

Informal Translation

MACEDONIA AND THE BALKAN GOT NEW HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

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The students in primary and secondary schools in Southeast Europe soon will be able to study history from textbooks prepared with collaborative efforts of experts and professors from the region.

“The Ottoman Empire”, “Nations and States in Southeast Europe”, “The Balkan Wars” and “The Second World War” are the headlines of the four history textbooks, presented yesterday in Brussels by the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) with headquarters in Thessalonica. The four textbooks are designed as supplementary teaching materials for history classes in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo, Slovenia and Turkey.

“The historical events and periods are common for the whole region of Southeast Europe and therefore corresponding to the curricula in all countries”, says representative of CDRSEE.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Macedonia supports this project. The letter from Minister Azis Pollozani, expressing the interest in translating all of the four books into Macedonian, was quoted in Brussels yesterday. At the moment, there are versions available in English and Serbian, the Greek version is in a working phase, and there is financial assistance for translation in Bosnian and Albanian.

The project started in 1998 with US financial support. Also support is provided by Austria, Norway, Switzerland and Great Britain.

According to CDRSEE, the meaning of this project is that it is not with an imposed approach, but the content of these textbooks is created through close collaboration of professors across the region, who think that reassessment of their national history and the way it is presented in the textbooks for their students is necessary. The draft versions of the books were reviewed and evaluated by the professors, whose comments / recommendations were included in the final versions. The project is run by a Committee for History Education, consisted of 17 university and high school professors, as well as education experts. The textbooks should become useful tool for University professors, Students in History, NGOs and Ministries of Education. A distribution of textbooks to 15,000 history professors is planned.

Except for the prefaces, where the term FYROM is used, in these textbooks the constitutional name (Macedonia) is used for our country.