

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/933,The-German-delegation-at-the-IPN-Archive.html>

17.04.2024, 13:10

27.04.2017

The German delegation at the IPN Archive

On 25 April this year, the IPN Archive hosted a delegation headed by Dr Paul Ciupke, a representative of the adult education institute Bildungswerk der Humanistischen Union in Essen and Prof. Dr Alphonse Kenkman, history lecturer at the University of Leipzig.













The visitors included German managers and staff of memorial sites related to the Second World War in the province of North Rhine-Westphalia and represented a total of twenty-five institutions of various sizes, many of which have been in operation for more than a quarter of a century and are independent of local authorities. The IPN

was one of the places of interest for the guests who visited Gdansk, Warsaw, Lublin including Belzec and Sobibor as part of an exchange project with Poland. The program was devoted not only to the period of German occupation but also to the history of communist rule.

The participants were hosted by the representatives of the Office of Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom, the archival, educational and historical research divisions as well as the International Relations Division of the President's Office. Each of the units of the Institute prepared presentations and informed the visitors about the technicalities of their daily work and tasks. The guests, with many inquiries, listened to the characteristics of the IPN's resources, history and mission, as well as the particular speeches. They were impressed by the IPN's teaching materials: board games for various age groups such as "Little Pole", "Queue", "Monte Cassino", "In Defense of Lviv", and "Behind the Iron Curtain", the latter prepared in cooperation with the Platform of European Memory and Conscience. They were curiously watching the catalogues of the exhibitions prepared by the educational division dealing with the subject of the Eastern European Communist era ("La Belle Epoque", "By Any Means"). They also had the opportunity to visit the Military Intelligence Warehouse and Conservation Department, where they were presented with the original of Hans Frank's journal, which is currently undergoing restoration work. Great enthusiasm was also aroused by the videocomparator - its capabilities were presented with the use of original documents from

the IPN's resources.

At the end of the visit, one member of the group, Dr Hans Wupper-Tewes, drew attention to the multidirectional and comprehensive functioning of the IPN - both central and local (through multiple branches and sub-branches), which favors consolidation. The meeting was closed with the proposal of organising joint workshops to exchange experiences.

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