

WALLS & PEACE

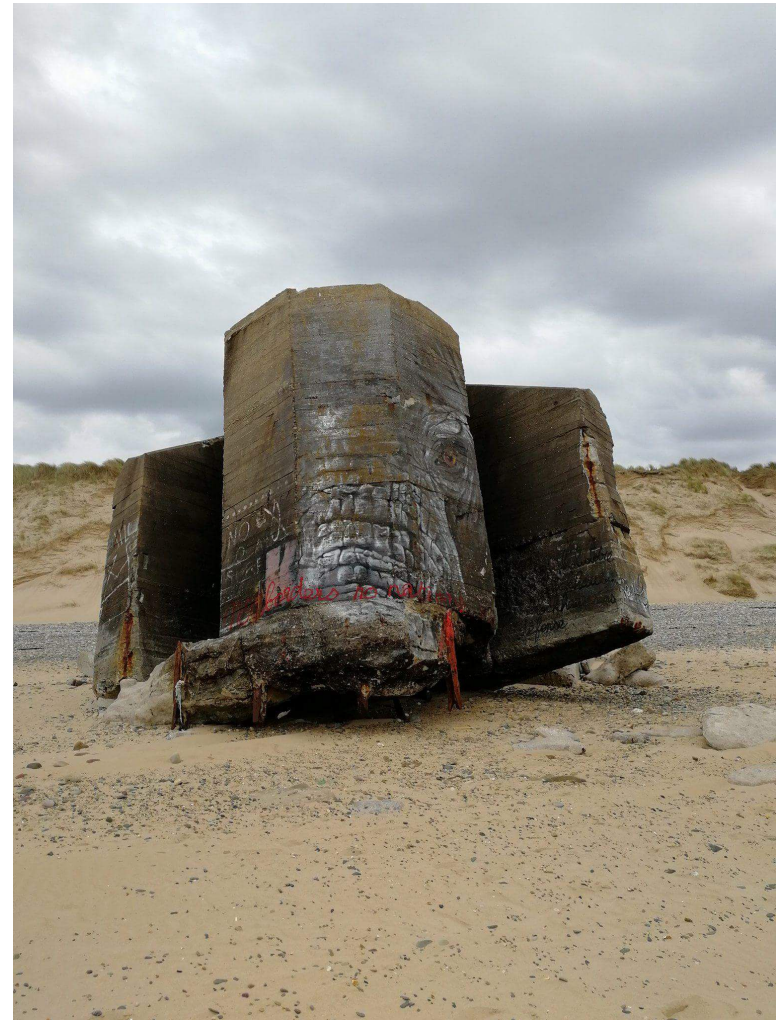
Looking for a European Memory : the Atlantic wall
A sense of mutual solidarity through a transnational heritage?



The Atlantic Wall to Foster European values?

Today, the EU facing nationalist rise and **identity crisis** while trying to implement **memory policies** to strengthen **shared values**

To what extent the Atlantic Wall can be an asset to the European integration process?



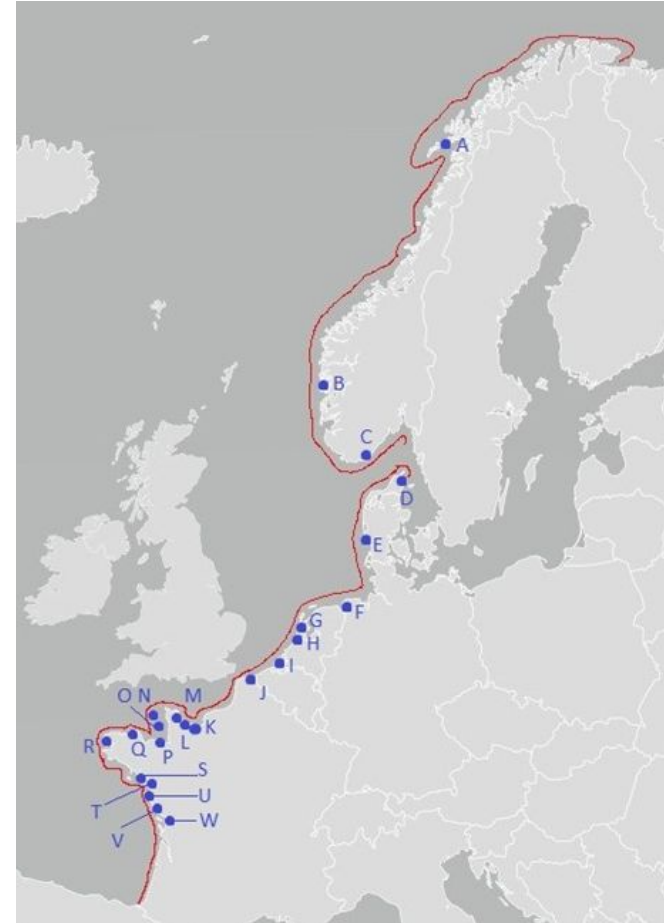
Research methodology

	Norway	Denmark	Germany	Netherlands	Belgium	France	Channel Islands	Sum
Number of emails sent	11	6	4	14	3	27	5	70
Number of answers received	3	2	1	7		10	4	27
	27,27 %	33,33 %	25,00 %	50,00 %	0,00 %	37,04 %	80,00 %	38,57 %

