

GENERAL REPORT ON THE  
Second Belgrade History Teaching Symposium  
**“History and memory culture for Europe: 60 years of  
Franco-German cooperation Inspiration for  
cooperation in Southeastern Europe and contribution to  
European unity”,**  
March 23-24<sup>th</sup>,  
Embassy of France, Ethnographic Museum, Goethe Institute, University of  
Belgrade



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## Introduction

Second Belgrade History Teaching Symposium “**History and memory culture for Europe: 60 years of Franco-German cooperation Inspiration for cooperation in Southeastern Europe and contribution to European unity**” was held at various venues (Embassy of France, Ethnographic Museum, Goethe Institute, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. More than 70 participants - history educators, future history educators, history education experts, Council of Europe representatives and others gathered to discuss 60 years of Franco-German cooperation as a contribution to European unity and identify how far it can be an inspiration for multilateral cultural cooperation in South-Eastern Europe.

The event was organized as part of the Francophonie Month in Serbia by Council of Europe office in Belgrade and Education for the 21st Century, together with various partners: Observatory for History Teaching in Europe Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Georg-Eckert-Institute, Braunschweig, embassies of Switzerland, France, Germany, Poland, as well as EuroClio – European Association of History Educators and OFAJ (Franco-German Youth Office).

Together with partners and institutions from different European countries, the intention was to create a space for a democratic dialogue, which can be transferred to the public sphere and educational systems. The guiding questions of the symposium considered the role of history education in post-conflict settings as a potential agent in the process of building peace and European unity. Another important aspect of history teaching was related to the enhancement of education for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights in inclusive and dynamic societies of the 21st century that face various societal and political challenges.

60 years ago, on 22 January 1963, the Elysée Treaty created a new basis for Franco-German relations. This development of Franco-German friendship following the Second World War was carefully prepared by public diplomacy events such as the Reconciliation Mass at the Reims Cathedral on 8 July 1962, celebrated by President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and Charles de Gaulle’s “speech to young Germans” in Ludwigsburg on 9 September 1962. The Treaty is a political agreement of friendship between France and West Germany. Following its signing, Germany and France established several instruments for strengthening their relations, following their history of rivalry and wars. This new cooperation included the areas of culture, education and youth with a particular focus on history education and shared memory culture as a prerequisite for achieving greater European unity. After 1990 exchange and cooperation with Poland was established through the “Weimar Triangle” supporting multilateral approaches. With the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in 1999 the

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Franco-German Youth Office developed cooperation with young people from Southeastern Europe, through the foundation of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office in Paris (2016), and then also established in Tirana.

The first day of the symposium was opened with two city guided tours for the participants showing the Ottoman and Jewish heritage of Belgrade and controversial murals of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century history in the city grounds. The opening remarks were given at the Embassy of France by:

- **H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard**, Ambassador of France
- **H.E. Ms. Silvia Davidoiu**, Ambassador of Romania, President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Belgrade
- **Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade.

After the opening remarks the first panel discussion of the symposium “**Franco-German friendship & history education: contribution to European unity**” was held at the same venue moderated by **Mr. Andreas Holtberget**, EuroClio. Then, after a short break and the change of venue, the second panel discussion was held at the Ethnographic Museum titled “**History education after conflict – Overcoming or cementing divisions?**” and moderated by **Prof Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade.

In the evening participants of the symposium attended a public event at the Goethe Institute “**Franco-German friendship as inspiration for Europe and the Balkans**”, opened by:

- **H.E. Ms Anke Konrad**, Ambassador of Germany
- **H.E. Mr Pierre Cochard**, Ambassador of France
- **H.E. Mr Rafał Perl**, Ambassador of Poland
- **H.E. Mr Urs Schmid**, Ambassador of Switzerland.

On the second day two parallel workshops were organized for the symposium participants:

- Workshop 1: **History curricula and textbooks and their role for reconciliation: European perspectives and experiences**; held at the University of Belgrade and moderated by **Ms. Ana Radaković**, Education for 21<sup>st</sup> century/University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy.
- Workshop 2: **Memory sites and history education institutions as places for democratic learning**; held at the Ethnographic Museum and moderated by **Ms. Nevena Bajalica**, Terraforming, Novi Sad.

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During the workshops the participants were able to share their thoughts on the previous day, discuss the information they received, share their thoughts and ideas on practising History education for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights in inclusive and dynamic societies of the 21st century that face different societal and political challenges inspired by the Franco-German, Swiss, Polish, Cypriot, other South-Eastern and European practices. Participant reflections were later presented in the plenary.

Finally, during the closing session moderated by **Prof Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy presenters from the parallel workshops gave their key notes before the closing speeches were given.

### City guided tours

On the first day of the symposium the participants had an opportunity to take a city guided tour in the morning, before the opening session. They were offered two options to choose from:

- **Preserved and lost Ottoman and Jewish heritage**
- **Controversial murals on 20th Century history**

Both tours consisted of visits to various memory sites and discussions on sites with the designated guide.

