

EUROCLIO's Regional Summer School 2017 Concept Note

Going Beyond Pride and Pain?

3rd Annual Regional "History that Connects the Balkans" Summer School



Vlorë, Albania

18-23 July 2017



What is the Regional Summer School?

The previous editions of the Regional Summer School in Šipovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lovćen, Montenegro were instrumental to solidify regional cooperation amongst history teachers associations. The events provided in the unique combination of innovating in-service training and networking, dialogue and sharing of expertise. This year we are organising the third edition together with the History Teachers Association of Albania (ALBNA), the European Union People-to-People Programme and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

The Summer School invites educators working in history and heritage and policy makers to participate in strategizing for educational transformation in the region, interactive workshops with on-site learning. The EUROCLIO Secretariat, in consultation with its members and partners in the region, seeks to compile an attractive programme, to which representatives of national and transnational educational authorities are contributing.

It will be a capacity-building event providing TRANSNATIONAL TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE. We hope that through lectures, workshops, discussion groups and study visits, participating history and heritage educators will be stimulated to implement innovative teaching practices in their classroom and/or museum/site/institute and to work towards a framework for a common approach for dealing with history. We hope that through sessions on achievements, challenges and solutions for educational challenges and on the research findings of the regional Needs Assessment key stakeholders will be stimulated to implement educational transformation in their respective countries and work towards a framework for a common approach for dealing with history. Participants will improve their knowledge of cultures and get acquainted with new educational contents, services, and methods. People feel empowered to set up activities and contribute to follow-up events, spin-off projects and online community building.



Why is this conference needed?

Through the Summer School the European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO), the Association of History Educators of Albania (ALBNA) aim to support leading experts and educators in History and Cultural Heritage to extend their networks, build their expertise, share their concerns and together develop cross-border ways forward as professionals working to responsibly and innovatively clarify the past. This will help a next generation of learners become critical and open-minded thinkers, as well as creators of new cooperative projects.

History, heritage and citizenship education that goes beyond the textbooks and the walls of the classroom also helps to BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL education and creates flexible pathways for learning, thus contributing to the personal, social and professional development of young people. Moreover, innovative on-site learning of history at heritage sites, memorials and museums increases local ownership of cultural heritage, thus contributing to a PARTICIPATORY APPROACH to cultural heritage rehabilitation as a factor of SOCIAL COHESION, as well as INNOVATION.

The Summer School is closely tied to a general tendency in the Balkan to increase awareness about the educational system. EUROCLIO has been and remains involved in multiple projects in the (Western) Balkans. One of these projects is a partner project together with the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE), called [ePACT](#) - Education Partnership for Advocacy, Capacity-Building and Transformation. CDRSEE and EUROCLIO have launched this new cooperation initiative with the goal of building on past achievements and working towards a partnership of multiple actors to ENHANCE THE IMPACT ON EDUCATION SYSTEMS in the Western Balkans. We aim to facilitate a forum where ideas for reforming education and schools in the region can be developed to enhance critical thinking skills and active citizenship. These two competencies we believe to be the key drivers for the development of a vibrant civil society that protects and defends democratic values, gender mainstreaming, environmental protection and a culture of non-violent conflict resolution.



Standing Working Group on History Education

Within this partner project EUROCLIO brings together educational experts, representatives from History Teachers Associations and representatives of educational authorities in the Western Balkans within the framework of its Standing Working Group on History Education. During the first meeting of this group in June 2016 in Vienna, the experts entered into a collaborative and engaging reflection on best ways to conduct a wide-ranging needs assessment that will shed light and increase understanding on areas and ways of making history teaching more relevant and constructive, centring on the need to gather a substantial evidence base while serving the needs of policy makers to identify gaps, needs and opportunities.

During the summer school the expert group will convene for the second time. This time to discuss the result findings from the Needs Assessment that is conducted in Spring 2017 throughout the region to plan future actions and present ideas for implementation following the recommendations. The survey developed is focussing on a range of issues, including:

- Study programmes for history educators;
- Employment and professional development;
- Curriculum and textbooks;
- Teachers' roles and skills;
- Schools;
- Teaching Practice / Everyday teaching;
- Dealing with difficult topics in the classroom.

What kind of partnership?

Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) The EU People-2-People is part of the Civil Society Facility (CSF), an EU mechanism that provides support to civil society organisations in those countries that are not yet part of the EU. TACSO centres its activities around: further strengthening civil society's role in national democratisation and accession processes, increasing the communication and visibility of civil society's contributions to society, supporting the discovery of new resource mobilisation strategies and approaches which are needed to provide civil society sustainability and development and improving the legal and institutional framework for civil society actions.

TACSO also has the People to People component which provides opportunities for civil society organisations in the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey to expand their knowledge about the EU and the accession process through visits to European Institutions, meetings with European civil society organisations and the opportunity to network internationally and regionally.

TACSO People2People is supporting the third regional Summer School by supporting the participation of 3 persons of Civil Society Organisation from each of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

In addition, EUROCLIO has well established links with numerous organisations working on history and heritage in South East Europe. In the preparation to the Summer School, EUROCLIO Coordinators check in with these partners in order to obtain first-hand information about ongoing projects, innovative practices and to explore new partnerships.

Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House is an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation of Anne Frank's hiding place and her diaries, and to spreading the message of Anne Frank's life and ideals worldwide. It develops educational programmes and products with the aim of raising young people's awareness of the dangers of anti-



Semitism, racism and discrimination and the importance of freedom, equal rights and democracy. The project 'Historija, Istorija, Povijest – Lessons for Today' was launched in 2015 by the Anne Frank House, in cooperation with local partner organizations from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Macedonia. The educational materials and teaching resources created during this project are designed to inspire discussion about history, remembrance and memory inside and outside classrooms throughout the region.

CDRSEE

The Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that seeks to foster democratic, pluralist, and peaceful societies in Southeast Europe. It works to foster democratic and pluralist societies in Southeast Europe through embodying in their manner of working, the values and principles that their initiatives promote and encourage; respect for diversity, free speech, reconciliation, social responsibility and the peaceful resolution of differences. EUROCLIO and CDRSEE work together in the ePACT project, which is interwoven throughout the summer school week.

For the purpose of this programme EUROCLIO works together with our member association in Albania ALBNA, but are also closely collaborating with our regional member associations, being history teachers associations from South East Europe.

Finally, EUROCLIO and the member associations inform key policy makers (including curriculum developers and agencies for professional development and internationalisation) in Ministries of Education about the Summer School. The Ministries of Culture are involved as members of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society and as members of the Standing Working Group on History Education within the ePACT project.

What are the summer school aims?

- To look back at decades of work on regional cooperation in history educators through the lens of the teachers' voice, collected in the ePACT Needs Assessment, and **develop strategic planning with key policy makers and civil society** actors for a history education for sustainable peace, inclusive societies and new skills.
- To **build the capacity** of educators and their associations for the teaching and learning of responsible history that goes beyond the traditional focus of 'pride and pain'.
- To compare and **contrast perspectives** on social and cultural local history and heritage.
- To **enable dialogue** and cross-community and trans-border networking.
- To **support** projects, initiatives and processes which aim to develop new approaches for responsible history teaching resources and methodologies about teaching the 1990s Yugoslav wars.

Who will participate?

The Summer School attracts a great variety of participants from the region and beyond. The target groups are established in close cooperation with the member associations and include:

- History educators (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, university, NGO professionals)
- Heritage educators (museum workers, tour guides, archaeologists, NGO professionals)
- Researchers (historians, cultural anthropologists, preservation experts etc.)
- Policy makers at educational authorities (Ministry of Education, Bureau for Education, Agency for Educational Development, etc)



What are training objectives and attained outcomes?

The conference will provide a platform of intercultural exchange in which the participants will actively learn, share best practices, and network. The core group of teachers and heritage educators will be involved in manifold activities that will empower them to engage their students and other target groups with critical debate from multiple perspectives promote pluralism, and combat the idea that history is a single, unchangeable truth – so often a weapon abused politically.

Through the summer school key stakeholders can present their achievements so far, challenges and lessons learned for educational transformation in the region. Representatives of educational authorities are encouraged to take detailed notice of the History Teachers' Needs Assessment performed in early 2017, and enter into further discussion to position these needs in future reforms, aligning their efforts and developing forward-looking cooperation. EUROCLIO and CDRSEE will seek to support the new opportunities for common approaches and reforms and align their efforts, as well as those of other civil society stakeholders further.

By bringing together specific History Teacher Associations (HTAs) networks, future cooperation on multiple levels will be possible. New projects can be initiated by the Associations together. The Summer school will contribute to increase the capacities of HTAs (among leadership). Eventually an attained outcome will be the rejuvenation of representatives on an international level.

Through the Programme and by meeting peers, individual educators increase their educational skills. During the Summer School approaches for educational materials are created for the educators to use in class. Individual educators from the Balkan region and beyond are also given the opportunity to meet and exchange expertise or ideas. Consequently participants have the possibility to increase their network and gain new contacts.



What is the Thematic Programme?

