Colonialism and Decolonisation
in National History Cultures and Memory Politics in European Perspective

Welcome to the CoDec Newsletter!

The project, granted under the European Union’s Life Long Learning Programme/Comenius-CMP, takes a look at colonial pasts and processes of decolonisation in different European states in a comparative perspective. Partners from Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Great Britain, Austria, Poland and Switzerland will join in the analysis and discussion of these issues. The main focus of the project is the question in how far the topic is taught in history lessons in the respective partner countries and which meaning is currently attributed to the colonial past in national history cultures and memory politics.

The main aim of the project is to discuss in how far national history cultures in the context of colonisation and processes of decolonisation can be integrated into a collective European framework, starting from the experience that the colonial past is a uniting as well as dividing moment in European history. This means that it has to be considered whether – regardless of the different dividing historical developments and memories – Europe can be or is a memory community with regard to the colonial past, and, respectively, whether the colonial past is or can be a European “space of memory”. Practical outcomes of the project are lesson modules, developed in cooperation with the partners, for a European history education in Europe.
News from Partners – (to be filled by every partner)

Please use this space to provide information from your own activities in Codec-Project last half year OR to give a preview to future events (events, presentations etc.)!
The diversity of perspectives on colonialism and decolonisation reflects the diversity of the history and education cultures of the European partner countries. The conference was an important step in having a collaborative discussion about what these terms mean and how they are used within and across borders.

When addressing the question of whether colonialism and decolonisation can be seen as a European ‘space of memory’ it must be acknowledged that, depending on national, regional and group-specific circumstances, different and oftentimes competing interpretations come into play. The project must work with this diversity and use it as an opportunity to make students aware of the formations of different history cultures and to encourage them to think about colonialism and decolonisation in new ways.

Daniel Groth, University of Siegen
S. Karly Kehoe, Glasgow Caledonian University

A detailed conference report is available on our project website: [http://www.uni-siegen.de/codec-eu/](http://www.uni-siegen.de/codec-eu/)
Event at the Scottish Parliament

On 8 October 2014, the Royal Society of Edinburgh’s Young Academy of Scotland’s Arts and Humanities Showcase featured the CoDec project in an exhibition with the title “Historians and Teachers Unite! Collaborating to understand colonialism and decolonisation in the European Context.”

Glasgow Caledonian University historians, Dr S. Karly Kehoe and Dr Ben Shepherd, have teamed up with teachers Nelson Mundell, Louise Montgomery, Jack Johnston and Sarah Jane Moffat, to get new historical research about colonialism and decolonisation into classrooms around Scotland and throughout Europe. Together, with colleagues in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland and Austria, they are helping students to think about the bigger picture: What was Scotland’s experience of colonialism and decolonisation and how does it compare with the experience of other European nations? The focus is on linking the local with the global. By using local materials, which include letters, books, images, landscapes, recipes, the built environment and more, this project brings history to life and helps students to engage with Scotland’s and Europe’s colonial pasts and to better understand their processes of decolonisation.

If you are interested in any further information, please visit our website:

www.uni-siegen.de/codec-eu/
Project basics

Title: CoDec – Colonialism and Decolonisation

Duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2015

Programme: Life Long Learning Programme/ Comenius-CMP

Participating countries: DE, BE, EE, AT, PL, UK, DE, CH

Website: http://www.uni-siegen.de/codec-eu/

Partners

P1 University of Siegen – Arnsberg (Germany) - http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/geschichte/lehrstuehle/dgng/
P2 KU Leuven – Leuven (Belgium) - http://www.kuleuven.be
P3 University of Tartu – Tartu (Estonia) - http://www.ut.ee/en
P4 Hafelekar Unternehmensberatung – Innsbruck (Austria) http://www.hafelekar.at
P5 Społeczna Akademia Nauk – Łódź (Poland) - www.spoleczna.pl
P6 Glasgow Caledonian University – Glagow (Scotland, UK) - www.gcu.ac.uk
P7 University of Augsburg – Augsburg (Germany) - http://www.philhist.uni-augsburg.de/
P8 Pädagogische Hochschule FHNW – Aarau (Switzerland) - www.fhnw.ch/ph/pbed

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Aims

· studying the reappraisal of the colonial past and processes of decolonisation in different European states in a comparative European perspective
· studying the way of teaching the topic in the partner states in history education and the question of the impact of colonial pasts on history cultures and memory politics today
· discussing how far national memory cultures of colonialism and decolonisation can be implemented into a collective European frame, in the context that the colonial past is a connecting as well as a dividing moment in European history

Main Results

· Teaching modules in different languages, published in print and in digital versions, incl. introductions and lesson plans plus new sources
· Innovative conference as a means of further teacher training, which will be attended by participants from all stages of teacher education

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