Cyprus

What does it mean to think historically? Promoting historical understanding in classrooms of mixed abilities and diverse backgrounds and developing channels of communication with the wider community.

1. **General approach and framework:**
The general aim of the training activities of the Pestalozzi Programme is to train education professionals to become multipliers for Council of Europe standards and values in education.

   The work is based on three main pillars
   - **Content**: standards and principles as well as project results of the Council of Europe
   - **Methodology**: learner-centred, peer-training, collaborative work on issues of common concerns to find fit solutions for diverse contexts
   - **Four-fold concept of competences development**: developing sensitivity and awareness, knowledge and understanding, individual practice, societal practice

2. **Number**: CoE 2012 0925-0928 Cyprus

3. **Related Council of Europe Project:**
   - “Teaching history in a changing world”, 132\textsuperscript{nd} European Seminar, Academy of Bad Wildbad (Germany), 10/10/2011 – 14/10/2011 (CoE 2011 1010-1410 Bad Wildbad)
   - “A look at Our Past – developing channels of intercultural communication”, Dissemination Workshops, Nicosia, Cyprus (18/11/2012-19/112012) (CoE 2011 Cyprus)

**Key Council of Europe Documents to be used in the training activity:**

- **Council of Europe standards**
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on intercultural dialogue and the image of the other in history teaching
  - Recommendation Rec (2001)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on history teaching in twenty-first-century Europe

- **Publications, guidelines, instruments**
  - The Image of the Other in History Teaching, 2009
  - Crossroads of European histories: Multiple outlooks on five moments in the history of Europe (CD + book), Council of Europe Publishing, 2009

5. Deadline for application: 30/06/2012

6. Working language(s): English

7. Venue: Classic Hotel, Nicosia

8. Number of available places:
   15 participants from the signatory States to the European Cultural Convention
   15 participants from the host country

9. Target group:
   Teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, history co-ordinators, representatives of non-governmental organisations active in the teaching of history.

   Participants will be invited to:
   • examine ways to develop, via in and out-of-school programmes and actions, the knowledge and mental tools that are necessary for students to understand the past, contemporary and future world in which they are going to live as adults.
   • explore ways to develop ‘big pictures’ of the past to function as usable, flexible historical frameworks, open to debate and new evidence.
   • look at ways to combine teaching of overviews of historical periods, thematic studies over long time spans and in-depth studies of events to assist students in developing coherent historical frameworks.
   • share carefully designed tasks and activities, for in and out-of-school programmes and actions, that aim to develop students’ substantive (factual) knowledge, disciplinary historical concepts, abilities and relevant dispositions.
   • reflect on the role of epistemological beliefs, ideological stance, collective memory and representations of the past in shaping teaching practices.
   • share samples of innovative textbooks, teaching material and museum education programmes from various countries and establish an archive.
   • provide opportunities for learning partnerships through school linking trans-nationally where different perspectives could enhance learning.

10. Focus of the training activity:
   The training seminar and workshops will focus on the challenges of teaching history in a rapidly changing world and more specifically in classrooms with students of mixed abilities and diverse backgrounds.
   • Which pedagogical and methodological approaches will best facilitate the acquisition of the necessary knowledge, disciplinary historical concepts, abilities and relevant dispositions?
   • Why do teachers and students need to develop ‘big pictures’ of the past, find ways to connect pieces of knowledge in bigger groupings, expand their understanding of human development and identify elements of change and continuity over extended periods of time?
   • How does the advancement of historical understanding assist the development of channels of communication amongst students, teachers and the wider community?
   • How do epistemological beliefs, ideological stance, collective memory and representations of the past of teachers influence their teaching practices?

The training will build on the results of Council of Europe (CoE) projects in Cyprus and abroad, as well as the research findings from recent studies with history educators in Cyprus from both elementary and high school level, in order to invite participants to further explore together the necessary
knowledge, concepts, abilities and dispositions as well as ways of developing these in their daily practice in the classrooms and in out of the school educational programmes.

11. Expected results:

After the seminar the participants will have:
- a shared knowledge of *What does it mean to think historically* identified common elements of the challenges regarding how to promote historical understanding in classrooms of mixed abilities and diverse backgrounds and develop channels of communication with the wider community.
- awareness of history teaching related research findings in Cyprus and abroad.
- shared good practice, teaching and learning ideas on how to develop ‘big pictures’ of the past whilst progressing students’ substantive (factual) knowledge, disciplinary historical concepts, abilities and relevant dispositions.
- proposed new ways to develop a better comprehension and conceptualisation of history teaching adapted to a world which is changing, based on recent research findings and those values and principles of the Council of Europe that signify the importance of an appropriate and effective pedagogical and methodological approach based on multiperspectivity
  o online publication with contributions from participants and trainers.
- established the basis for future cooperation in a Pestalozzi Network of History Teachers.

12. Outline of programme:

**Day 1:** Welcome dinner for participants from other countries

**Day 2:**
- Official Opening & by PI Director, CoE Representative, Minister/Permanent Secretary
- Introductory speeches on:
  o History, intergroup relations and collective memory
  o Children’s rights and Council of Europe work in Cyprus concerning community based initiative for students of diverse backgrounds
  o European affairs and educational policy, teaching and learning history to students of diverse backgrounds
- Workshops on:
  o My story, Our stories: Getting to know each other
  o Musical encounters: exploring diversity through music
  o Education Reform – from theory to praxis
  o How to acquire the necessary knowledge, disciplinary historical concepts, abilities and relevant dispositions? Methodological approaches to teaching and learning history
  o Developing ‘big pictures’ of the past

**Day 3:**
Workshops on:
- What does it mean to think critically?
- Promoting historical understanding in classrooms of mixed abilities and diverse backgrounds and developing channels of communication with the wider community

**Educational visits**
- Visit to Primary and Secondary School & Reflection on learning process
- Exploring the within-the-walls divided capital of Cyprus, Nicosia
  o Museum educational programmes & organized learning experiences

Day 4:
Workshops on:
- Promoting effectiveness for all students in mixed ability classrooms through differentiated Instruction:
  o Discussing the process and final outcome of a CoE project: « A look at our past - A set of supplementary learning materials for learning and teaching history in Cyprus, 2011 ».
Workshops Reflection
Ways forward: online publication with contributions from participants and trainers
Closing of the seminar

13. Organising body:
Name & Address: Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Cyprus, P.O.Box 12720, 2252 Nicosia
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14. Coordinator of the training:
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15. Travel and subsistence expenses:
Travel expenses: Travel expenses of participants from the signatory States are covered by the Council of Europe according to the rules.

Subsistence expenses: Subsistence expenses – accommodation and meals - are covered by the host country for all participants. Any travel or activity, included in the programme of the European Workshop, should also be taken in charge by the host country.

16. Other information:
The success of the training activities depend on the commitment of all the participants. By accepting to participate in the Pestalozzi programme, participants and facilitators agree to participate actively and assiduously in all the phases of the activity. Participants are kindly requested to familiarise themselves with the aforementioned Key Council of Europe Documents to be used in the training activity.
Information for participants from the signatory States to the European Cultural Convention:
Travel expenses: Participants benefiting from reimbursement of their travel expenses are advised to consult carefully on the website the section about “Rules”. Application form: Candidates must send their application form duly completed to the National Liaison Officer of their country of residence. All information available on: http://www.coe/Pestalozzi