Conference:

"History in action: Preparing for the Future Common approaches”

REPORT

29 - 30 May 2008, Bled, Republic Slovenia

Background and Justification

History teaching has been and continues to be a very good instrument for building national identity and to make stereotype images of Other (neighbours, minorities, women, etc.). History textbooks are often a very good example of such history education. The Conference “History in action: Preparing for the Future Common approaches” aims to present the results of projects and activities in the field of innovative history education based on intercultural dialog, cooperation, multi-perspective methods, etc.

Objectives of the conference

Organisers list several objectives of the conference:

- To introduce and discuss the development of the quality of history education from various perspectives;
- To promote and encourage mutual similarity, as well as mutual difference in order to create tolerant community;
- To promote cooperation on regional and international level, but also a better communication and networking in the field of history teaching and learning;
- To promote innovative materials for teaching history and, not less important,
- To share good practice.

The special aim of the conference is to foster and encourage dialogue between European counties; especially intercultural dialogue between South Eastern European countries which must learn how to achieve common approaches in history teaching and learning.

Topics covered with the agenda1 of the conference

The first day was dedicated to providing relevant information about the History Teaching Today and how to prepare for future common approaches in history teaching in Europe. Optional morning programme was dedicated to the visit to the National Educational Institute in Ljubljana and the University of Ljubljana – Faculty of

---

1 The agenda of the conference is provided in annex 1 of this report.
Arts, Department of History. In the National Educational Institute visitors learned more about the Slovenian Educational System. At the Faculty of Arts, Department of History, professor of History Didactics Danijela Trškan presented her pedagogical methods in Initial training of history teachers. Topics of the agenda: Enhancing the European Dimension in History Teaching through the Development of Innovative Transnational History Textbooks; sharing the good practice on innovative teaching and plenary discussion New Perspectives on European Cooperation between European nations regarding History Teaching: a Way toward a common History Textbook?

The second working day was dedicated to presentation of the good practices in history teaching regarding cooperation among Western Balkan countries. Topics on the agenda: Teaching history for reconciliation and stability: experience of the Council of Europe within regional co-operation projects; EUROCLIO Project 2005-2007: Preparing for the Future Common approaches for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federation of Serbia and Montenegro; How to develop further cooperation with Western Balkan on the field of history teaching?

Organisers and preparation of the conference

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic Slovenia under the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in collaboration with the National Education Institute and the Slovenian History Teachers’ Association.

It took place in Hotel Astoria in Bled (Republic of Slovenia) from 29 till 30 May 2008.

Participants to the conference

Over 30 participants from EU Education Ministries, candidate countries and SEE countries (such as policy makers, curriculum advisers and developers, etc.), representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Regional Cooperation Council, the French-German Youth Office, the Agency for Education Reform Initiatives of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE), the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE), the European History Educators’ Association (EUROCLIO) as well as Slovenian history teachers.

Language of the conference

The working language of the conference was English.

Activities performed during the conference

29 May: “History Teaching today: Preparing for the Future Common approaches”

The first day of the conference was dedicated to: keynote speech provided by Mrs Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, presentation of good practice of the innovative history teaching in Slovenia and plenary discussion on how to prepare for future common approaches in history teaching in Europe, especially to the idea how to compose a common History textbook for Europe.

Official opening and welcome addresses:

Ms. Viljana Lukas, Head of the International Cooperation and European Affairs Service of the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia opened the seminar and welcomed the participants.

Mr. Vassilis Maragos, Deputy Head of the Unit Montenegro, Serbia of the European Commission, Directorate General Enlargement, stressed the importance of organising the conference in such important thematic area.

2 The list of participants is provided in annex 2 of this report.
The executive director of EUROCLIO - Mrs. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord was the keynote speaker of the first day of the conference. EUROCLIO (European Association of History educators), founded in 1993, is association with 63 members from 46 countries, mostly in Europe. This association works to improve history education in Europe. Mrs Leeuw-Roord in her interesting presentation "Enhancing the European Dimension in History Teaching through the Development of Innovative Transnational History Textbooks" introduced EUROCLIO's idea of a common history textbook. She presented EUROCLIO's projects which deal with innovative history teaching in Europe. Transnational history textbook or teaching tool should follow these requirements: identification of common themes/topics, creation of shared understanding of the purpose of the book/materials/tool, agreed framework, collaborative production, understanding and responsiveness to current needs and opportunities. The textbook/teaching tool needs to aim at: providing new knowledge, widening dimensions and perspectives; addressing sensitive issues and 'white spots'; accepting that the past is multilayered, multi-perspective and complex; transferring fundamental values such as human rights and developing democratic and responsible dispositions; enhancing skills and competencies such as the ability for critical thinking, analysing, interpreting and fair judging; supporting innovative methodology and pedagogy; contributing to conflict prevention, intolerance and xenophobia.

