

HISTOLAB prize for co-operation project of the NGL Gurs working group

One of this year's nine European HISTOLAB awards went to the cooperation project Footprints for Freedom, in which the NGL (Neues Gymnasium Leibniz) is involved. Out of some 450 applicants, the project was awarded the prize for its innovative and cross-border approach to the culture of memory.

Margit Sachse (Cité Scolaire Internationale de Lyon), Anastasia Protopsalti (Próto Prótypo Prótypo Lýkeio Athínas "Gennádeios") and Michael Rüdél (Neues Gymnasium Leibniz Stuttgart-Feuerbach) attended the award ceremony on Friday at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, the headquarters of the Council of Europe, on behalf of the many students, teachers and partners involved in the project.

Fatima Haji and Chryssa Triantafyllakou presented the project to the participants of the "European Days of Innovation in History Education 2024". Margit Sachse, initiator and project manager of the Footprints for Freedom initiative, explained in her presentation the synergies from the transnational networking of various partners: Convoi77 (Paris), Mémoires Musicales sans Frontière, Ambassadeurs de la Mémoire de la Shoah, Château d'Orion (Nouvelle-Aquitaine), "Respect for Greece" and other Greek school projects. Anastasia Protopsalti spoke on behalf of one of these projects. She emphasised the need to address the culture of remembrance of the Second World War in her country. On the one hand, this period of history is often not dealt with in school lessons due to time constraints. On the other hand, it is still a taboo subject. Occupation by Nazi Germany, martyr villages and the almost complete disappearance of the Jewish communities are topics that the young generation in Greece is not aware of.

The [online platform Footprints for Freedom](#) has set itself the goal of making young people aware of the importance of history in a participatory way and promoting democracy by making it possible to visualise and share local and national cultures of remembrance and individual biographical fates. The initiative has planned further collaborations with Poland, Spain and Italy and has received invitations for project trips and presentations to Gurs, Flossenbürg and Mauthausen.

The idea to participate in the platform emerged during the first Gurs project in which the NGL participated in 2021. Michael Rüdél, who coordinates the project at NGL, emphasises the opportunities that the project offers the pupils. Above all, because it combines subjects such as history, foreign languages and computer science and gives students with different talents and interests access.

The history prize is awarded by the European HISTOLAB project, which also organises the "European Innovation Days in History Education". HISTOLAB is an example of cooperation between several European organisations. Its partners are the European Union and the "Observatory on History Teaching in Europe" founded by the Council of Europe in 2020. The aim is, on the one hand, to research how history is currently taught in the member states of the European organisations in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice experience. On the other hand, the development potential of history teaching is to be analysed and innovative initiatives in teaching practice, subject didactics, research and teaching are to be supported.

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<https://gymnasium-feuerbach.de/2024/04/06/histolab-preis-fuer-ngl-kooperationsprojekt-der-gurs-ag>