



Fall 2016

National Peer-Training Events

Executive Summary

The six National Peer-Training Events were organised in the context of the project 'ePACT – Education Partnership for Advocacy, Capacity-Building and Transformation.

The events provided a platform for local history and social science teachers and policy-makers to meet and discuss dealing with sensitive and controversial topics in history teaching. During the events the draft needs assessment survey was presented to the target group (history and social science teachers, school directors) including policy-makers and participants had the chance to discuss the elements of the survey. The next steps will be to finalise the survey based on the input gathered during these national events and to distribute the survey among the target group.

The National Peer-Training Events were very positively evaluated by the participants.

6 Countries

6 Events

334 Participants

Project:

ePACT – Education Partnership for Advocacy, Capacity-Building and Transformation

Report



National Peer-Training Events. Impressions

‘The first meeting of history educators in Montenegro 40 years ago looked more like a military assembly, so this event and spoken attitudes have shown that there has been a lot of progress’

Radovan Popović, Director of the Bureau of Education, Montenegro

On-site learning in practice
– a visit to BunkArt

Albania

How should we treat
the complexity of
history as a science?

Kosovo

28-30 October 2016 – Belgrade, Serbia

4-6 November 2016 – Tirana, Albania

4-6 November 2016 – Skopje, Macedonia

2-4 December 2016 – Pristina, Kosovo

2-4 December 2016 – Igalo, Montenegro

9-11 December 2016 – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

How to present sensitive
and controversial topics in
history teaching using a
multi-perspective approach?

Serbia

‘The situation regarding the use of
communist symbols changes and the
sickle put over the stars and thus got
a month and star-one of the new
symbols used for national groupings
and features.’

**Participants, Bosnia and
Herzegovina**

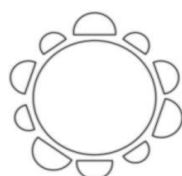
‘Let’s not use history as a mean
to create conflicts but as a tool to
encourage critical thinking.’

Participant, Macedonia

Donor



Partners



SHQIPTARËT E MËSIMDHËNËSVE TË HISTORISË SË KOSOVËS
HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVA



Local Organisers



Donika Xhemajli (SHMHK) History Teacher in LHS 'Faik Konica' Pristina, Kosovo



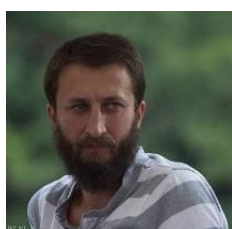
Emina Živković (UDI) – History teacher at the elementary school 'Djura Jaksic' in Belgrade



Gentian Dedja (ALBNA) – Assistant professor at Elbasan University for Byzantium and Middle Age History and History teacher at gymnasium 'Dhaskal Todri'



Miloš Vukanović (HIPMONT) Museum curator at the National Museum of Montenegro – Cetinje



Risto Nikoleski (ANIM) – History teacher at gymnasium 'St. Kliment Ohridski' in Ohrid



Senada Jusic (EUROCLIO-HIP BiH) History teacher, researcher and textbook author

Researchers



Dea Marić – Teaching Associate at the University of Zagreb's Department of History



Rodoljub Jovanović – Tutor at the University of Amsterdam's PPLe College

EUROCLIO Coordinators



Jonathan Even-Zohar – Director at EUROCLIO



Judith Geerling – Project manager at EUROCLIO

Introduction

The project *ePACT: Education Partnership for Advocacy, Capacity-Building and Transformation* seeks to contribute to the democratisation process and enhance conflict sensitivity. It strives to do so through reforms and implementation of changes in formal education. The main part of the project is a needs assessment survey which will be distributed among history and social science teachers in the Western Balkans in all official languages. The is being developed by two researchers, Dea Marić and Rodoljub Jovanović, and enables them to identify the key challenges teachers face in classrooms and the needs they have when dealing with sensitive and controversial topics in history teaching, specifically the Yugoslav war in the 1990s. The results of the survey will be published including recommendations to policy makers in the region.

