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HISTOLAB

EUROPEAN INNOVATION DAYS IN HISTORY EDUCATION

3-5 APRIL 2024

STRASBOURG & ONLINE

#HistoryAtHeart

IN COOPERATION
WITH



European Network
Remembrance
and Solidarity

PROGRAMME

3-5 APRIL 2024

Council of Europe, Strasbourg



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<https://histolab.coe.int>

HISTOLAB

WHERE
HISTORY EDUCATION
MEETS ITS
FUTURE

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HISTOLAB: 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 classrooms through textbooks is finite, knowable, and manageable, history is in fact complex and can be 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; the arts; technological advancement; and the causes and consequences of environmental devastation and climate change. From research to teacher training initiatives to advances in technology, the means for creativity and innovation in history teaching are abundant.

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.

The future of history teaching depends on our capacity to adapt to students' realities, which often include resources originating from across the globe or disinformation and "fake news" in online spaces. Teachers create and share tools to empower students so they can explore what happened in the past. Beyond this, students should develop the capacity to question different narratives, to study different perspectives, and to construct critical analyses, facilitating their ability to effectively participate in democracy.

The European Innovation Days in History Education are organised within the framework of HISTOLAB as a joint project between the European Union and the Council of Europe,¹ focusing on the potential for evolution in history education, and shining a light on innovative initiatives in research, academia, and teaching practices. In the 2024 edition, the Innovation Days conference is organised in partnership with European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), in recognition of its work in fostering dialogue on European history and supporting the development of a European culture of remembrance.

¹ HISTOLAB Digital Hub: www.histolab.coe.int

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL

VENUE

Room 9

Palais de l'Europe,
Strasbourg

9:00 – 10:30

WELCOME SESSION

Moderator: Villano QIRIAZI, Head of the Education Department, Council of Europe



HISTOLAB Introductory Video

Opening Remarks

Marja RUOTANEN, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

Vesna BATISTIĆ KOS, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

HISTOLAB: Innovation in History Education

Contributors:

Chara MAKRIYIANNI, Chair of the OHTe Scientific Advisory Council, Council of Europe and Deputy Head Teacher, Cyprus (*online*)

Susanne POPP, Honorary President, International Society of History Didactics (ISHD)

Rafał ROGULSKI, Director, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), Warsaw, Poland

Steffen SAMMLER, Historian, Georg Eckert Institute (Leibniz Institute for Educational Media) and Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany

Steven STEGERS, Executive Director, EuroClio – European Association of History Educators, The Hague, Netherlands



10:30 – 11:00
COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30

DISCUSSION PANEL

Amplifying marginalised voices in history education

History curricula and resources often exclude or only indirectly address the stories of different marginalised communities. This discussion panel asks us to consider who is placed at the centre and who is left at the margins in how we learn about the past. What are the most effective ways of examining limitations and biases in how history is taught and learnt? How can innovative approaches to history education inform new ways of knowing and understanding?

Moderator: Judith PERERA, Head of History, The British School in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Panel:

Raul CĂRSTOCEA, Vice-Chair of the OHTe Scientific Advisory Council, Council of Europe and member of the Barvalipe Academy, ERIAC European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, Germany

Claire HOLLISS, Researcher in History Education, University College London and Head of History, Reigate College, London, UK

Clarence LUSANE, Professor of Political Science, Howard University, Washington D.C. and USA Representative, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe

Jolan REMCSAK, History Teacher, Lycée Gustave Eiffel, French Overseas Department of Mayotte



12:30 – 14:00
LUNCH BUFFET

Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe

Afternoon sessions chaired by Aurora Ailincăi, Executive Director, Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

14:00 – 14:30

PROJECT PRESENTATION

The Backpack of Memory

Miško STANIŠIĆ, Terraforming

“The Backpack of Memory” project consists of educational materials based on multilayered storytelling, combining illustrations and a dramatised narrative with testimonies, historical and contemporary records, and multimedia resources. The presentation discusses teaching methods supported by teaching materials adjusted for a young audience, addressing the need to teach difficult histories from the often underrepresented perspectives of children.

14:30 – 15:30

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Rooms 8, 9, 10 – Palais de l’Europe

In this first block of workshops, participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the inclusion of marginalised and underrepresented voices in history and history education.

Race today

Judith PERERA

This workshop explores “race” as a social construct in past and present contexts through the history of New Imperialism and specific text-based examples. What is race, and where can discussions about it begin in the history classroom? Participants will discuss, develop and apply practical strategies to help students widen their vocabulary with contextual knowledge, as well as understand how racialised ideas impact communities in the world today.

