

SEM@s



Sharing European Memories  
at school



## Who are we?

A group of European organisations interested in how historical memory is formed, how it is transmitted and what is its role and influence on our society.

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## What is historical memory?

Historical memory is how we remember the past and in what form. The terms 'history' and 'memory' have very different meanings.

History is a record of significant past events but is not a neutral record. This record will always be incomplete and problematic.

Memories are constantly being made and forgotten. They can be manipulated and changed. There are individual memories, which are your memories, and social memories. Social memory, where you share a common history with a specific group of people, is crucial in creating and maintaining a sense of individual and community identity.

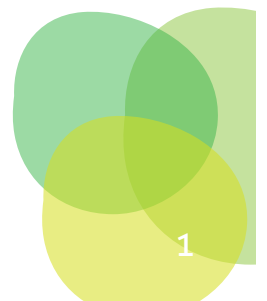
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## Why is it important?

We must be aware that disagreements about what events occurred in the past and how we should remember them are common. Powerful groups in society can dominate the stories that are heard.

The field of historical memory is often linked to commemoration, by way of events, places, texts, artefacts and symbols that remain significant to the group. The past decades have seen great changes across the world, such as mass migrations and globalisation, which lead people to question their identity. Who are we? Where am I from? How should I act in the present and future? Remembering past events, or even choosing to forget them, is important, because we can use our knowledge of the past to decide how we want to influence the future.

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### What will this project do?

Our task in this project is to present a significant event to students and encourage them to examine it using critical thinking: Whose viewpoint has influenced this text? Who were you protecting when you wrote this letter? How has your eyewitness account been shaped by the years since the event? What are you not telling us and why?

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### How are we going to do it?

Over several months we will be piloting our approach in different schools in Spain, Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. Students from 14 to 17 years old will work on the historical memory of a local, national or European past event, resulting in a creative output (such as a film, a comic, a play, or a performance). In each country the approach will be adapted to the school curriculum and will operate on a cross-curricular basis. Across Europe the emphasis will be on sharing and comparing memories with other schools.

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### What are the benefits to the students?

Through an enjoyable and active learning process, students will not only become familiar with the concept of historical memory, but they will also develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, team working, decision making and creativity; as well as a sense of active citizenship and a better knowledge of how the past has influenced the society they live in.

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Duration:

**January 2011 – December 2012**

If you want to learn more:

[www.memoriesatschool.eu](http://www.memoriesatschool.eu)

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