

Workshop Template: Österreichische Widerstandskämpfer:innen
04/07/2023

Duration	2,5 – 3 hours
Age	15-25
Methods	Open discussion, group work, presentation
Materials	flipcharts, pencils, beamer, laptop
Competences	knowledge, critical thinking, political judgement, analysis, reflection
Aims	Get to know some of the Austrian resistance fighters, learn about their motivations and political background.
Source	Source of the input are first-person accounts of resistance fighters, telling their stories – provided by the Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstands . Moreover, classics of historiography on the Second World War and the Austrian resistance are being consulted to provide context for the youth.
Procedure description	<p>The Workshop is split in two halves:</p> <p>I. Historical resistance and inspiring stories of resistance fighters;</p> <p>II. Democratic participation today – what are the youths ideas?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Resistance: Open Brainstorm session What means resistance for you? Popcorn-method; collection of suggestions on a flip-chart. 2. Workshop leader introduces herself and the workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. <u>motivation and story of herself</u> it is important for youth (especially from youth centers) to know who this person is and establish a rapport via her motivation to do this. B. <u>give a short overview of the workshop</u> What awaits the youth, what are they going to learn, what is probably going to be fun?

3. Kickstart with large pictures and stories of resistance fighters during WWII in Austria

Youth choose one that catches their eye and get first-person-accounts of the resistance fighters alongside the picture. They go into groups of 3-4 and then read the first person account and try to figure out key questions, while discussing them as a group:
What is the story of the resistance fighter and in what way(s) were they resisting?

What was their motivation to join the resistance?

What happened in their story so that they joined the resistance? (sometimes the motivation comes after the fact)

From which social stratum are they and what was their occupation – before and after the war?

What interests you the most in their story?

4. Presentation of resistance fighters

The youth present the life stories of the resistance fighters, so that all get to know a bunch of them and not just one. The workshop leader points out the difference in motivation, political backgrounds and some commonalities (e. g. many had a communist affiliation background or a social democrat background). The workshop leader also puts emphasis on what interested the youth most and what was new for them.

5. Short input to contextualize the resistance in Austria

The workshop leader provides the youth with a short historical context about the resistance against Austrofascism and the Nazi regime (see presentation).

6. Break

7. Kickstart with pictures of modern day protestors as inspiration to think of topics of democratic participation / demands.

This might inspire topics and themes around environmental issues and social justice issues. But it is important to help the youth to break it down into local and regional/national issues as well and connect to their lived experience.

8. Groupwork nr. 2: Collection of ideas and topics where improvements should be made

	<p>In this second group work the youth will discuss in groups of 3-4 again their own burning issues. There is no limit with regard to the topics, only that it has to concern them. The workshop leader provides a structure of breaking issues down into specifics, namely: 1) What is not going well, what is the problem/issue?; 2) What would a world look like, where this was optimally solved (think big!); 3) How do we get there, what are steps and measures on the way to our dream?</p> <p>It is not so important that the youth have ideas for all three categories, but it is important that they start thinking in those realms: What is the problem? How would it ideally look like? How do we get there?</p> <p>9. Presentation of issues/ideas/concerns & demands</p> <p>The youth present their ideas and demands to the whole group and answer questions.</p> <p>10. Feedback by room-positioning</p> <p>The workshop leader asks questions and the youth position themselves along a line to display their level of agreement/disagreement. A few suggested questions:</p> <p>It is important here to communicate to the youth that being political already starts with talking about issues and forming an opinion on certain topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How political do you think you are? b) Do you often talk with your peers about the issues you presented? c) Do you have opinions on x and y? d) Have you ever voted in an election (depending on their age)? e) How many times were you part of a demonstration? <p>11. Thanks and a few-take aways by the workshop leader</p>
Worksheets	Worksheets as well as a presentation is found in the folder: 'Resistance Workshops Austria'.

	<p>The worksheets (first person accounts) might have to be shortened in order to be digestible for youth, depending on the time given.</p> <p>There are also some very basic worksheets concerning instructions for the group work.</p>
Links and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bücher:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hannah Arendt: Was heißt persönliche Verantwortung in einer Diktatur? (Vortrag der politischen Theoretikerin)• Robert Zoske: Sophie Scholl: Es reut mich nichts. Porträt einer Widerständigen• (weiterführend) Peter Pirker, <i>Gegen das Dritte Reich</i>. 2010.• Vorträge<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albert Camus: “Die Krise des Menschen”, 1946; http://archiv.faustkultur.de/1481-0-Camus-Die-Krise-des-Menschen.html• Filme/Filmausschnitte:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Die Edelweißpiraten (ARTE-Dokumentation)• Franz Weber: Desertion aus der Wehrmacht