



CDRSEE

Center for Democracy and Reconciliation
in Southeast Europe

THE SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN JOINT HISTORY PROJECT

The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE)

Krispou 9, 54634 Thessaloniki, Greece

www.cdsee.org - www.see-jhp.org

Tel. +30 2310 960820

Email: info@cdsee.org



ABOUT THE CDRSEE:

The CDRSEE is a regional Civil Society Organisation (CSO) founded in October 1998 by private citizens from within the Southeast European region, but also from Western Europe and North America, with the broad aim of fostering democratic, pluralist, and peaceful societies in SEE. CDRSEE initiated the Joint History Project in 1998 as its first project, thus acknowledging the important and sometimes destructive role history can play in societies, as it did in the wars of the 90s in the Balkans.

The CDRSEE aims to implement this project in the most effective and sustainable way by forming strategic partnerships with the teachers, teachers' associations, local CSOs, Ministries of Education and any other interested individuals, with the main focus on supporting civil society.

BACKGROUND:

Empires rising and falling, nations forming, dividing and re-configuring, diverse peoples, religions, cultures and influences all intermingling, external powers intervening...; the Southeast European region has a colourful, mixed and complex modern history, sometimes with differing views and accounts of the past.

With many countries of the region moving towards EU accession (those not already members), an increase in cross-border cooperation and a general trend in Europe towards integration and diversity, the need for understanding among peoples is vital.

Approaching the history of the region in a multi-perspective manner with the goal of discussing and reconciling with the recent past is one constructive and effective response to enhancing the notion of a shared past and therefore a basis for a shared future in the region. The CDRSEE's "Joint History Project" has started this ball rolling, and its achievements to date have been substantial.

The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) believes that a multi-perspective approach to history education is key to the future of the region.

We believe that it is only through allowing children to imagine events and emotions from other peoples' points of view, investigate divergent accounts of the past and question, debate and cooperate on activities about the region's past that the 'neighbourhood' can be assured of a peaceful and prosperous future.

A future of peace and prosperity involves not merely the absence of open conflict, but more, the creation of a long term situation in which the possibility for conflict has been eradicated.

THE JOINT HISTORY PROJECT:

History and the manner in which it has been taught have often been appropriated as tools for the perpetuation of nationalistic sentiments, based on an account of the past presented as the one limited and narrow 'truth'.

The aim of the JHP is to encourage debate, celebrate diversity and recognise shared suffering and achievements through a participative approach to history teaching, in order for students and teachers to develop the understanding and skills needed for a sustainable peace and democratic future.

Without being allowed to examine and openly investigate the past, the children of today will have little opportunity to grow up without the learned hatred implicit in the history books, and will therefore have no avenues other than that of merely reproducing the nationalism that characterised their parents' recent lives. Through the JHP, they will not only be faced with a multi-perspective look at their history, but will also have the chance to develop the skills necessary for a sustainable peace (e.g. debate, conflict resolution, understanding of democratic principles).

The project's generation, implementation and management involves historians, teachers' unions, students, community figures, researchers, translators and publishers from all countries in Southeast Europe. The project is and will continue to be carried out through schools, academia, teachers' groups and governments in all SEE countries.

ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

The objectives are achieved through the production of a set of alternative history education materials (Workbooks) designed and written by experts from all over the region-with teacher training, outreach and media work.

To date, the Workbooks have been produced in English (with the second edition published in the summer of 2009), Serbian, Greek, Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian, Macedonian and Turkish. In addition, an edition of the books in Japanese is in progress.

Further to the production of the materials, the CDRSEE carries out extensive press and outreach work, in cooperation with project partners, local CSOs and teachers' groups.

Most of the above language editions of the workbooks have been launched publicly in their respective countries, accompanied by a press conference, roundtable discussions, public debate and media coverage. These events have been attended by teachers, historians, political figures, journalists and civil society actors.

The second phase of the project involves holding Training of Trainers' (ToT) workshops and then local teacher training workshops, in order to introduce teachers to the new methodologies, disseminate materials and support teachers in their efforts to utilise the materials in class.

The Joint History Project 2005 - 2009:

The Joint History Project went from strength to strength in 2006 while retaining and developing the principles of inclusiveness, democratic cooperation and respect, even in the face of opposition.

