



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZUNANJE ZADEVE

CONCEPT PAPER

Regional Seminar on Global Education: “National identity in the context of Global Citizenship”

**Central and South Eastern Europe and the EU
Mediterranean countries**

17-18 October 2011, Jable Castle, Mengeš, Slovenia



Global Education and Global Citizenship

Education's essential role is to help in recognizing our role and our individual and collective responsibilities as active members of the global community. It gives the opportunity and competence to reflect and share different points of view and roles within a global, interconnected society, as well as to understand and discuss complex relationships of common social, ecological, political and economic issues, so as to derive new ways of thinking and acting. Global education aims to empower us with a better understanding of global problems and provide us with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes we need as citizens of the world, in order to cope with global challenges. Global education includes three main stages of transformative learning:

1. an analysis of the present world situation
2. a vision of possible alternatives to dominant models
3. a process of change towards responsible global citizenship

According to the Maastricht Global Education Declaration (2002) it is "education that opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of the globalised world and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all."

In order to reach this aim global education fosters the process of encouraging individuals and communities to take action and work towards addressing the key challenges faced by mankind. This can be achieved through formal and informal educational programmes designed to help learners develop critical thinking and other personal and social skills. It encourages questioning our own thoughts and perspectives, explores roots of mainstream and alternative intellectual, social, political and economic paradigms.

Introduction to the seminar

The regional seminar on global education: "National Identity in the Context of Global Citizenship" is a follow up to the series of national seminars that have taken place in the last two years in the new EU member states, in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement signed by the European Commission/DGDEVCO and the North-South Centre designed to promote global education in the new EU member states. In particular, this meeting aims at the new EU member states in the Central and South East European region, such as Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia as well as the new EU Mediterranean member states Cyprus and Malta. Serbia and Montenegro are invited as members of the North-South Centre. Taking into account the interconnectedness of countries in the region of South-Eastern Europe, civil society representatives from other countries in the region are invited as well.

Because of the fact that the invited countries have had very divergent historical paths the seminar is faced with the challenge of finding a common denominator in this context. However, the issue of diversity itself led to the selection of the seminar topic: "National Identity in the Context of Global Citizenship". The processes of regional and global integration are leading us towards rethinking the position of individual and collective identities in these contexts. If the aim is to achieve a prosperous common future, an open-minded discussion on our diversity and our commonalities is crucial to our success.

The conference will focus on how to address issues of national identity in the context of global citizenship and to question whether the concept of citizenship remains rooted in a nation-state or whether its understanding has been changed through the process of globalization. Global citizenship has become a major concept fostered by global education but despite being continuously used, it often remains undefined and abstract. While the concept of citizenship is traditionally linked to the national and the state level there is an increasing challenge to address the global perspective in citizenship. The conference will look at whether global education can move the concept of citizenship from the nation-state rules and responsibilities to the concept of ethical and moral principles.

The conference will take place within the following theoretical framework:

1. Conceptualizing global citizenship, global education and national identity: What does it mean? How is it understood?
2. Conflict or complementarity between national identity and global citizenship: Do “global” and “national” citizenship confront each other or are they two sides of the same coin? Where and how should “global citizens” participate? Who is a global citizen?
3. Universal versus contextual: Is citizenship about territorialized rules and responsibilities or about universal ethics and responsibilities? Citizenship with rules or ethics?
4. Intercultural dialogue and global citizenship: Intercultural dialogue is often defined as a “contact between cultures and nation-states”. But can it be thought of differently? Could intercultural dialogue be regarded as a space for sharing values and meanings and therefore move beyond nation-states towards global citizenship?
5. Global education: How does global education connect the concepts? Understanding global education as the context through which understandings and methodology are constructed and looking at global education as an alternative methodology.

The seminar will be based on theoretical framework but will move towards practical examples and experiences of global education, and consequently global citizenship and national identity in everyday life. The meeting will look at how theory relates to practice and how key stakeholders can work together beyond diverse understandings.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the conference is to discuss the concepts of global education, global citizenship and national identity throughout the region of Central and South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean EU countries and to increase the understanding of the subject. Furthermore, the goal is to explore the similarities and differences in understandings of these concepts and seek ways to work together for common objectives and actions despite of - or because of - such differences.

The specific objectives of the conference are:

- to exchange ideas and practices in the field of global education and global citizenship throughout the region
- to facilitate networking and interaction between diverse stakeholders throughout the region
- to discuss synergy potentials and provide opportunity to develop future collaborations
- to raise awareness on the importance of inclusion of global education in educational sector and to challenge prevailing ideas on the concept of citizenship and national identity
- to involve a larger diversity of stakeholders into the debate of global education

Date and Venue of the conference

17-18 October 2011, Jable Castle, Mengeš, Slovenia.

Language

The working language of the seminar will be English.

Participants

Participants will include the most active global education stakeholders from the 5 new EU member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Slovenia):

- 1 representative from each, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or Ministry of Education
- 1 representative from the field of higher education, including teacher training institutes
- 2 NGO representatives
- representatives from local authorities

Furthermore, civil society representatives from the whole region of South East Europe will be invited.

