

National Seminar on Development/Global Education
“Setting the national framework for development education in Romania”
8th- 9th of July 2010, Bucharest

Final Report

The National Seminar on Development/Global Education was organised by FOND Development Education Working Group in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport. The activity has taken place in cooperation and with the support of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The objectives of this meeting:

- to bring together key Romanian stakeholders in the field of development/global education and to raise awareness among governmental and non-governmental actors;
- to improve knowledge on key concepts in global/development education
- to share best practices and information regarding the projects on global/development education implemented by European and national stakeholders;
- to initiate a dialogue among relevant actors and lay the foundation for a multi-stakeholder process having as main objective the elaboration of a national strategy on development education;

Main aspects discussed during the sessions:

DAY I, 8th July 2010

Welcome remarks

- ✓ ***Gheorghe Andrei Kiraly - State Secretary, Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport***
- ✓ ***Monica Alexandru - Third Secretary, Development Assistance Division, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs***
- ✓ ***Mirela Oprea - World Vision Romania, Board Member, The Romanian NDGO Platform***

The session included opening remarks and introduced the two concepts that would be further discussed. The representative of Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport (MERYS) emphasized the efforts that the institution has

been making during the last few years towards development education. MERYS is interested to be involved in the elaboration of a national strategy regarding development/global education. Global education has been a part of university studies for nine years. Mr. Kiraly stated again MERYS' readiness to participate along with other stakeholders for the implementation of development education. He also gave the example of two relevant events where MECTS participated: The International Education Congress in Maastricht - 2002 and The Seminar on Global Education - 2006.

The representative from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the MFA is the National Coordinator of the International Development Cooperation Policy in Romania, a program that needs long term investments and high interest from the decision makers.

FOND representative completed the presentation by emphasising the important role of awareness among the Romanian population on the subject and the importance of the human dimension in the process.

A theoretical approach on development/ global education concepts

- ✓ *Borbala Koo - Contraceptive and Sexual Education Society (moderator)*
- ✓ *Claudia Iatan - FOND Working Group on Development Education/ World Vision Romania*
- ✓ *Kasia Szeniawska - Global Education Network of Young Europeans - GLEN*

This session aimed at presenting the theoretical concepts of global/development education and to create a debate on what is the definition that Romania should adopt.

Mrs. Szeniawska presented GLEN's goals to build capacities of young Europeans to work in development co-operation and global education, to contribute to more awareness in the European society on issues on global development. GLEN also makes many intercultural trainings - the trainers have not only the European perspectives but also experiences from the countries in the Global South.

Regarding the relation between development education and global education, the first one is a part of global education. GLEN representative also stressed that there is a need of political vision and a policy coherence for development.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted the CONCORD definition on development education. The main reasons were the complexity of this definition and its reflection of the civil society perspective.

It was emphasized that global education is only an instrument and development education makes some references on poverty eradication and the social justice. In Romania there is a lack of political support and the global education doesn't have a clear, general vision and objective.

Regarding the Romanian context, it was stressed the interest for the two concepts and a suggestion was to create a debate to see what is the community perspective, what are the civil society needs, following the Poland example that was presented. In Romania there is a need for coherence and communication between all the actors involved, including all the ministries. We need only one definition, but this has to be complete and coherent.

Working definition of Global Education (North-South Center)

Global Education is education that opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of the world, and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all.

Global Education is understood to encompass Development Education, Human Rights Education, Education for Sustainability, Education of Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education; being the global dimensions of Education for Citizenship.

Source: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-chap1.pdf>

Definition on Development Education (DEEEP)

Development education is an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues to personal involvement and informed actions.

Development education fosters the full participation of all citizens in world-wide poverty eradication, and the fight against exclusion. It seeks to influence more just and sustainable economic, social, environmental, human rights based national and international policies.

Source: <http://www.deeep.org/whatisde.html>

Conclusion: There are some important differences between the two concepts - development education is a part of global education. The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted an official definition of development education but is important to see if all the actors agree with this definition, and if not, how they define it according to their own perspective and approach.

Good practices in the field of development education in Europe

- ✓ *Rodica Novac - ADO SAH ROM (moderator)*
- ✓ *Gordana Berjan - North-South Centre, Council of Europe*
- ✓ *Iuliana Rada - FOND Working Group on Development Education / Civil Society Development Foundation*

The session aimed at presenting good practices in development education in the EU member states so that participants would understand better what happens at the European level and how Romania can improve its initiatives in this field. It was presented two examples of good practices: the North-South Center and DEEEP.



