

# HISTOLAB

Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory

## Award for Innovative School Projects in History Education 2024

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 8 JANUARY 2024

[HISTOLAB@coe.int](mailto:HISTOLAB@coe.int)

#### Introduction

The motto for HISTOLAB 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.

How can teachers and student come together to create lessons that have a lasting impact?

This award is the opportunity to ask students their opinion and give their ideas on how to create an innovative experience to learn about history.

#### The purpose of the award

The aim for HISTOLAB is to gather innovative initiatives and ideas in history education not only from teachers and academics, but also from school students to share them beyond professional boundaries.

The HISTOLAB Award for Innovative School Projects in History Education encourages students to share their interests and ideas, and to express their vision of how they want to learn about history. They are asked to ruminate on their experiences with learning history, and to submit their ideas on how history teaching could be more effective in meeting their interests, while strengthening their understanding of democratic culture and the respect for human rights, as promoted by the Council of Europe. This way the Award also provides an opportunity for teachers and students to get more familiar with Council of Europe recommendations in the field of history education.

### Who can participate?

Schools and students from the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) member and observer states\* are eligible to apply, with two different age-group categories:

- 1<sup>st</sup> group: School students ages 10-13
- 2<sup>nd</sup> group: School students ages 14-18

Please note, all European schools are also eligible to apply regardless of the country.

\*The member and observer states of OHTe are Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, Portugal, Republic of Moldova (Observer), Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, Ukraine (Observer).

### The theme for the 2024 HISTOLAB School Award

For the HISTOLAB School Award 2024, we are looking for the best examples of teaching history in a unique and original way. Share your project with us and show the innovation that you use to answer one, or more of 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?

### The modalities for entering

When answering one or several of the questions posed, students are asked to use their experience with history education (how it's taught, what is the content about, how it is relevant to their lives, etc.) and to place their own interests and imagination at the forefront of their ideas. They can use the format of their choosing to develop their ideas and create their projects.

Please see the selection criteria and application form which further elaborate on the format options for submitting entries. For those formats that are not primarily based on written argumentation (such as theatre pieces, role-plays, films, blogs, paintings, etc.), these should be

accompanied by an appendix providing the reasoning for the project submitted in order to allow for the evaluation of the project in the light of the general criteria laid forth below (max. 500 words).

Students shall submit their entries before **8 January 2024**.

As this Award is directed at schools, teachers are asked to either advise or co-ordinate their students' application as they develop their projects. The award has a student-centred approach and therefore, teachers are asked to allow the students the creative freedom to take the lead in developing their projects.

Language requirements: the submissions must be accompanied by a short summary written in English (max 500 words) but the project itself can be in another language.

If the project is selected for the HISTOLAB Award and was created in a language other than English, interpretation will be provided during the European Innovation Days in History Education to allow for the recipients to present the project in their preferred language choice.

Please submit your application via the dedicated webpage:

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

Address any questions you might have to: [HISTOLAB@coe.int](mailto:HISTOLAB@coe.int)

### The prize

There will be up to five recipients of the Award in each age group. They will receive their Award during the European Innovation Days in History Education, the annual event organised by HISTOLAB. The Innovation Days that are set to take place in the Palais de l'Europe on **3-5 April 2024, in Strasbourg, France**.

The prize will consist of:

- A prize-giving ceremony during the European Innovation Days in History Education
- A trophy and certificate for each of the recipients

The cost of participating in the Innovation Days will be covered by HISTOLAB for each of the school representatives.

### The selection criteria

In accordance with the overall aims and theme of the first HISTOLAB School Award, the submissions will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the HISTOLAB Team and members of the Advisory Board, in light of general criteria, as well as format-specific criteria that apply for the evaluation of the applications regardless of the format chosen by the applicant. The format-specific criteria vary between the age groups. Please see the selection criteria in Appendix 1 below.

