Intercultural Dialogue across Histories

“Case study Eastern Europe”

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EUROCLIO
European Association of History Educators

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

Leadership Principles?

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

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

EUROCLIO MISSION

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

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

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!
EUROCLIO Members beyond EUROPE

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.

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

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

EUROCLIO METHODOLOGY

Capacity Building
Civic Courage
Collaborative Work
Local Ownership
Professional Approach
cross-community/trans-national
Sense of Responsibility
Process-Oriented
External Monitoring
INNOVATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE HISTORY TEACHING

Working Environment
- Equality
- Working Environment
- Dialogue and critical reflection
- Use of impartial Language
- Stable and Responsive Conditions
- Pupil
- Trust
- Ability to peacefully disagree
- Civic Courage

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

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 manpower and war based history education, exemplifying mutual conflicts.

What process is needed to achieve our goal?