



Democratic Memorial of Catalonia

A future for the past

London School of Economics
London, Thursday 2nd July, 2010



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Interior,
Relacions Institucionals i Participació

Why do we need a public policy on democratic memory?

- It responds to a demand of the society
- It improves the quality of the democracy
- It fulfills the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia



Creating a legal framework

- Law of the Democratic Memorial (Parliament of Catalonia, October 2007)
- Law on disappeared persons during the Spanish Civil War and Franco dictatorship and the dignity of mass graves (Parliament of Catalonia, June 2009)

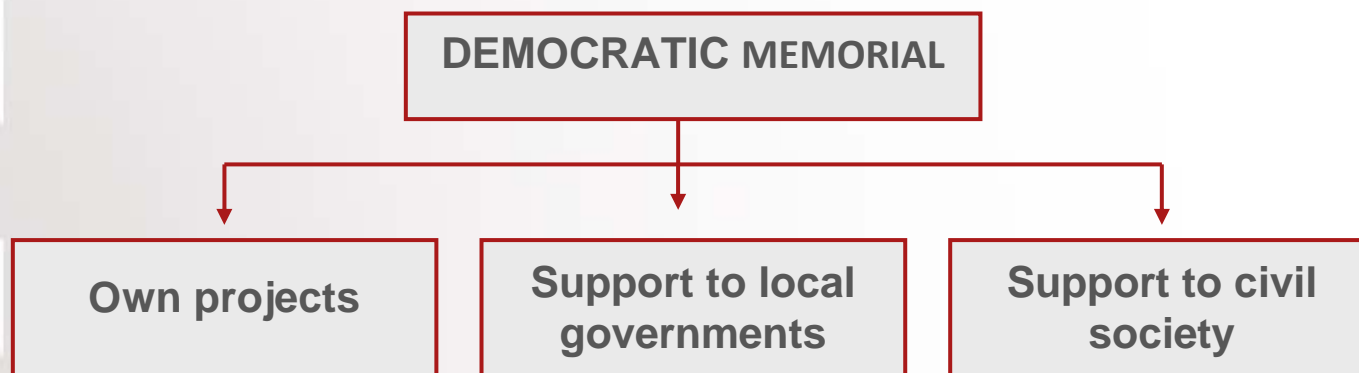


Main goals of the Democratic Memorial of Catalonia

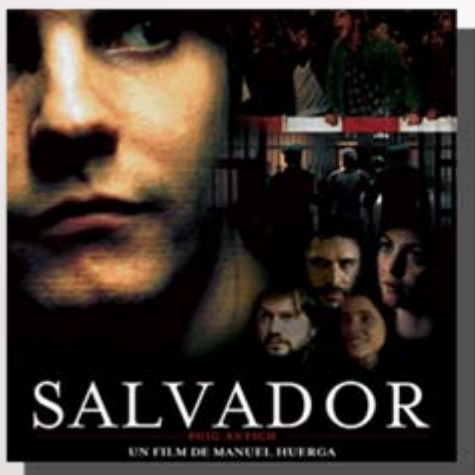
- Promoting democratic memory
- Preserving memory as a civil right and managing heritage as a network of memory sites
- Identifying people disappeared during the Spanish Civil War and Franco regime
- Attention to former political prisoners
- Tributes, commemorations, conferences, exhibitions



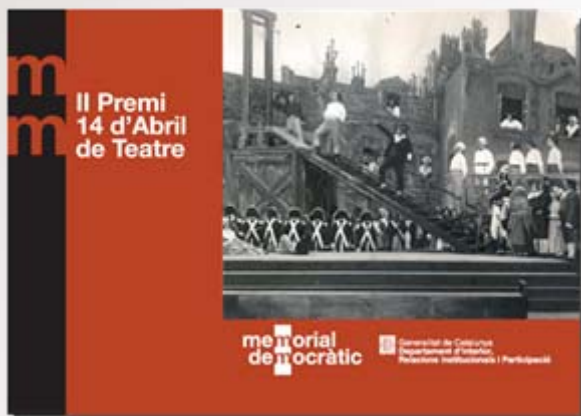
Promotion of democratic memory



Films



Prizes



Publications



Training and reflection

Conference on mass graves



October 2008

Two international conferences on policies of memory



June 2010



October 2007

Research and documentation



National Archive of Catalonia



Bank of memory voices

Memory sites in Catalonia

One of the main goals of the Democratic Memorial of Catalonia is locating, recording and signposting significant places of the period 1931-1980: II Republic, Spanish Civil War, Franco dictatorship and transition to democracy.