Six National Peer-Training Events were held in the participating countries, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The events gathered a minimum of 50 participants including primary and secondary school teachers, curriculum developers, textbook authors, representatives of Ministries of Education and other state institutions in the field of education (e.g. Bureaus of Education, Exam Committees...). The main part of the national events is concerned with discussing the elements of the draft version of the needs assessment survey. This provides the opportunity for teachers and regional policy-makers to interact and exchange perspectives, experience and challenges regarding educational systems. Further, the researchers are able to gather input and feedback from the target group (history and social science teachers) as well as policy-makers and to include it in the final version of the survey.

Aims and goals of the National Peer-Training Events

In July 2016 a preparatory meeting was held in Montenegro with all partner associations involved in the project to discuss the next steps of the project. After incorporating feedback gathered during the EUROCLIO summer school, the two researchers drafted the survey in English. The survey was first translated into the local languages by the national coordinators and subsequently translated back into English to identify sensitive translation problems across cultures. In addition national experts were asked to give an extensive overview of history education in their national educational system, national curricula, recent initiatives and reforms, working conditions for teachers, teacher training, professional development and study programmes for history teachers. These background data forms will complement the other forms of data collection in the needs assessment of the project.

At the same time all partners organised six National Peer-Training Events in their own countries between end of October and mid-December 2016. During these National Peer-Training Events, participants were first made familiar with the aims and goals of the project and the work and activities of the local associations and EUROCLIO. Afterwards the participants were asked to discuss the elements of the survey and to give feedback. With the

events serving as national consultation meetings for the needs assessment the aim is to give teachers a voice and make them part of the changes in the educational system that effect their everyday life. Increasing the feeling of ownership and commitment of the participants, which are at the same time the target group of the survey, will motivate them to fill the survey themselves and spread it within their network. The results of the survey will be published in the form of a publication including a set of policy recommendations for national policy-makers in the educational field.

On a more general level, the events serve as a national platform to open the debate on the role of history and heritage education and to improve the quality of history teaching in primary and secondary education. Identifying obstacles, difficulties and needs of educators regarding the teaching of sensitive topics, priority challenges can be singled out and presented to curriculum designers and policy makers in the region. Such educational reform has the potential to advance the democratisation process and strengthen civil conflict transformation of the region.

Another aim was to introduce new methods, didactics, concepts, topics and modern teaching tools to history teaching.

The National Peer-Training Events

The events brought together various educational stakeholders from the region. The majority of participants were history and heritage educators but also policy makers (e.g. from national Ministries of Education, Exam Committees), Austrian ambassadors to the region, curriculum and textbook designers, university professors in History, teacher trainers and representatives from international organisations such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Each event gave the researchers the opportunity to present the progress of the needs assessment survey, developed within the project, and included a world

café and a closed focus group. The world café provided a platform to discuss the needs assessment survey within the national context. This was followed by a closed focus group to address certain aspects more extensively and a separate meeting between the researchers and the national experts to discuss the specificities of the educational system of each country.

Apart from these fixed elements the partner associations decided to structure their local events in a different way as each association sought to connect their local history and local challenges to a more global perspective and to the broader aims of EUROCLIO.