# HIST LAB

Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory

## Award for Innovative School Projects in History Education 2024

### APPENDIX 1 - SELECTION CRITERIA

#### I. General Criteria

1. Adequateness of addressing the theme for 2024
  - How well are the thoughts and ideas regarding the theme connected with each other? Is the product coherent?
2. Reflecting on the present, envisioning the future
  - Does the proposal include a reflection on the current state of history teaching, as experienced by the applicant(s)? Are outlooks on the future of history teaching grounded in such experiences?
  - Can such a reflection identify a need that future history teaching should react to? Does such a need for improvement, as well as ideas on how to overcome it, correspond with the principles, values and priorities of the Council of Europe?
3. Innovative approaches and perspectives to history education
  - Are the thoughts and ideas presented in the proposal based on the principles of multiperspectivity and inclusiveness, which are promoted by the Council of Europe in the field of history education?
  - Do the thoughts and ideas presented by the applicant contain a European or global dimension? How well are such perspectives developed?

#### II. Format-specific criteria Age Group 1 (10-13 years)

##### A. Argument-based submissions (e.g. essays or articles) (max. 1,500 words)

1. Language, structure and length
  - Is the product structured in a convincing way?
  - Is the writing style appropriate? How well does the submission read?
  - Does the length of the submission match the chosen format?
  - Who is the target audience and does the product address the chosen target audience appropriately?
2. Argument

- Is the argument coherently developed?

*N.B.: The length of an essay or article may vary depending on its concept. An essay, or an article that features an interview may, for instance, be longer than an article without an interview. Thus, length per se is not an evaluation criterium and the appropriateness of the length of a submission is evaluated in the light of the format chosen. The submissions will be made available on the section of the HISTOLAB website dedicated to the school award.*

## B. Blogs / Websites / Social Media Profiles

### 1. Quality of content

- Is the content well-curated and does it support the project as defined in the “about section” and in its concept note (as specified in the application appendix)

### 2. Quantity of content

- How much content is provided?

### 3. User-friendliness and content presentation

- Is the product designed in an inclusive and user-friendly way?
- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the user and does the design correspond to the latest trends and developments in web-design?

*N.B.: The profiles and websites may remain in private mode and may be only shared with the HISTOLAB project team, if the applicant wishes so to reduce risks related to internet exposure. The HISTOLAB project team will in any case publish anonymous screenshots of the product submitted on the website dedicated to the school award in order to allow the public to grasp the character of the award and the submissions to it.*

## C. Podcasts

### 1. Quality of content

- Is the content well-curated and does it support the overall project as presented in the podcast and in its concept note (as specified in the application appendix)?
- Is the chosen format (e.g. roundtable discussion, interview, mix) suitable to support the overall concept of the podcast?

### 2. Production Quality and Content Presentation

- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the listener?
- How good is the overall audio quality of the podcast?
- Is the podcast accessible to a diverse audience, including persons with disabilities?

*N.B.: The HISTOLAB project team will publish the podcasts on the website dedicated to the school award in order to allow the public to grasp the character of the award and its submissions.*

## D. Films

### 1. Quality of content

- Is the concept, content and, if applicable, plot, well-developed?
- Is the format chosen (e.g. documentary or plot-based) suitable to support the overall concept of the film?

### 2. Length

- Does the film submitted have a minimum duration of 5 minutes?

### 3. Production Quality and Content Presentation

- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the viewer?
- How good is the overall video quality of the film?
- Is the film accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. through the use of subtitles)?

*N.B.: For child protection purposes, movies submitted by age group 1 will be only shown on the venue of the European Innovation Days and not made available online, if the film is selected for an award. If the applicants choose themselves to publish their product, HISTOLAB may advertise it, in case it is awarded, upon request (signed also by the applicants' legal representative).*

## E. Plays

### 1. Quality of the manuscript, plot and character conceptualisation

- Is the plot well-developed?
- Are the characters well-developed?
- Is the manuscript suitable for adaption by other acting groups?
- How good is the overall language quality of the manuscript?