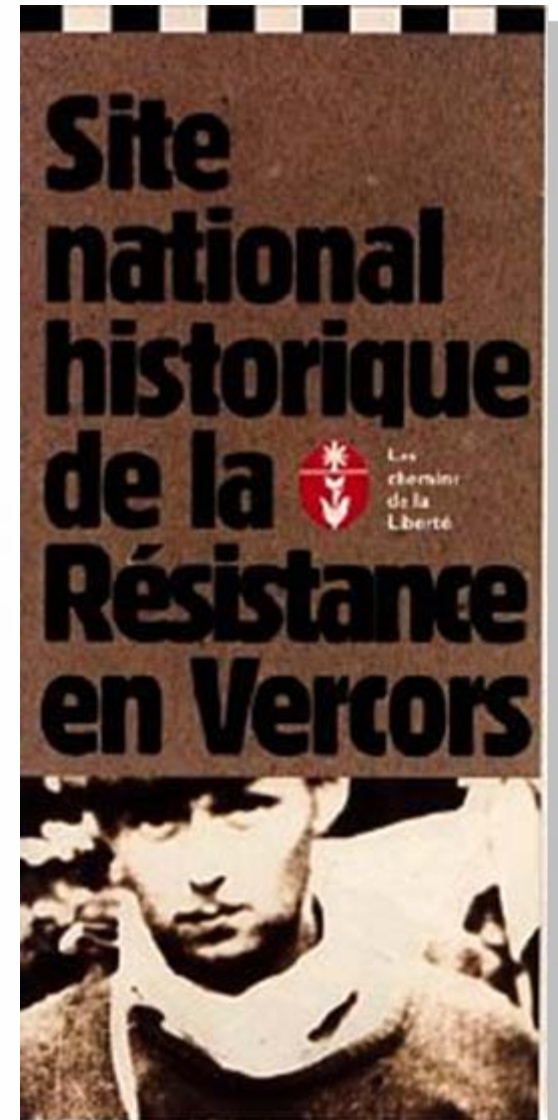
The *Memory Sites Network* of Catalonia have the goal to promote the recovery of the memorial heritage to allow citizenship to know their past.

A Master Plan for memory sites and routes has been developed by the Democratic Memorial, based on a preliminary analysis of **international sites**.