### Preserved and lost Ottoman and Jewish heritage

The first tour was guided by:

- **Ms. Sofía Jovanović**
- **Mr. Igor Mijović**

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Both of who are students and participants of the **BELGRADE ADVENTURE** project Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century participates in and which tends to show to the public Belgrade’s cultural and historical heritage, exploring different periods in city’s history and also different cultures that existed or still exist in Belgrade.

The Preserved and lost Ottoman and Jewish heritage tour depicted the hidden history of the old Belgrade city center – Dorćol. Most of the heritage has been lost/disappeared during the historical turmoil in the end of the 19th Century and during the two world wars but the participants had a chance to visit sites such as Bajrakli mosque, Austrian baroque Belgrade in front of the oldest civil building in Cara Dušana 10 street from the period of Austrian rule from the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish hospital, with it’s disturbing and horrifying past during the Holocaust, Jewish community building etc.

The tour demonstrated how memory sites can be used for education for democracy, multiculturalism and human rights respect, showing different heritages that coexist, telling stories about the Ottomans and Jews in Belgrade, their histories, famous persons and the influence of these different cultures had on creating modern city.

#### Controversial murals on 20<sup>th</sup> Century history

The second tour was guided by:

- **Ms. Ana Radaković**, Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century/University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
- **Ms. Hana Šuica**, Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The main topic of the tour was discussing the importance of talking about murals and similar memory sites in History and Civic education which are made to be visible and convey very clear messages in a very efficient way, describing the values of a society and its understanding of past, not necessarily in correlation with factual events.

The first mural visited was that of Zoran Đinđić, former Serbian Prime minister assassinated in 2003. It was discussed how Đinđić is seen today in Serbian public, where there are those who saw him as a symbol of hope during Milošević regime, and others who consider him to be a symbol of political and social changes that brought no good. That is why the mural itself has been painted and desecrated on numerous occasions and can be used to teach about complex transition and societies in transition.

The participants of the symposium also had a chance to see murals dedicated to Albert Andijev, a Russian citizen who volunteered as a soldier on the Yugoslav side during the 1999 war

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on Kosovo, and Russian president Vladimir Putin. Both murals illustrate the public attitude towards Russia and Russians and their ties with Serbia.

They also visited a number of memory sites dedicated to „national heroes“ or prominent figures from Serbian history, all seen as right wing patriots/nationalists such as Njegoš, Miloš Obilić or Živojin Mišić. The most controversial being a mural of a condemned war criminal Ratko Mladić.

These murals never portray any communist-related person, including women, it's almost always a warrior, ruthless soldier/commander with the sole purpose to spark up national pride and bring patriotism to the next level by making a case that Serbian people was always oppressed by someone. These murals also show persistent struggles for democracy and human rights on the one side, and glorification of war that rests on nationalistic pillars as a difficult legacy of the nineties on the other.

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## Opening Remarks

The opening of the symposium was held at the Embassy of France where introductory remarks were given at the where the participants were addressed by:

- **H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard**, Ambassador of France
- **H.E. Ms. Silvia Davidoiu**, Ambassador of Romania, President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Belgrade
- **Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade

**H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard** gave a speech about the Traité de l'Élysée from 1963 emphasizing the political bravery of both president de Gaulle and prime minister Adenauer to overcome the hostilities after World War II and start rebuilding French-German relations. The treaty they made symbolizes the peace between two countries and a foundation on which they have built their joint European future. The same bravery as **Mr. Cochard** noted is needed today to overcome the divisions and find the questions upon which we can agree and build our future united and that should be one the tasks of History education.

After the opening speech by **H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard** the participants were addressed by **H.E. Ms. Silvia Davidoiu**, Ambassador of Romania, President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Belgrade and later **Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade. **Mr. Flessenkemper** emphasized that History education has a vital role to play in confronting the current political, cultural, and social challenges facing Europe; in particular, those posed by the increasingly diverse nature of societies, and by attacks on democracy and democratic values. To fulfil this task, History education requires a broad view, cherishing our multiple diversities, including the important history of Roma in Europe, of minorities, national or based on sexual orientation and gender identity, of people with different abilities. The guiding question of this symposium, as he stated, is the role of history education in post-conflict settings as a potential agent in the process of building peace and European unity. This question remains important here in the Balkans and is more urgent than ever for the whole of Europe and beyond.



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## Franco-German friendship & history education: contribution to European unity

After the official opening of the symposium, the work continued with the first panel discussion held at the French Embassy on the topic of „**Franco-German friendship & history education: contribution to European unity**”. The panel was moderated by **Mr. Andreas Holtberget** of EuroClio and the panellists were:

- **Prof Thomas Serrier**, University of Lille
- **Prof Eckhardt Fuchs**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut, Braunschweig
- **Prof Igor Kąkolewski**, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
- **Prof Dubravka Stojanović**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy

The panellists shared with the participants of the symposium their experiences in working on different shared Histories projects and projects developed with a goal to contribute to overcoming the divisions inflicted by different, often opposed, views of the joint past shared by European countries. **Prof Thomas Serrier** and **Prof Eckhardt Fuchs** introduced the participants the history of the joint French-German history textbooks and the outcomes underlining the obstacles that need to be overcome for the textbooks to be written and published. These obstacles are not just different views on joint past, but also different didactics used in these countries, as well as the fact that in Germany every of the 16 federal states needs to approve the textbook.

