

Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory (HISTOLAB)

Call for Projects

for the European Innovation Days in History Education 2024

(3-5 April 2024)

HISTOLAB@coe.int

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 15 December 2023

What is HISTOLAB?

HISTOLAB is a joint project between the European Union and the Council of Europe that focuses on the potential for evolution in history education, and shines a light on innovative initiatives in research, academia, and teaching practices. It embraces the need for transformation and explores how new tools, teaching strategies and/or approaches can improve, rather than impede, progress in this field.

Innovative approaches can include both the use of new technologies, interactive software, video games, and also non-technological innovation. The latter can entail, for instance, inclusive and multiperspective teaching methods or activities outside the classroom that strengthen students' understanding of and appreciation for democratic culture, in line with the values of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe promotes history education based on multiperspectivity and critical thinking with the goal to strengthen democracy, appreciation for diversity within societies, and peace.

Why is innovation in history education needed and important?

The HISTOLAB's motto is "*where history education meets its future.*"

History education has the unique potential to develop students' nuanced understanding of the past. By connecting past and present, it can inspire learners to build a peaceful world. But for history education to fulfil this potential, it needs to be approached using innovative methods, based on multiperspectivity, dialogue and critical reasoning.

Contrary to the widely shared belief that the knowledge presented in the history classrooms, through textbooks, is finite, knowable, and manageable; history is in fact complex and contentious. To reflect this inherent complexity in their teaching, history educators must focus on new tools and innovative teaching practices to keep students active and interested in their learning process. They need to show that history is ever-present in our day-to-day life and is an important key to understanding social, cultural, and political affairs; our legal systems; arts; technological advancement; and also, the causes and consequences of environmental devastation and climate change.

Innovative ways of teaching history rooted in the principle of multiperspectivity can bring together stories and communities and empower us to examine our shared past. It is evident that the need

for innovation in history teaching reaches beyond academia and connects directly with teachers and students.

The future of history teaching depends on the capacity to adapt to the students' reality, made of resources that originate from all across the globe and the fast-spreading information can include fake news. Teachers create and share tools to empower students so they can explore not just what happened in the past, but develop the ability to question different narratives, to study different perspectives and to construct a critical analysis in order to facilitate the process of acquiring skills necessary to be able to effectively participate in democracy.

From research to teacher training initiatives, to advances in technology, the means for creativity and innovation in history teaching are abundant.

The European Innovation Days in History Education brings together teachers and other practitioners such as researchers, and museum professionals, as well as policymakers and students. The goal is to gather this diverse range of participants to engage with one another on innovative ideas and projects, as shared by successful participants of this open call, selected initiatives, or in the context of the side events organised by the HISTOLAB partner organisations.¹ The HISTOLAB project is implemented in all 46 Council of Europe member states but applications from other countries are also welcome.

Who can submit their ideas and projects?

Teachers, students, practitioners, researchers, teachers in training, museum experts, as well as early career researchers and professionals in history education are encouraged to answer to this call.

Your ideas and projects should be in line with the values promoted by the Council of Europe and can, but not only, be inspired by the following questions:

- **How can history education amplify underrepresented or marginalised stories?**
- **How can local history be connected to wider historical events on a European or global level?**
- **How can new technology and digitalisation be used in history education?**
- **How can museums and places of remembrance enrich the learning of history?**

Ideas or projects submitted do not need to be brand new concepts in history education. It could be a variation or further development of a well-established teaching method or tool.

Please indicate in the application the format of your idea or project to be showcased as well as the type of space or resources needed.

¹ European Association of History Educators (EuroClio), Federation for European Education (FEDE), House of European History, International Society for History Didactics, Leibniz Institute for Educational Media / Georg Eckert Institute.

When and where is the event?

Over the course of three days, participants and attendees are invited to attend showcases of ideas and projects on innovation in history education, discuss innovative practices, and network with others from the same field as well as the core partners of HISTOLAB. If your idea or project is chosen for the event, you will be invited to participate in the Innovation Days that are set to take place in the Palais de l'Europe on **3-5 April 2024, in Strasbourg, France**.

How will the event be organised?

The event is intended to be interactive and engaging, in order to highlight innovative ideas and create connections and synergies. Panel discussions will be organised as well as workshops and project presentations. The expected number of attendees and participants for the event is **150 people**. The Innovation Days are also a great opportunity to organise side events, either by an idea submitted through this call, or by the HISTOLAB core partners.

Idea and/or project categories:

1. Academic research project
2. Teaching practice (primary school level)
3. Teaching practice (secondary school level)
4. Reinventing the history curriculum (primary school level)
5. Reinventing the history curriculum (secondary school level)
6. Teacher training initiative (primary school level)
7. Teacher training initiative (secondary school level)
8. Information and communications technology used as teaching and learning tools (primary school level)
9. Information and communications technology used as teaching and learning tools (secondary school level)
10. Innovative use of sites of remembrance, historical places, museums (primary school level)
11. Innovative use of sites of remembrance, historical places, museums (secondary school level)
12. Innovative approaches to sites of remembrances, historical places, museums
13. Intangible historical heritage
14. Other forms of adult and informal education & life-long learning
15. Any other idea or project not covered by the above categories

Please submit your application via the dedicated webpage:

<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/histolabinnovationdays2024>

And address any question you might have to HISTOLAB@coe.int

The deadline for submission of the application form is **15 December 2023**