



Alliance of Civilizations' Regional Strategy on Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation in South Eastern Europe

Regional Seminar “Reform of History Teaching Methods and Pedagogy in History Teaching in South Eastern Europe”

16-17 December 2010, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Organised by the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre
in cooperation with the Slovenian Authorities and in the framework of the UNAOOC**

Information and draft agenda



Background

On 14 December 2009, ministers and high level representatives from all countries in the SEE region met in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to discuss and to agree on UNAOC's first "Regional Strategy on Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation in South Eastern Europe". The Regional Strategy establishes a shared framework for countries to promote cross-border collaboration, intercultural understanding, peace and security in the region. The strategy employs a wide range of policy tools to target common challenges in the four areas of action of the Alliance – youth, education, media and migration - with the goal of enhancing cooperation of regional actors for sustainable human development. At the end of the Conference, the Ministers adopted the Sarajevo Declaration underlying in particular their wish to:

“to scale up efforts to adopt and/or implement UNAOC National Plans for Intercultural Dialogue or similar instruments in our own countries through our competent authorities and promote increasing regional exchanges between Focal Points and key players on experience gained, lessons learned and progress made, taking into account ongoing relevant initiatives launched by international and regional organizations or by any significant stakeholder,

- to endorse the principles, objectives and recommendations of the Alliance's Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe presented today, aimed to contribute to further building bridges and strengthening trust through enhanced intercultural dialogue and cooperation in the region,

- to call upon experts and representatives of civil society under the guidance of the National Focal Points to the Alliance to finalize and agree on a Plan of Action for 2010-2012 implementing the Regional Strategy, taking into account national priorities and building up on the ongoing co-operation with international and regional organizations as well as bilaterally, to be presented at the 3rd Alliance Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 28-29 May 2010,

- to express our political commitment to put into practice the tasks and practical activities for the implementation of the above-mentioned Strategy, namely those which will be outlined in the Action Plan for 2010-2012, upon its endorsement and subsequent presentation at the Rio Forum,

- to call upon the relevant regional and international organizations, particularly UNESCO, IOM, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the Regional Cooperation Council to scale up their efforts to support and cooperate in the implementation of the National Plans and the Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe, in accordance with the Action Plan to be agreed.

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- to further develop enhanced cooperation among countries in the region and outside it and particularly the cooperation of the region as a whole with other states, organisations and international programmes with a view to further promoting people to people exchanges, capacity building for young leadership in intercultural dialogue and cooperation and diversity management, in particular through joint actions, common projects and networks, and the creation of new opportunities to advance the Alliance's goals in the region and to fulfil the relevant commitments.”

Subsequently an Action Plan was adopted at the Sarajevo Conference and confirmed at the 3rd Forum of the Alliance which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in May 2010. In the field of education an agreement was reached to implement the initiative “Teaching History - History as a tool for reconciliation”. It was decided that:

“...This group of projects will include a number of actions to be coordinated by the Council of Europe focused on the reforms of history teaching methods and pedagogy in history teaching in South East Europe.

Among the actions to be included the following proposals will be considered:

- a. History of the forgotten (proposal by Grupa 484);
- b. History that connects (Euroclio Foundation);
- c. Increasing the footprint of the joint history projects as a strong tool for reconciliation (Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe)”.

Aim and objectives of the history teaching seminar

During the Sarajevo Conference, in the Working Group on History, it was proposed to organise a ‘kick-off’ seminar for the launching of the SEE history teaching initiative in late 2010 or early 2011. Hence, the objectives of the seminar are:

- To take stock of the reforms in progress implemented by the governments in the SEE region;
- To provide information on the activities and projects implemented by the Council of Europe and other international organisations, international and national non-governmental organisations;
- To identify the main trends of and the lessons learned from these reforms and activities;
- To identify priority issues on which concrete and pragmatic exchange of good practices, reflection and co-operation could be developed in the SEE region.

Date & venue

This seminar, hosted by the Slovenian Authorities, will take place on 16 and 17 December 2010 in Ljubljana (City Hotel, 15 Dalmatinova)

The working language of the seminar will be English.

Participants

Participants who will be invited to the meeting are:

- Representatives of Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs from the SEE region;
- Representatives from intergovernmental/international organisations active in the region
- Representatives of NGO’s active in the region, such as national teacher training institutes, OSI, Georg Eckert Institute, EUROCLIO, CDRSEE, Group 484, Local History, History Educations Networks and Associations, pupil and student associations etc.;
- Experienced experts with in-depth knowledge in reform of history education policies and practices in the region.

Background documents

- Alliance of Civilizations' Regional Strategy on Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation in South Eastern Europe
- Council of Europe's History Teaching Project "Shared Histories for a Europe without dividing Lines";
- North South Centre's concept paper on history teaching for the programme period 2010-11;
- Project descriptions of the projects (a) History of the forgotten by Grupa 484; (b) History that connects by Euroclio Foundation; (c) Increasing the footprint of the joint history projects as a strong tool for reconciliation by Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 16 December

- 09.30-10.15 **Opening of seminar**
- Introduction to the general orientations of reforms of history teaching and learning in Europe**
- 10.15-11.0 **Round Table/Session I**
- Curriculum, Methodology and Pedagogical Material: which recent developments are there?**
- Introduction
 - General discussion
- 11.00-11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15-13.00 **Round Table/Session I continues**
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-16.0 **Round Table/Session II**
- New Competences and Teachers Training: what are the new competences for history teachers and how are they trained for it?**
- Introduction
 - General discussion
- 16.00-16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.30 **Round Table/Session II continues**
- 17.30 **Closure of day one**

Friday 17 December

- 09.30-11.00 **Round Table/Session III: Existing or Planned Regional Projects**
- Presentations
 - General discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-13.00 **Round Table/Session III continues**
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.15	Session IV: Further development of ideas, proposals and follow-up
16.15-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17.30	Conclusions & closure of seminar