



## **FC EuroClio: Passing it to the Classroom**

**A EuroClio Webinar Series  
Online | 28 May to 11 June 2021**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**



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of the European Union



**EuroClio**  
Inspiring History  
and Citizenship Educators

Image: Detail of a Postcard with a Football subject. Регионална библиотека ПЕНЧО СЛАВЕЙКОВ - Варна / Public Library - Varna, CC0 1.0, retrieved via Europeana

EuroClio – European Association of History Educators is delighted and honoured to present “FC EuroClio”. The webinar series will take place online from 28 May to 11 June 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, as well as youth workers, historians, and representatives of football clubs and associations, from across Europe. We will offer a programme full of active workshops, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities. The programme will focus on how we can use local intangible cultural heritage, such as football, to promote historical knowledge and social inclusion, and will make use of original educational material developed by the Team of the project Football Makes History<sup>1</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Project implemented with the financial support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union as part of the initiative “Football History for Inclusion – Innovative collaborations of school education and youth through the prism of local football history for social inclusion and diversity

## The Football Makes History Project<sup>2</sup>

The Football Makes History project started in September 2018 with the purpose to bring football history to the classroom to:

- Promote diversity, non-discrimination and equality, including gender equality;
- Promote social, civic and intercultural competences and critical thinking;
- Engage cultural heritage by accessing the histories, memories and legacies residing in football history in transnational perspectives, both at local and national level;
- Raise public awareness on the role of learning for social inclusion and increase the sharing of innovative practices across the continent.

In the past two years and a half, the project Consortium, together with a team of dedicated historians, history and citizenship educators, and youth workers, has developed different materials with to pursue these aims. After a research on the needs of European educators when it comes to promoting social inclusion, we have developed:

- A toolkit of ready-to-use activities that can be used by youth workers, football coaches, and all non-formal educators to use football as a tool to talk with their pupils about social inclusion;
- A collection of Learning Activities, Sources, and Teaching strategies that help teachers bring football history to the classroom to engage students in history lessons and stimulate critical thinking;
- A manifesto on the role of football and local heritage when it comes to history education and education for inclusion, and on the way forward;
- The website [footballmakeshistory.eu](https://footballmakeshistory.eu), containing a variety of videos and articles on football today and in the past, to help reflect on football and society and to promote the use of football history for education.

## The case for bringing Football History in the classroom

Some would say history is just one damned thing after the other, that it should be put to rest in the past and that bygones should be bygones. These people are not necessarily wrong, but in an ever-complex world of globalised societies and rising exclusivist identity-politics, the stories we tell ourselves about the past help us define ourselves in the present and orient toward an unpredictable future.

Some would say football is nothing more than 22 people chasing a ball around a pitch for 90 minutes. Also those people are not necessarily wrong, but history is made up of whatever people have come to

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<sup>2</sup> You can find more information on the Football Makes History project on its official website: <https://footballmakeshistory.eu/> - Project implemented with the financial support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union as part of the initiative “Football History for Inclusion – Innovative collaborations of school education and youth through the prism of local football history for social inclusion and diversity

value, and certainly football - a game played and watched by billions for over 100 years - seems highly valued.

We would say that football history is made up of millions of stories, of individuals and communities, of movements and processes, which can open doors to the conversations we need to have in the present. Players who came from nothing to become international super-stars. Clubs which have been established to foster minority identities and belonging. People who have faced exclusion in a racist and bigoted past.

Sport – and particularly football – appeals to millions of Europeans, regardless of their sexual orientation, colour, gender, age, nationality or religion, often becoming a defining factor of identities and communities. The rich local cultural heritage of football and its shared history covering the turbulent 20th century history offers direct access to addressing past and present diversity. In addition, it helps to promote shared values, equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion with an integrated perspective, encompassing and innovating formal and non-formal learning, as well as youth work.

## Key questions

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

1. What is the social significance of sport?
2. How can we use football in the classroom? For example:
  - a. What would the European Championship today look like, if Europe's borders had remained unchanged at different times in history?
  - b. How can we use football to teach about identity?
3. How to use historical sources to build a life story?

## The design of the webinar series

"FC EuroClio" will consist of three online sessions, taking place on three consecutive Fridays (28/05, 04/06, 11/06). It will open with a Panel Discussion on the Social Significance of Sport. The panel discussion will bring forward voices from various fields, including academia, journalism, heritage, education, and football.

The Panel Discussion will be followed by parallel workshops on how football history can be used in the classroom, with examples on how to use it to teach about the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the rise of fascism and anti-Semitism in Europe, and changing borders in continental Europe in 1800 and 1900.

The webinar series will end with an interactive session, during which we will look into how the life stories of (extra)ordinary people can be used to spark discussion in the classroom, and collectively design new life stories.

More information on the programme of the webinar series is available at the event page:  
<https://www.euroclio.eu/event/fc-euroclio-passing-it-to-the-classroom-a-webinar-series/>.

## Aims of the training

During the webinar series, you will:

- Learn examples that address the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the history of rising fascism and anti-Semitism in Europe, and the formation of the European nation state in the XIX and XX century;
- Discuss the social significance of sports, and whether there is a space for sport in the classroom, with colleagues from across Europe;
- Discuss your experiences in using sports to teach history with colleagues from across Europe;
- Learn more about the Football Makes History project and its results.

## Expected outcomes

- Increased dialogue about intangible cultural heritage with the European community of history, heritage, and citizenship educators;
- Increased understanding of how to bring intangible cultural heritage, and specifically sports history, to the classroom;
- Increased understanding of how to build synergies between formal and non-formal education to promote social inclusion;
- Access to innovative tools, practices, and methodologies with a focus on sports history to promote social inclusion;
- Creation of meaningful connections between the national curriculum and Football History;
- Recognition of developed competences in history education through lifelong learning in the international context;
- Dissemination of Educational Materials developed by the Football Makes History;
- 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 intangible cultural heritage such as football history 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, as well as to citizenship and social sciences classes.

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

- Everyday life in Fascist Italy and the rise of Fascism
- The rise and fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- The rise of nationalism
- The unification of Germany
- The Holocaust
- The 1990s wars in the Balkan Region
- The fall of communism in Europe
- The Cold War period

### Not interested in Football? Here's why you should join anyway!

In the past two years and a half, here at EuroClio we have often wondered what is the added value of a project focussing on Football History when it comes to classrooms that consist of students who are not interested in the sport, or when teachers do not feel enough knowledgeable of the topic.

In our view, the added value of this project, in this case, does not lay in the content of the educational material that has been developed, nor in learning how to use Football as a hook to grasp the attention of disengaged students.

The added value, we would argue, is to be found in the project's approach to history, and in the teaching strategies and methodologies used: with this project, and in this webinar series, we will answer the question: **“how can I appeal to local, intangible cultural heritage to promote my students' historical understanding, and to engage them with a topic they might feel detached from?”**.

In this sense, football is the example of local and intangible cultural heritage that we have decided to use, but you could decide to use other sports, music history, the history of food, literature, comic books, or any other pop culture reference to explore your students' interests and connect them to history.