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DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE POLITICHE
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— DISPI



Launch

The Siena Recommendations on Contested Histories and National Minorities

Aula Magna, Palazzo del Rettorato, Siena, Italy

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Biographies

Lamberto Zannier served as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities from July 2017 until July 2020. Previously, he was OSCE Secretary General for two consecutive three-year terms, from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2017. Other senior positions include UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 2008 to 2011, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE (2002–2006), Chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1998–1999) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991–1997). Zannier joined the Italian Foreign Ministry as a career diplomat in 1978 and served in Rome, Abu Dhabi, Vienna and The Hague. He has authored several publications on conflict prevention and crisis management and holds a Law degree and an honorary degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste, Italy.

Monica McWilliams co-founded the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition; a political party involved in the peace negotiations leading to the Good Friday Agreement. She was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly, was Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, currently serves on the Independent Reporting Commission to end paramilitary groups, and is a Patron of WAVE; the trauma centre for victims and survivors. She is Emeritus Professor at Ulster University and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Her memoir *Stand Up, Speak Out* charts her activism on civil rights, women’s rights, peace and equality.

Tim Cole is Professor of Social History at the University of Bristol and Chair of the “We Are Bristol History Commission”, which was set up by the Mayor of Bristol in 2020. Tim’s research interests span social and environmental histories, historical geographies and digital humanities. His core interest focuses on Holocaust landscapes – both historical- and memory-scapes. He is currently working on the role of monuments in 20th and 21st Century democracies as well as the application of digital humanities methods within Holocaust studies. Tim has a PhD in geography from the University of Cambridge.

Bob Deen is the incoming General Director of the Clingendael Institute (from 1 July 2026), where he is currently Head of the Security Unit. His research focuses on international security issues, geopolitics, multilateral co-operation and conflict resolution, with a particular emphasis on Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. His current research subjects include the European security architecture and a European pillar within NATO, Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russian foreign and security policy. He is a frequent commentator in Dutch and international media on these topics. Bob also co-ordinates an international expert group that

advises governments on how to achieve a just, sustainable and comprehensive peace for Ukraine. Bob has over 20 years of experience in international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including in senior management positions and field operations.

Alen Ćosić is a National Programme Officer with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and has spent more than two decades supporting dialogue, trust-building and reconciliation initiatives in post-war communities across central Bosnia and Herzegovina. His work focuses on bringing together former adversaries, civilian victims of war, veterans' associations, returnees, community leaders and local authorities to address sensitive issues related to memory, identity and coexistence. He supported facilitation of the establishment of the Joint Žepče Municipality Civilian War Victims Monument, the first multi-ethnic civilian war victims' monument in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has supported numerous initiatives promoting inclusive remembrance and dialogue across conflict lines. His work in the Maglaj-Žepče-Doboj region has included veterans' dialogue, returnee support, contested memorialization processes and documentary projects exploring war memories, reconciliation, and coexistence, helping rebuild trust and co-operation across communities formerly divided by conflict.

Andrea Di Michele is Professor of Contemporary History at the Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. He also serves as the Scientific Director of the Istituto Nazionale Ferruccio Parri (a network of Resistance and contemporary history institutes), where he leads research, training and publication initiatives. Andrea's research interests focus on fascism, border regions, Italian–Austrian relations and contemporary Italian history. He studied contemporary history at the Universities of Bologna, Tübingen and Turin.

Lidija Županić Šuica is an art history and civic education teacher, textbook author, and director of the NGO 'Education for the 21st Century' in Belgrade, Serbia. Her work focuses on history and civic education, textbook development, intercultural dialogue, and inclusive approaches to teaching, particularly regarding national minorities and contested histories. Through her work in schools, civil society and international projects, she has promoted human rights, democratic citizenship, cultural heritage and minority perspectives in education. Coming from a multicultural background, she is particularly committed to fostering critical thinking, multiperspectivity and youth engagement as foundations for democratic and inclusive societies.

Steven Stegers is the Executive Director of EuroClio; the European Association of History Educators in The Hague. At EuroClio, he has developed and co-ordinated international projects to enhance history and citizenship education since 2006, working mainly in Europe, but also in Central Asia, Northeast Asia and the Middle East. He works closely with the Contested Histories Initiative (CHI) team in supporting their programme. Steven has been an advisor for the Council of Europe, the Global Centre for Pluralism, the European Commission, the International Baccalaureate and the KAICIID Dialogue Centre.

Marie-Louise Jansen is a co-founder of the Contested Histories Initiative (CHI): a joint program of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) and EuroClio: the European Association of History Educators in The Hague. Marie-Louise directed CHI until September 2023 and currently serves as Senior Advisor where she continues to supervise research interns and professional volunteers from a number of universities, including Oxford and Harvard. She previously worked at Salzburg Global Seminar where she held diverse

positions including Director of the Holocaust Education & Genocide Prevention program, Director of Alumni Affairs and Administrative Director, and Director of Development of the IHJR. She is an advisor to the Network of Concerned Historians and the Global Arts Corps, and is a member of the scientific committee of the ATRIUM Association, which promotes and manages the ATRIUM Cultural Route, a series of European sites involving the architecture of 20th century totalitarian regimes.