**Prof Igor Kąkolewski** spoke about the joint Polish-German History textbook which was in large inspired by the joint French-German efforts. He stated, among other things, the importance of context, and not presenting joint histories isolated from the rest of the continent. That is why the outcome of the Polish-German efforts are European history textbooks, which revealed the not only joint past can be controversial, but also that different views on third parties can be extremely challenging (with the example of Napoleon given), and that also events from distant past can be much more controversial than it seems.

**Prof Dubravka Stojanović** shared her thoughts and experiences from working on a project of joined South-eastern European historical sourcebooks which was headed by Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe, **CDRSEE**.

All the participants of the first panel discussion agreed that the work on all these joint ventures is important for history education for democracy and reconciliation, but also that the outcomes of

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the efforts made are still vague, having in mind that all these textbooks are just tools, and they need to be used to be effective.

History education after conflict – Overcoming or cementing divisions?

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After a short break, the second panel discussion was held at the Ethnographic Museum with the topic „**History education after conflict – Overcoming or cementing divisions?**” moderated by **Prof Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy and with participation of the following panellists:

- **Mr. Celestin Berthelot**, Observatory for History Teaching in Europe, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- **Prof Snježana Koren**, Faculty of Philosophy Zagreb
- **Mr. Loisos Loukaidis**, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), Nicosia
- **Mr. Steffen Sammler**, Georg-Eckert-Institute, Braunschweig

The second panel discussion gave the participants a chance to share their experiences with the panellists who presented different experiences when speaking about teaching History in post conflict societies as well as shown the participants different projects aimed at History education for democratic culture and overcoming the division based on our past.

**Mr. Celestin Berthelot** presented and spoke about [The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#) whose mission is to promote quality education in order to enhance the understanding of democratic culture. He also spoke about the Observatory’s first thematic report entitled „**Pandemics and natural disasters in history education.**” Based on an analysis of school history curricula in the member states of the Observatory, as well as on surveys of teachers on their teaching practices, the research highlights that teaching history can play an important role in providing students with a comprehensive understanding of past and present pandemics and natural disasters. The teaching of the historical dimension of these phenomena is considered vital by teachers in all countries and teaching collective experiences of pandemics and natural disasters across Europe can help create a sense of European responsibility and cultural identity.

**Mr. Steffen Sammler** presented [HISTOLAB](#), a joint project between the European Union and the Council of Europe that focuses on the potential for evolution in history education, and shines a light on innovative initiatives in research, academia, and teaching practices. While [The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#) establishes how history is currently being taught in its member states to provide factual information for the exchange of knowledge and good practices, [HISTOLAB](#) focuses on the potential for evolution in history education, and shines a light on innovative initiatives in teaching practices, research, and academia. It provides a platform for researchers and educators to share their experiences and ideas and to strengthen the global perspectives of history teaching to make it more responsive to global changes.

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**Mr. Loisos Loukaidis** spoke about the work his NGO has done and still does in Cyprus to cross the borders that divide the Cypriot population, not just those of Greek and Turkish origins, but also gender issues in history teaching. He presented a project done back in 2016 [Gender as a missing lens – how to introduce gender into history teaching](#) with the objective is to raise awareness and increase the capacity of educators across Cyprus in order to empower them to integrate a gender equality perspective in their teaching practices, while making students in Cyprus more aware of gender equality and better equipped to adopt a gender approach, incorporate critical thinking and a multiperspectival approach to learning. He also gave the participants insight into a project where they developed educational materials contributing to the promotion of active citizenship among youth, using fun, attention-grabbing and thought-provoking methods to inspire compassion, empathy, equality, and human rights values. Hence, encouraging students and teachers to become agents of change in society rather than bystanders, which strengthens civil society. It is not enough to not be racist, we need to proactively influence positive change, act against injustice and foster social co-existence and peace at all levels ([Anti racist games](#)).

**Ms. Snježana Koren** emphasized the correlation between policy makers, teacher training, history teachers and the public and its importance to overcome the divisions in post conflict zones. All the projects participants presented, and the joint textbook examples the participants heard about in the previous discussion are as all the panellists agreed steps in good direction to overcome the divisions, but again their range is still unknown. It is necessary for the success of all these efforts that the policy makers back them up not just in words but in practice, otherwise they will fail on a larger scale.

Public event (interested and invited guests, and symposium participants)  
Franco-German friendship as inspiration for Europe and the Balkans

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In the evening of the first day of the symposium the participants attended a public event held at the Goethe Institute “**Franco-German friendship as inspiration for Europe and the Balkans**”. The event was opened by:

- **H.E. Ms. Anke Konrad**, Ambassador of Germany
- **H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard**, Ambassador of France
- **H.E. Mr. Rafał Perl**, Ambassador of Poland
- **H.E. Mr. Urs Schmid**, Ambassador of Switzerland.

