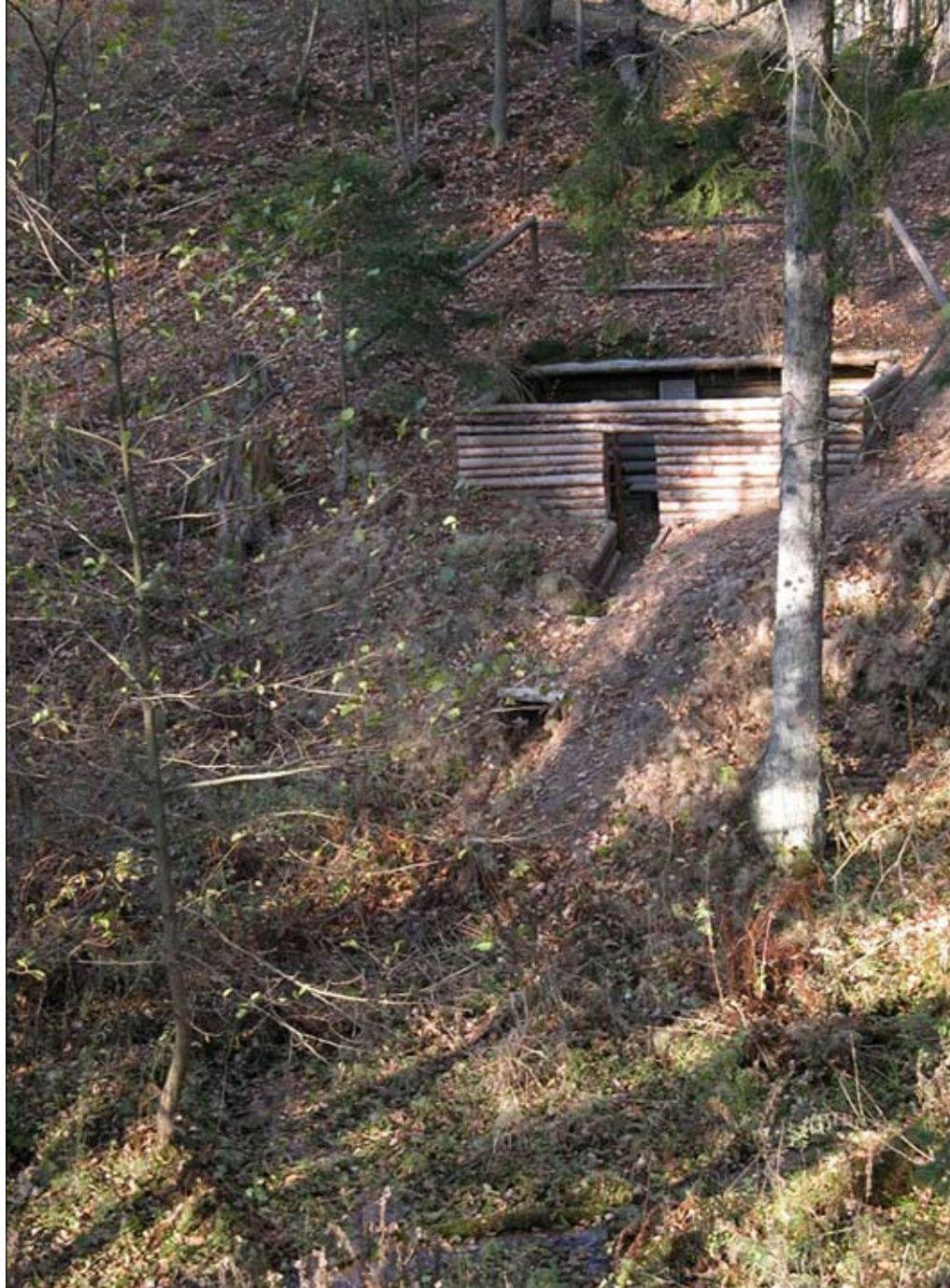
From an exhibition at the Museum of Genocide Victims, Vilnius, Lithuania



Partisan camp in Krekenavos Regioninis Parkas, Lithuania. The complex can be described as a fortified camp consisting of 6 low and buried houses surrounded by a small rampart with a trench and with 6 machine-gun posts. The camp was built in 1944-45 and was attacked and destroyed by communist forces in 1947. All 120 partisans succeeded to escape. A house, a part of the rampart and a machine-gun have been reconstructed.



