



**The Government Office's First Virtual Theme Day
Europe during the Cold War
Working language: English
24 April 2021**

10.45-10.55 Virtual gathering in Zoom (registration: <https://lingid.ee/teemapaev>)

10.55-11.00 Introduction, good practices for virtual meetings

11.00-11.30 Stine Isaksen (Denmark) "The lilliput nation that had to choose side - Denmark in the cold war and beyond"

11.30-12.00 Niina Väntanen (Finland) "Finland in Cold War and the Spirit of Helsinki"

12.00-12.30 Miguel Monteiro de Barros (Portugal) "Portugal and the Cold War"

12.30-13.00 break

13.00-13.30 Katariina Sofia Päts (Estonia) "The Singing Revolution and the international response"

13.30-14.00 Vassiliki Sakka (Greece) "Greece and the end of Cold War: people on the move and the collapse of utopias"

14.00-14.30 Jacek Staniszewski (Poland) "Poland's view on the firsts years the cold war ended. I will try to share how it used to be on the days it was happening and how the same years are viewed from the time distance."

14.30-14.55 Hugo Kivilo and Sten-Markus Reintam (Estonia) "US foreign policy in the Cold War and its implications in Europe"

14.55-15.00 Conclusions

Presenters and synopses of the presentations:

Stine Isaksen (Stineisaksen1@gmail.com)



Stine Isaksen has been a history teacher for years in Viborg Katedralskole in Denmark. At the moment, she contributes to history education in her spare time. She has participated many times in Estonian history lessons and shared the perspective of Denmark and Danes.

Topic: "The lilliput nation that had to choose side - Denmark in the cold war and beyond"

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As the Iron Curtain descended across the continent and the Cold War began, Denmark was in a completely new situation in international security politics. For a very long period prior Denmark had followed a policy of neutrality in relation to great power politics. With this policy the country had managed to stay out of the First World War but in the Second World War, this strategy had failed completely. As a result of that and as the conflict between east and west rose from the ruins of a War-Torn continent, Denmark had to make some really difficult choices, that sparked major political conflict – also in domestic politics in Denmark. The cold war and the conflict between east and west didn't just divide the world in two it also dominated and divided Danish domestic politics for as long as the cold war lasted ... and beyond. Stine also had an opportunity to travel behind the Iron Curtain and will offer insights what a foreigner from the free world thought and noticed.



Niina Vantanen (niina.vantanen@edu.hel.fi)

MA (Finnish and Scandinavian history, University of Helsinki). Current position: Teacher of History and Social Science in Kallio Upper Secondary School, Helsinki. Textbook author for Studeo, digital Publisher since 2016.

Topic: "Finland in Cold War and the Spirit of Helsinki"

Finland's position during cold was difficult. Its' foreign policy was described as Finlandization, particularly in western eyes. Officially Finland declared neutrality. President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen's dream was to act as a mediator between east and west. This was finally accomplished in the 1975 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which was held in Helsinki, Finland. The heads of state who arrived were from 35 countries (all European countries except Albania and Andorra, as well as the United States and Canada.) East and West German heads of state met for the very first time in Helsinki in July-August 1975. The impact of the summit was twofold. First it was seen as a seal to the Iron curtain division of Europe as the resolution confirmed the borders. In the 7th article "Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief" and at the same time many human rights organisations in socialist countries saw the resolution as promise for better times, for example Poland's Lech Walesa was inspired by the resolution.



Miguel Monteiro de Barros (mmonteirob@gmail.com)

I am an educator since 1991. I have a degree in History, a post graduation in Education, a master's degree in History, Defence and International Relations and a PhD in Urban Studies (from an historical perspective). I have been teaching History for the most part of my professional life and I have been a teacher's supervisor between 2012 and 2013. I became a member of the board of the Portuguese History Teachers Association (APH) in 2006 and, in 2011/2012 I was responsible for the APH Training Centre for Teachers. I am president of APH since 2013.



Topic: "Portugal and the Cold War"

The Cold War, especially the period between the end of the Second World War to the 1970's was essential for the survival of the Portuguese dictatorial regime and its empire. The refusal of granting independence to the colonies and the Colonial War (1961-1974) were presented, by the Portuguese Government to its Western allies, particularly to the US, as effective means of fighting the spread of Communism in Africa. By the 1970's, however, the external and internal pressures for democratization were too overwhelming, leading to the Carnation Revolution of 25 of April 1974. The democratization process began at the end of 1975, after a coup that set aside the attempts made by the radical left to assume power and install in Portugal a soviet type regime. In January 1986 Portugal joined the EEC. The most visible consequence of the end of the Cold War in Portugal was the immigration of a significant number of people from Ukraine, Russia and Moldavia.



Katariina Sofia Päts

Katariina is a MA student in the University of Tartu and is currently researching the role of Estonian Canadians in the fight for Estonia's reindpendence.

Topic: "The Singing Revolution and the international response"

The second half of the 1980s saw a rise of freedom movements in the Baltic countries which ultimately led to their reindpendence and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the international community had to decide whether to perceive those events as Soviet Union's internal affairs or as an international question. Moreover, was it separatism that threatened stability in the world or was it restoration of self-determination? We shall look at different arguments and how things eventually turned out.



Vassiliki Sakka (vassilikisakka@gmail.com)

Studied History and Archaeology (University of Athens). MA: History Didactics (University of Athens). Phd: History and Adult Education (University of Peloponnese). Worked as a History and Language Teacher, as School Advisor and Teacher Trained (Secondary Education), as a lectured in Hellenic Open University-E.A.P. (Post Graduate Course Public History- History and Education). Research on History Teachers Attitudes, Public History and History Didactics (Articles, publication, seminars, co-operation with CoE, Universities, History Teachers' Associations and NGOs). Ex EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators) President. Association for History Education in Greece (A.H.E.G) President.

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Topic: "Greece and the end of Cold War: people on the move and the collapse of utopias"

The end of Cold War was a crack in historical continuity and as such was perceived in Greece too. As the only state in Eastern Europe belonging to West politically, the country was flooded by people from the Balkan and East European countries who provoked a variety of reactions and the majority adjusted and assimilated to Greek society, not easily, though. Also it provoked a huge ideological discourse due to the fail of the paradigm for a just and more society, as the country had a dominant leftish intellectual body and survived a fierce civil war - the first episode of the cold war in Europe (1946-1949) and a notorious dictatorship (1967-1974). I will share some thoughts on this topic related to history education too.



Jacek Staniszewski (staniszewski@gmail.com)

Jacek is a history teacher from Warsaw. A principal of a private school. He was involved in many international history projects. Teaches history to show his students it is not about facts and dates but about people and their everyday life. He has never ran his perfect history lesson but he keeps on believing it is possible.

Topic: "Poland's view on the firsts years the cold war ended. I will try to share how it used to be on the days it was happening and how the same years are viewed from the time distance."



Hugo Kivilo (hugo.kivilo@real.edu.ee)

Hugo is a senior in Tallinn Secondary School of Science and is an eager history student.

Sten-Markus Reintam
(stenmarkus.reintam@real.edu.ee)

Sten is a senior in Tallinn Secondary School of Science and has always been an ardent student of history. History is appealing to him, because he believes it is pivotal to know the past to improve the future.



Topic: "US foreign policy in the Cold War and its implications in Europe"

The US was one of the superpowers in the Cold War alongside the USSR. It had great influence over the affairs of European countries which played a crucial role in the development of modern Europe. We shall connect the US foreign policies that affected Europe during the Cold War with the corresponding presidents that established said policies.

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