Both **H.E. Ms. Anke Konrad** and **H.E. Mr. Pierre Cochard** spoke about the importance of realistic view of the past events for us to build joint future. They emphasized the importance of teaching the young generations to live their lives without the burden of historical events that took place long before their time, and that accepting our deeds and forgiving is the base for building the future. **H.E. Mr. Rafał Perl** spoke about the importance of dialog between once conflicting sides, while **H.E. Mr. Urs Schmid**, among other things, spoke about past attempts to get to joint view of our past on the Balkans.

After the opening remarks, a panel discussion was held with the participation of:

- **Ms. Marija Bulat**, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), Head of Local Branch Office, Belgrade
- **Mr. Benjamin Kurc**, Franco-German Youth Office, Director Franco-German Citizen Fund, Berlin/Paris
- **Ms. Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General, Europa Nostra, The Hague
- **Ms. Anamarija Viček**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education of Serbia, Belgrade
- **Mr. Bernard Wicht**, Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education, Head of International Affairs General Secretariat, Berne

And moderated by **Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade.

**Mr. Benjamin Kurc** shared his thoughts on not passing our unresolved historical disputes onto the generations to come. **Mr. Bernard Wicht** spoke about Swiss experiences, noting that the multicultural and multinational Switzerland placed between traditionally hostile countries had to find a way to teach about the past in a way that will prevent future divisions and conflicts. **Ms. Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović** emphasized the importance of finding a common starting point for the Balkan region and understanding its past on a way to a more prosperous future. **Ms. Anamarija Viček** spoke about the efforts made by the Ministry of Education towards education

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of minorities and their history, while **Ms. Marija Bulat** emphasized the importance of European support to the efforts that strive to bring us closer through History education.

All of the panellists agreed that the best way for overcoming divisions in the region is scientific and cultural exchange and striving to become a region that emphasizes unity instead of wars and battles.

Parallel Workshops

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The morning session of the second day of the Second Belgrade History Education symposium “**History and memory culture for Europe: 60 years of Franco-German cooperation Inspiration for cooperation in Southeastern Europe and contribution to European unity**” required participants to take everything they learned and experienced during the first day of the symposium and, split into two parallel working groups, provide their reflections on the potential and the difficulties of using History education, whether in the classroom or on memory sites for learning for democracy and reconciliation.

Each working group consisted of a group moderator, a group rapporteur, and a diverse group of forum participants – history educators, future history educators, history education experts, etc.

### Workshop 1 - History curricula and textbooks and their role for reconciliation: European perspectives and experiences

The first of the two parallel workshops was held at University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy and was moderated by **Ms. Ana Radaković**, Education for the 21st century/University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy with the participation of a number of experts including:

- **Mr. Steffen Sammler**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut
- **Ms. Patrycja Czerwińska**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut
- **Mr. Andreas Holtberget**, EUROCLIO-Association of history educators
- **Prof Thomas Serrier**, University of Lille
- **Mr. Loizos Loukaidis**, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research
- **Prof Snježana Koren**, Faculty of Philosophy Zagreb
- **Prof Igor Kąkolewski**, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
- **Prof Dubravka Stojanović**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
- **Prof Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy

Also, this workshop was attended by a number of future history teachers attending the initial teacher training program at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy Department of History.

The workshop was divided into two parts, the first being the address of **Ms. Patrycja Czerwińska**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut via ZOOM since she was unable to attend the symposium in person on the subject “**How to bring joint textbooks into**

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**practice? Experiences from German-Polish textbook projects**”. She shared her experiences from working on those projects and the issues such as differences in the curriculum, didactical approaches, presenting historical narratives and the use of primary sources in history education, different view on past historical events and the use of multiperspectivity in history teaching, among other things.

This opening part of the workshop was followed by a discussion where the experts shared experiences from their countries and the teachers from Serbia shared their views on the possibility of creating new and using existing teaching materials that are not unilateral. As it was stated using these materials can be a highly sensitive and controversial subject that needs to be supported from the educational authorities, the Ministry of Education and the teachers should be encouraged to use them not just given that option, also the history educators themselves should have more training on how to use these materials in order to use them and develop multiperspectival approaches and critical thinking when dealing with manipulation, abuse and relativization of the past.

## Workshop 2 - Memory sites and history education institutions as places for democratic learning es

The second parallel workshop was held at the Ethnographic Museum and moderated by **Ms. Nevena Bajalica**, Terraforming, Novi Sad and with the participation of experts including:

- **Ivan Maksimović**, Ethnographic Museum, Belgrade
- **Nicolas Moll**, Memory Lab, Sarajevo
- **Aline Palige**, Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice/Berlin
- **Lidija Županić Šuica**, Education for 21st Century, Belgrade
- **Marius Schlageter**, German Federal Youth Council, Berlin

The two general questions that the participants of this workshop tried to contribute answering were:

- 1. The role of history education in post-conflict settings as a potential agent in the process of building peace and European unity.**
- 2. History teaching as education for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights in inclusive and dynamic societies of the 21st century.**



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Participants discussed the role and potentials of history teaching in the face of contemporary societal and political challenges and the responsibility and accountability of history education in today's Europe, with manipulation, abuse, falsification of history, trivialization, and relativization - all we call the distortion of history, usually in service of nationalist and populist politics, or worse, used to inflame hatred, even violence. Also, the participants discussed the role of memorial sites, authentic historical locations, or/and museums, and their educational value and potential in this context.

