



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE POLITICHE
E INTERNAZIONALI
— DISPI



Launch

The Siena Recommendations on Contested Histories and National Minorities

Aula Magna, Palazzo del Rettorato, Siena, Italy

19 June 2026

AGENDA

09:15 – 09:30 Arrival and registration of participants

09:30 – 10:15 **Welcome**

Christophe Kamp OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Roberto Di Pietra Rector of the University of Siena (video address)

Andrea Cascone Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE (video address)

Simone Borghesi University of Siena, Delegate of the Rector for International Relations

Master of Ceremonies: **Eleonora Lotti**, OSCE HCNM

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 **Leadership in Conflict Prevention:**

Addressing Contested Histories as a Path to Reducing Tensions

Disputes over historical narratives can deepen divisions within and between communities — but inclusive, multi-perspective approaches to the past have also proven to be powerful tools for reducing tensions. Drawing on concrete examples from across the OSCE region, speakers will share experiences of how contested histories have been addressed at the municipal, national, regional, and bilateral levels to prevent conflict and foster long-term stability.

– **Multilateral institutions**

Lamberto Zannier, former OSCE Secretary General and former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

– ***Peace processes***

Monica McWilliams, Co-Founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and Negotiator and Signatory to the Belfast Good Friday Agreement

– ***Policy responses at the municipal level***

Tim Cole, Chair, Bristol History Commission and Professor of Social History, University of Bristol

Moderator: **Bob Deen**, Clingendael Institute

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 15:00 **The Siena Recommendations in Practice:**

Contributing to the Integration of Diverse Societies

Involving different communities in shaping multi-perspective historical narratives strengthens democratic processes, builds trust and contributes to long-term cohesion. Through a thematic lens, speakers will examine how specific recommendations have been applied in practice – and could be applied in other cases – to support more inclusive societies.

– ***The Joint Civilian War Victims Monument in Žepče, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

Alen Ćosić, National Program Officer, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

– ***The Bolzano Commission for the historicization of fascist monuments***

Andrea Di Michele, Member, Bolzano History Commission and Associate Professor, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

– ***Diversity and the classroom – a practical approach***

Lidija Županić Šuica, Director of Education for the 21st Century

– ***Teaching difficult histories in the classroom***

Steven Stegers, Executive Director of European Association of History Educators

Moderator: **Marie-Louise Jansen**, Senior Advisor, IHJR-EuroClio Project on Contested Histories

15:00 – 15:15 Concluding remarks by Christophe Kamp,
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities