

Europe. Our History. (2016) - Factsheet



General information	
Name project	Europe. Our History.
Publish date	2016 (first volume), 2017 (second volume)
Association	Joint Polish-German Textbook Commission of Historians and Geographers in cooperation with the publishing houses: Eduversum (Germany) / Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne (Poland)
Representative	Igor Kąkolewski
Project structure and roles	<p>Cooperation between the management organizations: <i>Gemeinsame Deutsch-Polnische Schulbuchkommission der Historiker und Geographen</i> (Joint Polish-German Textbook Commission) in cooperation with the <i>Georg-Eckert-Institut</i>, the <i>Leibniz Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung Braunschweig</i> and the <i>Zentrum für Historische Forschung Berlin der Polnischen Akademie der Wissenschaften</i>.</p> <p>Additionally, the publication process is supported on the political level by the binational Management-Board consisting of representatives of the German and Polish governments as well as by the binational Expert-Council</p>

	<p>consisting of Polish and German historians appointed by the Joint Polish-German Textbook Commission.</p> <p>The Expert-Council provides scientific guidance for the work and publication process.</p>
<p>Government's role (initiative/ endorsement/ no role)</p>	<p>In 2006 the German Minister of Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier put forward the idea of a German-Polish textbook. In 2008 the Polish and German ministers of foreign affairs entrusted the task of creating the project's framework to the Joint Polish-German Textbook Commission and established two project's workgroups composed of representatives of the scholarly world (the Expert-Council) and governmental institutions (the Management-Board) from both countries. In 2010, the Expert-Council was able to publish "Recommendations" regarding the realization of the Polish-German history textbook to representatives of both governments who accepted their will of supporting and financing the project. Since then the scholarly coordinators of the project and two involved publishing houses present work progress and discuss strategic decisions during yearly meetings with the Management-Board.</p>
<p>Target area (countries/ language area)</p>	<p>Germany, Poland - English</p>
<p>Content information</p>	
<p>Type of education material</p>	<p>Textbook - in two language versions (Polish and German) identical in terms of their content and graphic design. The Polish-German textbook project is not concerned with producing additional teaching materials but its final product is to be a state-approved history</p>

	textbook compliant with both countries' curricula.
Target group	Students in primary (public) school and gymnasium
Topic(s)	Volume 1: Ancient history until the end of the medieval times Volume 2: Early modern history until 1815 Volume 3: 1815-1918 (in preparation) Volume 4: 1918-2004 (in preparation)
Theme(s)	History, art history, archeology
Geographical scope	Focus: West and East Europe in a broad context of world history
Period	All periods of European and world history: from prehistory and ancient times until the beginning of the 21 st century
Authors	Asmut Brückmann, Eva-Maria Kabisch, Krzysztof Kowalewski, Jelko Peters, Olga Pytlińska-Markowicz, Patrycja Pieńskowska, Jerzy Pysiak, Ryszard Sajkowski, Birgit Scholz, Helge Schröder, Franz Josef Wallmeier, Marta Wilińska, Mateusz Wilk, Hartmann Wunderer, Krzysztof Gutkowski, Friedrich Huneke, Michał Kopczyński, Piotr ugniewski, Jacek Wijaczka
Editor(s)	See below: scholarly coordinators
Academic advisor	Scholarly coordinators: Prof. Dr. Eckhardt Fuchs, Prof. Dr. Igor Kąkolewski, Prof. Dr. Simmone Lässig, in cooperation with Dr. Thomas Strobel, Dr. Bartosz Dziewanowski-Stefańczyk, Dr. Dominic Pick and Dr. Marcin Wiatr
Publisher	Wiesbaden Eduversum; WSIP
Output	Print: data not available Language: German, Polish
Website	http://www.eduversum.de/content/europa-unsere-

	geschichte https://www.wsip.pl/oferta/cykle/gimnazjum/historia-gimnazjum/europa-nasza-historia/
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Aim of the project: “The aim of the joint history book is to open up contemporary and new approaches to history for pupils in Poland and the German federal states, to promote their understanding of problem-oriented historical thinking and to address the role of history in the formation of identities.”¹

History teaching in West Europe, including Germany, rather neglects history of East Europe. The German-Polish project tries to break away from the “westernization” of the European history narrative. The new perspective offered in “Europe our history” does not focus on history of the western “founding members/states” of the EU, but intends to broaden the outlook of young German students on Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time it points out some aspects of West European history that are rarely touched upon in Polish curricula. However, the Polish-German textbook is not focusing only on the divisions between the West and East. Our goal is to show history of Europe from a broader perspective taking into account also the North-South European divisions that history have played a major role in European history. Thus, our main assumption is to present the European culture in its complexity and diversity as based on five legacies, i.e.: of ancient Middle-East and Greek-Roman civilisations, as well as of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

¹ “Deutsch-Polnisches Geschichtsbuchprojekt ‘Europa-unsere Geschichte’: Ziele,” Georg Eckert Institut, accessed March 6, 2018, <http://www.gei.de/abteilungen/europa/europa-und-der-nationale-faktor/deutsch-polnisches-geschichtsbuchprojekt-europa-unsere-geschichte.html>