Total: 80 persons

Documenting the meeting

- Speakers will submit written versions of their speeches which will be posted online on the website of SLOGA.
- The plenary sessions will be documented by Sloga. The results of the working groups will also be posted online. The report will be written in English and distributed through national platforms via their websites. National platforms will disseminate the report to participants from their countries and inform other relevant stakeholders.

Main organizers of the seminar

Hosts:

The Slovenian NGDO Platform SLOGA, the umbrella organisation for 35 NGOs in Slovenia is involved in development cooperation and development education. The aim of Sloga is to join synergies and strengthen the partnership between Slovenian NGOs that are active in developing countries or which work on public awareness raising about unequal division of wealth and the global solidarity and co-dependence related to it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (MFA)

One of the missions of the Directorate General for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid is rising public awareness on the importance of development cooperation and promoting global education. In order to increase the visibility of Slovenia's development cooperation, MFA has been together with SLOGA organizing Slovenian Development Days since 2009. The Development Days provide a forum for discussions between Slovenian and foreign experts, representatives of government and non-governmental institutions, international organisations and academia on current topics in the field of development.

Since 2010 MFA has been leading an inter-ministerial working group on global education which was created on the initiative of SLOGA. The aim of the group is to promote the concept of global education, especially in the education system.

Partners:

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, has the mission to: (1) promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law through intercultural dialogue, education and training, in particular among the youth of Europe and its neighbouring regions; (2) provide a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of increasing public awareness of global interdependence and solidarity issues; (3) promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe, by fostering dialogue and co-operation between Europe and non-European countries in neighbouring regions.

Programme outline

17 October 2011 - Global Citizenship and National Identity

Plenary session I: Conceptualizing (global) citizenship

How do we understand the concept of (global) citizenship? What is global citizenship and who is a global citizen? How are these concepts used in schools and the educational system?

Presentations of national situations on global education

Within the panel five countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia) will present the situation and the challenges of global education and (global) citizenship in the national educational system.

Plenary session II: Global citizenship and national identity

The concept of global citizenship questions prevailing discourses about our identities, such as, for example, national identity. The question of national identity is closely connected to the question of global citizenship since citizenship is most often thought of within the frame of nation-states. But do the concepts of global citizenship and national citizenship contradict each other or are they two sides of the same coin?

Workshops I: Identities in various contexts

The workshops build on the issue of national identities and expand the topic by including also other types of identifications with various groups (professional, peer groups, interest groups). The workshops will discuss the following questions: How are identities constructed in various contexts? Are they mutually exclusive or mutually reinforcing? Are they fixed and static or fluid, contested and contextual?

Plenary session III: Global Education and Intercultural dialogue

How do global education and intercultural dialogue relate to global citizenship and national identity? How are citizenship and national identity interpreted within the context of global education and intercultural dialogue? Understanding Global Education and Intercultural dialogue as the context through which understandings and methodologies are constructed.

Workshops II: Intercultural dialogue and Global Citizenship

Intercultural dialogue is often defined as a “contact between cultures and nation-states”. But can we think of it differently? Could we think of intercultural dialogues as a space of sharing values and meanings and therefore move beyond nation-states towards global citizenship?

Workshops III: Recommendations on National identity and global citizenship

Mixed working groups will be composed to discuss recommendations for the future based on the debate of the two days and to collectively produce a presentation on the outcomes in a different format based on a scientific article, literary article, drama play and painting.

Presentations in plenary on workshop results and recommendations

Expected outcomes/results

The expectations in terms of conference outcomes are, inter alia, to:

- establish networks between variety of stakeholders; to exchange concrete examples of global education;
- outline ideas for common projects between different actors throughout the SEE region and the Mediterranean EU countries;
- contribute to the pan-European conference on global education which will be organised in spring 2012 as a follow-up to the Maastricht Congress in 2002.

Relevant Background Documents

Recommendation CM/Rec (2011)4 on education for global interdependence and solidarity (2011)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE_recommendation2011.pdf

Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)7 on the Council of European Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (2010)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/edc/Source/Pdf/Downloads/6898-6-ID10009-Recommendation%20on%20Charter%20EDC-HRE%20-%20assembl%20C3%A9.pdf>

Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe for promoting global/development education in the new EU member States (2009-2011)

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

North-South Centre Global Education Guidelines (2008 / revised edition in 2010)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GEguideline_presentation_en.asp

European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising (2007)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/European_consensus-en.pdf

Global Education Charter (1997)

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

National seminar on global education in Bulgaria (25-27 September 2009)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/Bulgaria-REPORT-DE-GE.pdf>

National seminar on global education in Cyprus (22-23 October 2010)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/Cyprus-REPORT.pdf>

National seminar on global education in Malta (10 May 2010)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/Romenia-REPORT.pdf>

National seminar on global education in Romania (8-9 July 2010)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/Romenia-REPORT.pdf>

National seminar on global education in Slovenia (17 November 2009)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/Romenia-REPORT.pdf>