In 2007, the JHP further inspired teachers, education officials, diplomats and historians. The implementation of the project throughout the region continued in 2008 and is ongoing in 2009.

The CDRSEE, with its JHP at the forefront of democratic change through education, had a permanent seat on the Stability Pact's Working Table 1 (Fostering and Building Human Capital).

Being a pioneer in its field, in 2006, 2007 and 2008 the JHP has made waves not only in Southeast Europe, but also in Japan, France and Germany, Poland, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

That the Joint History Project has been recognised as an adaptable and useful tool for reconciling the past and working towards a cooperative future in countries outside of its original intended region of use, reflects the quality, universality and value of the project, as well as its robust and academically sound structure.

The JHP website (<http://www.cdsee.org/jhp/index.html>) was completed in June 2007 and through this portal, visitors can download the workbooks in all of the languages in their entirety for free, as well as evaluate the books.

Creating a ripple of interest and enthusiasm once again, the Joint History Project shone at a Dialogue on History teaching in the Balkans at the European Policy Centre on May 2, 2007. Held at the European Policy Centre in Brussels, as part of an internal presentation for DG Enlargement, Nenad Sebek, Director of the CDRSEE, presented the four workbooks of the Joint History Project to a distinguished audience, consisting of members of the international community.

Members of the European Parliament and EU officials, diplomats, representatives of international organisations and journalists were given an update on the past, present and future challenges of the implementation of the Joint History Project.

On 25 February 2008, with an entertaining and colourful presentation, the CDRSEE was hosted by the European Parliament's Delegation for Southeast Europe to present the JHP and engaged in 2 hours of discussion.

Laden with 150 pieces of sticky pastry, traditional Southeast European costumes and plenty of enthusiasm the CDRSEE not only caused chaos with the European Parliament's security, but more importantly, grabbed, engaged and held the attention of MEPs, EU Commission staff, journalists and EP officials to entertain and inform them about the JHP.

Ms Doris Pack, MEP and Chairwoman of the Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Europe, chaired the event and introduced the guests to the concepts behind the JHP. Following a brief performance that highlighted the problems the JHP hopes to tackle, Dr Erhard Busek, Chair of the Board of the CDRSEE, delivered the keynote speech.

The following speakers were Mr Costa Carras, Professor Christina Koulouri, Dr Dubravka Stojanovic and Dr Dusan Reljic. Executive Director, Mr. Nenad Sebek facilitated the discussion and highlighted various practical aspects of the project, while the historical content was discussed and debated with the historians of the JHP.

Reprising the creative and dramatic interpretation of history teaching in Southeast Europe that was so successful in the European Parliament in February, the CDRSEE offered an amusing and tasty look at the JHP to an audience and the media at the EXIT Festival on 13 July 2008. Set in a field and castle near Novi Sad, the EXIT festival is a mixture of music, activism and coming together of cultures and creativity. It was at EXIT that bands, groups and musicians from across the Balkans first played together in Serbia, following the conflicts of the 1990's, and the event has since grown into a 5 day celebration of music, NGO work and international festivities that draws acts and audiences from across the globe.

In April 2009 (2 April) the European Parliament adopted a resolution concerning "stability and prosperity in the Western Balkans". The report makes direct reference to the Joint History Project where it is stated that the European Parliament " fully supports initiatives, such as the Joint History Project of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe, aimed at writing and disseminating joint history-teaching materials that provide a multi-perspective account of Balkan history, and calls on the competent ministries, educational authorities and educational establishments in the region to endorse the use of joint history teaching materials".

Project progress on the English Language edition

The second edition of the English Teaching workbooks was completed and published during the summer of 2009 and is available for free download on the JHP website (<http://www.cdsee.org/jhp/index.html>). Hard copies of the edition are also available upon demand.

Project progress on the Serbian Language edition

On publication of the Workbooks, a press conference and roundtable discussion was held in Belgrade (November 2005), with speeches and participation from the Minister of Education, Dr. Slobodan Vuksanovic, the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, Dr Erhard Busek, Prof. Christina Koulouri, Series Editor and Dubravka Stojanovic, Editor of the Serbian language edition.

The first Training of Trainers workshop was due to be held the following April, but due to a withdrawal of support from the Ministry of Education, was delayed until the following September.