Best Practice Case Studies 1 and 2

After useful presentation of Mrs. Joke van der Leeu-Roord, Mrs. Jelka Razpotnik from Slovenian History Teacher's Association and Mrs. Adrijana Segalla, tutor from Gimnazija Šiška presented the good practices of innovative history teaching in Slovenain schools.

Plenary discussion: New Perspectives on European Co-operation between European nations regarding History Teaching: a Way toward a common History Textbook?

Guests of the round table and plenary discussion were: Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Executive Director, EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators), Dr Nicolas Moll, former Director of the Department "Intercultural Training", French-German Youth Office (FGYO) and Prof Dr. Falk Pingel, Deputy Director, researcher and expert on curricula and history textbooks at the Georg-Eckert Institute. Assisted by the moderator Jelka Razpotnik from the Slovenian History Teacher's Association, the guests discussed about the necessity of developing a European Common History Textbook. Dr Nicolas Moll presented the French-German textbook as a good example for the future cooperation in history teaching between European countries and history teachers.

30 May: “History Teaching, EU and Western Balkans: History in Action”

The second day of the conference was dedicated to the presentation of good practices in history teaching regarding cooperation among Western Balkan countries.

Keynote speaker: Teaching history for reconciliation and stability: an experience by the Council of Europe within regional co-operation projects

Mrs. Tatiana Milkina Milko, from the Department of History Education, Council of Europe in the presentation Teaching history for reconciliation and stability: an experience by the Council of Europe within regional co-operation projects presented regional coopeartion projects dealing with innovative history teaching, such as the Black Sea Initiative on History. The presenter provided some of the publications which are results of the Council of Europe projects.

Best Practice Case Studies 3, 4 and 5

Members of the EUROCLIO Project 2005-2007: Preparing for the Future Common approaches for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federation of Serbia and Montenegro Melisa Forić from the History Teachers’ Association (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Zvezdana Petrović from the History Teachers’ Association (Serbia) presented the project and the educational publication Ordinary people in an Extraordinary Country, Every day life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia 1945-1990. Yugoslavia between East and West, 20 active lessons.

Nenad Sebek, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) informed the participants about the History Joint Programme and the publications which are result of this joint project of historians, teachers and students with common goal multiple history education in the region.
The last good practice presentation related to history teaching in Slovenian schools regarding cooperation with the Western Balkans made by Darja Krstić.

**Plenary discussion: How to develop further cooperation with Western Balkan in the field of history teaching?**

The plenary discussion *How to develop further cooperation with Western Balkan in the field of history teaching?* took place as the last part of the conference. Guests of the round table and the plenary discussion were Melisa Forić from History Teachers’ Association, (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Nenad Sebek, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) and Klaus-Jürgen Hermanik from the University of Graz, Department of History. Moderator was Ms. Tatiana Milkina Milko, from the Department of History Education, Council of Europe. The guests presented different problems which contribute to complications of further cooperation within the Western Balkan on the field of history teaching.

**Conclusions**

The participants to the conference expressed appreciation for the organisation of the event, the presentations made by the keynote speakers and other guests, and for the vivid discussions which took place during the two working days.

The participants agreed with the idea of common history textbook which would help to achieve better cooperation. Creating such textbook would be a difficult task and use of the interactive teaching tool was recommended for this purpose.

It was agreed that financial and political support is crucial for continuation of the existing and for initiation of new regional projects.

To achieve better cooperation, it is necessary to create connection points for teaching school history in the region.

The participants to the conference agreed on the importance of capacity building of people involved in history education in the region.

The idea for organisation of regular meetings of historians and history teachers from the region every 6 or 12 months was supported. This was foreseen as a good way for improvement of the regional cooperation in the field of history education.
Annex 1:

Conference:
"History in action: Preparing for the Future Common approaches"
Agenda
29 - 30 May 2008, Bled, Republic Slovenia
Venue: Hotel Astoria, Bled, Republic Slovenia

Thursday, 29 May 2008
MORNING PROGRAMME – OPTIONAL

8:45  Departure for Ljubljana

10:00  Visits to National Eduactional Institute in Ljubljana, host: dr. Aco Cankar, director, Center for development and Research

11:30  Visit to University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Arts, Department of History, host: dr. Danijela Trškan: Initial training of history teachers

