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History Education at a Time of War Conference Programme

23-24 October 2023, Berlin

[ExRotaprint, Glaskiste](#)

Gottschedstraße 4, 13357 Berlin, Germany

Confronting Memories is delighted to welcome you to Berlin for our first conference, which brings together many different groups that we work with: history educators, historians, historical and pedagogical experts, representatives of civil society organisations, museum professionals, and others. On Day 1, we will test and give feedback on new teaching materials that are being developed by Armenian, Georgian and Moldovan educators on the sensitive topics of ongoing and recent wars. Day 2 is devoted to capacity building and learning methods from projects implemented by organisations in the educational field.

The conference languages are English and Russian. We invite you to join for dinner on 23 and 24 October.

Sunday 22 October

Arrivals; optional social evening at [Two Fellas Brewery](#) with live Irish music (Mühlenstraße 30).

Monday 23 October

09:15	Registration
09:45 – 10:15	Introduction to the conference Anna Sevortian , Civil Society Forum e.V., Berlin, Germany Mariette A. Pfister , Eastern Partnership Program, Federal Foreign Office Kristina Smolijaninovaitė , Civil Society Forum e.V., Confronting Memories Lead, Berlin, Germany
10:15 – 10:45	Icebreaker
10:45 – 11:45	Panel discussion and Q&A: Current and recent conflicts in the local contexts of Armenia, Georgia and Moldova. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How are recent conflicts reflected in history education and the public space?- How controversial are these conflicts in society? What is the sociopolitical context of this sensitivity?- What are the specific difficulties in teaching about these conflicts in schools? <u>Moderator</u> Bojana Dujkovic-Blagojevic , EuroClio Ambassador, Bosnia & Herzegovina <u>Speakers</u> Sergiu Musteață , The National Association of Young Historians of Moldova, Chișinău

	<p>Shushanik Saratkiyan, Armenian Center for Ethnological Studies Hazarashen, Yerevan</p> <p>Nana Tsikhistavi, Georgian Association of History Educators, Tbilisi</p>
11:45 – 12:15	<i>Break</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<p>Introduction to the workshops and toolkit</p> <p>Marcus Chavasse & Kristina Smolijaninovaité, Confronting Memories, Civil Society Forum e.V., Berlin, Germany</p>
12:30 – 13:45	<p>Workshop 1: “The freedom that became a tragedy”</p> <p>Why did community groups oppose each other during the Georgian Civil War of 1991-92 and how did the consequences of this war change the population of Georgia?</p> <p>By analysing testimonies of civilian eyewitnesses, participants will try to define the character of the armed conflict and discover its effects on society in contemporary Georgia.</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch at the Kantine, ExRotaprint</i>
15:15 – 16:30	<p>Workshop 2: “Life in a bordering village: a case study”</p> <p>What is life like on the border during the Nagorno-Karabakh War?</p> <p>The lives of people in border villages can be very different from those in the city, especially at a time of war. It is these people that feel the harshness of war first hand and have to deal with danger and life-threatening situations in their homes. This situation affects all age groups and concerns all spheres of life. The workshop focuses on a case study of the village of Movses in the Tavush Region of Armenia.</p>
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Break</i>
16:45 – 18:00	<p>Workshop 3: “The multiple consequences of the Transnistria War on society in modern Moldova”</p> <p>How do the consequences of the Transnistria War affect the Republic of Moldova?</p> <p>The workshop will explore the short- and long-term impact of the war on political, economic, social, and cultural life both in Moldova and on the far side of the Dniester.</p>
18:00 – 18:30	<p>Finalisation of Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is it important to teach about recent conflicts that affect societies at a great scale? - What should the main approaches be when teaching about such recent and sensitive issues? <p>Dzintra Liepina, EuroClio Ambassador, Latvia</p>
19:00	<i>Dinner at Jasper's Mitte (Anklamer Straße 27)</i>