Nonetheless, in every pack of the Workbooks, 3 out of the 4 books carry the official authorisation of the Ministry of Education, and despite some negative media towards this, the overall press coverage has been supportive and widely encouraging.

The 'Training of Trainers' Conference took place in Belgrade between 1 and 3 September. 15 specially selected teachers attended and gained and developed new skills with which to train teachers in the use of the History Workbooks.

With 93% of participants showing a definite will to use the materials in their classes and 100% noting that the workbooks had a lot of positive aspects, the workshops was heralded as a success.

Having completed their training, the trainers went on to train other teachers and Serbia was the first country in which the project was fully handed over to the final beneficiaries – the teachers and students of Serbia.

The first local teacher training workshop was held in Niš, on October 21-22 with equally positive outcomes. Energetic discussions, sharing of ideas, development of skills and mutual support were the underlying themes. The highlight of the event was a visit by the President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadić, who expressed an interest in the project.

The second local teacher training workshop took place in Novi Pazar, on November 25-26. Interest among teachers of the region in joining the event was high. The focus of the event was to discuss ways of enriching history lessons using the JHP books. 25 teachers and 5 trainers participated in two days of lively and constructive discussion.

The event in Novi Pazar was the first local training session in which the participants came from multi-ethnic communities, populating the area of Sanjak. The workshop profited from the diversity of participants finding common ways of preparing the ground for a peaceful future.

Several teachers emphasised the importance of the "Alternative Teaching Materials" in counteracting stereotypes and hate speech and facilitating a less conflict-laden future for the new generation. The new methodology was perceived as a challenging new way to enrich teaching.

The third local teacher training workshop took place in Belgrade, on December 16-17. The workshop involved a total of 31 teachers and 5 trainers. Again, another 31 History teachers gathered in Belgrade to discuss the JHP books and learn from their colleagues, how they could be used in class.

The Fourth Teacher Training Workshop took place in Novi Sad, between 2 and 4 February 2007, with attendance by the Deputy Education Secretary of Vojvodina at the welcome dinner.

Work is currently underway to secure funding for more teacher training workshops in Serbia over the coming year as well as an additional print run of Workbooks, a public roundtable discussion and ongoing outreach and press work.

On the advocacy front, the CDRSEE has approached the Ministry of Education once again, and is undertaking negotiations which will hopefully bring official support. The JHP is well known and highly regarded by many education officials, due to the sustained advocacy efforts over the past 3 years.

In Montenegro, the government is aware of the JHP, supports it in principle and is willing to work with the CDRSEE further on it.

The Serbian language edition of the workbooks has been additionally used at local workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Project Progress on the Greek Language edition:

On 8 November 2006, the Greek language edition of the History Workbooks was presented at the Foreign Press Association in Athens, to a distinguished audience of academics, diplomats, politicians and the press.

Costa Carras (Rapporteur for the Board for the JHP) and Christina Koulouri (Academic Supervisor and Editor) spoke about the importance of the History workbooks to Greece and the region.

The panel comprised Mr. Nikos Georgiadis, MP (Nea Dimokratia), Dr. Marilena Koppa, Assistant Professor, Panteion University of Athens and member of the National Council of Pasok, Professor Antonis Liakos, University of Athens and Professor Thanos Veremis, University of Athens. The discussion that followed the speeches was moderated by Mr. Pavlos Tsimas, journalist.

The presentation was attended by 3 ambassadors and a large number of cultural attachés as well as teachers, journalists and Greek political and business figures. The response to the presentation was overwhelmingly positive, with an engaging discussion and many important points raised.

Immediately prior to the presentation, the CDRSEE received the positive news that the History Workbooks had been approved for use in secondary schools by the Greek Pedagogical Institute, a vital first step in receiving Ministry of Education authorisation.

A public presentation of the Workbooks in the north-east of Greece – an area with a diverse population in terms of cultural roots, religion and identity – was very well received and this event further boosted the project's prospects.

Despite some opposition to the JHP in Greece, the CDRSEE has responded to its critics in an open and rational manner, while understanding that the issue of history books has been a controversial one in recent years, the JHP notwithstanding.

