

# Mediterranean Dialogues

Teaching History  
beyond our  
**HORIZONS**

25th Annual Conference  
21-26 April 2018 | Marseille

Cultures Exchanges Migrations Wars  
Workshops Debates Discussions Exchanges Museums Schools Heritage

**EUROCLIO 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Professional Training and Development Course**

Marseille, France

21-26 April 2018

**“Mediterranean Dialogues: Teaching History beyond our Horizons”**

Concept Note

EUROCLIO - European Association of History Educators is delighted and honoured to organise the 25th Annual Conference and Professional Development and Training Course in from 21-26 April 2018. The conference is hosted and co-organised by EUROCLIO's co-founding member organisation from France, the *Association des Professeurs d'Histoire et de Géographie* (APHG). The conference takes place in Marseille, France's door to the Mediterranean horizon.

To understand the current challenges around the Mediterranean, history, heritage, and citizenship education has a key role to play. That is precisely the reason why EUROCLIO and APHG have decided to choose "**Mediterranean Dialogues: Teaching History beyond our Horizons**" as the theme for its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

During the 25th Annual Conference, EUROCLIO and APHG hope to welcome between 200 and 250 history, geography, heritage, and citizenship educators and education professionals from all around Europe and the Mediterranean. They will participate in an intensive professional development course; exchanging best practices and obtaining new insights from academia and civil society.

This paper serves as a guide to the conference themes and aims, and the preliminary programme.

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## Mediterranean Dialogues: Teaching History beyond our Horizons

The Mediterranean Sea has often been depicted as the cradle of world civilisations. The sea is known in English and the Romance languages as the sea “between the lands”, but historically the Mediterranean Sea has gone by many names. The Romans have called it *Mare Nostrum* (Our Sea); in Arabic and Turkish the sea is often referred to as the White Sea (*al-Bahr al-Abyad* and *Akdeniz*, respectively); in Hebrew, it is called *Yam Gadol* (Great Sea), and in German *Mittelmeer* (Middle Sea). (David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* (Penguin Books 2011), p. xxiii.)

Since Antiquity, the Mediterranean Basin has been the centre for the three monotheisms, flourishing civilisations, migrations, the development of cultural, scientific and economic exchanges, but also for the intersections of wars. Today, unfortunately, the Mediterranean Basin is the theatre of a humanitarian crisis that has challenged the collective leadership around the sea.

To understand the current challenges around the Mediterranean, history, heritage, and citizenship education has a key role to play. That is precisely the reason why EUROCLIO and APHG have decided to choose “Mediterranean Dialogues: Teaching History beyond our Horizons” as the theme for its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Questions addressed are:

- How can we make current challenges understandable through the Mediterranean Region’s history?
- How can we work towards truly meaningful Mediterranean dialogues?
- Can history education allow us to look beyond our European horizons?
- And, how can we teach history by looking beyond our horizons?

### Key themes

Many of the current challenges in European and Mediterranean societies are rooted in a paradigm of the “clash of civilisations”. However, contrary to this interpretation of the past, the Mediterranean has also been a space for openness and sharing, and for envisioning a common history and a dialogue of civilisations. The conference takes a closer look at the essential role the Mediterranean has played throughout both the faraway and recent past. In Marseille, the port city which finds itself in the vortex of a humanitarian crisis, “Mediterranean Dialogues” presents an opportunity to open a conversation about European Union border policies and the historical context of (forced) migration.

Guided by three main themes, the conference provides a wide range of activities, including on-site learning, active workshops, key-note speeches and panel discussions, and cultural events.

### A common heritage

The conference addresses topics such as cultural exchanges, the emergence of Mediterranean civilisations. Can one speak of a shared, African, Asian, and European past in the Mediterranean? From a European perspective, where does the Mediterranean end, and Europe begin?

## War and peace in the Euro-Mediterranean region

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. The conference addresses the history of conflicts and wars in the Mediterranean, and specifically the First World War. Throughout its history, armies have moved across the region, and borders have changed. The turmoil of the past persists today.

