



RETHINK



EuroClio



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Webinar Series

Lest we forget

*Networking, practices, and the relevance
of remembrance education today*

CONCEPT NOTE

EuroClio – European Association of History Educators is delighted and honoured to present “Lest we forget”. The webinar series, which is the first webinar series hosted by EuroClio in 2021, will take place online from 28 January to 18 February 2021.

EuroClio, the European Association of History Educators, is an international Non-governmental organisation that promotes the development of responsible and innovative history, citizenship, and heritage education by promoting critical thinking, multiperspectivity, mutual respect, and the inclusion of controversial issues.

Together, we will welcome between 30 and 50 motivated history and citizenship educators from all across Europe. We will offer a programme full of active workshops, keynote lectures, and Networking opportunities. The programme will focus on the theme: “*Lest we forget*”, and will make use of original educational material developed by the Consortium of the project RETHINK – Remembrance Education for THINKing critically.

This concept notes serves as a guide to the webinar series themes and aims.

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The RETHINK Project¹

The RETHINK (Remembrance Education for THINKing critically) project aims to facilitate the dissemination among secondary school teachers of remembrance education programmes that promote tolerance and respect towards diversity, while developing students' media literacy and critical thinking skills. We believe that remembrance education, in linking past and present:

- sheds valuable light on the historical significance of polarised identities;
- offers insight into European history;
- provides tools to combat intolerance.

To this end, the RETHINK consortium has collected and selected good practices that offer learning opportunities for participants to develop critical thinking, self-criticism, self-evaluation, and self-reflection, and has tested them in a range of contexts. Based on the results of this exercise, RETHINK has created a Teachers' Guide for Remembrance Education, and an eLearning Platform, as well as launched a Network on Remembrance Education.

During this webinar series, we will present a variety of activities and practices that have been collected throughout the project.

The case for Remembrance Education

If you asked a hundred people what remembrance education is, you'd get a hundred different answers. What all these answers seem to agree on, however, is that remembrance education is about **learning from the past**. But what should we learn? For what purpose? And based on which historical facts?

Within the RETHINK project, we believe that remembrance education includes programmes that reflect on the past to highlight contemporary issues of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, radicalisation, polarisation, collective violence, and genocide. By highlighting contemporary issues, remembrance education deals with a variety of topics. It is more than a theoretical understanding of the First and Second World Wars; remembrance educators can also analyse any other historical context where human freedom and dignity were violated.

Ultimately, remembrance education encompasses practices and methodologies that promote dialogue and students' engagement by relating considerations of past events to current affairs and debates – in other words, it makes the past relevant for today by providing tools for analyzing and understanding the present.

¹ You can find more information on the RETHINK project on its official website: <https://rethink-education.eu/>

Key questions

The key questions that will be addressed during the training are:

1. How can we bring Remembrance Education to the classroom without jeopardising the complexity of the matter at hand?
2. Why does Remembrance Education matter today?
3. Which methodologies and strategies can we use to effectively promote Remembrance Education and prevent Radicalisation?
4. What is our role as teachers when it comes to Remembrance Education?

The design of the webinar series

"Lest we forget" will consist of four webinars, taking place on four consecutive Thursdays (28/01, 04/02, 11/02, 18/02). It will open with a Keynote lecture on "Remembrance, Memory & Observance: Reflections of A daughter of Holocaust Survivors". The keynote lecture will be hosted by Peninah



Zilbermann, founder of the Tarbut Foundation – a foundation based in Romania which strives to assist All Generations with their Genealogy research and organizing "Family Roots Journeys", and to provide programs to teach about the Holocaust through culture and the arts to high schools across Romania.

The Keynote will be followed by a workshop on Multiperspectivity in Remembrance Education, a workshop on the use of Video Testimonies in the classroom, and an interactive session on how can we bring Remembrance Education to the Classroom.

More information on the programme of the webinar series is available at the event page:

<https://www.euroclio.eu/event/remembrance-education-for-thinking-critically-webinar-series/>.

Aims of the training

During the webinar series, you will:

- Understand the factors that help explain why people assign different meanings to the same historical events;
- Learn how to apply various methods to explore these differences with your students in a way that respect their feelings and does justice to history;
- Learn examples that address historical inaccuracies, controversies, instrumentalisations and conflicts over the past in a thoughtful way;
- Understand the potential of video-testimonies as a source for teaching about the Holocaust;
- Discuss how to bring video-testimonies in a learning environment;
- Discuss Remembrance Education experiences across Europe, networking with colleagues;
- Learn more about the RETHINK project and its results.

Expected outcomes

- Increased dialogue about Remembrance Education with the European community of history, heritage, and citizenship educators;
- Increased understanding of how to bring Remembrance Education in the classroom;
- Access to innovative tools, practices, and methodologies with a focus on using Remembrance Education to prevent radicalisation;
- Increased understanding of the factors that help explain why people assign different meanings to the same historical events;
- Increased understanding of the potential of video-testimonies to teach about the Holocaust;
- Creation of meaningful connections between the national curriculum and Remembrance Education;
- Recognition of developed competences in history education through lifelong learning in the international context;
- Dissemination of Educational Materials developed by the RETHINK project;
- Improved (English) language competence through facilitated and engaged dialogues.

Links between the training and the school curricula

Often, the history school curriculum is too dense, and teachers do not have enough time to use Remembrance Education as a tool to analyse and understand the present. Furthermore, there are instances in which the curriculum is firmly set, and teachers do not have the freedom to devote hours to additional topics.

For this reason, we have designed the webinar series so as to make every session of the programme directly linkable and applicable to elements present in history curricula across Europe, especially in relation to the Holocaust and other instances of mass atrocities.

In particular, during the seminar we will touch upon and equip teachers with methodologies and practices to approach:

- The causes, consequences, and interpretations of the First World War
- Everyday life in Nazi Germany, and the rise of Nazism,
- The Second World War
- The Holocaust
- Colonial History