National Peer-Training Event in Serbia

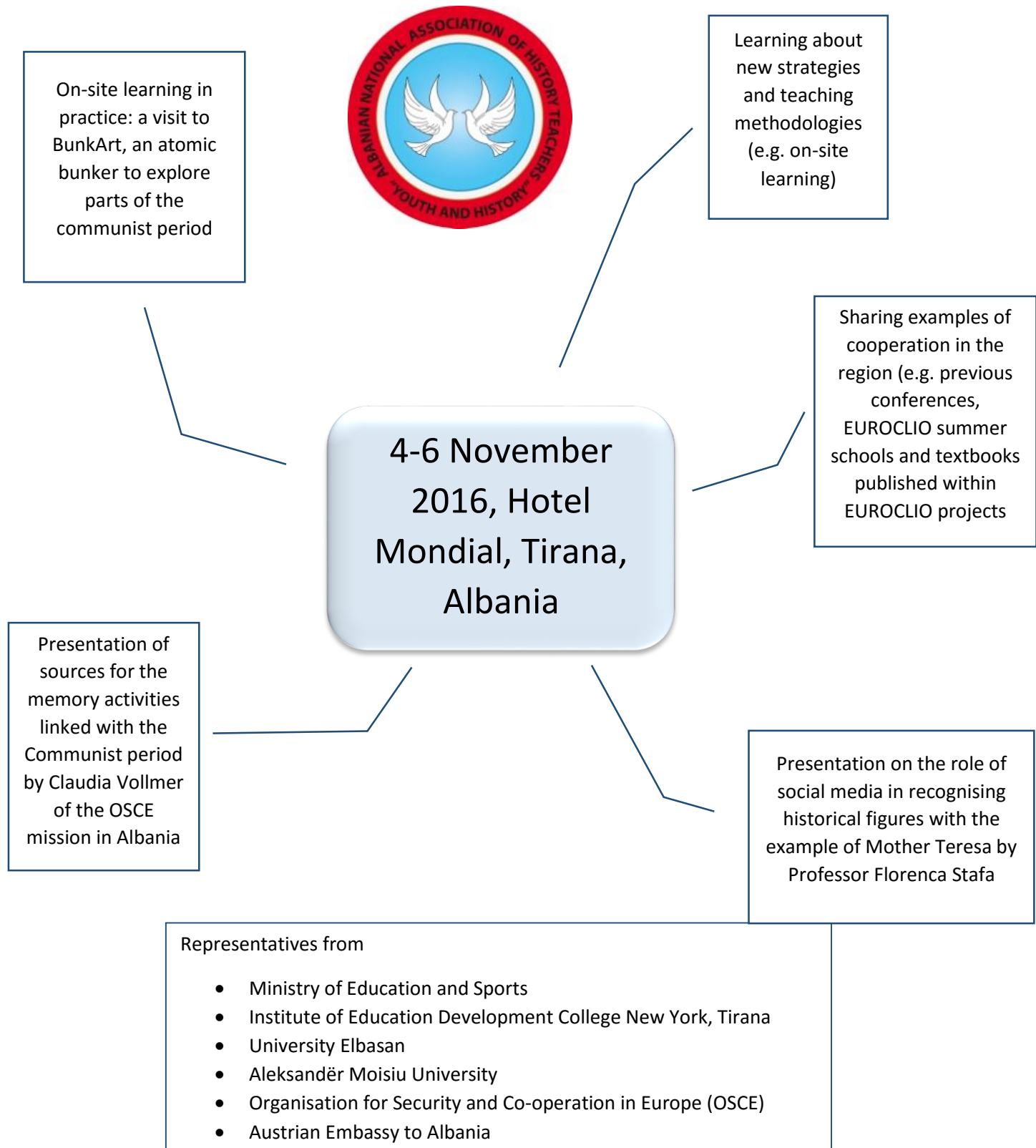


Representatives from

- Association of Education for the 21st Century
- ZUOV – Center for Professional Development of Education
- National Educational Council of the Republic of Serbia
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
- University of Belgrade
- Institute for the Advancement of Education
- International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)



National Peer-Training Event in Albania





National Peer-Training Event in Republic of Macedonia



“Introduction of practical lessons, teachers to be directly involved and have influence in the creation of the curriculum and to have greater liberty...”

ANIM General Assembly

4-6 November
2016, Hotel Inex
Gorica, Ohrid,
Macedonia

“Let’s bring back the
essence in education.”

Participant, Macedonia

Piloting of educational
material developed within
the EUROCLIO project
‘Silencing Citizens through
Censorship’ by

“Let’s not use history as
a mean to create
conflicts but as a tool to
encourage critical
thinking.”

Participant, Macedonia



National Peer-Training Event in Kosovo



SHOQATA E MËSIMOHËNËSVE TË HISTORISË SË KOSOVËS
HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVO

To what extent can visits to museums and historical sites contribute to history teaching?

53 Participants

Visit to the National Museum of Kosovo

Constructive discussion on planned curriculum reform

2-4 December 2016, Hotel Semitronix, Prishtina, Kosovo

On-site learning in practice: a visit to the antic city of *Ulpiana*

How should we treat the complexity of history?

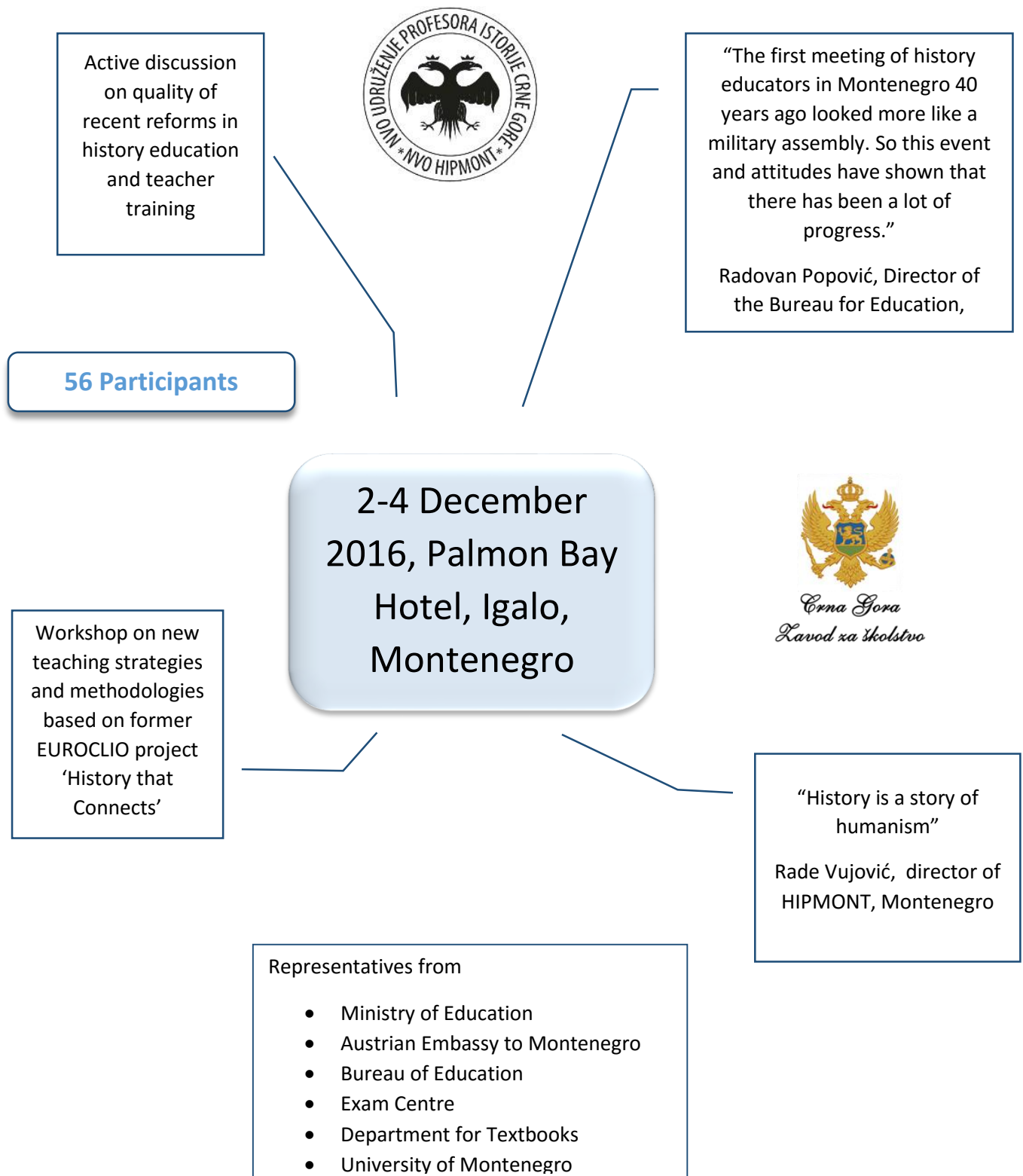
Sharing examples of regional cooperation: the example of the joint forumZFD/SHMHK project 'Development of Teaching Materials for Holocaust Education'