Associations				2		5	1	8
Public organisations	3	2				3	1	9
Private non-profit organisations			1	4		2	3	10

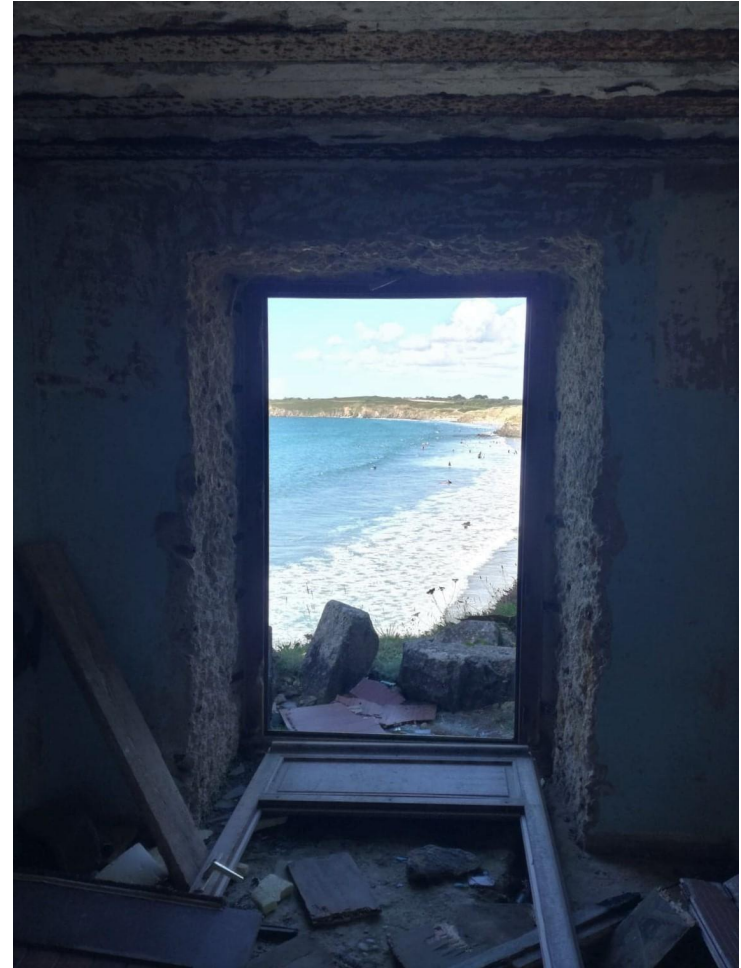
Guided tours		1	1	2		2	1
Open air museum	1			1		2	
Museum housed in a bunker	2	2	1	3		9	2
Other				2		1	

TOTAL								
Visits in the bunkers	9,09 %			21,43 %		7,14 %	20,00 %	
Open air	9,09 %	20,00 %			33,33 %	13,79 %		
Museum housed in a bunker	63,64 %	80,00 %	100,00 %	78,57 %	33,33 %	58,62 %	60,00 %	
Other	18,18 %				33,33 %	25,00 %	20,00 %	



A transnational monument with a local memory

- Symbol of the occupation: military defeat, forced labour, collaboration...
- General will to forget
- Post-war destructions
- Very few preservation policies



The bottom-up actions

- Local actions taken since the 90s; more and more common since 2010s.
- Projects are run by individuals, associations or local authorities - rarely with national or EU support
 - To preserve local memory of the war
 - To teach about the war
 - To develop tourism
 - To protect the bats





EUROPEAN BUNKER DAY



EUROPEAN BUNKER DAY

Open door day at the Atlantic Wall bunker sites
along the Western European coast

The Atlantic Wall, a European Heritage?

Heritage politics in
the EU and the
Atlantic Wall

- A vehicle for common values
- A factor for the creation of a sense of belonging
- European identity cannot exist if the European citizens are not involved

Conclusion

- The Atlantic wall needs strong local roots to develop its European dimension
- Cooperation between preservation projects is necessary
- AWE network and the European Bunker Day link together locally established projects and promote European values

