



# CONCEPT PAPER

## **Conference on Global/Development Education in Poland**

### *Possibilities of Multilateral Cooperation on Development Education with Key Stakeholders*

**9-10 December 2009, Warsaw**



## Background information

**Grupa Zagranica** (member of CONCORD Europe), is the National Platform of Polish NGOs and has been operating since 2001. It was formally registered in 2004 with the aim to link and support Polish NGOs working abroad and represent their position on public debates and discussions. Today Grupa Zagranica has 49 member organisations. The criterion for adherence is that the candidate organisation is engaged in international development cooperation. The member organisations are mainly active in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova) and some other republics of the former Soviet Union. Africa and the Middle East are new regions since 2007. The platform has a few working groups, such as:

- AidWatch;
- Development Education;
- Regional adhoc working groups on Eastern Europe and Caucasus;
- Newly established Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum working group.

The platform has played an important role in shaping Poland's development cooperation, development education and awareness raising (DE/AR) policies and organisation. Numerous meetings on these subjects have been organised mainly upon the initiative of Grupa Zagranica, with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** The MFA plays a leading role from the side of the Polish government as it sees development education as part of its Polish Aid Programme. From the establishment of the Department for Development Cooperation there was a special programme supporting development education projects, mainly through re-granting system, as there is a call for proposals for the NGO operator for those funds. Since 2007, the Department for Development Cooperation is encouraging NGOs to include the global dimension into their aid projects. Part of those projects can take place in Poland as development education activities. This mechanism shows a great potential but it does not work properly as the budget positions allocated for those actions are very often cut out from the proposals by the MFA. Another initiative of the Department for Development Cooperation is the Polish Aid Volunteering Programme, through which the Polish government has launched a call for proposal for NGOs with the aim of strengthening the performance and potential of Polish NGOs in increasing the effectiveness of implemented development projects. It also supports initiatives in the field of global education in Poland and aims to stimulate activities of former volunteers in this field. In 2008, 31 volunteers underwent three to six month-long internships in developing countries, following a one-week preparatory training in Poland. This programme creates great potential in terms of development education but has been relatively under-utilized. Main cause of that is relatively weak position of the educational initiatives which are one of the program components.

**Ministry of Education:** The involvement of the Ministry of Education in development education is increasing as it is the governmental body responsible for the educational system in Poland. The main progress in this regard has been that development education for the past few years was integrated into the school curricula as a cross cutting subject within the framework of its currently implemented reform. This development was made possible through the close cooperation with the Polish MFA and the NGO sector. Other important improvements are that

the National In-Service Teacher Training Center, under the Ministry of Education, implemented recently a pilot Teacher Training Project with the aim of establishing development education related issues in their training activities, in which 700 teachers have been trained according to multiplying effect. However, new curriculum does not immediately change schools' attitudes towards development education and its implementation. There is still a great need of providing relevant teaching materials, training for teachers and to have an ongoing dialogue with school directors. The Ministry of Education has a crucial role in this regard. With regards to the higher educational system, development education is fairly undeveloped and insufficient in terms of awareness, implementation and recognition. However, some universities are showing interest in terms of initiating development education related courses in, e.g. the Universities of Krakow, Warsaw and Wroclaw.

Other actors that are currently showing an interest in straightening development education in Poland is the Ministry of Environment, which is at present deliberating on a strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Economy is promoting Corporate Social Responsibility. Moreover, the Polish universities are slowly opening their doors to the development issues like "Peace and Development Studies" at Krakow Tishner European University. Furthermore, contacts have been initiated with representatives of local authorities as they might play an important role in a successful implementation of development education. Hence, there is a growing need of building a platform with a multi-stakeholder approach for a common understanding of development education in Poland.

**Financial and legal aspects:** Since the establishment of the Development Cooperation Department in the Polish MFA there is a growing interest and support of main donors on the subject of development education. Despite the appreciation for the continuous growth of those funds, the amounts designated for development education are still relatively low. Other challenges development education faces in Poland is the fact that existing regulations for development education projects are time-limited and has to end before the end of the year, which makes the programmes less sufficient and stable. The current legal framework and political situation for development education is another aspect that needs to be addressed in order to have an effective long-term perspective on development education/awareness raising activities in Poland. That hopefully will lead to the establishment of successful development cooperation and a development education strategy and fixed budget line.

### **Aim, objectives and goal of the seminar**

- Strengthen the development education strategy building process at national level,
- Bring together different stakeholders to share information, concrete proposals and possibilities of multilateral cooperation between government and non-government actors,
- Present development education in Poland in a broader European context;
- Establish working relationships between the organisations and institutions working in the field of GE/DE - at local, national as well as European level;

## **Date & venue**

9-10 December 2009, at the Stefan Batory Foundation Building, Sapieżyńska street 10A, in Warsaw, Poland.