History Teaching Today: Preparing for the Future Common approaches

13:30-15:00  Lunch

15:00-15:15  Official Welcome
- Vilijana Lukas, Head of International Cooperation and European Affairs Service, Ministry of Education and Sport, Slovenia
- Vassilis Maragos, European Comission, Enlargment, Directorate General, Deputy Head of Unit Montenegro, Serbia

15:15-16:00  Keynote Speaker:
Enhancing the European Dimension in History Teaching through the Development of Innovative Transnational History Textbooks
Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Executive Director, EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators)

16:00-16:30  Coffee break
16:30-17:00  Best Practice Case Study 1:
Innovative History Teaching in Slovenia
Jelka Razpotnik, Slovenian History Teachers’ Association

17:00-17:30  Best Practice Case Study 2:
Presentation of good practice of innovative history teaching in Slovenian schools
The use of various teaching methods in history class, Gimnazija Šiška, tutor: Adrijana Segalla

17:30-18:30  Plenary discussion:
New Perspectives on European Co-operation between European nations regarding History Teaching: a Way toward a common History Textbook?
Moderator: Jelka Razpotnik, Slovenian History Teachers’ Association
Guests:
- Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Executive Director, EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators)
- Nicolas Moll, former director of the department “Intercultural Training”, French-German Youth Office (FGYO)
- Dr. Falk Pingel, director of Georg-Eckert Institut

19:00  Dinner

Friday, 30 May 2008

History Teaching, EU and Western Balkans: History in Action

9:00-9:30  Keynote Speaker:
Teaching history for reconciliation and stability: an experience by the Council of Europe within regional co-operation projects
Ms. Tatiana Milko, Department of History Education, Council of Europe

9:30-10:00  Best Practice Case Study 3:
EUROCLIO/Matura Project 2005-2007: Preparing for the Future Common approaches for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federation of Serbia and Montenegro
- Melisa Forić, History Teachers’ Association, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Zvezdana Petrović, History Teachers’ Association, Serbia

10:00-10:30  Coffee break

10:30-11:00  Best Practice Case Study 4:
Presentation of History Joint Programme, Nenad Sebek, Executive Director, CDRSEE (Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe)

11:00-11:30  Best Practice Case Study 5:
Presentation of good practice of history teaching in Slovenian schools regarding cooperation with the Western Balkans
The culture could delete the borders, Dom Antona Skale, tutor Darja Krštić Podgorelec
11:30-12:30 Plenary Discussion
How to develop further cooperation with Western Balkan on the field of history teaching?
Moderator: Tatiana Milko, Council of Europe
Guests:
- Melisa Forić, HIP, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Nenad Sebek, CDRSEE
- Klaus-Jürgen Hermanik, University of Graz, Department of History
Closure of the Conference

12:30-14:00 Lunch

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME – OPTIONAL
14:15 Departure: Study visit to Ljubljana
16:00-17:00 guided tour on exhibition in National Gallery: The Slovenian Impressionists and their time 1890-1920
17:00-18:30 Walking tour of Ljubljana (major sights located in the old centre of Ljubljana)
18:30-20:00 free time
20:00 dinner in Restaurant Allegria, Ljubljana
21:30 return to Bled
Annex 2:

Conference:

"History in action: Preparing for the Future Common approaches"

List of Participants

Ndricim MEHMETI
Ministry of Education and Science
Rruga e Durresit, Nr.23
Tirana, ALBANIA
E-mail: gmuzaka@mash.gov.al

Klaus-Jürgen HERMANIK
University of Graz, Department of History
Mozartgasse 3
8010 Graz, AUSTRIA
E-mail: klaus-juergen.hermanik@uni-graz.at

B. BLAGOJEVIĆ-DUJKOVIĆ
Euroclio-HIP BIH
Banja Luka, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
E-mail: shanty@teol.net

Melisa FORIĆ
Euroclio-HIP BIH/Akademija nauka i umjetnosti BiH/
Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja
Bistrik 7
71000 Sarajevo, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
E-mail: melisaforic@bih.net.ba

Alenka HUDEK
Regional Cooperation Council
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
E-mail: alenka.hudek@rcc.int

Nicolas MOLL
Obala Isabega Isakovica 6
71000 Sarajevo, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
E-mail: nicolasmoll@aol.com

Hristina MARKOVA
Ministry of Education and Science, General Education Directorate
Kniaz Dondukov 2A
1000 Sofia, BULGARIA
E-mail: h.markova@mon.bg

