



CONCEPT PAPER

National seminar on Global/Development Education in Slovenia

“Interculturalism and global citizenship – incorporation of global education in the school curricula and lifelong learning programs”

17 November 2009 in Ljubljana



Short background of the Slovenian situation

Development education activities in Slovenia have been promoted mainly through individual grassroots NGOs which have been active in the Slovenian NGDO platform - SLOGA Development Education Working Group since 2006. During the Slovenian EU Presidency in the first half of 2008 the platform group activities in the field of DE intensified since Development Education was the main priority area of the platform's Programme for the Slovenian EU Presidency.

In the second half of 2007, NGOs from different thematic backgrounds (environment, intercultural dialogue, intergenerational dialogue etc.) formed the Presidency Steering Group for a national campaign "You too are part of this World". In the framework of this campaign, NGDOs were monitoring six thematic areas (with Development Education as a cross-cutting issue) at the national and European level. Activities included trainings and capacity building seminars for state institutions and line ministries' representatives, high-level national and European conferences, street actions etc.

Finally, Development Education Working Group has prepared a NGDO Development Education Strategy which was consulted with other NGOs and line ministries, as well as participants of the main platform's - event during the Presidency - international conference titled "Intercultural Dialogue in Development Education, the way towards the implementation of the European Consensus on Development - the contribution of development education and awareness raising", 9-10 June 2008, Ljubljana. In the framework of the Global Education Week in November 2008, Sloga for the first time coordinated NGDO global education and awareness raising activities across Slovenia. At the final roundtable, Sloga for the first time initiated debate about possibilities of including global/development education in school curricula. Participants, among which were line ministries' and representatives from the National Institute for Education, expressed support for the on-going NGDO global education process.

Main challenges in Slovenia for the future

- Identification of relevant stakeholders in global/development education and strengthening cooperation among them
- Inclusion of development NGOs in national sustainable development policy-making
- Introduction of multi-stakeholder approach to global/development education with the aim to develop and set up a national strategy
- Preparation of global/development education materials for multipliers (f.e. teachers) in Slovenian language and set up of global/development education centre
- Inclusion of global/development education in the Slovenian school curricula (and lifelong learning programs)
- Establishment of funds for non-formal global/development education and awareness raising
- Establishment of funds for NGDO involvement in formal education, work in schools

Aim and objectives of the meeting

The high-level national seminar shall be a kick-off event for a national process of developing a common Global Education Strategy and an action plan for its implementation. Its aim is to boost cooperation among line ministries, educational practitioners and NGDOs in order to bring development education in the school environment, existing research and life-long learning programs. Specific objective is to acknowledge NGDOs as stakeholders in national policy-making, in particular sustainable development education policy.

The aim of a high-level national seminar, initiative promoted and supported by the Global Education Programme of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, is to promote, improve and strengthen the role of Global Education in Slovenia. In this process it is important to recognize, understand and place the concept and practice of Global Education in European context and therefore exchange national strategies and best practices between European governments (in particular, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Education), para-state organisations, educational institutions, civil society organisations, parliamentarians and local authorities.

Aside from the exchange of practices, challenges and possible solutions among different actors on the European level, it is also relevant to boost cooperation among various stakeholders in the Slovenian national context. The relevance of this multistakeholder approach to Global Education was clearly expressed already at the European NGDO Conference in the framework of the Slovenian EU Presidency “Intercultural dialogue in Development Education ” held in Ljubljana where a new multi-stakeholder steering group composed of the major Global Education actors in Europe (GENE, Concord and its Development educations Forum, The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the European Commission) was constituted. This group that monitors national Global Education strategies, establishes criteria for Global Education quality and effectiveness and monitors EC funding lines which can serve as a background for developing national Global Education strategies.

Slovenian national seminar shall therefore be a kick-off event for a national process of developing a common Global Education Strategy and an action plan for its implementation (within a multi-stakeholder context). Its aim is to boost cooperation among line ministries, educational practitioners and NGDOs in order to bring global education in the school environment, existing research and life-long learning programs. Specific objective is to acknowledge NGDOs as stakeholders in national policy-making, in particular sustainable development education policy.

Date and venue

The seminar shall take place in the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana. The central location of the city makes the seminar more accessible to all the people coming from various different locations in Slovenia. The venue of the seminar will be the Ljubljana City Hall. This venue has been chosen because we would like to establish cooperation with the Ljubljana City Hall and to encourage participation of local authorities.

With regards to timing, seminar will take place on 17 November, within the Global Education Week (15 – 22 November 2009), as well as the Slovenian Presidency to the Council of Europe (12 May-18 November 2009). In the framework of the seminar, Sloga Global Educaiton

Working Group will participate at the Annual meeting of secondary schools headmasters in Portorož on 9-11 November and at the Annual meeting of primary schools headmasters in Portorož on 23-25 November.

