

Newsletter

December 2012





The **Sharing European Memories at School** project ends next 31st December after two years of fruitful and enriching work by the 6 partner organizations. The positive feedback received from teachers and students having participated in the pilot experiences, as well as the interest showed on the project by educational stakeholders, allow us to believe that project results have a great potential and will be useful teaching resources for **History education in secondary school**.

We do hope that many teachers across Europe will use or feel inspired by our work, and starts to be approached and discussed in the classes the memory concept. We also hope that our project has contributed to consider the memory concept as worth to be included in the school curricula. It introduces a complementary dimension into History classes and helps students to recognise the difference between facts and opinion and to understand the multi-causality of historical events. The analysis of how memory is constructed using oral sources brings History close to their personal and family experience or that of their communities, giving a practical application to historical knowledge.

All project outputs are already available on the project website (<http://www.memoriesatschool.eu/lang/en/project-outputs>) are to be freely used and adapted by anyone interested in using the concept of memory to give a new approach in History teaching.

Sharing European Memories at School: working with historical memory in the classroom. A teaching plan and guide for implementation is a cross-curricular, competency-based methodology that offers a new and flexible way of planning your history lessons.

It is organised in five stages:

Phase 1

Students explore the concepts of history and memory and how they differ.

Phase 2

Students interview living witnesses.

Phase 3

Students analyse their interviews in their historical context and explore how and why the subject is remembered in the present day.

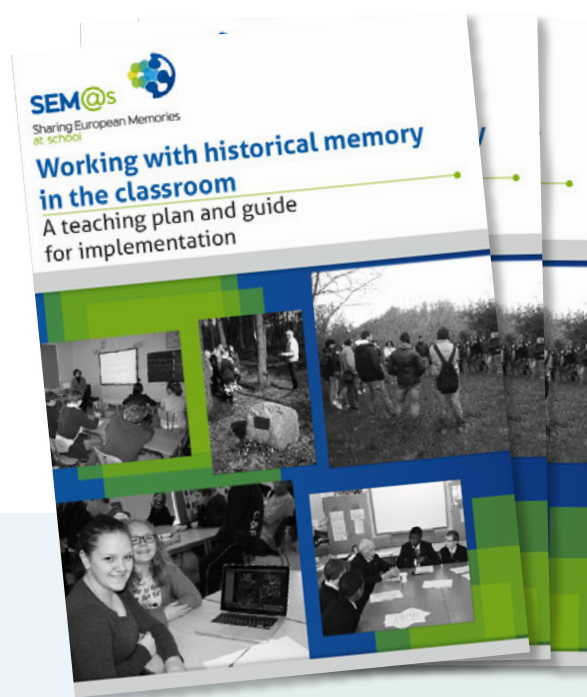
Phase 4

Students develop a creative product that combines historical information with the memories they uncovered from a critical point of view.

Phase 5

Students share and learn about other schools' experiences through their materials, creative outputs and personal experiences on memory.

The **Methodology** contains the necessary guidance and recommendations to implement and adapt it to the History classes or educational activities in the case of museums. The methodology is flexible enough to be structured in a different manner and it is full of tips and recommendations based on the 7 different pilot experiences carried out during the project, as well as continuous references to supporting materials available in the project website.



The **Database of European Memories** has a double objective, to gather experiences and materials from schools to be used in the sharing phase of the methodology and to help teachers get information about work in different schools that have already tested the methodology and can offer feedback and ideas on how approach topics. It allows to complete the sharing phase without having a partner school developing the project at the same time.



Final event in San Sebastian

Last 16th November a final workshop was organised in San Sebastian to present the SEM@S experience and discuss about the role of memory in History education.

Aranzadi Society of Sciences organised it together with a network of Basque schools, **Ikastolen Elkarte**. Most of the attendants were History teachers, but there were also representatives of Educational authorities, museums and oral history associations.

As main conclusions, participants stated that working on historical memory through oral history allows to:

- Develop social skills and citizenship
- Help students learn to think historically
- Rebuild empathy and communication between generations and
- Support students in process of building their personal and collective identity.

Presentations and complete conclusions may be consulted at:

<http://www.memoriesatschool.eu/lang/en/resources/>



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www.memoriesatschool.eu



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