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Intercultural Dialogue across Histories

“Case study Eastern Europe”

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Passion/drive

- Task to fulfill a role in society, just a nail scratch in eternity
- Never War Again!
- Concerns about quality of history, heritage and citizenship education
- Fall of the Wall



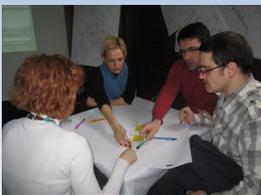
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Leadership Principles?

- Emphasize on Individual and Group (professional) Responsibility
- Believe in Equality
- Necessity to empower people
- (Professional) authority



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Nationally biased historical narratives
Mirrors of Pride and Pain

- Emphasis on suffering of the nation,
- Emphasis on national pride.
- Belittle pain and suffering inflicted to other people
- Neglecting non-nation connected history



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EUROCLIO MISSION

EUROCLIO supports the Development of Responsible and Innovative History and Citizenship Education

by promoting

Critical Thinking, Mutual Respect, Peace, Stability and Democracy.



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EUROCLIO
A Democratic Association

Since 1992	
63 Independent Member Associations of History and Citizenship Educators from 46 countries	
15 Associated Members from 12 countries	
8 Applications for Full and Associated Membership for 2012 from 5 countries	

EUROCLIO represents approximately 25 000 history educators!

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EUROCLIO Members beyond EUROPE



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EUROCLIO 3 PILLARS

Intense professional capacity building and knowledge exchange

Training and Development
 International, regional and national Trainings.

Research
 Assessments, Piloting, Reviews, Annual Questionnaire.

Dialogue, national, cross-community and trans-border networking and dissemination of information

Maintaining and Extending International Network:
 Meetings, Study Visits, Lobby, participation in International events.

Public Relations
 Dissemination of information, Website, Newsletter, Bulletin, Educational Materials, Workshops, Lectures, Consultancy, Press relations.

Participatory and sustainable professional civil society

Empowering History Educators Organizations
 Support, involvement and developing sustainable capacities.

Establishing and Stimulating History Educators Associations

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Activities since 1992 Focus on countries in political transformation

- Inter-ethnic and inter-religious tensions: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.
- Recent violent conflicts such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Former Yugoslavia and Georgia.



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Example work in Former Yugoslavia Focus on Bosnia and Macedonia

- History education continued to foster hate
- Professional dissatisfaction among mainly a younger generation
- Civil Courage to take responsibility
- Neither reconciliation nor healing: focus on high quality professionalism

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System Impact?Upscaling?

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does” “
 Margaret Mead

- Empowering potential professional quality/leaders textbook authors, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, advisors/inspectors
- Not working with the obvious people

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EUROCLIO METHODOLOGY



Capacity Building
 Civic Courage
 Collaborative Work
 Local Ownership
Professional Approach
 cross-community/trans-national
 Sense of Responsibility
 Process-Orientation
 External Monitoring

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INNOVATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE HISTORY TEACHING



Peer learning Trust
 Pilot Ability to peacefully disagree

Working Environment

Equality Dialogue and critical reflection Use of impartial Language
 Stable and Responsive Conditions

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Challenges ?

- Political disinterest or opposition
- (Donors) anxiety that the topic is too sensitive
- Lack of financial resources
- As a civil society organization, dependent on donors requirements, regulations and rules

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Project Armenia/Azerbaijan

Introduction of the principles responsible and innovative history education, applied on shared regional history.

Context

- Very contested histories
- Present in state of (cold) war
- Very hierarchic system: traditional (academic) leadership
- Traditional man power and war based history education, exemplifying mutual conflicts.

What process is needed to achieve our goal?

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