*Reconstructed partisan bunker;
Nemuno Kilpos Regional Park.
Reconstructed bunker on 9 square
metres and often inhabited by
up to 9 persons. The bunker was
originally covered by soil. This kind
of bunker was the most common.
The entrance was from a river (in
foreground on photo) through a
small, 6 meter long tunnel. When
the partisans went through the river
they could not be followed by dogs.*



Locations on which Historically Important Events Took Place

In most countries there are several sites, such as squares, on which important events took place, for example demonstrations. Examples:

Poznan, 1956. The uprising in Poznan in 1956 was harsh and unequivocal and unknown in Western countries, contrary to the uprising in Hungary in the same year. A big monument, partly built at the shipyard in Gdansk, is raised on a central square at which demonstrations took place. The unveiling of the memorial took place in 1989. (At this point in time the direction of political development was still unknown. The permission to raise the memorial was given in any event. The monument was finished rapidly – 24 hours work – at the shipyard because people were afraid that the permission would be revoked.) A new and modern museum is planned concerning the uprising.

About the uprising: On June 28, 1956, workers went out onto the streets to protest for “bread and freedom” and against massive tax hikes, which cut real wages and poor working conditions.

100,000 workers and their families gathered on the streets. A police station was taken over and the city’s Communist Party headquarters were trashed. Groups of demonstrators headed for the most hated symbols of oppression – the secret police headquarters and the prison. Workers stormed the prison, released more than 250 inmates and armed themselves with weapons from the prison armoury. The next day most of Poznan was on strike. On the second day the demonstrations were overwhelmed by military force – 10,000 troops and 400 tanks and armoured vehicles were needed to put down the revolt. It is thought that almost 80 people were killed.

Grudzien, Gdynia, 1970. A massacre of workers in Grudzien, Gdynia, in 1970 was an important event for the Polish protest movement against the communist government. At the location today there is a monument and information boards with pictures from the demonstration.

About the uprising: Demonstrations against price rises broke out in 1970 in several northern Baltic coastal cities, among these Gdańsk and Gdynia. Some communist leaders appealed to the workers to return to work, but others ordered the workers to go home, afraid of sabotage. In Grudzien, Gdynia, this misunderstanding resulted in soldiers firing into the crowd of workers emerging from their trains. Hundreds of workers were killed. It was an important event for the protest movement, which later spread to other cities, leading to strikes and occupations. To justify the use of firearms, commanding officers had apparently told their soldiers they were going to Gdansk to quell a German organised uprising. A well-known picture from the demonstration in Grudzien shows people carrying a demonstrator killed during a walk from Gdynia to Gdansk.

The parliament square in Vilnius, 1991. The most important demonstrations in connection with the independence of Lithuania took place by the TV tower and the Parliament building in 1991. A part of a defence wall, built around the Parliament by participants in demonstrations, is protected. Outside the TV tower Soviet troops killed 13 and injuring several hundred. The protected part of the wall is also functioning as a memorial for the people killed.

Protected part of the defence wall, built around the Parliament in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1991 (see also photo on back page).



*Grudzien, Gdynia, Poland.
Information board with photos from the demonstration in 1970 is set up on the site.*



Bottom: Poznan, Poland, 1956.

Left: The attack on the prison from which 250 inmates were released (From exhibition arranged by The Greater Poland Museum of Independence Struggle).

Right: The monument on the central square. Built on the shipyard in Gdansk.





The Museum of Occupation, Riga, Latvia.

Museums

Museums will be key co-operators in the initiative. They are often responsible for the running of protected, historical sites in their area. In several countries there are museums relating to the Cold War period. Examples:

Museum of Occupation, Riga, Latvia. Was the first of the museums related to occupation in the Baltic states and was founded in 1993. It is a pioneer museum with a clear message. The Museum is housed in the former Latvian Red Riflemen's Museum. (The Latvian Riflemen's battalions and regiments were national fighting units within the Czarist Russian army.) The museum tells the history about Latvia and its people under two occupying totalitarian regimes from 1940 to 1991. The museum has several original artefacts related to its main theme, notably concerning the history of deported people - among these is a part of a Siberian wooden barrack, reconstructed by people subjected to deportation.

