



OBSERVATORY
ON HISTORY TEACHING
IN EUROPE



History Symposium

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN NATIONAL SYSTEMS

19 June 2026

General State Archives, Athens, Greece



Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs & Sports



General State Archives



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History Education
at the Council of Europe

BACKGROUND

The [OHTE General Report](#) shows that only a few [member states](#) make explicit reference to the European dimension in their history curriculum, even though this approach is considered to be one of the most important among teachers surveyed across OHTE member states.

A series of **history symposia** were organised in many OHTE member states, which were aimed at reviewing and sharing experiences and best practices at national level on how the European dimension is evoked and treated in national curricula. The [data provided by the OHTE](#) formed the basis of these symposia.

These events - called "**History Symposia - National Reflections, European Dimension**" - consisted of roundtables, debates and workshops, and were organised by teacher associations, universities, and/or educational authorities throughout 2025 and the first semester of 2026. Conclusions of the history symposia organised across the participating OHTE member states will be presented in Athens on 19 June 2026.

Building on these national exchanges, the Athens Symposium will provide a unique opportunity to take a step back and reflect collectively on the place of Europe in history education. It will explore how Europe is understood both as a historical subject and as a pedagogical framework, questioning the ways in which it is defined, taught and experienced across different contexts.

Beyond curricular considerations, the question of a European dimension in history teaching raises fundamental historiographical and philosophical issues. It touches upon the longstanding tension between history and memory, between national narratives and attempts to construct broader, shared frameworks of interpretation. It also invites reflection on the very possibility of writing and teaching a "European history" without reducing the plurality of experiences, perspectives and temporalities that characterise the continent.

These questions take on particular significance in the current context, marked by renewed geopolitical tensions, the resurgence of identity-based narratives and the increasing instrumentalisation of the past in public discourse. In such a landscape, the way Europe is taught, and the narratives that are privileged or marginalized, can directly shape how individuals understand belonging, difference and democratic coexistence.

Against this backdrop, the Symposium will also consider the role of history teaching in fostering critical engagement with the past, encouraging multiperspectivity and strengthening democratic resilience. By bringing together policymakers, researchers and practitioners, it will aim to identify pathways for articulating national and European dimensions in a way that is both intellectually rigorous and pedagogically meaningful, contributing to a more connected and nuanced understanding of Europe's past and present.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2026

09:00

Welcoming words

09:30

Dimitris P. SOTIROPOULOS

Chair of the OHTE Governing Board,
Professor of Contemporary History,
University of Peloponnese, President of the
National State Archives of Greece

Villano QIRIAZI

Head of the Education Department of the Council of
Europe

Konstantinos LOLITSAS

Vice President of the Institute of Educational
Policy (IEP)

Yiannis PAPADOMARKAKIS

Secretary General of Primary, Secondary and Special
Education of the Greek Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs and Sports

09:30

Keynote: “What history for Europe?”

10:30

This keynote explores how Europe can be understood as a historical subject, at the crossroads of shared experiences and diverse national trajectories. It will reflect on the history of European integration alongside broader developments across the continent, and how these narratives interact. It will also consider how history teaching can approach Europe not as a fixed story, but as a complex and evolving construction, inviting reflection on its meaning and relevance today.

Moderation

Villano QIRIAZI

Head of the Education Department of the Council of Europe

Speaker

Birte WASSENBERG

Professor of Modern History, Sciences Po Strasbourg

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00

First Roundtable:

12.30

“What is Europe in the national history curricula?”

This roundtable examines how Europe is integrated into national history curricula across different education systems. It will highlight the diversity of approaches, from the place given to European themes to the balance between national and broader perspectives. Drawing on national events’ outcomes, the discussion will offer a comparative view of how Europe is taught and framed.

Moderation

Olena PALKO

Chair of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council, Assistant Professor at the Chair for East-European History at the University of Basel

Panel

Jérôme GRONDEUX

Historian, Inspector General for National
Education, OHTE Governing Board
member, France

Angelos PALIKIDIS

Professor of History Didactics, Democritus University
of Thrace

Mária HARMAŇOŠOVÁ

National Institute of Education and Youth,
OHTE Governing Board member, Slovakia

Jelena VLAOVIĆ

History teacher, Montenegro

12.30 – 13.00

Project presentation:
“Youth, Europe and History”

How do today's youth connect with Europe's past, and what does history mean to them in shaping Europe's future? Drawing on data from the “Youth and History 2025” project, this presentation will offer insights into how young people from several European countries engage with European history, respond to its controversial chapters, and interpret the challenges facing Europe today.

Luigi CAJANI

Member of the Scientific Committee of “Youth and History 2025”, Università La Sapienza, Rome, member of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.30

Second Roundtable:
“What is Europe for history teachers?”

This roundtable explores how history teachers understand and approach Europe in their classroom practice. It will focus on how educators interpret the European dimension of history, and how this shapes the way they present topics, select content and engage students. The discussion will highlight how teachers navigate between national frameworks and broader perspectives, and how their own understanding of Europe influences teaching choices.

Moderation

Arthur CHAPMAN

Vice-Chair of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council, Professor of History Education and Head of Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment at IOE, University College London

Panel

Evangelia CHOLEVA

History teacher, Doctor of Philosophy, of History and Archeology, University of Athens

Andreas HOLTBERGET

Project Manager, EuroClio

Zohrab GEVORGYAN

Historian, education specialist and history teaching expert, Armenia

Marie-Claire TUIITE

Member of the History Teacher Association of Ireland (HTAI)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30

Third Roundtable:
“National narratives and European dimension, how can the two approaches be reconciled?”

This roundtable addresses how national narratives and the European dimension are articulated in history teaching. It will explore how these approaches can complement each other, while also acknowledging potential tensions. The session will reflect on ways to promote more connected, multiperspective understandings of the past across Europe.

Moderation

Maria GEORGIOU

Member of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council, history education researcher, educator, and practitioner

Panel

Martí GRAU SEGÚ

Director of Jean Monnet House, European Union

Vojko KUNAVER

Senior Adviser for History Teaching, National Education Institute, OHTE Governing Board member, Slovenia

Manolis KOUMAS

Assistant Professor in the History of International Relations (19th-20th century)

Serhii SHKABKO

Head of Expert Group for European Integration,

at the Department of History and
Archaeology, University of Athens

Directorate for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration,
Ministry of Education, Governing Board substitute
member, Ukraine

17.30 **Conclusions**

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18.00

Symposium report

Birte WASSENBERG

Professor of Modern History, Sciences Po Strasbourg

Concluding remarks

Dimitris P. SOTIROPOULOS

Chair of the OHTE Governing Board,
Professor of Contemporary History,
University of Peloponnese, President of the
National State Archives of Greece

18:00 - 18:30 Visit of the General State Archives