



The State of History Teaching in Europe

First Regular Report of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE)

Plain Language Statement

What is this survey about?

This survey is designed to gather information for the OHTE's first regular report on how history is taught across the 16 OHTE member states. It will examine the subject from a myriad of angles, using a methodology developed by the Observatory's [Scientific Advisory Council \(SAC\)](#).

History education does not only consist of teaching students about key dates and high-profile figures from the past but can offer students an insight into how the world works. It can show them how to think independently by critically examining historical processes and events and understanding how these have impacted our world and the societies within it. These analytical and critical thinking skills should then allow students to become informed, active citizens.

The OHTE Regular Report on the State of History Teaching in Europe will examine:

- the content of history curriculums, textbooks, and examinations at primary and secondary levels of education, and how teachers are trained in their respective countries;
- to what extent history education contributes to the development of the competences for democratic culture, such as analytical and critical thinking skills;
- how history teaching methods contribute to the development of students' comprehension of democracy and democratic values, critical thinking skills, and how these will help students contribute to a more just society in the future.

This will allow for the identification of good practices in the field of history education, and to learn how to escape the pitfalls of using history lessons to further political agendas.

Who are the people conducting the research?

The research is being conducted by an expert group composed of independent researchers co-ordinated by the EuroClio consortium, in close co-operation with the SAC.

Who is funding this work?

This work is funded by the Council of Europe's Observatory on History Teaching in Europe.

What does participation in the study involve?

Participation in this study involves responding to a set of online questions related to your teaching practices and experience. The questions will ask your opinion on the history curricula in your country (flexibility, density, diversity); topics you teach and approaches you use to teach them; educational resources and student assessment methods you practice; as well as about the access and opportunities you have for professional development. This should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Participants can withdraw from the study at any stage by not completing or exiting the questionnaire.



Benefits of participation

Through this report, the Observatory will provide information that policy makers and practitioners can use to improve the principles and practices informing history education. Should you decide to participate in this research study, you will have an opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of teachers' experiences, challenges and needs.

How will my data be stored?

Your data will be stored securely and password protected in the survey software and will not be accessed by anyone outside of the research team (subject to legal limitations). Your data will be anonymised and protected in accordance with the Council of Europe Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data, which is in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – 2016/679 and will be stored for 5 years after completion of the research in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998. Please do not include any personal information (unless you wish to be contacted by the research team for further research) in the open question text boxes. Participants will not be identifiable in any publications, conference papers or presentations generated using these data sets.

How will my data be used?

Your data will be anonymised and amalgamated with data from other study participants and used to inform the content of the report. It may also be used anonymously in the writing of academic papers for publication in scientific journals and for presentations at academic conferences.

Will my data be confidential?

Confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claims or mandated reporting by some professions. Participants should not include any personal information as part of survey answers (e.g. in open question text boxes).

How can I withdraw from the study?

Participants can withdraw from the study without giving a reason, including during the completion of the survey where you can close the browser. However, once responses have been submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw data from the study as responses are anonymous and individual responses will not be identifiable.

How will I find out about the results of the study?

A final report on the survey will be published by the OHTE in December 2023 and will also be available online on the Council of Europe and partner organisations' websites.

Voluntary Participation

By completing the questionnaire, individuals agree to take part in the research project detailed above understanding that such involvement is voluntary.

For any further questions regarding this questionnaire please contact ohte@coe.int