The Workbooks – a compilation of multi-perspective historical sources – got caught up in a wider debate about who writes history books, who ought to write them, what they contain and whose history is written, came under fire a number of times in 2006 and 2007. However, the JHP also gained some positive exposure through a national television documentary about history and religious education produced and presented by respected journalists, as well as some articles in national newspapers.

The Greek Language edition, together with the Turkish Language edition of the books, was launched at a press conference in Nicosia, on 9 October 2008. Both Language editions are used at bi-communal workshops in Cyprus.

On 24 January 2009, the first local teacher training workshop was held in Nicosia, Cyprus. The programme of the workshop included of model lessons based on the JHP materials and discussions on the best use of the Alternative History Materials in the classrooms.

On 21 February 2009, the second and third Teacher Training Workshops were held jointly in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Teacher Training Workshops took place at the UN base, in the UN Buffer Zone. The event, organised in cooperation with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and co-funded by UNDP-ACT and A.G. Leventis Foundation, addressed thirty-five participants from across the existing divide of Cyprus. One international trainer and five local trainers presented model lessons based on the Joint History Project materials and discussions took place regarding the best use of the Alternative History Teaching Materials in classrooms.

Project Progress on the Croatian Language edition:

With funding secured, work on the Croatian Language edition kicked off in 2006 and in January 2007, the CDRSEE presented its plans to implement the Joint History Project in Croatia in Zagreb on January 10, 2007.

With the intention of informing the public, promoting interest and encouraging participation in the JHP prior to its launch in Croatia, the press conference was opened with a presentation by the CDRSEE and the Partner Organisation, the Croatian-Helsinki Human Rights Committee. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Education (Želimir Janjić), representatives of international organisations and embassies and all the major print and broadcast media in Croatia.

Work on the Croatian language edition of the books was completed on schedule in October 2007 and the books were presented to the public at a launch and press conference in Zagreb on 12 October 2007. With Dr Erhard Busek introducing the project and the books, followed by a press conference, the event made an immediate impact and an expression of interest to fund the teacher training phase was made by one of the dignitaries on the spot. The launch was attended by the Deputy Minister for Education.

Following the public launch and press conference, the books were disseminated to a wide range of teachers, journalists, civil society figures, political actors and historians, along with the invitation to attend a roundtable event, once they had read the books.

This roundtable was held on 30 October 2007 in Zagreb and attracted a wide range of guests, speakers and participants. The idea was to not merely support or further publicise the JHP, but more to underpin the entire inclusive and democratic process by encouraging not only proponents of the work to attend, but also people opposing it. All of the participants were encouraged to debate, discuss, query and critique the JHP.

In attendance once again was the Deputy Minister of Education and the panel consisted of Professor Christina Koulouri, Academic Director of the JHP, Professor Zarko Puhovski, former President of the Croatian-Helsinki Human Rights Committee and CDRSEE Board Member and Professor Bogdan Murgescu, one of the editors and original contributors to the JHP, among others.

Many issues were raised at the roundtable from the content of the books, to their use as well as approaches to history as a whole.

Following the Zagreb Roundtable, the CDRSEE began preparations for the second phase of the JHP implementation in Croatia – the teacher training sessions – and work on this is currently underway. Funds that covered the costs of the initial stage were granted by the Japanese Embassy, and additional funding came from Irish Aid.

Training activities were initiated with the holding of the Training of Trainers Conference in Zagreb, 20-21 September 2008. The event gathered four trainers from the team of CDRSEE international trainers, and two local trainers. The team of international trainers introduced the JHP, the overall project, the workbooks, as well as the methodology of interactive, participative teaching to participants.

The team of local trainers prepared model lessons, based on the materials from the two workbooks: Balkan Wars and Nations and States, utilising the participative method of teaching, which they presented in front of the participants. The Conference gathered a total of 24 participants, including the local trainers, from throughout Croatia.

The first of three Croatian local teacher training workshops was held in Rijeka, 29-30 September. The event gathered 5 teacher trainers, 3 of whom were also trainers at the first conference in Zagreb, while the remaining 2 were participants from Rijeka, at the initial event.

The team of local trainers prepared model lessons, based on the JHP materials and utilising the participative method of teaching, which they presented to the participants. The workshop gathered a total of 23 participants, including the trainers.

The second Croatian local teacher training workshops took place on 7-8 March 2009 in Osijek, gathering over twenty history teachers primarily from Slavonia.

On the 25-26 April 2009, the third local Teacher Training Workshop for the Croatian language edition of the JHP Workbooks took place in Dubrovnik, gathering over twenty history teachers primarily from Dalmatia.

The Croatian Language edition workbooks are also used at local workshops in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Project Progress on the Macedonian Language edition:

Funded by the EU (via the European Agency for Reconstruction) and Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM), the JHP Workbooks in the Macedonian Language were produced in January 2008.

Irena Stefoska of FOSIM, who is also a member of the Executive Board of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, was the local language editor and FOSIM worked with the CDRSEE as project partners.

The Macedonian language edition, together with the Albanian language edition, was presented to the public on 21 January 2008, at a high profile press conference in Skopje. Special guest speakers included Dr Erhard Busek, Ambassador Erwan Fouéré, Head of the Delegation of the EC and EU Special Representative, the Honourable Jovan Lazarev, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Professor Christina Koulouri and Professor Todor Cepreganov, Director of the Institute for National History. The discussion was moderated by Vladimir Milcin, the Executive Director of FOSIM. The press and public reactions to the workbooks were, and continue to be extremely positive.

Gathering 19 history teachers from throughout the country, the Conference held in Skopje, 17-18 May 2008, marked the beginning of training activities for the Macedonian language edition of the JHP workbooks. Teachers were introduced to the workbooks by international trainers from Croatia and Turkey, as well as by the local language editor and coordinator of the edition. Additionally, sessions were held by two local professional trainers, who used texts from the workbooks, so as to introduce a variety of participative methods of teaching. Albanian language workbooks were also used at the Conference, as it was a multi-communal event.

The first two workshops, one each for the Macedonian and Albanian-speaking community for the two respective language editions of the JHP workbooks, were held on 4 and 5 October 2008, in Struga. The workshops gathered a total of 25 teachers, the majority of whom were primarily from the Western part of the country, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kicevo, Struga, Ohrid and Bitola.

The initial introduction to the project, its materials and methodology, as well as activities up to date, was made by teacher trainer and local language editor Irena Stefoska. Following the initial introduction and discussion, teachers were presented with two model lessons. Subsequently, participants were asked to design their own model of a lesson, while using documents from the Workbooks. Training activities were completed with an overall discussion, conclusions and evaluation.

The last two workshops for the Albanian and Macedonian language edition of the JHP workbooks were held on 18 and 19 October, in Bitola. They gathered a total of 34 teachers, primarily from the central and Eastern part of the country, Skopje, Stip, Kumanovo, Strumica, Veles, Kavadarci, Kocani, Gevgelija and Kriva Palanka.

As in Struga, participants were introduced to the project, its materials and methodology, as well as activities up to date, by teacher trainer and local language editor Irena Stefoska. Following the initial introduction and discussion, teachers were presented with two model lessons. One was designed and presented by history

teachers and teacher trainers who participated in previous JHP activities. The second model lesson was presented by professional teacher trainers. The goal of the second model lesson was once again, to primarily focus on the methodology of participative teaching, while utilising the JHP teaching materials.

Participants were also asked to design their own model of a lesson, while using documents from the Workbooks. Training activities were completed with an overall discussion, conclusions and evaluation.

The final event of this phase of project implementation was a Regional Conference held in Ohrid on the 21 – 23 November, 2008. The Conference gathered history teachers from all over the country, as well as from the region, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus and Kosovo, who shared their teaching experience and solidified the regional network of history teachers. Teachers from throughout the region presented examples of their use of the books to teach their history lessons, and expert methodologists provided advice on how to improve their methodology. A constructive dialogue took place, as the conference was a unique opportunity for teachers to exchange experiences, learning more about how the “others” teach.

Project progress on the Bosnian Language edition:

Work got off to a smooth start on the Bosnian language edition in 2006. Dzevdet Tuzlic, Editor in chief of the cultural programme of the Radio and Television of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina came on board as the Manager/ Local Project Coordinator of the Bosnian language edition of the Workbooks. Mr. Tuzlic has worked successfully with the CDRSEE on previous projects in BiH.

Dr. Enes Milak, PhD in history with a focus on Yugoslavia is the Editor of the Bosnian language Edition of the 4 workbooks.