Language(s)

Panel discussions are to be held in Slovene language. English translations will be provided. Workshops are to be held in Slovene language only.

Conditions for participation

No specific conditions for the participation will be required. The number of participants is expected to be around 60-90.

Expected participants – national and international

Speakers of the first and second panel discussion will include:

- representative of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- representatives of the Slovenian government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education/ Ministry of Higher Education) or/and former ministers for education,
- representative of the EU NMS government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education/ Ministry of Higher Education)
- representatives of the Slovenian education and research institutions (National Education Institute, Educational Research Institute, Institution for Teacher Training, Institution for Headteacher Training)
- representative of the European Education Institution or NG(D)O
- representative of the Slovenian NGDO Platform GE Working group

Other participants will include:

- Council of Europe's Information Office representative
- the Slovenian ODA ministries representatives,
- members of the Slovenian Parliament
- Slovenian teachers
- Slovenian NGOs

General Rapporteur

There will be a group of reporters assigned for the national seminar; one per workshop and three for the panel discussions. For the concluding discussion reporters will prepare draft report with recommendations. The final document will be prepared short after the seminar, giving a comprehensive overview of the current state of affairs on and challenges of global education in Slovenia.

Main partners for organising the event

In June 2009, Sloga has established a national consultation group for the seminar preparation, including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education Office of Youth, National Education Institute, Educational Research Institute, Eco-school as way of living,

Andragogical Centre (National Coordinator of Lifelong Learning Festival), Sloga GE Working group of NGDOs.

Main elements of programme and possible suggestion of speakers

Within the programme we will use the following methods: panel discussion, global classroom (workshops), theatre, educational photo exhibition, reporting and drafting of final conclusions and recommendations.

Main topics of the programme will be:

- role of global education for building intercultural and global citizenship competences
- presence of global education in the Slovenian school curricula
- European dimension: global education in the European states, European intuitions and Global Education, European Consensus for Development Education
- Possibilities of developing global dimension of school curricula

Workshops will cover three aspects of panel discussions with the aim to deepen the debate and draft contributions for an action plan which shall be adopted at the concluding panel discussion.

Therefore we shall form three workshops, focusing mainly on the following topics:

- a) Possibilities of multi-stakeholder cooperation in global education in Slovenia
- b) Developing global dimension of the Slovenian school curricula
- c) Incorporating global education into lifelong learning programmes in Slovenia

In order to cover such programme sufficiently, we shall invite the following speakers:

- representative from the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- Slovenian ministerial representative from development and/or education field
- NMS EU ministerial representative from development and/or education field
- European NGDO representative, expert in the field of Global Education
- representative of the Slovenian education/research institution
- representative of Sloga GE Working Group

Facilitators of the Working Groups shall be:

- a) MoE or MFA representative for the W1
- b) National Education Institute or Eco-school as way of living representative for the W2
- c) National Coordinator of Lifelong Learning Festival

Preliminary Agenda

Draft programme:

- 09.00 – 09.30: registration and fair trade breakfast
- 09.30 – 10.00: opening of educational photo exhibition (optional) and welcoming remarks
- 10.00 – 10.45: round table at the political level about best practices
- 10.45 – 11.15: fair trade coffee break
- 11.15 – 12.00: round table at the practitioner level about global education as tool for global citizenship capacity building
- 12.00 – 12.30: discussion
- 12.30 – 14.00: lunch break
- 14.00 – 16.30: workshops (coffee break included)
- 16.30 – 17.30: exchange of workshops' conclusions, debate
- 18.00 – dinner (optional)

Expected outcomes/results:

The seminar shall result in participants' recognition of global education as a tool for developing global dimension of the school curricula in Slovenia. Further, participants shall agree about the need for developing an action plan for systematically incorporating global education in the Slovenian school curricula, research and life-long learning programs. Another outcome shall be recognition of NGDOs as partners in sustainable development education policy-making.

Participants shall agree on final seminar recommendations which shall be included in the Ministry of Education White paper on Quality Education (expected in autumn). Conclusions shall as well be integrated in the Slovenian NGDO global/development education strategy which shall serve as a background document for a multistakeholder action plan.

Background documents

- NGDO Strategy for Global Education, SLOGA GE Working group, officially presented in November 2008
- White paper on intercultural dialogue, Council of Europe, May 2008
- Global Education Guidelines, Council of Europe, 2008
- Sustainable development education guidelines from pre-primary school to undergraduate education, Ministry of Education of Republic of Slovenia, adopted at the minister's collegium, June 2007
- European Consensus for Development Education, September 2007
- Development Education and School curricula, DEEEP, December 2007
- *UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, ECOSOC UN, March 2005*
- *Millennium declaration, UN General Assembly, 2002*
- *Maastricht Declaration-Global Education in Europe to 2015, Strategy, Policies and Perspectives, 2002*