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
Innovative and Responsible History Teaching

Ability to peacefully disagree
Civic Courage
Stable and Responsive Conditions
Impartial Language
Trust
Working Environment
Equality Dialogue and critical reflection
Use of impartial Language
Stable and Responsive Conditions
Peer learning Pilot

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 man power and war based history education, exemplifying mutual conflicts.

What process is needed to achieve our goal?