Sites of memory, international examples

FRANCE, Parc du Vercors



FRANCE

Oradur Sur Glane





FRANCE
Camp de Ribesaltes



FRANCE Musée de la Résistance et la deportation, Grenoble

FRANCE



Mémorial de la Maison des Enfants d'Izieu

FRANCE



Mémorial de Caen, musée pour la paix



GREAT BRITAIN



Imperial War Museum, London

Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum, London

ITALY

Monte Sole Park



ITALY Museo Diffuso, Torino



GERMANY

Elde Haus, Köln



GERMANY

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin





GERMANY
Sachsenhausen Camp Memorial

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo library

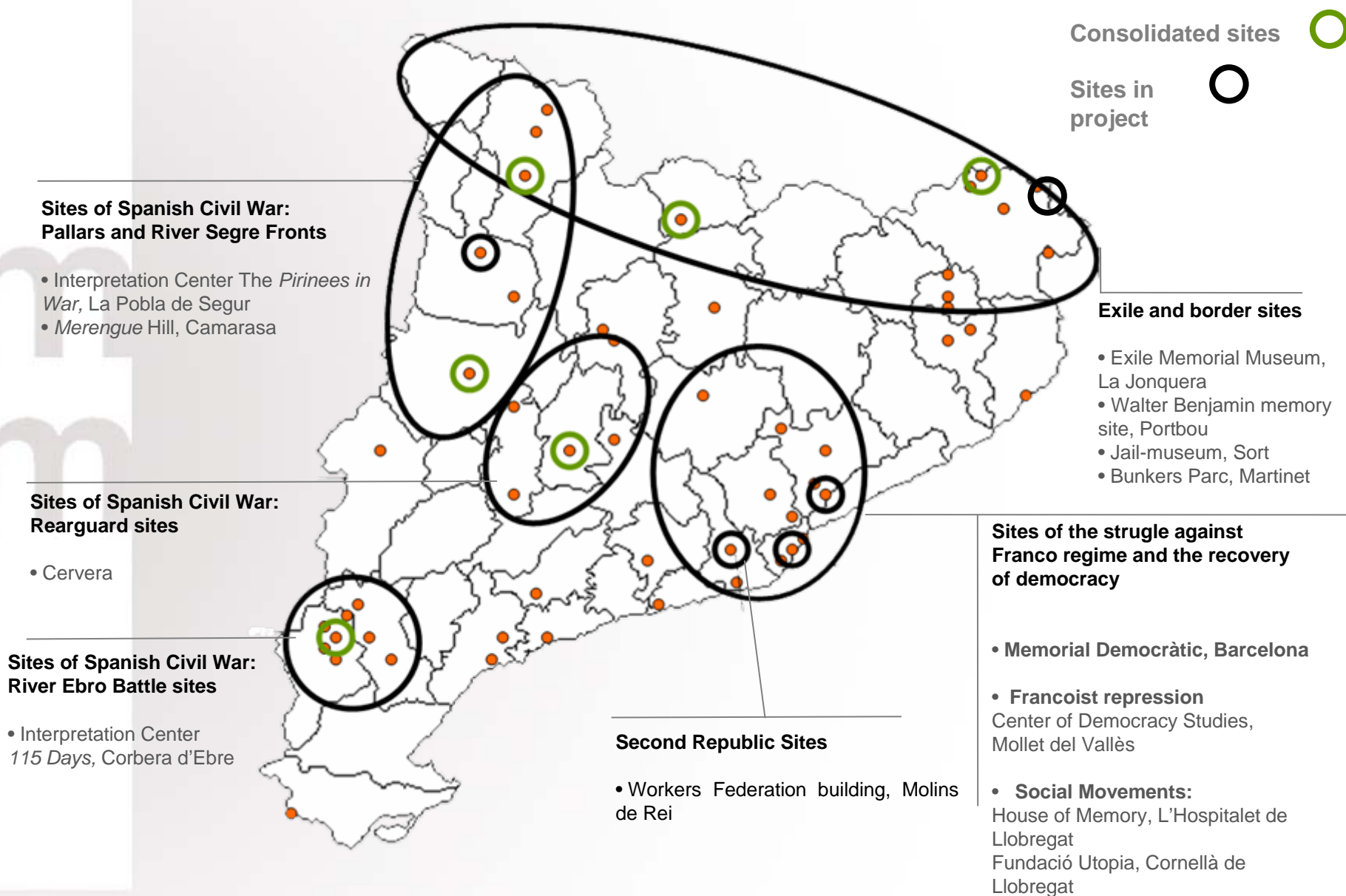




CHILE

Park for the Peace Villa Grimaldi





2nd Republic sites

Two interpretation centers in project:

- Workers Federation building, Molins de Rei
Opening 2011
- Republican primary school, Palamós
Opening 2012



Palamós, Republican primary school



Molins de Rei
Workers Federation building

Spanish Civil War sites: the River Ebro Battle (1938)

- **5 Interpretation Centres:**

"115 days" in Corbera d'Ebre

"Voices in the war fields" in Pinell de Brai

"War Hospitals" in Batea

"Soldiers at the trenches" in Vilalba dels Arcs

"International Brigades" in la Fatarella

- **10 Open air historical sites**



International Brigades Center



Open air historical site in Corbera d'Ebre

Spanish Civil War sites: the Republican airfields

- Airfield of la Sènia
- Airfield of Rosanes
- Airfield of Santa Margarida i els Monjos



