



## Alliance Partners to Make History

On 7 April 2009, a working breakfast at the Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Istanbul served as the occasion for the launch of a three-year history education pilot project.

The [Council of Europe](#), the [North-South Center](#) and the [Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture](#) (IRCICA) in cooperation with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations organized a pre-Forum event on 5 April 2009, and a Forum working breakfast on 7 April 2009, to discuss issues relating to intercultural dialogue, history and history teaching in the context of globalization.

The meetings concluded with the announcement of a pilot project to deal with "A History of Interactions within the Mediterranean and between the Mediterranean and Other Cultures and Regions of the World."

This three-year project aims at the production of educational materials for formal and non-formal education highlighting positive interactions over the centuries within the people of the Mediterranean Basin and between them and other cultures and regions of the world.

These materials, with an emphasis on social and cultural history, will be produced through collaboration between historians and educators proficient in the teaching of history. Products will include written and audio-visual supports for learners, as well as handbooks for teachers and trainers. Drawing on existing networks and consortia of specialists, a small Task Force will be set up to pursue the project's objectives, which will be reflected in its composition.

Benefiting from relevant accomplishments of IRCICA, the Council of Europe, the Union for the Mediterranean, as well as from UNESCO's 'History of Humanity' and others, the new projects will adopt an area and issue-centered approach, and include the identification of conditions enabling positive interactions.

IRCICA and the Council of Europe will be the leading agencies of the project, which will draw on the collaboration with [UNESCO](#), [ALECSO](#) and other interested parties. [The European Wergeland Centre](#) will be involved in the implementation of this project, as well as the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, as coordinator of the cluster of projects of the 'Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges' initiatives of the UNAOC.

The operational phase of the project will be preceded by a review of, and further consultations with, networks, associations, and other groups of historians and specialists in the teaching of history. This review will be instrumental not only towards setting up the project's Task Force, but also forming the basis for the possible creation of a fully-fledged worldwide network of historians and history teachers, willing to pursue further initiatives based on the model and results of the pilot project.