Gordana Berjan - North-South Centre gave a brief presentation of the European Centre for Global Interdependence & Solidarity, North South Centre of the Council of Europe. The objectives are to build partnerships between actors in the field, to include global/development education in formal education, to support the cooperation between the European institutions and civil society organisations. The N-S Centre organised 12 national seminars during 2009 and 2010. In 2010 and 2011 will be organised 3 regional seminars. The N-S Centre also organised trainings and awareness raising campaigns. An important event is the Global Education Week which in Romania is coordinated by the Ministry of Education.

The N-S Centre representative said that the global education is an umbrella concept, but it also represents a challenge. It is important to analyse the National Seminars from the national context point of view. It was suggested that Romania needs to have good communication and regular dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education (a win-win situation that is good for everyone) and to have realistic expectations and common understanding of the concepts. One of the priorities of the European Commission is the local authorities. The strong focus is on formal education but informal education is also very important.

Iuliana Rada (Civil Society Development Foundation/ FOND representative in DARE Forum) presented DEEEP, a project initiated by the Development Education Forum of CONCORD (DEF) that aims at strengthening capacities of NGOs to raise awareness, educate and mobilise the European public for world-wide poverty eradication and social inclusion. It was emphasized the multi stakeholder process at the European level and the need to create a similar process in Romania. As regards the definition on development education it is important to be concise and to choose only the most relevant words.

Financial instruments and opportunities for Development Education projects

- ✓ *Iuliana Rada - FOND Working Group on Development Education / Civil Society Development Foundation (moderator)*
- ✓ *Mihaela Griga - FOND Working Group on Development Education / PATRIR*
- ✓ *Dana Stanculescu - the Association of Romanian Municipalities / Profession body of communicators*
- ✓ *Miruna Covaci - Youth in Action, ANPCDEFP*

The Thematic Programme “Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development”

Mihaela Griga presented the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). DCI was adopted in December 2006 and represents the legal basis for geographic programmes and thematic programmes: Investing in People, Environment, Non State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA & LA), Food Security, Migration and Asylum, Support to sugar production.



The programme objectives are: promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries and regions, awareness raising and development education for development issues in the EU and acceding countries, coordination and networking activities in the EU and acceding countries. An important fact that was mentioned was the co-financing for the New Member States (10% vs. 25%). In Romania there is no organisation which is lead applicant on this financial line.

Miruna Covaci (ANPCDEFP - Youth in Action) presented the European Programme, Youth in Action, focused on non-formal education activities. The total budget for 2007-2013 is 885 m. Eu, the Romania budget for 2010 is 4,7 mil. euros. The main objectives of this programme are: promoting the concept of an active citizenship (in particular the European citizenship), improving the quality of support systems for youth activities and support for civil society organisations to develop activities in this field. The target is: non-governmental organisations, public authorities directly involved in youth activities, informal groups.

Dana Stanculescu from the *Association of Romanian Municipalities/ Professional Body of Communicators* presented the local authorities in Romania - the legal framework, the structure of the new local governments and the projects implemented in the field of development education.

DAY II, 9th of July 2010

The current situation in Romania in terms of development/global education

- ✓ *Dana Nicolescu - Opportunity Associates Romania (moderator)*
- ✓ *Rodica Cherciu - the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport*
- ✓ *Monica Alexandru - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ ODA Division*
- ✓ *Adela Rusu - Romanian NGDO Platform*

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives presented the current situation in Romania regarding global/development education.

Rodica Cherciu from the Ministry of Education presented the initiatives and projects developed in the global education context. In this area, Romania has been very active, by participating to the International Seminar on Global Education since 2001; 2006 the event was organised in Sinaia (Romania). The Ministry representative also stated that the global education is a holistic education and it emphasizes the responsibility through awareness. For Romania, it is very important to adapt its legislation and to involve all the actors, especially the local authorities and teachers. Regarding the collaboration between the Ministry, schools and NGOs in this field - global/development education, it was mentioned that there is a possibility to include elements on global education in the curricula.

Monica Alexandru from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the development cooperation policy and the development education as a part of the policy. The Ministry has a special budget line for development cooperation activities, 5% are dedicated for development education activities. In the context of development, the Ministry was involved in: financing the SNIECODA project (strengthening capacity project implemented by UNDP Romania), co-financed the European Development Education Summer School - organised by DEEEP and PATRIR, with support of FOND, in 2009 in Romania, financed the Romania-Moldova NGO forum in 2010 (organised in partnership with FOND) and the Romanian Development Camp (2008, 2009 and 2010). The SNIECODA project objectives were to build national institutional capacity to carry out ODA programs and projects in partner countries, to raise awareness at national level on Romanian ODA, increase ownership and knowledge on the ODA policy among key stakeholders.



Adela Rusu presented FOND members' activities in the field/development education projects. The Romanian NGDO Platform - implements development education projects that inform Romanians on global development challenges and the need for international solidarity.

Main activities:

- promote the MDGs ;
- create informational tools;
- raise awareness of young people;
- work with schools in urban and rural areas;
- educate and involve and the mass-media in promoting global development issues;
- train multipliers;
- create documentaries;
- organize contests which reflect international development issues;
- organize exhibitions;
- create development studies curricula;
- policy work;

Open Space Conclusions/ Recommendations

Group 1: Perspectives of the development education in Romania

First Step: the Strategy

- Implementing development education through:
schools, media, local authorities, private sector

Impact:

Transformation: at the local, national, international level

Local: building the community capacity to get involved

Results: good practices

National: building new mentalities, create common initiatives, economic growth

International: investments



Group 2: Identifying stakeholders, building a cooperation strategy

Multi stake-holders:

- International Organisations;

- *National level*: Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Environment, Parliament);
- *Local/ Regional level*: Public Administration, National Council of Students, School Inspectorates, Political Parties;
- *Civil Society*: FOND, other NGOs, Trade unions, Media, Churches;
- *Private sector*

Cooperation strategy: Strengthening the FOND internal and external communication ; Analysing the national context; Creating a Multi Stakeholder Group.

Group 3: NGOs involving in creating/implementing the Strategy

Conclusions:

All the actors must be involved in development education activities (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs, Public Authorities, Universities, mass-media). It's also important to have a common message and to organise awareness raising campaigns and to create pilot programmes on development education and a toolkit for teachers. NGOs need to be more active in lobby and advocacy activities and to have a more active role in policy evaluation.

Group 4: Elaborating the National Strategy on Development Education

The Polish Platform Development Education Strategy content:

1. Defining the Development Education concept
2. Quality - indicators
3. A multidisciplinary approach to all profiles, Support for teachers - training sessions, manuals
4. New actors - who is active, who can be active: libraries, research centers
5. Funding
6. Institutional Support - legal framework, advisory body

Strategy Plan - proposal for FOND Development Education Working Group to focus on the following issues: definition, history, context, values, stakeholders, goal, objectives, instruments, activities, indicators, target, funding, institutional support.

Recommendations:

- Initiate a multi-Stakeholder process
- Action Plan for the Development Education Working Group (FOND)
- Development Romania Retreat (organise Teambuilding activities such as Problem Tree, etc)
- Assume timeline, responsibilities.

The main conclusions of the seminar:

- At the national level, there is the need to adopt own definition on global/development education in order to create a national strategy => a common vision of all the actors involved.
- There is a need to coordinate and to have a clear and general vision and objective.
- NGOs need to be more active in lobby and advocacy activities and to have a more active role in policy evaluation.

The Seminar created a space for debate and initiated a process that will be continue in the FOND Working Group. Also, the open space method was a good opportunity to discuss on specific issues such as the perspectives of Development Education in Romania, actors involved in the process, how NGOs should be involved in creating the National Strategy on Global/Development Education, steps for creating the Strategy.

The participants were informed on global/development education concepts and differences, best practices at the european and national level and they had the opportunity to discuss on their projects, initiatives and to create partnerships for future initiatives.

Follow-up:

The Development Education Working Group will communicate and organise regular meetings with the participants to the National Seminar, representing different institutions and organizations, with the purpose of further discussing the conclusions of this seminar and how to put them into practice effectively. This process is envisaged as the first steps of creating and strengthening a multi-stakeholders group which should provide a framework for dialogue and consultations, having as long-term objective the elaboration of a national strategy on development education, with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Education, as co-initiators.