In September 2007, the CDRSEE received funding for the next phases of the project in BiH, that is, the training of trainers and teacher training events, from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Additional funding was granted by Irish Aid, which enabled the implementation of full training activities – 1 Training of Trainers and 3 Local Teacher Training Workshops, at this initial stage.

The Training of Trainers Conference was held in Sarajevo, 18-20 April 2008. Gathering 17 history teachers from throughout Bosnia Herzegovina, the Conference marked the beginning of training activities in the country; re-invigorating the JHP process in BiH with enthusiasm and high quality participation.

Teachers and future trainers were introduced to the 4 Workbooks by Prof. Christina Koulouri, series editor, Hayrettin Kaya, editor of the Turkish Language edition and Dr. Enes Milak, editor of the Bosnian language edition. The goal of the Conference was not only to present the material, but also to familiarise future trainers with the participative method of history teaching, which they would pass on to colleagues.

Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina, was host to the first local teacher training workshop for the Bosnian language edition, gathering over 20 history teachers. The workshop held on 21-22 June 2008, was led by local language editor and teacher trainer Enes Milak as well as by professors of history and teacher trainers Munib Efendić and Mirko Ljubez.

On 5 December 2008, the Bosnian language edition of the Joint History Project workbooks was presented to the public at a press conference organised by the CDRSEE in cooperation with Mediacycenter, Sarajevo. The press conference was followed by the third teacher training conference, which took place in Banja Luka on 6-7 December 2008. 25 history teachers and educators gained a comprehensive perspective of the workbooks and examined methods of introducing the materials in the classroom. During the two day workshop, discussion focussed on educational methodology as well as multi-perspectivity and the encouragement of critical thinking, at the core of the Joint History Workbooks.

On 18-19 April 2009, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina was host to the third local teacher training workshop for the Bosnian language edition, gathering teachers from this region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshop was led by local language editor and teacher trainer Enes Milak as well as by professors of history

and teacher trainers Munib Efendić and Dragan Gavran. Professors Efendić and Gavran were first introduced to the JHP at the Training of Trainers Conference held in April 2008 in Sarajevo. Both the Serbian and Croatian Language editions of the JHP books are used in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to the Bosnian language edition.

Project progress on the Albanian Language edition:

The CDRSEE started the process of identifying and selecting project partners, language editors and translators for the Albanian Language version in mid 2006. Historian Helian Demiri, was the local project coordinator, and the books were published in November 2008.

The press conference launch was held in Tirana on 3 December 2007, as the final of three days of JHP-related events that included the first Training of Trainers Conference and the meeting of 15 historians that compose the History Education Committee. The books were presented by Dr. Erhard Busek and Deputy Minister of Education Ms. Adriana Gnojaj.

Teacher Training activities were implemented with funding from Irish Aid and USIP.

After kicking off with the training of trainers' workshop in Tirana in December 2007, 5 local teacher training workshops have successfully taken place in 5 different locations across Albania, between January and July 2008. Working with local project partners and the local project editor for Albania, the workshops involved teachers from all over the country.

The Albanian Language edition of the Workbooks has been and will be used for teacher training activities in Kosovo. With project partners, the Kosovo Education Center (KEC), the Joint History Project took its first steps in Kosovo on June 14 and 15 of 2008, with a training of trainers' workshop in Pristina.

Attended by 25 teachers and facilitated by an international team of academics and trainers (from Greece, Turkey, Slovenia and Kosovo) the workshop introduced the teachers to the concepts of the JHP through an open discussion of the project and the methodology of the books.

With model lessons, discussion and lively debate, the workshop demonstrated how participative methods of learning can be incorporated into the classroom through history education.

The first local teacher training workshop took place in Prishtina over 2 days 20-21 of December 2008. The workshop was attended by 24 history teachers from surrounding areas, outside the city. The workshop was facilitated by two of the teachers who attended the Training of Trainers workshop in June 2008 and they presented a model lesson to the participants on how to use the workbooks in class.