One of the topics covered was the role of emotions in teaching history, especially in the post conflict zones where the wounds are fresh and students have family members who participated in the historical events and have their own attitudes and points of view, often extremely subjective. This included examples from Serbia, but also Poland, Germany and France and the role of victims and victimization in history teaching, using multiperspectival approach and the use of adequate language when dealing with these issues and the role of memorial sites, authentic historical locations, or/and museums which often tell only one side of the story, need to be contextualized and used in history education but with caution.

Closing session

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The closing session was chaired by **Prof Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy, and included the reports from the workshops held earlier the same day and the closing address of

- **Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade,
- **Ms. Nataša Jovanović Ajzenhamer** PhD, the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy and that of
- **Ms. Lidija Županić Šuica**, Head of Education for 21<sup>st</sup> century.

While **Mr. Flessenkemper** and **Ms. Jovanović Ajzenhamer** thanked the symposium organizers for their efforts, again emphasizing the importance of sharing thoughts and further improving the History education process across, especially in the times we live in, full of challenges and History misuses, **Ms. Lidija Županić Šuica** pointed out that the symposium was a truly European event, which has shown the importance of history education and how we can tackle sensitive topics by opening the democratic dialog.

She added that throughout the entire program of the symposium all the participants experienced the benefits of opening the contested or sensitive topics. Today’s society, she added, cannot be understood with closed narratives of historical events, but on the contrary. Young people today continue to live in the shadow of large historical divisions and traditionally understood roles that have been transferred from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to modern days. The idea that brought us all together is creating a space for democratic dialogue, through connecting different European countries and institutions, which can be transferred to the public sphere and the educational system emphasizing the positive aspect of cooperation and the restoration of ties that have been broken due to problematic interpretations of history.

## Conclusions

The Second Belgrade History Teaching Symposium “**History and memory culture for Europe: 60 years of Franco-German cooperation Inspiration for cooperation in Southeastern**

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**Europe and contribution to European unity**” was opened by speakers who all agreed that today, maybe more than ever before, democracy and democratic values in Europe need to be nurtured and supported. History education has a great potential and an obligation to work on enhancing the education for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights in inclusive and dynamic societies of the 21st century in the face various global social and political challenges, including but not limited to the war in Ukraine.

History education has a great potential to communicate to the younger generations these values and free them from the traditionally understood roles that were transferred to them from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Élysée Treaty signed in 1963 provides a good example and a starting point for changing the History teaching paradigm and moving towards a better mutual understanding of each other, of the past and towards a joint future.

But as we could hear and learn from the panellists of the first panel discussion “**Franco-German friendship & history education: contribution to European unity**” the road to the goal is a long a filled with obstacles. Even though the Élysée Treaty was signed in 1963 it took decades for the visible outcomes in the History education field, joint teaching materials to be published. There are several obstacles we need to address on that road, different views of the past being just one of them. Different countries have different educational systems, use different teaching didactics, have different views on the third parties but the way to go is finding the values and experiences we share and building on them.

The second panel discussion „**History education after conflict – Overcoming or cementing divisions?**” showed us different projects that managed to overcome the divisions in different societies. [The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#) and [HISTOLAB](#) are a valuable example of functional cooperation between European countries, and **cooperation** is one of the key words in overcoming the divisions. That cooperation needs to be developed on different levels, between the countries and policymakers, between once conflicted groups as seen in the Cypriot example and within those groups. There needs to exist a **synergy** for history education to be able to educate for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights.

Another keyword is **bravery**. Societies in general and history educators need to be brave to develop realistic view of the past, accepting our deeds and forgiving, but also understanding each other through multiperspectival approach and the development of critical thinking to build a future for young generations to live their lives without the burden of historical events that took place long before their time. Bravery as shown by both president de Gaulle and prime minister Adenauer when signing the Elysée Treaty to overcome the hostilities after World War II and start rebuilding French-German relations and inspiring others to walk down the same path.

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Only when we have the bravery to start the processes need in order to change the paradigm of History teaching and move away from the closed narrative towards critical thinking and multiperspectival approach in order for History education to enhance education for democracy and human rights, when we have the synergy of all parties involved from the policymakers to educators and when we can cooperate within one society and between multiple societies with histories of conflict we can make the changes needed to free the younger generations from the irons of historical stereotypes and build a joint future.

The greatest responsibility nevertheless lies on the History educators themselves and academic historians who need to develop teaching resources and materials using historical sources and incorporating memory sites, monuments and/or museums into the History education process, cooperate among themselves, and find ways to adjust the language, didactical approach and in the end disseminate the materials for them to attribute to the changes we want to make.

