

Education for Peace III

A one year project funded by the European Commission.

History Textbooks changed in northern part of Cyprus.

Right wing party UBP, commissioned new history textbooks over the summer break.

Following their election success in April 2009, The National Unity Party (UBP) appointed a new history committee to undertake a revision of the upper secondary Cyprus History textbooks introduced in schools in 2004 by UBP's predecessor - The Republican Turkish Party (CTP). Within this context, POST Research Institute (POST RI) is conducting a comparative analysis of the new Cyprus History textbooks introduced in schools in September 2009 with the previous upper secondary textbooks. Four 'Cyprus History' textbooks prepared under the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) government for Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been analysed and compared with the two 'Cyprus Turkish History' textbooks commissioned by the current government. The content and visual images of the textbooks have been evaluated from the a peace education perspective. According to the preliminary findings of the comparative analyses; the current Cyprus Turkish History textbooks have re-employed the ethno-centric approaches used, and employ a more nationalist and militaristic discourse. This current textbook analyses will be combined with POST RI's former textbook analyses undertaken in its *Education for Peace II* project (sponsored by the UNDP-ACT and USAID) to provide a comprehensive report of the Cyprus History textbooks used in the northern part of the Island since 2004. This report will be finalised and disseminated in the first quarter of 2010. The report will be available in English, Turkish and Greek and will be useful resource for educators, researchers, local government and international bodies. For further information please contact Dilek Latif: dilek_latif@yahoo.com

Nicosia Cultural Treasure Tour

More than 25 educators and students from across Cyprus participated in a historical walking tour of Nicosia on Saturday, 21 November 2009.

The Nicosia Cultural treasure tour was the first of four study tours to be conducted under the auspices of POST RI's new one year project *Education for Peace III*, funded by the European Union. The tour was a unique opportunity for teachers, educators and researchers from across Cyprus to come together to learn more about the walled city of Nicosia.

The tour engaged participants with the amazing cultural and historical sites of old Nicosia in a multi-perspective atmosphere, enabling participants to see the city from another perspective. In order to enhance the tour, information was provided by two guides; Tuncer Bağışkan and Marios Epaminondas. The day began with a tour of the northern part of Nicosia incorporating four main aspects of the city, namely: The Administrative Area (Saray Onu and its periphery); The Social Area (The Buyuk Han and its periphery) including various other Hams and Pavilions; The Religious Settlement (The Selimiye Mosque and its periphery; Arabahmet (including the Armenian Church). The group then stopped for lunch before continuing the second part of the tour in the southern part of Nicosia with the first stop being Paphos Gate. During the walk participants were shown various religious buildings, including an Armenian Church, Greek Orthodox Church and Mosque. The group was then taken to an after school centre run by an NGO which provides assistance with school work as well as being a social setting for children 7 days a week. Aspects of the tour were enhanced with the use of 'Nicosia is Calling', a new series of booklets developed by POST RI's associate partner; The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR). The booklets reveal the fascinating history behind the within-the-walls Nicosia in an interactive and fun way for school students, teachers and history fans.



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POST RI'S OFFICE OPENING CEREMONY

Under the auspices of the *Education for Peace III* project, funded by the European Commission, POST RI has acquired a new office. Please join us in celebrating:

Date: Tuesday 15th December
Time: 17.30

Place: Atatürk Caddesi, No.9, Küçük Kaymaklı, Nicosia.

For more information please contact Mehves Beyidoglu Onen
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STUDY TOURS IN 2010

As part of the *Education for Peace III* project, POST RI will be conducting 3 more study tours to various locations across Cyprus.

The next tour is due to take place in February 2010. As part of our feedback from the **Nicosia**

Cultural Treasure Tour we have collected participants feedback and suggestions in order to design our next tour. To submit your suggestions or for further information please contact Shirin Jetha-Dagseven
Email: shirinjetha@hotmail.com



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