Representatives from

- Ministry of Education
- Austrian Embassy to Kosovo
- forumZFD
- University of Prishtina
- Curricula Pilot Schools

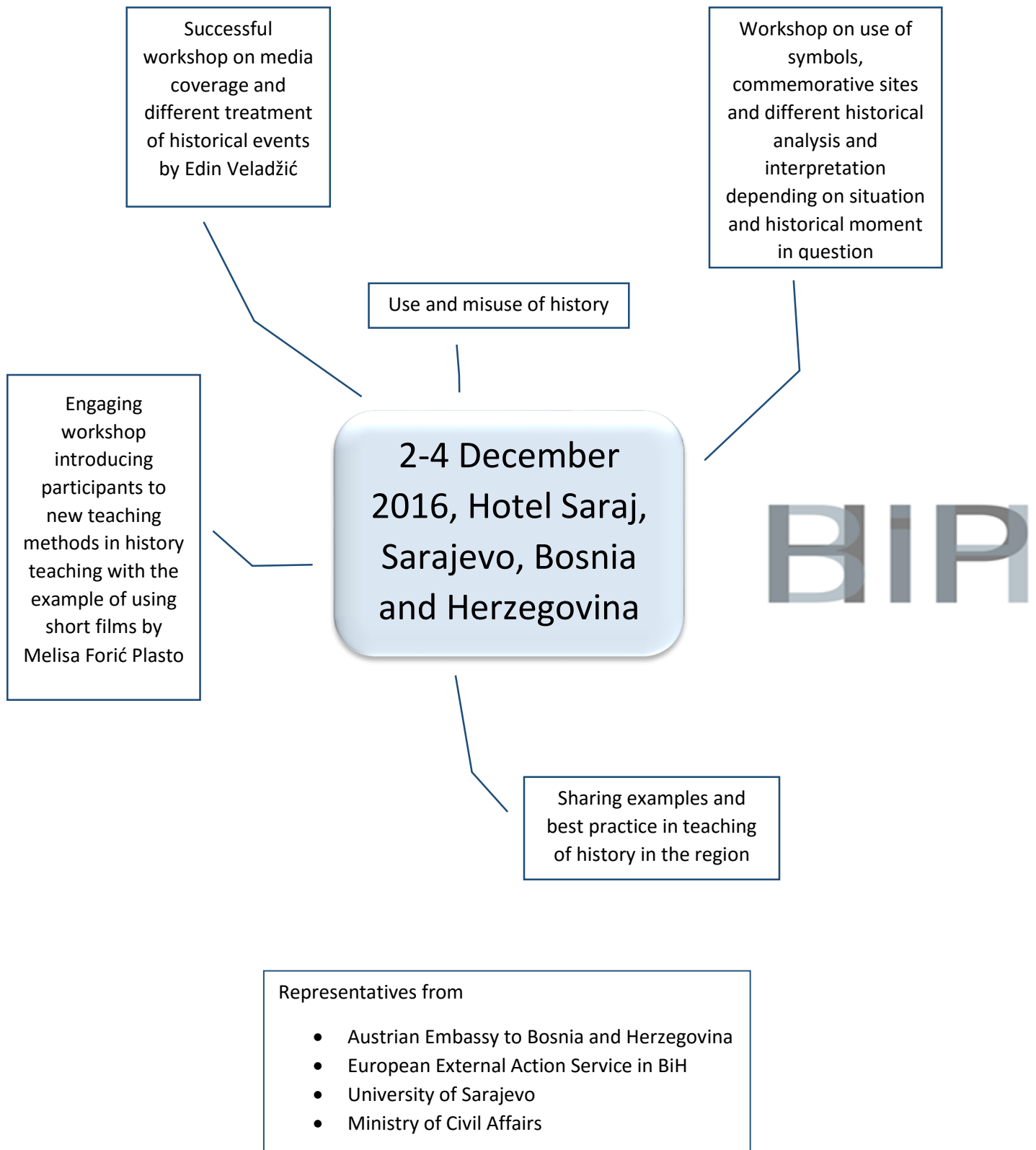


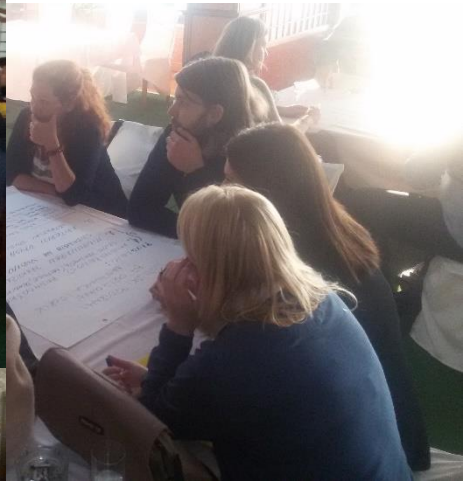
National Peer-Training Event in Montenegro





National Peer-Training Event in Bosnia and Herzegovina





Outcomes and Reflections

In total, around 340 people participated in the six National Peer-Training Events.

The events were very positively evaluated by the participants and were able to significantly increase the visibility of the local associations. The positive feedback was also beneficial for establishing personal contact and maintaining good relations with national ministries and institutions and the Austrian embassies in the region. Participants regarded the events as an excellent opportunity to network and strengthen future regional cooperation and voiced that there is a need for more of such opportunities to better connect history educators in the region and to better implement necessary changes and suggested strategies and ideas.

The events also provided the chance to learn about new teaching methods and to exchange best practices and experiences on using ICT in history teaching, including on-site learning, teaching in a multi-perspective way and dealing with sensitive and controversial topics. The attitude towards using such new methods in teaching was very positive and they were constructively reflected upon. History educators also reflected on the need for

more professional training opportunities concerned with dealing with sources in teaching and with sensitive and controversial topics.

The national events allowed to identify key challenges in the classroom and pressing issues that need to be addressed in the next educational reform such as the maximum number of students per classroom, the lack of teaching equipment, poor working conditions, content of textbooks and curricula and the approach of final examinations. Educators further expressed the importance of teaching professionals playing an active part in designing the reforms that are affecting their own work.