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## APPENDIX

### Agenda



Second Belgrade History Education Symposium  
23-24 March 2023  
Embassy of France, Ethnographic Museum, Goethe Institute, University of Belgrade

**History and memory culture for Europe: 60 years of Franco-German cooperation  
Inspiration for cooperation in Southeastern Europe and contribution to European unity**

*An event of the Month of the Francophonie in Serbia 2023*

60 years ago, on 22 January 1963, the Elysée Treaty created a new basis for Franco-German relations. This development of Franco-German friendship following the Second World War was carefully prepared by public diplomacy events such as the Reconciliation Mass at the Reims Cathedral on 8 July 1962 celebrated by President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle’s “speech to young Germans” in Ludwigsburg on 9 September 1962. The Treaty is a political agreement of friendship between France and West Germany. Following its signing Germany and France established a several instruments for strengthening their relations, following a history with centuries of rivalry and wars. The new cooperation included centrally the areas of culture, education and youth with a particular focus on history education and shared memory culture as a prerequisite for achieving greater European unity. After 1990 exchange and cooperation with Poland was established through the “Weimar Triangle” supporting multilateral approaches. With the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in 1999 the Franco-German Youth Office developed cooperation with young people from Southeastern Europe, inspiring 2016 the foundation of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office at Paris, and then established in Tirana.

Participants of the Second Belgrade History Education symposium will be discussing 60 years of Franco-German cooperation as a contribution to European unity and identify how far it can be an inspiration for multilateral cultural cooperation in South-Eastern Europe. The first day of the symposium will be dedicated to the Franco-German and other European practices and conclude with a panel discussion, open to the public. The second day of the symposium will consist of two workshops for educational experts, including history teachers, academics, curricula designers and history students from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade. The conclusions of the two-day workshop will be used to further develop history education and teaching in view of lessons from the Franco-German, Swiss, Polish, Cypriot, other South-Eastern and European practices.

The guiding question of the symposium will be the role of history education in post-conflict settings as a potential agent in the process of building peace and European unity. Another important aspect of history teaching is enhancing education for democracy, diversity, and respect of human rights in inclusive and dynamic societies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that face different societal and political challenges, based on the [Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#) developed by the Council of Europe.



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The Second Belgrade History Education Symposium will be held in various historical locations around the University of Belgrade and Faculty of Philosophy, allowing domestic and international participants to jointly experience sites and connect to significant spaces of cooperation and learning for Serbia.



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**THURSDAY, 23 March 2023**

Arrival of domestic participants

Venue/starting point: Art Hotel, Knez Mihailova 27, Belgrade  
 Languages: English only (no interpretation)

10h00-11h30. Visit to memory sites / guided city tour in Belgrade:  
 – Preserved and lost Ottoman and Jewish heritage  
 – Controversial murals on 20<sup>th</sup> Century history

Starting point: Belgrade Art Hotel, Knez Mihailova 27, Belgrade

Venue: French Embassy, Gračanička 2, Belgrade  
 Languages: Traduction simultanée français-anglais / French-English simultaneous interpretation

13h30 Registration of the participants (registered participants and upon invitation only)

14h00 Opening  
 H.E. Mr Pierre Cochard, Ambassador of France  
 H.E. Ms Silvia Davidoiu, Ambassador of Romania, President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Belgrade  
 Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade

14h15-15h45 *Franco-German friendship & history education: contribution to European unity*  
 Prof Thomas Serrier, University of Lille  
 Prof Eckhardt Fuchs, Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig  
 Prof Igor Kačkolewski, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn  
 Prof Dubravka Stojanović, University of Belgrade  
 Moderator: Mr Andreas Holtberget, EuroClio, The Hague

15h45-16h15 Refreshments

16h15-16h25 Walk to the Ethnographic Museum

Venue: Ethnographic Museum, Studentski Trg 13, Belgrade  
 Languages: English only (no interpretation)



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16h30-18h00 **History education after conflict – Overcoming or cementing divisions?**

Mr Celestin Berthelot, Observatory for History Teaching in Europe, Council of Europe, Strasbourg  
Prof Dilek Latif, Expert of the Observatory for History Teaching in Europe, Cyprus International University, Nicosia  
Mr Loisos Loukaidis, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), Nicosia  
Mr Steffen Semmler, Georg-Eckert-Institute, Braunschweig  
Moderator: Prof Marko Šuica, University of Belgrade

18h10-18h20 Walk to the Goethe Institute

Venue: Goethe Institute, Knez Mihailova 50, Belgrade  
Languages: French-German-Serbian simultaneous interpretation

**Public event (interested and invited guests, and symposium participants)**  
**Franco-German friendship as inspiration for Europe and the Balkans**

18h30 Welcome  
H.E. Ms Anke Konrad, Ambassador of Germany  
H.E. Mr Pierre Cochard, Ambassador of France  
H.E. Mr Rafał Perl, Ambassador of Poland  
H.E. Mr Urs Schmid, Ambassador of Switzerland

Panel discussion  
**Franco-German friendship as inspiration for Europe and the Balkans**  
Ms Marija Bulat, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), Head of Local Branch Office, Belgrade  
Mr Benjamin Kurec, Franco-German Youth Office, Director Franco-German Citizen Fund, Berlin/Paris  
Ms Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General, Europa Nostra, The Hague  
Ms Anamarija Viček, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education of Serbia, Belgrade  
Mr Bernard Wicht, Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education, Head of International Affairs General Secretariat, Berne  
Moderator: Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade

