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Visegrad Regional Seminar on Global Development Education

Prague, Czech Republic

7-8 June 2017

Draft Concept Note

In partnership with:



BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE) to promote Global Development Education (GDE) in new EU member States and candidate countries, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) is continuing to develop a cycle of regional seminars to monitor the recognition and implementation of GDE in the Balkan, Baltic, South-East Europe and Mediterranean, and Visegrad countries. This monitoring process is based on the strategic recommendations of the 3rd European Congress on Global Education organised by the NSC in Zagreb, 2015, and on the CoE [Recommendation CM/Rec \(2011\)4](#) on education for global interdependence and solidarity.

This annual GDE monitoring process covering the period 2016-19, is in line with the CoE Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies (2016-2019); with the CoE Standing Conference of Ministers of Education held in April 2016 under the theme “Securing democracy through education”; and with the CoE Conference organised by the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers “*Education: a safe option to Democracy*”, (Nicosia, March 2017).

It is also in line with UNESCO efforts to make progress towards Target 4.7 of SDG 4, in the framework of 2030 Agenda.

By bringing together practitioners and decision-makers to exchange and jointly discuss existing perspectives and further developments on the concept and practice of GDE, in terms of policy making, curricula development, pedagogical support and advocacy, the NSC contributes to the recognition and practice of GDE in the Visegrad region.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Short introduction to the activity

Having as an overarching framework the strategic recommendations of the Zagreb GE Congress; the conclusions of CoE Conferences of Ministers of Education; and the SDG 4.7 target referring to Global Citizenship Education monitoring scheme, the objectives of the regional seminar are:

- to exchange and jointly discuss existing perspectives and recent developments on the concept and practice of GDE (in terms of policy making, curricula development, pedagogical support and advocacy);
- to identify common challenges in the Visegrad countries and exchange information on best practices between GDE experts from the region, other European countries and/or organisations such as the NSC, EC, CONCORD, GENE, and UNESCO as well as with experts from the South;
- to promote GDE as an integral part of education and disseminate CoE framework of Competences for Democratic Culture;
- to provide the space and opportunities to develop joint action and collaboration within and beyond the Visegrad countries;
- to elaborate recommendations for furthering GDE in the Visegrad countries and establish priorities and benchmarks, until the follow-up meeting in 2018.

Participants will comprise key GDE stakeholders from each Visegrad country (including whenever possible stakeholders involved in the previous regional seminar and in the Zagreb GE Congress). National delegations representatives shall be distributed as follows:

- 1 representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Agency¹
- 1 representative from the Ministry of Education
- 1 representatives from higher education, including teacher training institutes
- 5 NGO representatives, including, when existing, the national coordinators for the NSC [Global Education Week network](#), CoE [EDC-HRE network](#), [CONCORD](#), [European Youth Forum](#), and [OBESSU national coordinators](#)
- 1 representative from the National youth Council
- 1 representative from diaspora organisation
- 1 teachers active in the GDE field
- 1 National and/or European parliamentarians²
- 1 representative from the national platform for local authorities (members of the CoE [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#))

The list of participants will include as well the following stakeholders:

- representative/implementing partner of other regional GDE seminars
- experts from the global North and South - workshop facilitators and a key note speakers
- representatives from the following international organisations:
 - o CONCORD Board member
 - o EC
 - o European Youth Press
 - o GENE
 - o NSC
 - o Regional UNESCO/UNDP offices
- Organisers

The numbers above are roughly estimated, the number of participants from each country may differ slightly according to people's availability. In total, the seminar aims at gathering a total of approx. 70 participants.

Targeted outcomes:

- Common challenges and practices in GDE in the Visegrad countries are exchanged;
- GDE as an integral part of education and of development policy is promoted;
- Opportunities to develop joint action and collaboration within and beyond the Visegrad countries are discussed and planned;
- Recommendations and priorities for furthering GDE in the Visegrad countries are established with benchmarks until 2018.

¹ When possible, in accordance with [GENE-Global Education Network Europe](#) representatives

² Parliamentarian representatives within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: [Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

Targeted group(s):

- Formal and non-formal educators;
- CSO platform;
- Local authorities;
- Ministries (MoE and/or MFA);
- Parliamentary commissions on education;
- National coordinator within the NSC GE network

Working language

English will be the only working language of the seminar and no interpretation to other languages is foreseen. The seminar is intended to be interactive and thus only participants with relevant level of English will be selected to participate.

VENUE

Park Hotel, Prague

PROGRAMME**Day 1 – 7 June**

08h30 Registration of participants

09h00 Introduction

- *Host authorities*
- *European institutions (NSC & EC)*
- *Host partner*
- *Key note Speaker*

10h00 Q&A

10h30 Coffee-break

11h00 Plenary session - *National GDE strategies*

Key note speeches from representatives of Visegrad countries on GDE achievements and perspectives in relation to the key findings of previous regional seminars and in relation to recent national developments in the field of policy development, pedagogical support and advocacy.

12h00 Q&A

12h30 Parallel workshops – *Introduction*

Addressing the multistakeholders groups participants (institutions, teachers, CSOs) on the areas of:

- 1) Policy making and curricula development;*
- 2) Professional development of educators and quality support;*
- 3) Awareness raising and pedagogical tools*

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Parallel workshops

16h00 Coffee-break

16h30 Parallel workshops – *Sum-up of the day*

17h00 Plenary – *restitution of the first outputs from the workshops*

17h30 Closing of the day & workshop fair

Day 2 – 8 June

09h00 Plenary session

Key note speeches from representatives of Balkan, Baltic, and SEE-Med countries on GDE achievements and perspectives in relation to the reports and key findings of previous regional seminars.

