

KEY DATES

2019

26 November

Ministerial declaration on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe signed in Paris

2020

12 November

Resolution CM/Res(2020)34 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Observatory adopted by 17 founding states

2021

2-3 December

First Annual Conference of the Observatory "Preserving Democracy: Why does History Education Matter?"

2022

1 January

Hungary joins the Observatory under the observer status

27 January

PACE Resolution 2426 (2022) & PACE Recommendation 2224 (2022) on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

1 May

launch of HISTOLAB joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe complementing the Observatory's work

7 May

Republic of Moldova joins the Observatory under the observer status

1-2 December

Second Annual Conference of the Observatory "A Future without History Teaching?"

December

1st OHTE Thematic Report "Pandemics and Natural Disasters as reflected in History Teaching"

2023

November

1st OHTE Report on the State of History Teaching in Europe

2024

December

2nd OHTE Thematic Report "Economic Crises in History Teaching"

WHAT IS OUR EXPECTED IMPACT?

The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe offers clear, factual and verified data on how history is taught within its member states. The data is collected and presented in a neutral manner – not for the purpose of providing recommendations nor to judge content.

The aim is for governments and other stakeholders – such as researchers, formal and non-formal educators and teachers, or other interest groups – to use the data at national level in efforts to improve the way history is taught in a specific context. For instance, this can lead to improved teacher training in a given country, which responds to a specific need identified by the reports.

The participation of more states in the Observatory's work would only widen and increase its impact. For more information on membership procedures, you may contact the Secretariat at ohte@coe.int.

Furthermore, discussions at international level based on the reports' results provide inspiration and mutual learning between states.

While the Observatory presents the state of history teaching today, HISTOLAB – as a joint project of the European Union and Council of Europe also focusing on history education – provides perspectives in innovation in this field, preparing the ground for the future. The Observatory also works in complementarity with the intergovernmental programme on history education of the Council of Europe's Education Department.

#HistoryAtHeart



www.coe.int/ohte



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Observatory on History Teaching in Europe



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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.



**OBSERVATORY
ON HISTORY TEACHING
IN EUROPE**



WHO ARE WE?

The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe established in November 2020. The Observatory's **vision** is embodied by its motto:

Teaching History, Grounding Democracy

In practice, the Observatory promotes quality history education for a better understanding of democracy among young people.



WHY DOES HISTORY EDUCATION MATTER?

Since its inception, and as stated in the European Cultural Convention, the Council of Europe has recognised the importance of history as a basis for democratic citizenship education. History can be taught in ways which foster reconciliation within and between nations. However, in the current context of rising populism, xenophobia, nationalism and conflicts, the risks of history being manipulated are patent and require additional action.

Critical thinking and a multiperspective approach to history teaching are essential to help students recognise disinformation. History lessons can provide young people with the right means to filter information, make informed decisions and place events in a wider temporal and global context.



WHAT DO WE DO?

The Observatory's **mission** is to provide a clear picture of the state of history teaching in Europe.



A solid and complete overview of how history is taught in Europe is provided through the **"OHE Reports on the State of History Teaching in Europe"**. These reports are issued on a regular basis and include:

- The place of history in the educational systems of our member states;
- The development and implementation of history curricula;
- The use and financing of history textbooks and other educational resources;
- History teaching and learning in practice;
- Learning outcomes and student assessment;
- Teacher education and professional development.

In addition to these reports, the Observatory also carries out **thematic** studies on specific topics and how they are tackled in history lessons. The first report gives insights on "Pandemics and Natural Disasters as Reflected in History Teaching", while the second covers "Economic Crises in History Teaching" and will be published in 2024.

HOW DO WE FUNCTION?

The **Governing Board**

is the Observatory's decision-making body, composed of one representative from each member State. It defines and adopts the programme of activities, monitors its implementation and the management of resources.

The **Scientific Advisory Council**

ensures the academic, scholarly, and methodological quality of the Observatory's work, in particular its regular and thematic reports. It also advises the Governing Board on strategic developments. It is composed of 11 renowned personalities from the field of history education, elected by the Governing Board.

The **Secretariat**

plays a central role in the Observatory as it ensures the daily running of activities and provides organisational support to the statutory bodies.

In addition,

Experts

selected through open calls, as well as partner organisations, support the work of the Observatory – particularly in the drafting of its reports.