Followed by a reception with refreshments hosted by the Embassy of Germany

**FRIDAY, 24 March 2023**

09h30-12h00 Two parallel workshops





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**Workshop 1: History curricula and textbooks and their role for reconciliation: European perspectives and experiences**  
 Venue: Faculty of Philosophy, Čika-Ljubina 18-20, Belgrade  
 Languages: English only (no interpretation)  
 Moderator: Ms Ana Radaković, Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century/Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade

**Workshop 2: Memory sites and history education institutions as places for democratic learning**  
 Venue: Ethnographic Museum, Studentski Trg 13, Belgrade  
 Languages: English only (no interpretation)  
 Moderator: Ms Nevena Bajalica, Terraforming, Novi Sad

**Concluding session**  
 Venue: Ethnographic Museum, Studentski Trg 13, Belgrade  
 Languages: English only (no interpretation)

- 12h00      Concluding session  
             Reports from the two workshops  
             Questions and discussion  
             Moderator: Prof Marko Šuica, University of Belgrade
  - 12h45      Closing remarks  
             Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade  
             Ms Lidija Županić Šuica, President of Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Belgrade  
             Prof. Milan Stančić, vice dean Faculty of Philosophy,
  - 13h00      Buffet lunch hosted by Council of Europe office in Belgrade.
- Departure of participants



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### **Background**

Since 2020, the Council of Europe office in Belgrade in partnership with the embassies of France and Switzerland organised several events in the area of history education in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and the history department of the University of Belgrade. During the last years it was possible to create a space for discussion:

- to introduce the initiative of the [Observatory for History Teaching in Europe \(OHTE\)](#), of which Serbia became a founding member alongside France and others (both France and Serbia support more European states joining the OHTE);
- to analyze the [challenges of history teaching in Europe](#) and present history projects carried out in Serbia;
- to discuss regional history in view of European integration during the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, [Institut français de Serbie \(institutfrancais.rs\)](#).

This was accompanied by a variety of other outreach activities, articles and talks. At the beginning of November 2022, the [First annual Forum for History Education of the Council of Europe](#) was held in Belgrade. Some 80 experts from almost all 46 Council of Europe member states analysed the issue of “Sites of Memories: Learning spaces for democracy”, in view of preparing a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to be discussed at the Conference of Ministers of Education in Riga in 2023.

2023 also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [the first Council of Europe conference on “The European idea in History Teaching”](#) held in Calw (Germany) in August 1953.



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**Deuxième Symposium sur l'éducation de l'histoire à Belgrade**  
**23-24 Mars 2023**  
**L'Ambassade de France, Musée Ethnographique, Institut Goethe, l'Université de Belgrade**

Histoire et la culture de la mémoire : 60 ans de coopération franco-allemande  
 L'inspiration pour coopération en Europe de sud-est et contribution à l'unité européenne

*Un événement du mois de la Francophonie en Serbie 2023*

Endroit : L'Ambassade de France, Pariska 11, Belgrade  
 Langues : Traduction simultanée français-anglais / French-English simultaneous interpretation

- 13h30            Registration (l'événement ouvert aux médias)
- 14h00            L'ouverture du Symposium  
 S.E. M. Pierre Cochard, Ambassadeur de France en Serbie  
 S.E. Mme Silvia Davidoiu, Ambassadrice de la Roumanie en Serbie, Présidente du Groupe des Ambassadeurs francophones à Belgrade  
 Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Chef du Bureau du Conseil de l'Europe à Belgrade
- 14h15-15h45    **L'amitié franco-allemande et l'éducation de l'histoire : contribution à l'unité européenne**  
 Prof Thomas Serrier, Université de Lille  
 Prof Eckhardt Fuchs, Institut Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig  
 Prof Igor Kąkolowski, Université de Warmia et Mazury à Olsztyn  
 Prof Dubravka Stojanović, Université de Belgrade  
 Modération: Mr Andreas Holtberget, EuroClio, La Haye

Endroit : Institut Goethe, Knez Mihailova 50, Belgrade  
 Langues : Traduction simultanée français-allemande-serbe

**Table-ronde ouvert au public: L'amitié franco-allemande : inspiration pour l'Europe et les Balkans**

- 18h30            Allocution de bienvenue  
 S.E. Mme Anke Konrad, Ambassadrice l'Allemagne  
 S.E. M Pierre Cochard, Ambassadeur de la France  
 S.E. M Rafal Perl, Ambassadeur de la Pologne  
 S.E. M Urs Schmid, Ambassadeur de la Suisse

**Table-ronde**  
**L'amitié franco-allemande : inspiration pour l'Europe et les Balkans**

Mme Marija Bulat, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), Chef du Bureau de Belgrade  
 M Benjamin Kurec, Office Franco-Allemande pour la Jeunesse (OFAJ), Directeur du Fonds Citoyen, Berlin/Paris  
 Mme Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secrétaire Générale, Europa Nostra, La Haye  
 Mme Anamarija Viček, Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère de l'Education de la Serbie, Belgrade  
 Mr Bernard Wicht, Chef du Secrétariat général des affaires internationales CDIP, Berne  
 Modération : M Tobias Flessenkemper, Chef du Bureau du Conseil de l'Europe à Belgrade