## **Language(s)**

Polish and English.

## **Conditions for participation**

Participant must be involved in or have influence on development education in Poland.

## **Expected participants**

Approximately 50 participants.

- Government ministries and agencies – inter alia Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, ministries and agencies;
- Teacher training centres and teachers;
- Universities and schools;
- NGO-sector dealing with development education including national youth council and youth organisations;
- Representatives of local authorities and municipalities responsible for education system
- Media representatives;
- International experts/guests from Finland, Great Britain, Portugal etc;
- Representatives of international organisations, such as the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

## **General rapporteur**

A General rapporteur will be appointed by Grupa Zagranica.

## **Main partners for organising the event**

The conference will be organised by the Development Education Working Group operating within the NGDO platform Grupa Zagranica. The conference will be held under the patronage of the Ministry of Education.

## **Main elements of programme, agenda & potential speakers**

The conference will focus on three main themes as a starting point for the discussions and the enhancement of development education in Poland.

- Global education and/or development education – looking for consensus and common understanding of concepts;
- Quality of development education;

- Development education within education system.

Three working groups will be created to cover those subjects and the participants will have the opportunity to discuss and prepare proposals that will lead to improved cooperation between key stakeholders. The working groups will have the opportunity to gather twice during the conference for a total of four hours with the objective of laying the foundation for a multi stakeholder approach of a working group on development education in Poland.

Prior to the working group sessions, the current situation of development education at national and European level will be presented. The first day of the meeting (plenary sessions) will focus mainly on laying the current development education views, both from governmental perspective as well as from the civil society perspective. During the second day, the European perspectives of development education strategies and multi-stakeholder approaches are going to be presented and discussed.

Programme includes:

Plenary sessions

- Presentation of development education in Poland;
- Presentations and plans for improvement of development education with speakers from different Polish institutions;
- European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising and the Recommendation on Global Education;
- Good practice sharing with European experts/guests – development education strategy building and multi-stakeholder approaches;
- Development Education – coherent approach (panel debate) – Presentation and discussion about the need of DE strategy and coherent approach.

Proposed speakers

- Ministry of Education, Under-Secretary of State - Krzysztof Stanowski;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Under-Secretary of State - Jacek Najder;
- NGO sector – Justyna Janiszewska, Grupa Zagranica board member;
- European perspectives: Peter Davies (UK) DE expert and Pedro Cruz, Portuguese NGO Platform representative;
- Representative from the European Commission - Karina Chircu;
- Representative from the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe - Miguel Silva.

**Expected outcomes/results:**

- Information sharing among different institutions about existing possibilities for cooperation in the field of development education;
- Creation of an action plan on development education in Poland which may lead to the introduction of comprehensive development education strategies in the future;

- Better understanding of the European contexts of development education by Polish key stakeholders;
- Strengthening of the Polish development education strategy building process;
- Organisation of the 2010 'Visegrad' Regional Global Education Conference possibly in Poland.

## Background documents:

- Civil Society Organizations and Educational Institutions in development education, Poland 2006. (Polish language)  
[http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/dokumenty\\_publicacje/Raport\\_educacja\\_rozwojowa\\_2006.pdf](http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/dokumenty_publicacje/Raport_educacja_rozwojowa_2006.pdf)
- Development Education and school curriculum, DEEEP 2006 (Polish language)  
[http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/downloads/School\\_Curricula/POLAND.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/School_Curricula/POLAND.pdf)
- Description of Development Education + Knowledge, Values and Attitudes in development education. Grupa Zagranica 2007 (attached to invitations letters)
- Polish Aid program 2009 (Polish language)  
<http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/inne%20dokumenty%20PDF/POMOC%20ZAGRANICZNA%202009/Program%20polskiej%20pomocy%20zagranicznej%202009.pdf>
- Polish Aid: Report of the Grupa Zagranica - Aid Watch working group (Polish language)  
[http://www.zagranica.org.pl/index.php?option=com\\_docman&Itemid=138](http://www.zagranica.org.pl/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=138)
- European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising  
[http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/downloads/Consensus\\_on\\_DE/DE\\_Consensus-EN.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/DE_Consensus-EN.pdf)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/PUBLICATION\\_CONSENSUS\\_PL-067-00-00.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/PUBLICATION_CONSENSUS_PL-067-00-00.pdf)
- North-South Centre Global Education Guideline  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GEguideline\\_presentation\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GEguideline_presentation_en.asp)
- Global Education Charter  
<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app2.pdf>
- Maastricht Global Education Congress Report 2002  
<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app1.pdf>
- North-South Centre - European Commission Joint Management Agreement 2009-2011  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/UE-NSC\\_JMA\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/UE-NSC_JMA_en.asp)