

# First annual Forum for History Education “Sites of Memories: Learning spaces for democracy”

Belgrade

3 November 2022, 09.30 – 18.30 (CET)

4 November 2022, 09.30 – 18.30 (CET)

## Concept note and draft programme

# CONCEPT NOTE

History and history teaching have been a focus for the Council of Europe's work on education since its inception.

In times when History faces distortion, denial of some historical facts, political misuse of the past; it is crucial to offer spaces for open discussion on the role of History in the XXI century and to develop guidelines to support the peaceful development of memories based on multi-perspectivity in history.

The annual Forum for History Education offers one such space in which public authorities (from different ministries: Education, Higher Education, Culture), teachers, curriculum developers, academics, etc.... can share their views and their practices in terms of history education with the aim of developing recommendations for improvement of History Education.

Seventy participants from all over Europe will take part in the 2022 Forum which will focus on "sites of memories: learning spaces for Democracy", exploring the role of historical sites (assuming that they are respected, protected, memorialised) as education tools that foster the development of competences for democratic culture.

## **Purpose:**

The aims of the conference are to:

- Contribute to the relaunch of the historical intergovernmental programme, based on the incredibly rich acquis.
- Reflect on the role of sites of memories, not only in terms of history education but also of citizenship and human rights.
- Share good practices from examples of different aspects of European history, including on the conditions necessary for optimal educational use of the sites.
- Promote dialogue and cooperation between different stakeholders — public authorities, academics, teachers, curriculum developers — on sites of memories for optimal education use of the sites.

## **Expected outcomes:**

Based on the different Working Groups' reports, learning visits and plenary sessions, as well as the general rapporteur's contribution and the evaluation by both the participants and the team, the expected outcomes are:

- Commitment of the different stakeholders to advancing good practices, based on a set of quality examples serving as a road map for developing optimal education use of the sites in their city, region and country.
- Promoting active dialogue between sites of memories and public authorities on the promotion and protection of such sites and on their use as a learning space for the development of a culture of democracy.
- Contributing to the overall intergovernmental programme on "History for democracy: the role of public authorities in history education".
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A report of the Forum will be published in 2023.

## **Draft Programme**

(Timing tbc)

### **2 November:**

Arrival of the participants

18.30: Welcome reception hosted by the Irish representation in Serbia

### **3 November**

9.30-10.00 Official opening

Matjaz Gruden, Director of Democratic participation

A representative for the Serbian Ministry

A representative for the Observatory of History Teaching in Europe

10-10.15 Presentation of the Programme

10.15-10.45 Coffee break

10.45-12.45 Sites of memories: learning spaces for democracy:

4 memories/4 examples:

Ms Anna Miskova, Leti u Pisku

Ms Myriam Cottias, CNRS, Nantes, memorial to the Abolition of Slavery

Ms Virginia Ion and Ms Andrea Dobes, The Memorial to the Victims of Communism and to the Anticommunist Resistance

Ms Idora Orbe NArbaiza, Head of the Educational Department, Gernika Peace Museum

12.45-14.15 Lunch break

14.15-14.30 Presentation of the afternoon:

Sites of memories in Belgrade: 4 routes

- The Belgrade Fortress
- The Old Fair Ground
- The Ottoman and Jews in heritages
- Controversial history and monuments

14.30-17.30 Parallel visits

18.30 Dinner hosted by the Czech Embassy

#### 4 November

9.30-10.45 “Are sites of memories in Serbia learning spaces for democracy?”

Dr Dubravka Stojanovic, Head of the History Department, Belgrade University

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 Parallel mixed working groups to

- Exchange thoughts, impressions, and reactions towards the visits.
- Brainstorm on ideas, proposals, and recommendations for optimal education use of the sites of memories as learning spaces of democracy.

12.45- 14.15 Lunch break

14.15-15.30 Forum on projects

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17h30 Lessons learnt from the First Forum on History education on “Sites of memories: learning spaces for democracy”

Report of the General Rapporteur: Ms Luisa Black

17.30 Closing of the Forum

18.30 Final reception hosted by the French Embassy