Sta. Margarida i els Monjos



Rosanes



La Sènia

Spanish Civil War sites: the rearguard sites

Several historical sites such as:

- Republican army training field, in Pujalt
- Air shelter in St. Adrià del Besòs
- Bombardement sites of 1938 in Granollers
- Air shelter in la Garriga
- Air shelter in Agramunt
- Bunkers in la Foradada
- Itinerary around Spanish Civil War sites in la Segarra
- Anti-air batteries in Esplugues de Llobregat



Anti-air batteries in Esplugues



Air shelter in Agramunt

Exile and border sites

- The Exile Memorial Museum, la Jonquera
- Bunkers Parc, Martinet i Montellà
- Prison-Museum *"The freedom trail"*, Sort
- Open air Exile Memorial, Portbou
- Walter Benjamin's route, Portbou



The Exile Memorial Museum



Exile Memorial, Portbou



Walter Benjamin's Memorial

Mass graves as memory sites

Objectives of the law on disappeared persons and mass graves:

- The location of disappeared persons during the Spanish Civil War and the Francoist dictatorship
- The location and dignity of mass graves
- The fulfilment of the right of society to know the past





Cemetery of Montjuïc Barcelona

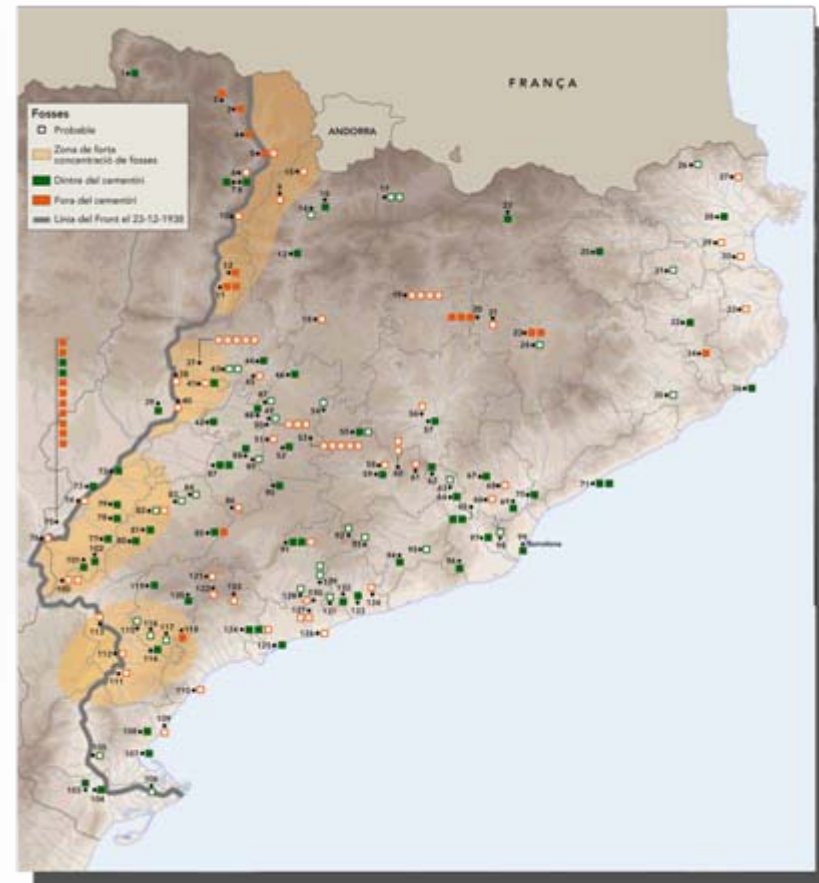
In the cemetery of Montjuïc was buried **Lluís Companys**, former president of the Government of Catalonia, who was killed by Franco dictatorship in 1940. Companys is the only murdered democratic president in Europe.



Law on disappeared persons and mass graves

Tools:

- A census of disappeared persons
- A map of mass graves
- Measures to mark and confer dignity to burial sites



“Espai Memorial Democràtic”

The Democratic Memorial main building in Barcelona city center





Dr. Jordi Guixé

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