

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Name
2021		101	Serbia	Association for Social History

Announcement

On 1 September 2021, EuroClio (the European Association of History Educators) based in The Hague, issued a press release to express solidarity with its member, the Serbian history teachers' association **Udruženje za društvenu istoriju – Euroclio** (UDI – Euroclio; Association for Social History), after it had been subjected to a slander campaign over its work on the recent history of the region.

Please find below:

- (1) A NCH case summary;
- (2) The text of the EuroClio press release (in English).

For the UDI–EuroClio press statement (in Serbian), see [here](#).

The Network of Concerned Historians supports EuroClio's call for solidarity and similarly condemns the slander campaign against UDI–EuroClio.

NCH CASE SUMMARY

On 27–29 August 2021, the Udruženje za društvenu istoriju – EuroClio (UDI; Association for Social History – EuroClio), the Serbian history teachers' association and a member of the European Association of History Educators EuroClio, was subjected to a slander campaign in tabloids and on social media over its work on the recent history of the region. Some UDI members were accused of manipulating history and had their photos published online without their permission. The slander campaign came after UDI organized a teacher training seminar on the use of archival material made available by the United Nations International

Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT). Serbian tabloids and social media then rumored that the material was actually imposed by the IRMCT. The slander campaign was condemned by EuroClio.

Source: EuroClio, “[Press Release: Solidarity with Association for Social History UDI – Euroclio](#)” (1 September 2021).

Press Release: Solidarity with Association for Social History UDI – Euroclio

EuroClio – European Association of History Educators – stands in solidarity with the Association for Social History UDI – Euroclio, reiterating their recent [press statement](#) (in Serbian) and defending the professional dignity of the Serbian history teachers’ association.

Over the past few days, the Association for Social History UDI – Euroclio has been subjected to slander and false allegations concerning their work on the recent history of the region. Some of our colleagues have received a wave of false accusations related to their work, and personal photos of members were published online without permission. These actions resulted from a seminar organized by the Association for Social History UDI – Euroclio involving teacher training on the use of archival material made available by the UN’s [International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals](#). Historians write history on the basis of historical sources, documents and archival material, not imposed by international institutions, something that was being proclaimed in a number of Serbian tabloids. The accusations and false allegations aired in Serbian tabloids have ultimately spread to social media leading to a sustained and slanderous campaign against some of our colleagues.

We condemn the unlawful publication of private photos of members of the association, and false accusations on the manipulation of history by international organizations. EuroClio advocates for the sound use of history education towards the building and deepening of democratic societies, connecting professionals across boundaries of communities, countries, ethnicities and religions. We seek to enhance the quality of history and citizenship education through capacity-building for educators, which was similarly the goal of the seminar.

It is clear that dealing with the difficult past is sensitive and will evoke strong reactions. We are humbled by the fact that so many of our colleagues in the region are able to work together in a respectful way to

address their shared past, and hope more people will take inspiration from them. EuroClio will continue to promote values such as multiperspectivity, critical thinking, mutual respect and the inclusion of controversial issues in history education.

We also welcome scrutiny of our work through healthy, respectful and evidence-based academic debate, but fundamentally reject the kind of treatment our Serbian colleagues are currently subjected to – with accusations lacking both in evidence and in form.

If you are an educator from Serbia, we encourage you to join and follow [UDI – Euroclio](#). If you are coming from other countries in the Balkans – or elsewhere – please consider joining our [member associations](#) in your country and/or [EuroClio](#). It is also an unfortunate reality that historians and history teachers elsewhere too are increasingly subjected to censorship, threats and, in extreme cases, violence. We therefore welcome you to follow and support the work of the [Network of Concerned Historians](#), an independent and universal observatory serving as a link between human rights organizations campaigning on behalf of persecuted historians, and the global community of historians.