Museum of Occupation, Tallinn, Estonia.

The permanent exposition of the museum, which was opened in 2003, reflects developments in Estonia from 1940 to 1991, when Estonia was occupied. More or less thematic temporary exhibitions are organized. The museum differs from several other occupation based museums by way of the substantial collection of objects and artifacts from ordinary people's lives in the period of occupation.

Grenzhus Schlagsdorf (Border Museum), Germany (former DDR). The museum focuses on, for example, how the exact border line was decided after World War II and how the border activities have developed throughout the years with arms, fences, security zones etc. The borderline history is a simple, but effective information theme from which many aspects of the east-west story can be told. The museum owns many original objects connected to the border and its history.

Museum of Baltic Fleet, Baltysk, Kaliningrad. The museum is located in the former "closed", military city of Baltysk, the head quarters of the Russian Fleet in the Baltic Sea. The museum is mainly related to the history of the Russian Fleet and its activities in the Baltic Sea e.g. submarine activities (for example near the Swedish military town, Karlskrona). The museum owns many original and valuable military effects from the Cold War period.

Frogman with equipment for fixing mines on a hull: an underwater scooter and a special "bubble free" inhalator. Museum of Baltic Fleet, Kaliningrad, Russia.



*From Solidarity Centre Foundation,
"Roads to Freedom"*



*Model of a frontier station between
former DDR and the German
Federal Republic. Grenzhüs
Schlagsdorf (Border Museum),
Germany (former DDR).*



Several important sites from recent history often have a continuous history including the period before the end of World War II. The earlier history of these sites should of course be told in connection with information activities. The important connection to this initiative is that the sites and installations have essential functions after World War II.

Example: Butovo estate, south of Moscow, tells a long story about different activities of the Russian secret police. The estate was taken over by the secret police after the revolution. Prisoners produced vegetables on the fields for the secret police staff and were accommodated in the former stables which were converted to a prison. Executions took place in the park area of the estate from 1935-38, because of lack of capacity for execution sites in the centre of Moscow. More than 20,000 people were executed and buried here. After World War II the Butovo estate was again used for vegetable production carried out by political prisoners. A nearby building complex was constructed by German prisoners of war. Until the break down of the Soviet Union the buildings were functioning as an international school for the KGB in which people from foreign countries were educated in secret activities.

The history that can be told on the Butovo estate is a continuous story about Russian secret police activities, starting from the communist revolution until the end of the Soviet era.



Langelands Museum, Denmark, and an Initiative Group want to promote more international understanding among the neighbouring countries around the Baltic Sea, by exchanging information from the most recent history, especially from period of the Cold War.

The main idea of the Initiative is to inform about each country's recent history from historically valuable sites on which recent history took place and from which the history therefore can be told.

Sites and installations included are for example: military bases and installations, prison camps, partisan bunkers, secret police offices, cemeteries, sculptures, museums or just squares or buildings where memorable events took place.

The first activity of the Initiative has been to search for co-operative partners as well as sites worth to protect in all countries. This activity was supported by the Danish Ministry of Culture and has been carried out in 2006. The main results of this investigation, including visits to all countries, are described in this report.

Top: Protected part of the defence wall, built around the Parliament in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1991 in connection with the independence demonstrations.

Middle left: Watchtower from former border between DDR and the German Federal Republic. Grenzhus Schlagsdorf (Border Museum).

Middle right: Ms. Ema Loorits, Estonia, daughter of a "Forest Brother" (partisan) tells about her father and family life in the Cold War period. Many witnesses are still living and can tell about both life and living conditions in the period and about certain, historically valuable sites.

Bottom: Missile silo. Valdai Missile Base, Russia, located in Valdai National Park between St. Petersburg and Moscow. The base was one of the biggest missile bases in the world, and was dismantled in the 1980s in connection with SALT II agreements between the USA and the Soviet Union (reduction of offensive and nuclear weapon systems).

