

WHY IT MATTERS

- History education is not just about understanding the past; it's about equipping learners to engage critically with information, resist manipulation and distortion of history, and uphold democratic values.
- Our programmes promote *multiperspectivity*, allowing students to explore diverse accounts and develop a nuanced understanding of history, strengthening their critical thinking skills.
- By supporting quality history education, we work to preserve peace, prevent division, and foster mutual understanding.



Join us in shaping a democratic society with

#HistoryAtHeart



Website



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www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

TEACHING HISTORY, GROUNDING DEMOCRACY

Council of Europe's work on history education



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

THE HISTORY EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

aims to ensure that **history is taught in a way that supports democratic values**, prevents manipulation, and fosters critical thinking.

In a time when divisive ideologies seek to distort historical narratives, the Council of Europe works to counteract these efforts through innovative programmes that **promote truth, respect, and understanding**.



OUR MISSION



To set standards and shape policies for history education and transmission of memory and remembrance.



To collect and present factual data on history teaching across Europe.



To build capacity of history educators and facilitate the exchange of innovative practices in history education.

OUR PROGRAMMES

1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMME ON HISTORY EDUCATION



With a long-standing tradition, this programme facilitates dialogue among member states on how to teach history in a way that upholds democratic values.

It has led to the development of key recommendations on history education, including on Holocaust remembrance and prevention of crimes against humanity.



2 OBSERVATORY ON HISTORY TEACHING IN EUROPE (OHTE)

Established in 2020, OHTE provides a clear, factual picture of how history is taught in its member states.

By producing thematic and general reports based on factual data and evidence, the Observatory supports the improvement of policies and practices related to history.



3 TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY EDUCATION AND CO-OPERATION LABORATORY (HISTOLAB)



Based on the results of a joint project with the EU, the HISTOLAB hub and related activities promote innovative history teaching methods that support democratic citizenship education and trigger critical thinking.

The HISTOLAB hub connects academic history with classroom practice emphasising inspiring and innovative projects and ideas.



4 REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST AND PREVENTION OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Closely tied to the Council of Europe's creation, the programme focuses on Holocaust education to prevent future genocides and crimes against humanity. It offers training material, pedagogical resources and guidelines for policymakers and educators, ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust remain central to European history education.

