

CONCEPT PAPER

National Seminar on Global/Development Education in Cyprus

22-23 October 2010

Limassol, Cyprus



1. Background of National Situation

Global Education receives more and more support from different parts of the society in Cyprus. An approach new to many until recently, both the Ministry of Education and the civil society have become active players in promoting global education and in introducing it into schools, teaching, and non-formal education.

The Cypriot civil society organisations and the members of the Cyprus NGDO Platform in particular, mainly work in the areas of active citizenship, intercultural education, global education, promoting the MDGs, gender issues, human rights and environmental sustainability. According to the CIVICUS report of 2004, civil society in Cyprus is characterized as slightly weak, with limited cooperation and communication between different sectors of civil society. However, since then, civil society has grown stronger, CSOs have become more organized, the NGDO Platform has been created, and most CSOs managed to benefit from the rich European Union funding schemes. The NGDO Platform under the umbrella of the Cyprus Island-wide Development NGO Platform (CYINDEP) has joined CONCORD as a full member in 2009, and has actively participated in several of the CONCORD Working Groups for the past 3 years, especially in the Development Education Forum.

Cyprus is a member of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe since its creation, and has actively participated in the Global Education Week throughout the past years, despite limited availability of funding schemes. The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue has offered an opportunity to the Ministry of Education to actively engage schools into actions within the framework of the Global Education Week. The Year of Intercultural Dialogue also created the unique opportunity for collaboration between the ministry and civil society organizations active in the same field. The first joint initiatives and seminars have been organized in this context. Since then, the Ministry of Education and Culture has collaborated with some of the platform member organizations in implementing teacher trainings and seminars for teachers, introducing them to human rights education and to global education.

Even though the various actors are focusing more and more on global education, there is no national strategy or other specific action plan for global education in Cyprus. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/CyprusAid have expressed their strong support for global education activities, in particular those promoting the Millennium Development Goals, however, to date there is no specific budget allocated to global/development education.

2. Aim and Objective of the Seminar

- To explore opportunities for global education in Cyprus by bringing together all main stakeholders (CSOs, educators, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture, CyprusAid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the academic sector, local authorities, students, parents associations etc);
- Actively engage all stakeholders that are involved in or affected by global education in a structured democratic dialogue in order to determine a common vision for global education in Cyprus;
- Lay the foundations for the development of a national strategy for global education;
- Increase collaboration and networking among government institutions, civil society and the educational sector to facilitate future joint initiatives with regards to global education.

3. Date and Venue

The dates for the national seminar are 7-8 October 2010, in Limassol, Cyprus.

4. Languages

The national seminar will be held in Greek. However, translation to/from English will be provided for the international guests.

5. Participants

The participants that will be invited to the national seminar are:

- Ministry of Education and Culture
- CyprusAid
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Representative of North South Centre of the Council of Europe
- Representative of European Commission
- Representative of CONCORD and its Development Education Forum
- Teachers Unions (Elementary, Secondary)
- Higher Education representatives
- CSOs (platform members, other CSOs active in Global Education)
- Cyprus Youth Council
- Student Union
- Parents' Associations
- Local Authorities
- Political Foundations
- International experts (IrishAid as they closely work with CyprusAid, representative from New Member State with extensive global/development education experience and with existing national development education strategy, e.g. Poland).

A total number of around 35 participants are envisioned.

6. Main Partners of the Seminar

The main partner of the seminar is the Cyprus NGDO Platform, who will work in close collaboration with the national coordinators for the Global Education Week as well as the Ministry of Education and Culture (Office for European and International Affairs), and will coordinate closely with CyprusAid/Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

7. Content and Methodology of the Seminar

The methodology proposed for the National Seminar is the **Structured Democratic Dialogue Process** (SDDP). This methodology allows groups of stakeholders to discuss an issue in a structured democratic manner that enables them to achieve results in a limited amount of time. Structured dialogue workshops enable participants to engage in "focused and open dialogue". In SDDP, people generate and clarify the meanings of a large number of observations, efficiently produce "team-based patterns," and use graphic displays of the relationships among their observations.