Women in Soviet Armenia: A microhistory of gendered social engineering

Paradigma Educational Foundation

Participants will engage with a graphic novel merging various perspectives on women’s lives in the Soviet Union/Soviet Armenia, including different historical sources such as newspaper articles and propaganda pieces. The project aims to highlight the still underrepresented economic history of women by encouraging students to reflect on contradictions between ideology and daily life during the Cold War.

Invisible History of Europe: (e)Learning through material culture

Transnational project team

Through the study of objects and stories in a virtual learning environment, participants will learn about silenced and excluded histories such as those of women, children, disabled people, migrants, indigenous peoples and minority groups. Educators will be equipped with active history teaching methods to foster critical thinking and literacy skills among students, contributing to the development of informed young citizens in their classrooms.



15:30 – 16:00
COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:30

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Toolkit for History Classes: Debunking Fake News and Fostering Critical Thinking

HISTOLAB in cooperation with the University of Murcia

In this first presentation of the HISTOLAB toolkit, members of the development team discuss learning activities that aim to build skills in the treatment of hate speech from history. They will explore how the toolkit can foster civic engagement and the capacity to evaluate the reliability of sources, with the goal of training students to identify and debunk “fake news” and disinformation.

Digital (hi)story telling with social media

Christian MATHIS, Zurich University of Teacher Education
Elias STOURAITIS, Ionian University

Researchers from this transnational project present results of their study, showing how students familiarise themselves with historical narratives through TikTok and Instagram. They will share ideas about how students can be trained to critically engage with historical narratives through these digital media, as well as how teachers can leverage social media platforms as pedagogical tools.



18:30 – 20:30
COCKTAIL (beverages and food provided)
Marriott Hotel, 4 -6 boulevard de Dresde

DAY 2

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL

VENUE
Room 9
Palais de l'Europe,
Strasbourg

9:00 – 10:30

PROJECT PRESENTATION

"Sound in the Silence": History through Art

"Sound in the Silence" uses an artistic approach to introduce secondary school students to memorial sites commemorating historical events of the 20th century. While confronted with the atrocities of tyranny and totalitarianism, students actively engage with these difficult topics and respond to forms of discrimination via an artistic performance. During this panel, artists involved in the project and representatives of the founding organisations present the initiative and discuss its approach to history teaching, goals, and learning outcomes.

Moderator: Joanna ORŁOŚ, Head of Projects Department, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), Warsaw, Poland

Panel:

Tetiana KRIUKOVSKA, Head of "Tolerance in You" NGO and group dynamics facilitator, Bremen, Germany

Sean PALMER, Vocal artist and actor, Warsaw, Poland

Katarina RAMPACKOVA, Choreographer, performer and dance activist, Barcelona, Spain

Dan WOLF, "Sound in the Silence" artistic director and hip-hop artist, San Francisco, USA



10:30 – 11:00
COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

DISCUSSION PANEL

How to teach at memorial sites

Representatives of the memorial sites and education departments that hosted "Sound in the Silence" explore strategies for disseminating knowledge about difficult 20th-century history among students. They will review the methods and project formats that work best and discuss the challenges and opportunities of non-formal education projects in the didactic repertoire of memorial sites.

Moderator: Ivo PEJAKOVIĆ, Director, Jasenovac Memorial, Croatia

Panel:

Tena BANJEGLAV, Research coordinator, DOCUMENTA – Centre for Dealing with the Past, Zagreb, Croatia

Martha GAMMER, Former chairperson of the Gusen Memorial Committee, Gusen Memorial, Austria

Vytautas JURKUS, Head of the Education Department, Ninth Fort Museum, Kaunas, Lithuania

Bernhard MÜHLEDER, Representative of the Education Department, Mauthausen Memorial, Austria

Jean-Philippe RESTOUEIX, Head of Unit, Remembrance & Intergovernmental Programme on History Education, Council of Europe



12:30 – 14:00
LUNCH BUFFET

Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe

Afternoon sessions chaired by Aurora Ailincăi, Executive Director, Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

14:00 – 15:00

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Building the future: learning about peace and conflict in Europe

Olena VALCHUK

This presentation of a transnational history project connecting schools in Ukraine, Germany and Poland will discuss how educational cooperation can be fostered in a cross-border setting. It highlights how cross-border history education can encourage students to reflect on peaceful ways of solving conflict and overcoming common challenges in Europe.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Little Guides

Junior High School of Hortiatīs, Greece

In the “Little Guides” project, students conduct guided tours at sites of historical significance and places of remembrance, strengthening their belief that, as active citizens, they can contribute to the preservation and conservation of the heritage of their own locality.

15:00 – 16:00

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Rooms 8, 9, 10 – Palais de l'Europe

In our second block of workshops, participants will look at the teaching of local history and its connection to broader transnational contexts for a history education with a global perspective.