## People on the move?

Migration between all sides of the Mediterranean has shaped the region to what it is today; indeed, it has been a crucial part of its history. “Mediterranean Dialogues” explores questions of power in the context of migration, and asks how economic imbalance and European Union border policies affect the Mediterranean as an open, shared space.

## A unique professional development course

High quality education, as recognised by the European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO, needs teachers that can deal with complex classroom realities and adopt new methods and tools. One of the main tools today in Europe for schools and teachers to invest in this critical professional development is the Erasmus+ programme, which explicitly seeks to invest in teachers to deal with diversified groups of learners. In particular, through projects focused on student-centred and problem-based active learning, using multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches and through fostering critical thinking skills.

“A great conference with lots of content that can be put into practice in the classroom. Very good contacts for future networking in history education and research.” - Participant 2016 Annual Conference

The EUROCLIO Annual Conference is a unique professional development course which has been addressing these learning outcomes for over two decades. The conference targets history, geography, heritage, and citizenship educators and education professionals from France, Europe, the Mediterranean, and the world.

## EUROCLIO: 25 years of experience in improving history education for fundamental values

EUROCLIO - European Association of History Educators unites more than seventy history teachers' associations and history education institutes from over forty, mostly European countries, and represents over 25.000 historians and history education professionals. Since 1992, the association has worked with thousands of educators to support innovation and responsibility in history education in Europe and beyond, in ways that allow students to learn how to think critically, have empathy and be curious about the world around them and how it came to be. National member associations in post-conflict areas have worked together to overcome large differences of opinion and transform the subject from a weapon into a tool for living together in peace.



Since the ministers of education of the European agreed on the Paris Declaration in 2015, EUROCLIO has been at the forefront to seek implementation and remove barriers to really put fundamental values at the core of history education. In fact, EUROCLIO has been doing so its establishment 25 years ago, so the declaration was very much welcomed. Working forward from the member-led [Helsingor Declaration](#) and the [EUROCLIO Manifesto](#), “Mediterranean Dialogues” promotes, through workshops and interactive sessions the following educational approaches:

“Mediterranean Dialogues” promotes educational approaches such as dealing with diversity, critical thinking, and teaching sensitive and controversial issues.

- Dealing with diversity through history teaching.
- Critical thinking about cultural and civilizational frameworks in the digital age.
- Teaching sensitive and controversial issues.
- Using the multi-voiceness/interculturality of pupils and families for common understandings of the past.
- Understanding the interplay between geography and human agency in history

The underlying approaches are cutting across all programme elements, and mainly manifest themselves in workshops and other participant-led parts of the programme.

## Local, national, and international partnerships

The EUROCLIO Annual Conference is a unique gathering of history, heritage, and citizenship educators. These educators are coming together from over thirty countries in Europe and beyond to learn from each other and to discuss and exchange points of view on theories, practices and the wider context of education.

Traditionally, EUROCLIO’s annual conference is hosted and co-organised by one of its member associations. The 25<sup>th</sup> edition will be co-organised by French Association of History and Geography Teachers. The organising committee includes representatives from the Lille, Lyon and Marseille branches of the national association.

Mucem (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations), located at the entrance of the Old Harbour of Marseille, is one of the main partners of the conference. Other crucial partners are *Musée d’Histoire de Marseille*, *Lycée Marseilleveyre*, *Réseau Canopé*, the European Parliament Information Office in Marseille, *ONAC - Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre*, as well as others.

## The EUROCLIO annual conference: an open space for cooperation

### Supporting national and Euro-Mediterranean participation

To make this annual conference a success, national participation by history, geography, heritage, and citizenship educators and education professionals is crucial. The EUROCLIO annual conference has always been deeply rooted in its local and national environment,

emphasised by its partnership with a national member association, and important programme elements, such as on-site learning activities. As an international conference, local and national participation is supplemented by the participation of European and global educators.