*Suivi par une réception sur l'invitation de l'Ambassade de l'Allemagne*



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## Experts

1. **Mr. Benjamin Kurc**, Franco-German Youth Office, Director Franco-German Citizen Fund,
2. **Mr. Andreas Holtberget**, EUROCLIO-Association of history educators
3. **Mr. Bernard Wicht**, Schweizerische Konferenz der kantonalen Erziehungsdirektoren
4. **Mr. Eckhardt Fuchs**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut
5. **Mr. Steffen Sammler**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut
6. **Ms. Patrycja Czerwińska**, Das Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsmedien | Georg-Eckert-Institut  
(via Zoom)
7. **Mr. Thomas Serrier**, University of Lille
8. **Mr. Loizos Loukaidis**, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research
9. **Mr. Celestin Bertholet**, OHTE Council of Europe
10. **Ms. Snježana Koren**, Faculty of Philosophy Zagreb
11. **Mr. Nicolas Moll**, Memory lab
12. **Mr. Igor Kąkolewski**, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
13. **Ms. Alina Palige**, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
14. **Ms. Laura Palige**, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
15. **Ms. Aleksandra Tomanić**, European Funds for the Balkans
16. **Mr. Marius Schlageter**, German Federal Youth Council
17. **Ms. Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Europa Nostra
18. **Ms. Tijana Čolak-Antić Popović**, Ethnographic Museum
19. **Mr. Danijel Sinani**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
20. **Ms. Nataša Jovanović Ajzenhamer**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
21. **Ms. Dubravka Stojanović**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
22. **Mr. Ivan Maksimović**, Ethnographic Museum
23. **Ms. Marija Bulat**, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
24. **Ms. Anamarija Viček**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education of Serbia
25. **Mr. Marko Šuica**, University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy

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## Participants

1. **Mr. Duško Rakić**, history teacher - Valjevo
2. **Mr. Slobodan Rudić**, history teacher - Šid
3. **Ms. Marija Janković**, history teacher - Ljubovija
4. **Mr. Milan Vučetić**, history teacher - Kraljevo
5. **Ms. Olivera Vuković**, history teacher - Kragujevac
6. **Ms. Ivana Tomas**, history teacher – Svilajnac
7. **Mr. Ivan Drašković**, history teacher - Kuršumljia
8. **Mr. Milomir Maksimović**, history teacher - Užice
9. **Ms. Nevena Bajalica**, NGO Terraforming – Novi Sad
10. **Ms. Natalija Bukvić**, history teacher
11. **Mr. Mladen Radivojević**, history teacher - Ljubovija
12. **Mr. Vidak Pejović**, history teacher
13. **Ms. Dragana Breberina Đorđević**, history teacher
14. **Mr. Stefan Damnjanović**, history teacher
15. **Ms. Vesna Rašković**, history teacher
16. **Ms. Jelena Kostić**, history teacher
17. **Mr. Vladimir Simić**, history teacher
18. **Mr. Eryk Gawronski**, historian and political analyst
19. **Ms. Natalia Panas**, linguist
20. **Ms. Andrijana Vlahovljak**, history teacher
21. **Ms. Marija Mičić Lazović**, Council of Europe Office in Belgrade
22. **Ms. Svetlana Novičić**, history teacher
23. **Ms. Karen Flügge**, teacher at German School in Belgrade (Deutsche Schule Belgrad)
24. **Mr. Aleksandar Stanisavljević**, Institute for Evaluation of the Quality of Education (ZVKOV)
25. **Mr. Aleksandar Rajković**, Klett publishing house
26. **Mr. Quentin Rumeau**, Museum of the ninety's initiative
27. **Ms. Aleksandra Moskovljević**, History students' Club „Ostrogorski“
28. **Ms. Kristijan Rajković**, Council of Europe Office in Belgrade
29. **Ms. Gorana Bučić**, Council of Europe Office in Belgrade

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### Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

1. **Ms. Lidija Županić Šuica**, Education for the 21st century
2. **Ms. Maja Keskinov**, Education for the 21st century
3. **Ms. Ana Radaković**, Education for the 21st century/University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy
4. **Mr. Igor Mijović**, student
5. **Mr. Miloš Jovanović**, student
6. **Mr. Aleksandar Janković**, student
7. **Mr. Aleksa Gačić**, student

### Students participating in the workshops

1. Ms. Irena Karišić
2. Ms. Ana Milović
3. Mr. Dušan Nikolić
4. Mr. Mićo Reznicek
5. Mr. Pavle Perazić
6. Mr. Aleksandar Perić
7. Mr. Stefan Acović
8. Mr. Aleksa Resanović
9. Mr. Matija Caričić
10. Mr. Aleksandar Marković
11. Mr. Luka Ilić
12. Mr. Predrag Dragović
13. Mr. Veljko Grujić
14. Mr. Miloš Mihajlović
15. Mr. Đorđe Bekčić