Loranda MILETIĆ
Education and Teacher Training Agency
Brne Knarutića 13
23000 Zadar, CROATIA
E-mail: loranda.miletic@azoo.hr

Milana ROMIĆ
Agency for Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)
Ivana Lučića 5
10000 Zagreb, CROATIA
E-mail: milana@erisee.hr

Olga DRÁPALOVÁ
The Czech School Inspectorate
Zborovska 3
58601 Jihlava, CZECH REPUBLIC
E-mail: drapalova.csi@seznam.cz

Mare OJA
National examination and qualification center
Lootsa 4
11415 Talin, ESTONIA
E-mail: mare.ova@ekf.edu.es

Heike KAGER
Georg-Eckert Institut für Internationale Schulbuchforschung
Celler Str. 3
38114 Braunschweig, GERMANY
E-mail: karge@gei.de

Falk PINGEL
Georg-Eckert Institut für Internationale Schulbuchforschung
Celler Str. 3
38114 Braunschweig, GERMANY
E-mail: pingel@gei.de

Theresa ZIEHE
German Embassy in Slovenia
Prešernova cesta 27
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA/GERMANY
E-mail: ku-1@laib.diplo.de

Nenad SEBEK
Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE)
Krispou 9, Ano Poli
54634 Thessaloniki, GREECE
E-mail: nsebek@cdsee.org

Attila HERBER
Eötvös József Secondary School
Reáltanoda u. 7.
1053 Budapest, HUNGARY
E-mail: herber@freemail.hu

Antonio de GASPERIS
Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, DG Affari Internazionali
Viale Trastevere 76/A
00153 Roma, ITALY
E-mail: adegasperis@istruzione.it
Arber SALIHU  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology  
Lagja Dardania, Blloku III, Rruga Musine Kol  
10000 Prishtina, UNMIK KOSOVO  
E-mail: arber_s51@hotmail.com

Eriks SIKA  
Ministry of Education and Science  
Valnu Street 2  
1050 Riga, LATVIA  
E-mail: eriks.sika@izm.gov.lv

Rimantas JOKIMAITIS  
Ministry of Education and Science  
A.Volano str. 2/7  
01516 Vilnius, LITHUANIA  
E-mail: rimantas.jokimaitis@smm.lt

Shaban ISLAMI  
Ministry of Education and Science  
Ul Dimitrie Cupovski br 9  
1000 Skopje, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Behar MEHMETI  
Primary School Lirija  
1000 Skopje, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Mire MLADENOVSKI  
Osnovna škola Tihomir Milosevski  
S. novo selo b.b.  
1000 Skopje, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

John H.E. GROFFEN  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Poljanski nasip 6, Palača Kapitelj  
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA/NETHERLANDS  
E-mail: lju@minbuza.nl

Joke van LEEUW-ROORD  
EUROCLIO; European Association of History Educators  
Laan van Meerdervoort 70  
2517 AN The Hague, NETHERLANDS  
E-mail: joke@euroclio.eu

Rozalia-Paula DOICEȘCU  
Ministry of Education, Research and Youth,  
National center for curriculum and evaluation in educational system  
26, G-ral. Berthelot Street  
Bucarest, sector 1, ROMANIA  
E-mail: rdoiescu@cnceip.ro

Erika RUSTJA  
Ministry of Education and Sport, Unit for Development  
Masarykova 16  
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
E-mail: erika.rustja@gov.si

Jelka RAZPOTNIK
Slovenian History Teachers Association
Aškerčeva 2
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
E-mail: duzs@drustvo-ucit-zgodovine.si

Andreja VALIČ
Slovenian History Teachers Association
Aškerčeva 2
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
E-mail: duzs@drustvo-ucit-zgodovine.si

Marija ZUPAN SHAAR
Osnovna šola Danile Kumar
Godeževa 11
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
E-mail: marija.zupan-shaar@guest.arnes.si

Olivera POPOVIĆ
Ministry of Education and Sports
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade, SERBIA
E-mail: olivera.popovic@mps.sr.gov.yu

Zvezdana PETROVIĆ
Osnovna škola Rada Mijalkovića
Ulica Milana Mijalkovića 14
35000 Jagodina, SERBIA

Vassilis MARAGOS
European Commission, Enlargement, Directorate General
CHAR 3/35
Brussels, BELGIUM
E-mail: vassilis.maragos@ec.europa.eu

Tatiana MILKO MILKINA
Council of Europe, History Education Division
Agora Building 1, quai Jacoutot
67075 Strasbourg Cedex, FRANCE
E-mail: Tatiana.milko@coe.int