### 2. Quality of the performance

- How developed is the scenery?

### 3. Length

- Does the play have a minimum length of 10 minutes?

*N.B. Please submit the manuscript and a video recording of the play. The manuscript will be published on the HISTOLAB website in an anonymised way only showing the applicant's pseudonym. In case the play is awarded, the winners are invited to perform their play live at the*

*European Innovation Days in History Education 2024. For child protection purposes, a video recording will not be made available online.*

#### F. Fictional stories (novels, short stories, graphic novels, comic books, etc.)

##### 1. Quality of the manuscript, plot and character conceptualisation

- Is the plot well-developed?
- Are the characters well-developed?
- How good is the overall language quality of the manuscript?

##### 2. Format of the story

- Does the format (including the length) suit the overall concept of the story?

##### 3. Design & Illustrations

- Is the story accompanied by illustrations?
- How good is the overall quality of the illustrations?

*N.B. The manuscripts will be published on the HISTOLAB website.*

#### G. Paintings and other forms of artworks (sculptures, etc...)

- How refined is the technique applied?
- How does the product match the conceptual description as defined in the appendix to the submission?

*N.B. Photos of the paintings and artworks will be published on the dedicated website for the HISTOLAB School Award. The awarded ones may be exhibited in the context of the European Innovation Days.*

#### H. Presentations

##### 1. Argument

- Is the argument coherently developed?
- Does the argument take into account also the thoughts and ideas of others and if so, how are these referred to?

##### 2. Quality of the Presentation Performance

- How was the overall quality of the performance of the presenter? Did the presenter speak freely. How did they engage with the audience or provide moments for interaction with the audience?
- Was the performance accompanied by additional media, such as a PowerPoint presentation, video media, or similar features and did this support the effectiveness of the presentation?

### 3. Length of the presentation

- Did the presentation have a length between 5 and 15 minutes?

*N.B.: Both a video recording of the presentation, as well as supporting media such as a PowerPoint presentation or images should be submitted. The video recording will not be made available online. In case the presentation is awarded, the winner will be invited to perform her or his presentation live at the European Innovation Days in History Education 2024.*

### I. Other

If a group wishes to participate by submitting in a different format than those listed above, applicants are welcome to do so. Here, the general criteria provide the main basis of evaluation. As it regards the format, applicants may also benefit from an innovative way of presenting their project.

## III. Format-specific criteria Age Group 2 (14-18 years)

### A. Argument-based submissions (e.g. essays or articles) (max. 2,000 words)

#### 1. Language, Structure and Length

- Is the product structured in a convincing way?
- Is the writing style appropriate? How well does the submission read?
- Does the length of the submission match the chosen format? (A fictional newspaper article may be for instance significantly shorter than an essay)
- Who is the target audience and does the product address the chosen target audience appropriately?

#### 2. Argument

- Is the argument coherently developed?
- Does the argument take into account also the thoughts and ideas of others and if so, are these properly cited?

*N.B.: The length of an essay or article may vary depending on its concept. An essay, or an article that features an interview may be for instance longer than an article without an interview. Thus, length per se is not an evaluation criterium and the appropriateness of the length of a submission is evaluated in the light of the format chosen. All submissions will be made available on the HISTOLAB website dedicated to the school award.*

### B. Blogs / Websites / Social Media Profiles

#### 1. Quality of content



- Is the content well-curated and does it support the project as defined in the “about section” and in its concept note (as specified in the application appendix)

## 2. Quantity of content

- How much content is provided?

## 3. User-friendliness and content presentation

- Is the product designed in an inclusive and user-friendly way?
- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the user and does the design correspond to the latest trends and developments in web-design?

## 4. Outreach and Strategy

- Number of visitors or followers and/or, especially for new projects, strategy to increase the audience (to be defined in the appendix)

*N.B: The product (at least the website per se, the content may follow in intervals) shall be publicly available (“published”), ideally eight weeks before the submission deadline.*

## C. Podcasts

### 1. Quality of content

- Is the content well-curated and does it support the overall project as presented in the podcast and in its concept note (as specified in the application appendix)?
- Is the chosen format (e.g. roundtable discussion, interview, mix) suitable to support the overall concept of the podcast?

### 2. Production Quality and Content Presentation

- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the listener?
- How good is the overall audio quality of the podcast?

### 3. Outreach and Strategy

- Number of listeners and/or, especially for new projects, strategy to increase the audience (to be defined in the appendix)
- Availability on different platforms

## D. Films

### 1. Quality of content

- Is the concept, content and, if applicable, plot, well-developed?
- Is the chosen format (e.g. documentary or plot-based) suitable to support the overall concept of the film?

## 2. Length

- Does the film submitted have a minimum duration of 10 minutes? N.B.: This also applies, if the film consists of several episodes, as the total minimum duration of all episodes together

## 3. Production Quality and Content Presentation

- Is the content presented in a way that is attractive to the listener?
- Is the film accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. through the use of subtitles)?

*N.B. The movie will be after submission published on the dedicated HISTOLAB website only if the applicant group decides to publish it elsewhere before (e.g. on a streaming platform), with the consent of their legal representative. The film will be, if awarded, shown in the context of the European Innovation Days in History Education.*

## E. Plays

### 1. Quality of the manuscript, plot and character conceptualisation

- Is the plot well-developed?
- Are the characters well-developed?
- Is the manuscript suitable for adaption by other acting groups?
- How good is the overall language quality of the manuscript?

### 2. Quality of the performance

- How developed is the scenery?

### 3. Length

- Does the play have a minimum length of 15 minutes?

*N.B. Please submit the manuscript and a video recording of the play. The manuscript will be published on the HISTOLAB website. In case the play is awarded, the winners are invited to perform their play live at the European Innovation Days in History Education 2024 and may be referred to by name, if they wish so and their legal representative agree. For child protection reasons, a video recording of the performance only be made available, if the winners wish so and the legal representatives agree.*

## F. Fictional stories (novels, short stories, graphic novels, comic books, etc...)

### 1. Quality of the manuscript, plot and character conceptualisation

- Is the plot well-developed?
- Are the characters well-developed?
- How good is the overall language quality of the manuscript?

## 2. Format of the story

- Does the format (including the length) suit the overall concept of the story?

## 3. Design & Illustrations

- Is the story accompanied by illustrations?
- How good is the overall quality of the illustrations?

*N.B. The manuscripts will be published on the HISTOLAB website.*

## G. Paintings and other forms of artworks (sculptures, etc...)

- What materials are used?
- How does the product match the conceptual description as defined in the appendix to the submission?

*N.B. Photos of the paintings and artworks will be published on the dedicated website for the HISTOLAB school. The awarded ones may be exhibited in the context of the European Innovation Days.*

## H. Presentations

### 1. Argument

- Is the argument coherently developed?
- Does the argument take into account also the thoughts and ideas of others and if so, are these properly referred to?

### 2. Quality of the Presentation Performance

- How was the quality of the performance of the presenter? Did the presenter speak freely, did they engage with the audience, or even provide points for interaction with the audience?
- Was the performance accompanied by additional media, such as a PowerPoint presentation, media, or similar features and did they support or effectiveness of the presentation?

### 3. Length of the presentation

- Did the presentation have a length between 15 and 20 minutes?

*N.B.: Both a video recording of the presentation, as well as supporting media like a PowerPoint presentation or images should be submitted. The video recording will not be made available online. In case the presentation is awarded, the winner will be invited to perform her, or his presentation live at the 2023 European Innovation Days in History Education.*

#### IV. Others

If a group wishes to participate by submitting a different format than those listed, applicants are welcome to do so. Here, the general criteria provide the main basis of evaluation. As it regards the format, applicants may also benefit from an innovative way of presenting their project.