History Brick by Brick: Learning about Democracy through LEGO

Anne Lea CHRISTENSEN

Using LEGO, participants will engage with texts and build physical representations of concepts related to the history of democracy and different types of government in various countries and time periods. This teaching method encourages learning about abstract concepts and emotions through play, for students of all age groups.

Football Makes History

Transnational project team

The “Football Makes History” project uses local history to teach about European and global events by studying the biographies of footballers in the twentieth century. Participants will discover how this methodology can support both formal and non-formal history education, and will reflect on the educational and societal value of teaching the history of sport.

Exploring the History of a Cuban Guitar: Teaching 19th-Century History through Music

Isidora SÁEZ ROSENKRANZ

Participants will delve into a teaching sequence designed as a mystery, focusing on the life of a guitar-maker in Spain, Cuba and the USA through the analysis of musical changes. While studying sources about “ordinary” people like artisans, musicians and peasants, we will explore how to teach about historical connections between different parts of the world.



16:00 – 16:30
COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 17:00

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Using architecture to teach about totalitarianism: ATRIUM European Cultural Route

John Patrick LEECH and Lorena ZUCCOLO, ATRIUM Association
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The ATRIUM European Cultural Route was certified in 2014 as one of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The association works to disseminate knowledge about the architecture and history of the 20th century, with a special focus on periods marked by totalitarian and dictatorial regimes. This presentation focuses on school educational projects exploring architecture as an instrument of fascism, and discusses the use of built heritage to teach difficult histories.

17:00 – 18:00

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Rooms 8, 9, 10 – Palais de l'Europe

In this final block of workshops, participants will explore the integration of museums, historical sites and places of remembrance into teaching practices and examine how spaces can enrich learning about the past.

“Sound in the Silence”: Teaching about the difficult past in the turbulent present*

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity

Building on the “*Sound in the Silence*” project, participants will delve into techniques for working with the sensitivities and emotions of students. Through creative and playful methods like the “Telephone Poem”, they will reflect on the challenges facing young people as they learn about difficult histories while living in turbulent times in the present. Impulse for the workshop: How has the turbulent world of today changed me?

**Please note that the “Sound in the Silence” workshop will last for 1.5 hours. Participants are invited to proceed directly to Restaurant Bleu for dinner after the workshop.*

“Who Were the Victims of the National Socialists?” – A Toolkit for Place-Based Learning

Transnational project team / EuroClio

Teams of teachers from five countries – Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Slovakia and Spain – will present projects on diverse groups of victims of fascist and anti-democratic regimes, developed from the pedagogy of place-based learning. Participants explore how to implement student-led learning in the classroom, encouraging young people to reflect on discrimination, persecution and human rights in the past and present.

Using museum collections to look at the impact of Belgian colonisation in Congo

Stefania GARGIONI

Participants will carry out an enquiry about the impact of the Belgian colonisation of Congo by analysing objects from the collection of the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium. The session aims to develop understanding of the cultural and social impact of colonialism and encourage reflection on the contemporary significance of a controversial historical site.



18:30 – 20:30

DINNER

Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe



DAY 3
FRIDAY, 5 APRIL

VENUE
Room 9
Palais de l'Europe,
Strasbourg

9:00 – 10:30

HISTOLAB FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS

HISTOLAB Fellows present the results of the respective articles they have written with the support of the HISTOLAB grant scheme, followed by a short question and answer session with conference participants.

Moderator: Steffen SAMMLER, Historian, Georg Eckert Institute (Leibniz Institute for Educational Media) and Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany

Inclusive historical research: A methodological approach to help people with intellectual disabilities learn about history

Jan-Christian WILKENING, University of Cologne, Germany

Mapping the digital transition of museum theatre as an enrichment tool for virtual museum education

Foteini VENIERI, Heterotopia Museum Theatre, Greece

Exploring the potential of emerging digital technologies for enhancing history education

Miljenko HAJDAROVIĆ, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatia

Strengthening the European dimension through curriculum reform in Serbia. Successes, obstacles and implications

Ana RADAKOVIĆ, University of Belgrade, Serbia



10:30 – 11:00
COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 13:00

HISTOLAB AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOL PROJECTS IN HISTORY EDUCATION

The award is presented to the best projects by students who were invited to reflect on how they would improve the way they learn history in school. Submitted projects focused on one or more of four themes: marginalised voices in history; connections between local and global history; museums and places of remembrance; and technology in history education.

Awards presented by:

Aurora AILINCAI, Executive Director, Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, Council of Europe



13:00 – 14:30
LUNCH BUFFET
Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe