

## **Second project meeting of the EU project EHISTO 27 – 30 October 2013 in Łódź**

From 27 till 30 October 2013 the project partners of the EU project "European History Crossroads as Pathways to Intercultural and Media Education" (EHISTO) met upon the invitation from the Augsburg-based project coordinator Prof. Dr. Susanne Popp (Chair of History Didactics) for the second project meeting in Łódź, Poland. Joanna Szczecińska M.A. from the Academy of Management Łódź hosted the meeting. In addition to the researchers mentioned above further researchers from the University of Salamanca (Spain), the University of Darlarna (Sweden), the University of East Anglia (UK) as well as the Institute for Film and Image in Research and Education (FWU) in Grünwald are also involved in the project. In particular it is worthy to point out that the partner schools' teachers also attended the meeting.

### **Objectives**

The EHISTO project's object of research are popular history magazines, which deal with the two "European History Crossroads" agreed upon at the kick-off meeting, namely "Columbus and the 'Discovery' of the 'New World'" and the "'Outbreak' of the First World War". This commercialized form of representing history exhibits national tendencies of looking at history in the respective countries, but also transnational commonalities. Both aspects together form the foundation required to initiate intercultural and media-critical learning in history education.

### **Digital learning modules with great practical relevance for history education in schools**

During the conference digital learning modules were presented, which were developed by the individual academic experts in close collaboration with the respective teachers of the EHISTO partner schools. For this purpose, every partner country developed one module each for the "European History Crossroad" "Columbus" and for "The Outbreak of the First World War". The Institute for Film and Image in Research and Education (FWU) took on the technical implementation thereby ensuring attractive tasks with interactive opportunities. Subsequently, the teachers examined the modules critically before testing them in their respective classes. Aligned with their individual curriculums the teachers collectively developed two transnational units each, which successfully complemented the tasks focusing on "national perspective", "media-critical analysis" as well as "international comparison". In communicating with the teachers it became clear that the didactical value of the learning portfolio lies in the tasks which are available in Polish, German, Spanish, Swedish and English. It is also very important that the national magazines (magazine articles, covers and picture galleries) are available in all partner languages and that the translations appear in the original layout. Intercultural, transnational and media-critical learning in history education can be aimed at in the best way only if these large efforts are fulfilled.

### **University seminars – sustainably embedding the EHISTO project in university education**

The following conference day was devoted to the implementation of intercultural, transnational and media-critical history education by means of popular history magazines within the university training of history teachers. For this purpose, the Chair of History Didactics at Augsburg University (Prof. Dr. Susanne Popp and Miriam Hannig) has developed a seminar, which will pilot and be evaluated in Augsburg during the winter term 2013/2014.

It will particularly focus on:

- a) transferring competences in dealing with popular history magazines
- b) magazine analysis (with the help of history didactical criteria)
- c) enabling the students to independently develop competence-oriented tasks.

This should help the students to integrate further "European History Crossroads" in their history lessons by means of popular magazines.

The other university project partners will also implement and evaluate the proposed concept with their students. After including the gained feedback in the seminar manual it will be available as free download on the project homepage.

### **Teacher training – sustainably embedding the EHISTO project in schools**

The concept of teacher training is the third key topic of the EHISTO project besides the development of learning modules and the concept of the university seminar. Accordingly, researchers primarily from Salamanca University (Spain) developed a manual which, much as the university seminar manual, is available as free download on the project homepage. In addition to the actual organisational outline of the teacher training the manual also features working material and a comprehensive bibliography, which encourages in depth engagement with the topic. As is the case with the modules and the university seminar, all documents for the teacher training are available in all project languages.

### **Evaluation and dissemination**

The evaluation of the individual key areas – reaching from learning modules to the university seminar to teacher training – played a great role in Łódź. The researchers of the Academy of Management Łódź presented the evaluation sheets which are to be used for feedback. The evaluation results of the manuals and modules will contribute to improvement. The researchers from the University of East Anglia will focus on the university seminar and the researchers from the University of Darlarna on the concept of teacher training.

This ensures the practical relevance of the EHISTO results for all participating countries, the European relevance of the created documents and learning assignments as well as their integration into national curricula, training concepts and study regulations.

### **Prospects**

During the next few months the lesson modules and the concept of the university seminar, but also the manual for teacher training presented at the conference will all be tested, evaluated and subsequently improved by the project partners. In May 2014 the final versions will be presented at the third meeting of the EHISTO project in Salamanca, Spain.

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