

Plain Language Statement & Informed Consent

Teacher Survey on Pandemics and Natural Disasters as reflected in History Teaching

What is this survey about?

This survey is designed to gather information about the teaching of pandemics, epidemics and natural disasters in history curricula across Europe.

Why is it being conducted?

At present, very little is known about the teaching of pandemics, epidemics and natural disasters in Europe. This survey aims to capture what is taught about these topics and how they are taught. This work is part of a wider programme, funded by the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) in the Council of Europe. The programme is managed by the History Educators International Research Network (HEIRNET). It seeks to find out about how the teaching of pandemics and natural disasters is conducted across 16 member states of the OHTe across Europe, including Ireland.

Who are the people conducting the research?

The research is being conducted for the Observatory On Teaching History in Europe [OHTe] by the History Educators International Research Network (HEIRNET).

Who is funding this work?

This work is funded by the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) in the Council of Europe.

What does participation in the study involve?

Participation in this study involves responding online to a set of questions related to your teaching of pandemics and natural disasters in history. The questions will ask you about topics you teach relating to these themes and approaches you use to teach them. This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Participants can withdraw from the study at any stage without penalty, by not completing or exiting the questionnaire.

Benefits of participation

Should you decide to participate in this research study, you will have an opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of teachers' experiences with teaching these topics.

How will my data be stored?

Your data will be stored securely using passwords for the survey software and will not be accessed by anyone outside of the research team (subject to legal limitations). Your data will be anonymized and protected in accordance with the Council of Europe Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data, which is in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - 2016/679 and will be stored for 5 years after completion of the research in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998.

Data protection

All information that you provide will be stored securely and treated in the strictest confidence, as per Council of Europe and GDPR Guidelines. Responses are anonymous and no personal data is collected through the questionnaire. Please do not include any personal information - unless

you wish to be contacted by the research team for an interview. Participants will not be identifiable in any publications, conference papers or presentations generated using these data.

How will my data be used?

Your data will be anonymised and, in aggregate with data from other study participants, used to inform the content of the OHTE Thematic Report on the Teaching of Pandemics and Natural Disasters in History. It may also be used anonymously in the writing of academic papers for publication in scientific journals and for presentations at academic conferences.

Will my data be confidential?

Confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. Participants should not include any personal information as part of survey answers (e.g. in open text boxes).

How can I withdraw from the study?

Participants can withdraw from the study without giving a reason, including during the completion of the survey where you can close the browser. However, once responses have been submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw data from the study as responses are anonymous and individual responses will not be identifiable.

How will I find out about the results of the study?

A final report on the survey will be published by the OHTE and also available on partner websites.

Voluntary Participation*

By completing the questionnaire, individuals agree to take part in the research project detailed above understanding that such involvement is voluntary.

For any further questions regarding this questionnaire please contact ohte@coe.int