On 20 February 2009 in Prishtina and 21 February 2009 in Prizren, two local teacher training workshops for the Albanian language edition were organised in cooperation with Kosovo Education Center (KEC). The first one-day workshop took place in Prishtina and was attended by 21 teachers from surrounding areas, outside the city. Two of the teachers, who were trained during the December 2008 workshop, presented model lessons, providing excellent examples of how to use the workbooks to prepare their classroom lessons. The second one day workshop was held in Prizren and was attended by 33 teachers. It was the first time that a workshop had been held in this region and the constructive attitudes of the teachers greatly contributed to the success of this workshop.

The Albanian Language edition has also been used for training activities in the FYR of Macedonia.

The JHP has been congratulated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Albania for its work in the country.

Project progress on the Turkish Language edition in Cyprus:

UNDP in Cyprus entered into a series of discussions with the CDRSEE in 2006 with regard to implementing the JHP in a bi-communal manner. Despite the complexity of the situation, a positive and beneficial agreement was reached and work started on the Turkish Language Edition of the workbooks in 2007.

The books were published in October of 2008. The press conference launch of both the Turkish and Greek Language edition was held in Nicosia on 9 October, 2008. The public event was followed by the Training of Trainers Conference, held 10-11 October 2008, also in Nicosia. The bi-communal Conference gathered 25 teachers and 5 international trainers, 2 of whom were from Turkey, 2 from Greece and 1 from Croatia.

The first Local Teacher Training Workshop took place at the UN base (Green Line), Nicosia on 24-25 January 2009. The event, organised by the CDRSEE, together with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, gathered approximately 30 participants and 7 speakers from both communities. The programme of the workshop had a mixture of model lessons based on the JHP materials and discussions on the best use of the Alternative History Materials in the classrooms.

On 21 February 2009, the second and third Teacher Training Workshops were held jointly in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Teacher Training Workshops took place at the UN base, in the UN Buffer Zone. The event, organised in cooperation with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and co-funded by UNDP-ACT and A.G. Leventis Foundation, addressed 35 participants from across the existing divide of Cyprus. One international trainer and five local trainers presented model lessons based on the Joint History Project materials and discussions took place regarding the best use of the Alternative History Teaching Materials in classrooms.

The Turkish Language edition of the workbooks will also be used at Workshops held in Kosovo.

BACKGROUND TO THE JHP WORKBOOKS:

The CDRSEE facilitated an international team of history professors and teachers from the then 11 Southeast European countries to co-operate in creating resource material for history teachers. The materials consist of four 'History Workbooks' that are organised thematically, and contain original source material from the eleven countries of Southeast Europe included in the JHP. The materials were translated into English, compiled, and then evaluated by about 70 teachers during four assessment workshops, one workshop per Workbook. The CDRSEE has also printed editions in Serbian, Greek, Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian and Macedonian with the Turkish Language edition underway and on schedule.

The historical events or periods chosen for the themes of the workbooks are common to all Southeast European peoples, and correspond to the curricula in all countries involved. The intention is to promote and distribute the books in local Languages as widely as possible, but in a way that the teachers will also learn how to use the books in class.

The process of creating these materials was inclusive, and the end result, the workbooks, are 'owned' by teachers and academics from the region, and not imposed by foreign experts. One or two contributors from each of the eleven countries collected the materials - pictures, diplomatic texts, treaties, memoirs, literature, testimonies, newspapers - for each topic. The sources are documents on different aspects of each historical topic presented from different national perspectives, thus providing by definition multi-perspectivity via a comparative approach. The contributors were in constant communication with the editors of the books regarding the materials that they were gathering and sending; they also met in person on several occasions. Any omissions in first drafts were identified by teachers, and the contributors submitted additional materials according to the assessment of the teachers. The creation of the workbooks was a robust process, involving 6 editors, 14 contributors, almost 70 history teachers, and 5 expert reviewers, as well as translators, proofreaders, and graphic designers.