In addition, EUROCLIO has been seeking for opportunities to work together with its members and partners around the Mediterranean. After initial steps into the Mediterranean at the annual conference of 2009 in Cyprus, EUROCLIO managed to bring together educators from the Middle East and North Africa at the 2012 annual conference in Antalya, Turkey. Since then, EUROCLIO staff members have travelled frequently to Lebanon to provide training and support to the newly established Lebanese Association for History. In a [needs assessment](#) produced as a result of these visits, EUROCLIO identified the challenges and obstacles that need to be overcome, and the way forward for improving history education in the region.

**“Mediterranean Dialogues” presents an opportunity to mobilise educators from across the Mediterranean. Herein lies another important opportunity: to build bridges between Euro-Mediterranean civil society organisations by directly working with history educators which are leading national-level associations.**

EUROCLIO has been involved with drafting the ‘Guidebook for History Textbook Authors “On a Common Path”’. This publication outlines recommendations for improving history, heritage, and citizenship education in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and was developed in close cooperation with UNESCO, the League of Arab States, ISESCO, and other international organisations. Because of its longstanding cooperation with educators, associations and other organisations, EUROCLIO is now able to develop educational resources in Arabic, Greek, and Turkish based on the guidebook. To be able to take development and cooperation in the region to the next level, EUROCLIO relies on an extensive network of teachers, academics, policy makers and civil society organisations in the region, who can be involved in the next steps in this complicated but very important process.

### Visibility and media

The conference will be the closing event of a festive year in which EUROCLIO celebrates its 25th anniversary. The EUROCLIO model has been spread to the national level in more than twenty countries. At the moment, there are efforts for establishing EUROCLIO-style organisations in Northeast Asia (to build trust amongst Chinese, Koreans and Japanese), Africa (to spread common understanding of history didactics) and Latin America (to work more on teaching history for democracy). The association has successfully run over 150 projects in more than 35 countries. EUROCLIO has been bringing together thousands of history educators per year; resulting in capacity-building of individuals from ‘just’ teachers to chief curriculum advisors and textbook authors. The impact of EUROCLIO however, is not quite visible. The occasion of celebrating 25 years of EUROCLIO marks an excellent opportunity to raise the funds necessary to produce a public documentary on this impact, which will help EUROCLIO position itself towards the future. This documentary should be screened at the annual conference.

## Aims

The conference has the following aims and objectives:

- To engage in a truly Euro-Mediterranean dialogue between history, geography, heritage, and citizenship educators from across (North) Africa, (West) Asia, and Europe.
- To share educational initiatives which help young people to better debate and formulate an opinion around key questions addressed at the conference.
- To exchange innovative tools, methods and professional knowledge with all other educators in Europe and the Mediterranean to support teaching locally and in their own countries.
- To develop a common understanding of innovative and responsible history education as a bridge for education for reconciliation, peace, responsible citizenship, intercultural citizenship and human rights.
- To disseminate and explore implementation of innovative history teaching resources and guidelines produced by national and international NGOs and intergovernmental organisations.
- To transform the shared experiences of integrated and cross border history education in diverse societies into tangible guidelines for European and Mediterranean educators and policymakers.
- To strengthen synergies between EUROCLIO and history and geography educators in France and the Mediterranean region, in order to strengthen the capacity building and professional development of local educators.

## Expected outcomes

- Increased participation and dialogue within and between the European and Mediterranean community of history, geography, heritage, and citizenship educators.
- Increased understanding of the role of history education in changing the world and the complex relationship between times, spaces, and identities in a historical context.
- Raised awareness of cultures and identities through on-site learning, and reflection on the teaching of history across Europe and the Mediterranean.
- Improved (English) language competence through facilitated and engaged dialogues.
- Access to new partnerships, including schools and local, regional, national and international educational authorities and institutes in different fields and sectors.
- Access to innovative history education tools from across the world with a focus on education of the history of the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Conference report for wider dissemination, including educational resources, and academic papers.
- Recognition of developed competences in history education through lifelong learning in the international context.

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