During the Summer School the general theme is GOING BEYOND PRIDE AND PAIN? In most countries in the world, but specifically recently in the Balkan region history education is utilised to reflect the past achievements of the nation (pride), and stress the injustice inflicted upon the nation by others (pain). A critical look into one's own history has proven to be scarce. Subsequently, multiple educational visits and workshops will aim to discuss how to start teaching about these sensitivities in a responsible and multiperspective way.

The following themes are developed as special programmes:

Teaching Sensitive Histories –in Partnership with EU People-2-People

On Wednesday 19 July 2017 the participants will discuss what challenges and opportunities they faced in history education in the region. These experiences will be shared in the World café. The programme is supported with a panel discussion on innovative approaches to history education for mutual understanding. The panel consists of team members of the EUROCLIO/EU project *Learning a History which is not yet history*, editors of the CDRSEE project *Joint History Project 2* and coordinators of the Anne Frank House Project *Historia Istorija Povijest*. In the late afternoon small group workshops will be held on how to teach sensitive histories. Concrete cases will be presented and reflected upon.

Critical History Education in the Western Balkan/Critical Cultural Heritage

On Thursday 20 July 2017, we will have a discussion on the findings of the needs assessment with education policy makers and civil society. The idea is to use the findings of the needs assessment to transform the findings into ideas for action and policy. The rest of the day will be followed by presentations of results, concrete next steps, ideas, needs and on-site learning to Vlorë with a look at the Ottoman and Communist past, so we will have the opportunity to see the recent efforts in Albania to open wider societal debate about the communist regime, as well as identify ways forward for a society which struggles to prioritise the dealing with the memories of this very sensitive past. The on-site learning will also be continued on Friday 21 July 2017 in Apollonia and Berat.



Critical History Education in the Western Balkan—in partnership with EU People-2-People

On Saturday 22 July 2017 we will have dialogues for action planning in national groups: following recommendations of the needs assessment and the lessons that have been learned. In the afternoon we will explore potential collaborations and future communications in mixed country groups. This will be followed by plenary conclusions, reflections, lessons learned and feed-forward.

Who will be organizing this conference?

EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators

EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators, established in 1992, supports the development of responsible and innovative history, citizenship and heritage education by promoting critical thinking, mutual respect, peace, stability and democracy. The Association advocates a sound use of history and heritage education towards the building and deepening of democratic societies, connecting professionals across boundaries of countries, ethnicities and religions. It seeks to enhance the quality of history and citizenship education through capacity building for educators and producing and implementing innovative teaching tools. EUROCLIO has been able to define and pragmatically refine a methodology building on the practical work it carried out. Its approach is process-oriented and believes in reinforcing professional talents as fundamental resources for innovation and change. In 2017, EUROCLIO represents 72 independent and volunteer History heritage and citizenship Educators' Associations and related Institutes from 47 mostly European countries and reaches out to a network of at least 25.000 history, heritage and citizenship educators. In their daily work they contact up to 5.000.000 students and pupils per year.

The Association works on preventing abuse of history by promoting respect for diversity, human rights, democracy and intercultural dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders. It stimulates the transfer of reliable academic historical knowledge and innovative educational theory and inspires methodological discourse to the school and training institute levels, and the development of history and citizenship curricula,

teaching tools and assessment procedures. In order to achieve these goals EUROCLIO utilizes knowledge and experience transfer through peer-learning, exchange of expertise and a system of expert, peer and student reviewing.

ALBNA, the History Teachers Association of Albania

The History Teachers Association of Albania (ALBNA) was established in 1998 and has mobilised a majority of history teachers in the country in the first decade of its existence, mainly thanks to partnership project activities with organisations like EUROCLIO, CDRSEE, EUSTORY and the Council of Europe.

The association is aiming to improve history education and to promote new history methods of teaching. The main goal of the Association is to create a wide network of history educators with strengthening cooperation with associations in the region and the whole European continent. It wishes to contribute to forming a contemporary view in history education while having a flexible approach in exchanging knowledge with our neighbours and European partners.

EU People-2-People

Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) The EU People-2-People is part of the Civil Society Facility (CSF) which is a European Union (EU) mechanism that provides support to civil society organisations in those countries that are not yet part of the EU. TACSO also has the People to People component which provides opportunities for civil society organisations in the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey to expand their knowledge about the EU and the accession process through visits to European Institutions, meetings with European civil society organisations and the opportunity to network internationally and regionally. TACSO People2People is supporting the third regional Summer School on 18-23 July 2017 in Albania, which is organized by EUROCLIO in partnership with ALBNA (The History Teachers Association of Albania). The TACSO EU People to People will provide places for 3 Civil Society Organisations from each of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey. The application procedure is open until May 21, 2017 until 24:00 hrs.



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