BENEFICIARIES:

Target groups:

- History teachers in public and private schools in urban and rural areas in Southeast Europe;
- Students in public and private schools;
- University Professors of History, Sociology, Education, Philosophy and other disciplines;
- Graduate and undergraduate University students;
- CSOs working on themes of education, especially history education;
- Ministries of Education;
- Teachers' unions and groups

Direct beneficiaries:

- The Teacher Trainers who will participate in the 'Training of Trainers' Conferences
- History teachers who will participate in local teacher training workshops
- Teachers who will receive the teaching materials
- Universities
- All those who receive the printed teaching resource materials, or access the materials via the website

Indirect beneficiaries:

- Teachers, professors, CSO workers, and others who will download the teaching material from the web sites
- Students of high school and university level whose teachers use the History Workbooks.
- Representatives from Ministries of Education of the countries involved
- Civil society in general will benefit from the improved role of teachers associations as CSOs.
- Neighbouring countries
- Teachers of other disciplines who will be motivated by this project to request similar training, funding, and respect.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

The problem with traditional methods of history teaching that are still used in many countries today, particularly in the Balkans, is that stereotypes are reinforced, and ignorance or even hate of 'the other', of the neighbour, is instilled in the students. These traditional methods provide students with selective information with no attention to the source or validity of the information. History class can be a forum for encouraging the critical thinking essential to the age of information, where an important skill that citizens should develop is the ability to analyse and evaluate the credibility of information. Equally as important are the practical problems that teachers face, such as lack of adequate materials.

The perceived needs that lead to history education as the theme, rather than education in general, is the destructive role that history played in the wars of the 90s in the Balkans and following from that, the role of history in creating national identity. In the formation of nation-states in the Balkans after the Communist period, national histories were created to define national identities, and to give those identities legitimacy. Numerous analyses, articles, and books have tried to explain how the multi-ethnic country of Yugoslavia, with intermarriage and peaceful co-existence, erupted into war. Several of those analysts have pointed to the role of nationalist elites using emotion-stirring propaganda based on manipulated and distorted presentations of historical events. While history usually plays an important role in defining national identity in all countries, in the former Yugoslavia history was distorted by a nationalist teleological approach usually imposed from 'above'.

The need to understand different perspectives, especially when dealing with the past, is critical in the Balkans. History teacher training with the engagement of the civil society organisations offers the ground to

empower the region to develop additional resources based on democratic education and development of democratic curricula for the youth as agent of the future.

It is a chronic problem in the field of education that reforms are introduced without consulting teachers. Often, education reforms have failed resulting in frustrated teachers who are teaching the same lessons repeatedly, without being able to benefit from new teaching ideas and methods. Both the civil society and the government would benefit from a more constructive relationship with each other.

Additionally, despite the challenges, there are numerous teachers and activists already engaged in improving history education. There is a social movement towards more open-minded and progressive attitudes to education, and much has already been achieved in this field. However, the individual teachers and local NGOs need more support in order to reach more teachers and make the improvement of history teaching a widespread social change.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CDRSEE:

The CDRSEE is a non-governmental, non profit organisation that supports regionally owned civil society initiatives in Southeast Europe as part of a long-term process of reconciliation and peace building. Founded in 1998 by a group of private citizens from Southeast Europe, the EU and the US, the CDRSEE's work is grounded in the principles of democratic process, participation and the recognition that the way to true peace and reconciliation is through allowing all voices to be heard.

The CDRSEE aims to empower people from all walks of life to change patterns of hostility and learned nationalistic attitudes into hope, optimism and mutual respect so that they can create opportunities for themselves to build a better future. With a shared set of values based on understanding that the peoples of Southeast Europe have the capacity, willing and strength to forge genuine and lasting peace, the CDRSEE facilitates locally owned projects that enable people to work together towards sustainable, self-determined futures.

Staff: The CDRSEE is led by its Executive Director, Mr. Nenad Sebek and Director of Programmes Mrs. Corinna Noack-Aetopulos. The Center currently counts, in addition, 3 permanent staff members and 4 Interns.

The CDRSEE draws on the expertise and influence of four other key bodies:

The CDRSEE Board of Directors: 14 intellectual leaders, businesspeople, journalists, diplomats, political figures and NGO directors from all over Southeast Europe, the EU and the US. Currently headed by Dr Erhard Busek, the Board is also supported by an Advisory Council of experts, diverse in experience, disciplines, location and gender.

The History Education Committee: 17 experts on History Education that have been part of the JHP since 1998.

The Academic Committee: Leading academics, professors of history and other relevant disciplines renowned and respected in their field.

Partners: The CDRSEE implements this project by working in close collaboration with partners in the countries in which the JHP covers. This includes academics, CSOs, teachers' groups, publishers and other relevant organisations.

Donors:

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