**Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory**

**(HIST LAB)**

**Call for ideas and projects for the**

**European Innovation Days in History Education**

**HISTOLAB@coe.int**

**Deadline 10 January 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 in education practices and will explore how new tools, teaching strategies and/or approaches can improve, rather than impede, progress in this field.

Innovative approaches can include the use of new technologies, interactive software, video games, visiting museums, local historical visits and beyond.

**Why is innovation in history education needed/important?**

The motto for HISTOLAB is “*where history education meets its future*.” When history is referred to as boring or inaccessible, this stereotype could be due to a disconnect between the topic information and how history relates to the lives of students. We are beyond a time when students should be expected to only memorise names and dates of famous battles or to recite the speeches of “great men” whose achievements often appear alien to the lived experiences of today.

From research to teacher training initiatives, to advances in technology, the means for creativity and creation are abundant. The potential for history education to evolve is as limitless as for other school subjects such as science or mathematics.

History teaching constitutes an integral part of education for [democratic citizenship](https://www.coe.int/en/web/edc), by encouraging critical analysis of history. Through history teaching, future generations can learn how to think independently by examining events using critical thinking to understand how these events have impacted upon the world and contributed to the formation of our societies.

**The European Innovation Days in History Education** will bring together teachers and other practitioners such as, academics, researchers, junior professionals, as well as students all in the field of history education to engage with one another on ideas previously submitted through this open call, or by attending the side events organised by the HISTOLAB partner organisations[[1]](#footnote-1). The HISTOLAB project is implemented in all 46 Council of Europe member states but applications from other countries are also welcome. **What, and when 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 and to 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 over the course of three days during 8, 9, 10 March 2022 in Brussels, Belgium.

You will be invited to attend all three days but also have the option of attending only one or two days. The programme for the event will be published in January.

Participants are free to decide how to showcase their ideas and projects, for example through a presentation, a focus group, an interactive history lesson, a pre-recorded film etc. The time slots for each showcase will be limited to 45 minutes.

**Please indicate in the application form the style of your idea or project to be showcased as well as the type of space or resources needed**

**Where is the event?**

The event will be hosted by the European Commission and the Council of Europe on 8&9 and the House of European History on 10 March at the following venues:

* 8 March 2022 – TBC
* 9 March 2022 – TBC
* 10 March 2022 – House of European History

# **How will the event be organised?**

The Innovation Days will be organised to accommodate the ideas that have been submitted. The target number of attendees and participants stands at **150 people**. As mentioned above, participants who wish to have their idea included in the event can make a request for space, resources, equipment etc.

An area will be dedicated to hosting side events which can either be organised by an idea submitted through this call, or by the HISTOLAB core partners. The event is intended to be interactive and engaging, with a format that is equally as innovative as the ideas submitted. The following designated spaces have already been suggested:

* the HISTOverse
* the HISTOLAB classroom
* the HISTOLAB marketplace
* a world café

**Any more ideas for designated spaces or activities are welcome**

# **Who can submit their ideas and projects?**

HISTOLAB is looking for the next big thing in history education, spotlighting and supporting original and innovative ideas on how to develop this field of education from teachers, students, practitioners, academics, researchers, junior researchers, teachers in training, museologist etc. The following are suggested areas to which the ideas could pertain.

* Innovation in teaching practices
* Increased and creative use of technology in history teaching
* New thematic focuses in the history curriculum (such as environmental history to better understand phenomena that are associated with climate change, for instance)
* Bridging the gap between the state of play in academic research on history education and how history is taught in classrooms
* Innovation in teacher training courses, how could teachers be encouraged to continuously develop their skills throughout their careers?

**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 in sites of remembrances, historical places, museums (practitioners)
13. Intangible historical heritage
14. Any other idea or project not covered by the above categories

**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 submit your idea or project to the following email address:** **HISTOLAB@coe.int**

**All questions shall be exclusively addressed to the above email address**

**The deadline for submission of the application form is 10 January 2023.**

1. EUROCLIO, Fédération Européenne des Ecoles, Georg Eckert Institute, House of European History, International Society for History Didactics [↑](#footnote-ref-1)