



# CDRSEE

Center for Democracy and Reconciliation  
in Southeast Europe

## THE SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN JOINT HISTORY PROJECT

The Southeast European region has a colourful, mixed and complex modern history, sometimes with differing views and accounts of the past. History and the manner in which it is 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 goal of the Joint History Project (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 sustainable peace and a democratic future.

The JHP aims in the long-term to revise ethnocentric school history teaching by avoiding the production of stereotypes, by identifying attitudes that encourage conflict, by suggesting alternative teaching methods and by promoting the idea of multiple interpretations of one event.

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

**To date, the Workbooks have been produced in the Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, English (with the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published in the summer of 2009), Greek, Macedonian, Serbian and Turkish languages. In addition, an edition of the books in Japanese is underway.**

All of the editions have been presented to the public and **8 press conferences** specifically dedicated to the JHP workbooks have taken place in Athens, Belgrade, Zagreb, Brussels, Tirana, Skopje, Sarajevo and Nicosia.

The last press conference and launch was held in Nicosia on 9 October 2008, at which the Turkish and Greek language editions were presented to the public, resulting in widespread positive media coverage.

**In April 2009 the European Parliament adopted a resolution concerning "stability and prosperity in the Western Balkans", making direct reference to the Joint History Project and encouraging support for the JHP and similar initiatives in the region.**

**The second phase of the JHP entails the familiarisation with the material through the Training of Trainers and Local Teacher Training Workshops.**

The following training activities have been implemented up to date:

- ❖ Serbian language edition
- Belgrade – Training of Trainers: 1-3 September, 2006
- Nis – Local Teacher Training Workshop: 21-22 October, 2006
- Novi Pazar – Local Teacher Training Workshop: 25-26 November, 2006
- Belgrade - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 16-17 December, 2006



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- Novi Sad - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 2-4 February, 2007

❖ Albanian language edition

- Tirana – Training of Trainers: 1-2 of December, 2007

- Elbasan - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 23-24 February, 2008

- Saranda - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 15-16 March, 2008

- Skopje – Training of Trainers: 17-18 May, 2008

- Pristina – Training of Trainers: 14-15 June, 2008

- Skodra - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 18-19 June, 2008

- Korca - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 26-27 June, 2008

- Struga – Two Local Teacher Training Workshops: 4-5 October, 2008

- Bitola – Two Local Teacher Training Workshops: 18-19 October, 2008

- Pristina - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 20-21 December, 2008

- Pristina - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 20 February, 2009

- Prizren - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 21 February, 2009

❖ Macedonian and Albanian language editions

- Skopje – Training of Trainers: 17-18 of May, 2008

- Struga – Two Local Teacher Training Workshops: 4-5 of October, 2008

- Bitola – Two Local Teacher Training Workshops: 18-19 of October, 2008

❖ Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language editions

- Sarajevo – Training of Trainers: 18-20 April, 2008

- Jajce - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 21-22 June, 2008

- Banja Luka - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 6-7 December, 2008

- Mostar - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 18-19 April, 2009

❖ Croatian language edition

- Zagreb – Training of Trainers: 20-21 September, 2008

- Rijeka - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 29-30 November, 2008

- Osijek - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 7-8 March, 2009

- Dubrovnik – Local Teacher Training Workshop: 25-26 April, 2009

❖ Turkish and Greek language editions

- Nicosia – Training of Trainers: 10-11 October, 2008

- Nicosia - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 24-25 January, 2009

- Nicosia - Local Teacher Training Workshop: 21 February, 2009

Advocacy, networking and capacity building work are ongoing, with the aim of fostering the empowerment of teachers and ensuring the sustainability of the project.

**The overarching success of the JHP is that the project has maintained its open, inclusive and democratic nature, even in the face of opposition. This stands as a testament to the principles of the JHP: that it is not only the content that espouses democratic values, respect and transparency, but that the project itself is a model of these in practice.**

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