Many group processes engender enthusiasm and good feeling as people share their concerns and hopes with each other. SDDP workshops go beyond this initial euphoria to:

- Discover main influential factors;
- Adopt consensual action plans;

- Develop teams dedicated to implementing those plans; and
- Generate lasting bonds of respect, trust, and cooperation.

SDDP workshops achieve these results by respecting the autonomy of all participants, and utilizing an array of consensus tools including discipline, technology, and graphics that allow stakeholders to control the discussion. SDDP workshops are a refinement of Interactive Management, a decision and design methodology developed over the past 30 years to deal with complex situations involving diverse stakeholders. It has been successfully employed all over the world, and extensively in local and European contexts (e.g.: Youth from 11 countries exploring ways to overcome the lack of youth participation on a European level; structured dialogue workshops with representatives from all local authorities in Cyprus to help them in their re-structuring process).

SDDP is the perfect tool to support a diverse group of stakeholders resolve conflicts and work together in designing by consensus a new vision/solution/strategy/roadmap. It is perfect for:

- Resolve issues among diverse stakeholders
- Democratic large-group decision-making
- Policy design and decision-making
- Complex problem solving
- Strategic planning and effective priority setting
- Problem identification

In line with the SDDP methodology, the **National Seminar aims at bringing together all key stakeholders** to jointly develop a strategy/ vision for global education in Cyprus. Additionally, the national seminar will provide input speeches by experts from other new EU member states to share their experience and stimulate discussion among the Cypriot participants.

8. Draft Seminar Agenda

Day 1, Thursday, 22 July 2010

9.00 Registration

9.30 Welcome

Input Speeches (10 min each): NSC, EC, DEF Representatives etc.

10.00 Working Groups – State of Affairs with regards to Global Education in different sectors:

- a. Civil Society
- b. Elementary Education
- c. Secondary Education
- d. Higher Education
- e. Local Authorities

11.00 *Coffee Break*

11.20 Structured Dialogue Workshop – Introduction to Methodology

11.30 Generation of Ideas (Vision Global Education in Cyprus)

13.00 *Lunch*

- 14.00 Clarification of Ideas
- 15.30 Classification and Selection of Ideas
- 16.30 End Day 1

Day 2, Friday, 23 July 2010

- 9.30 Welcome, Discussion about Day 1
- 10.00 Structuring of Influence Map – Global Education in Cyprus
Including coffee
- 13.00 Conclusions, Follow-up, Wrap-up
- 13.30 End of Seminar

The platform will appoint a general rapporteur for the seminar, who will contribute to the seminar Report. Additionally, the SDD methodology is self-documenting and all information gathered throughout the process will be readily available after the seminar.

9. Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of the national seminar will be a common understanding and a ‘Joint Vision Map’ towards global education in Cyprus, agreed upon by all participants at the seminar. The ‘Joint Vision Map’ can serve as a roadmap towards a national strategy on global education, or towards National Guidelines on Global Education, based on the consensus of all stakeholders and their specific expertise in the topic.

In addition, the seminar is expected to strengthen the ties among the different stakeholders and with this, help foster joint initiatives promoting global education within the Cypriot society.

10. Relevant Background Documents

The European Consensus on Development: a strategy framework for Development Education & Awareness Raising

http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/DE_Consensus-EN.pdf

North South Centre Global Education Guidelines

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEguidelines-web.pdf>

National Report on Global Education in Cyprus 2004

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Resources/Publications/GE_PR_P_Cyprus_%20report.pdf

Maastricht Global Education Congress Report 2002

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app1.pdf>

Global Education Charter 1997

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app2.pdf>

North-South Centre – European Commission Management Agreement 2009-2011

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/UE-NSC_agreement_en.pdf