History educators also highlighted the problematic of a highly politicised educational system particularly regarding recruitment. Participants suggested an expert committee responsible for the selection of teaching staff. In general, the atmosphere at all six events was very positive and educators as well as policy makers actively engaged in discussions and debates on the importance and role of quality and multi-perspective history education.

Trainers, presenters and contributors

Albania

Gentian Dedja, ALBNA – History and Youth

Vojsava Kumbulla, ALBNA – History and Youth

Johann Sattler, Austrian Ambassador to Albania

Nora Malaj, Ministry of Education and Sports

Gert Janaqi, Institute of Education Development

Anila Beshaj, College New York, Tirana

Fatmiroshe Xhemalaj, Independent teacher trainer and textbook author

Dorian Koçi, Byron Albanian Association and Albanian University

Brisejda Lala, Albanian College, Tirana

Florenca Stafa, University Elbasan

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Edin Radušić, EUROCLIO-HIP BIH

Martin Pammer, Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bojana Dujković Blagojević, EUROCLIO-HIP BIH

Melisa Forić Plasto, EUROCLIO-HIP BIH

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Rodoljub Jovanović, researcher within ePACT project

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Mire Mladenovski, EUROCLIO Board

Edin Radušić, University of Sarajevo

Jadranka Mihic, European External Action Service in BiH

Kosovo

Donika Xhemajli, SHMHK

Gernot Pfandler, Austrian Ambassador to Kosovo

Arbër Salihu, MASHT & SHMHK

Vjollca Islami Hajrullahu, Forum ZFD

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