Tuesday 24 October

09:00 – 10:30	<p>Getting started on Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What were the main conclusions of Day 1?- What useful information or teaching techniques did the workshops provide?- Do you have any suggestions to add to the activities offered by the working groups?- What informational and methodological assistance would educators need to teach about recent or ongoing conflicts? <p>Bojana Dujkovic-Blagojevic, EuroClio Ambassador, Bosnia & Herzegovina & Dzintra Liepina, EuroClio Ambassador, Latvia</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p><i>Break</i></p>
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Workshop 4: “Methods of critical examination in youth work and local history projects”</p> <p>The mission of EVZ is to keep the memory of National Socialist persecution alive and to work for human rights and international understanding. This workshop will present contemporary methods of international youth and local history work, aimed towards a critical and reflective historical awareness of WWII and its consequences as well as an examination of current conflicts and wars.</p> <p>Corinna Jentzsch & Antonia Skiba, Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft (EVZ), Berlin, Germany</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p><i>Break</i></p>
12:30 – 13:45	<p>Workshop 5: “Doing the Right Thing? Footballers in complex war (hi)stories”</p> <p>Many children follow the lives of their heroes closely. They know what famous musicians eat, what TikTok influencers do on the weekend, and what cars their favourite football players drive. History can become more accessible to children when told from the perspective of an individual.</p> <p>In the Football Makes History project, history educators have curated a collection of biographies which present a variety of perspectives on the 20th century history of Europe and beyond. In this workshop, we will actively work with these historical life stories with a focus on living in war time, and address three guiding questions in groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nationalism: Why do footballers (not) represent their nation?- Dictatorship: How have footballers (not) resisted dictatorships?- Migration: When have footballers (not) emigrated? <p>Jonathan Even-Zohar, Reinwardt Academy, Editor-in-Chief Football Makes History, The Hague, Netherlands & Anna Skienziel, Complex of Technical and Secondary School Nr 2, Katowice, Poland</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><i>Lunch at the Kantine, ExRotaprint</i></p>

15:00 – 16:00	<p>Workshop 6: “Serious games in history education”</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to reflect on the use of serious games in history education. Two games that deal with the topic of resistance in the Nazi era will serve as examples. First, <i>Through the Darkest of Times</i> will be presented in which the player takes on the role of a resistance fighter in Berlin during the Nazi dictatorship. The second example, <i>Attentat 1942</i>, puts the player in the role of a young person today who wants to find out whether their grandfather was a resistance fighter in Prague during the German occupation. Participants will compare the two games, discuss their possible benefits in history teaching as well as the pros and cons of the use of games in history education in general.</p> <p>Dr. Maren Tribukait, Leibniz Institute for Education Media / Georg-Eckert Institute, Braunschweig, Germany</p>
16:00 – 16:15	Break
16:15 – 17:15	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A: Teaching recent history</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent is recent history reflected in history curricula? - What are the main challenges when teaching recent history? <p><u>Moderator</u> Benny Christensen, EuroClio Ambassador, Denmark</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Marios Epaminondas, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, Nicosia, Cyprus Sarah Kühn, History & English teacher, Hamburg, Germany Emina Živković, History teacher & Textbook author, Belgrade, Serbia</p>
17:15 – 17:30	Closing of the conference & group photo
18:00 – 19:30	<p>Film screening and Q&A at Sinema Transtopia (Lindower Straße 20/22)</p> <p>“War is Not Over” (12min, dir. Stefano di Pietro, Confronting Memories production)</p> <p>This documentary presents the harrowing recollections of a Polish survivor of the Kinder-KZ in Łódź, accompanied by memoirs and letters written by other children. In combination with accounts of young people from present-day Ukraine and the insight of educators in Łódź, the documentary explores the transformation of the city, its current diversity-related challenges and emphasises the vital role of history education in fostering integration and peace.</p>
19:30	Dinner at Mr. Hoang (Gerichtstraße 30)

Wednesday 25 October (additional programme for teachers)

11:00 – 12:30	Guided tour of Bayrisches Viertel (Bavarian Quarter) A tour showing the methods of remembering Jewish history and the Jewish experience in the 1930s as exemplified by an outdoor exhibition in the neighbourhood. Meeting point: Café Haberland (U-Bahnhof Bayerischer Platz)
12:30	<i>Coffee & lunch in Café Haberland</i>

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