10h00 Continuation of parallel workshops

11h00 Coffee-break

11h30 Continuation of parallel workshops

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Continuation of parallel workshops – *elaboration of operational recommendations and benchmarks until 2018*

15h30 Plenary session

Presentation of the main findings from the workshops and presentation of operational recommendations with benchmarks until 2018.

16h30 Evaluation and closing of seminar

Open space and free networking space

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

- **3rd GE Congress Strategic Recommendations:** [Final Recommendations](#)
- **3rd GE Congress Report:** [Final Report](#)
- **3rd GE Congress Background documents**

[GE national seminars: 2013-14 overview](#)

[GE regional seminars: 2013-14 overview](#)

[Global Education Survey](#) - *Evaluating the 2012 Lisbon Congress Thematic Recommendations*

[Youth Global Skills Survey](#) - *Exploring Youth Skills for the 21st Century from a Youth Perspective*

- North-South Centre [Global Education Guidelines](#)—*a Handbook for Educators to Understand and Implement Global Education*, Lisbon 2012 (2008)
- Council of Europe [framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#), Strasbourg 2016
- Council of Europe Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2011\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on education for global interdependence and solidarity, Strasbourg 2011;
- White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue: [“Living Together As Equals in Dignity”](#), Strasbourg 2008

APPENDIX 1

Institutional partners:

The seminar is taking place in the context and with the support of the **Grant Agreement signed between the European Commission and the Council of Europe** (iLEGEND-Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue), which aims at promoting GDE in the twelve new member states of the European Union as well as in EU candidate and acceding countries.

Regional partners

FoRS - Czech Forum for Development Co-operation is a platform that brings together Czech nongovernmental and non-profit organizations, academic institutions and other actors who are focused on international development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and global development education. FoRS represents more than 40 organisations, whose vision is the world where there exist **conditions for dignified life**, and where **human rights**, as well as the **principles of sustainable development**, are promoted.

FoRS works to improve **quality and sustainability of life** of people from all around the world, as well as from the Czech Republic. Moreover, it tries to increase **effectiveness of development cooperation**. In addition, FoRS enforces mutual interests of its members and contributes to the development of its **members' expertise**, and creates space for their **mutual cooperation**.

FoRS has been **strongly focusing on GDE on the Czech national level** since its inception in 2004. More than two thirds of FoRS members are active in this area and therefore formed the working group *Global Development Education and Public Awareness* for formal, as well as for non-formal education. FoRS also **contributed to the development of the national GDE strategies** in 2009-2010, 2011-2015, and in a revision of the strategy and its action plan for years 2016-2017. Moreover, FoRS is a **member of the inter-ministerial working group for GDE** under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contact person: Pavel PŘIBYL, Executive Director: pavel.pribyl@fors.cz

Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND) is a platform of 15 member NGOs that aims at contributing to the formulation of an effective, transparent and sustainable development cooperation policy in Hungary. The Association through its work promotes common interests, active cooperation, communication and partnership with governmental bodies, the European Union or international and foreign institutions involved in the area of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It aims at raising public awareness as well on development and humanitarian issues, sustainable development and on the promotion of volunteer participation in civil society. It's been involved in GE activities since its establishment. A working group dedicated to global education was established in HAND in 2007. One of the core activities of the working group is advocating for a national GE Strategy therefore it has also commissioned a research and based on the outcomes outlined recommendations related to that.

Contact person: Timea GEDEON, Managing Director: timea.gedeon@hand.org.hu

The Slovak NGDO Platform (PMVRO) is an association of 29 NGOs which deal mainly with foreign development and humanitarian aid, global (citizenship) education and sustainable development. In cooperation with broad range of stakeholders, it also contributes to improving the Slovak system of providing development assistance and humanitarian aid as well as increasing the awareness of the public by educating about global and development issues. Since 2007 there have been working groups focussed on development education which brought remarkable results in 2012 when the National GE strategy was approved by the Government.

The Platform is also active in the process of on-going monitoring of the implementation of the current annual action plan of the National GE Strategy, but also drafting the plans for the years to come.

Contact person: Maria SLIACKA, Executive Secretary: maria.sliacka@mvro.sk

Grupa Zagranica is an association of 54 Polish NGOs involved in international development cooperation, democracy support, humanitarian aid and global education. All the members of the platform are conjoined by the will of acting together in order to create better conditions in Poland and Europe for developing supportive activities for the countries in need.

Grupa Zagranica undertakes actions in these fields, in which close cooperation and common position are indispensable for producing a change in the system and reaching the goals necessary from the point of view of the member organisations. Grupa Zagranica has led a project on cross-sectorial co-operation on GE with the aim of agreeing on a common understanding and concept of GE.

Contact person: Jan BAZYL, Executive Director: janek.bazyl@zagranica.org.pl

Updated background information on GDE in Visegrad countries**▪ CZECH REPUBLIC**

Since the 1990s, Czech education has undergone a number of changes. Inspiration from abroad and the efforts of a number of NGOs to introduce the global dimension into school curriculum have become apparent since the 1990s. However, a systemic change in Czech formal education started through the introduction of the national programme of Czech education development in 2001. The document initiated long-term changes in Czech formal education which should be perceived as crucial for the integration of Global Development Education. Furthermore, becoming a member of the EU in 2004 marks another milestone for the integration of GDE in Czech schools. In the first Conception for Foreign Development Cooperation (2001-2007) a modest notion about GDE was already included. It is even more prominently emphasized in the strategic document for the period of 2010-2017.

In 2009 an inter-ministerial working group on GDE representing both, the public administration as well as the NGOs (FoRS as a platform included), universities and other actors was created in order to get relevant stakeholders involved in the preparation of the National Strategy for GDE.

Among the key moments preceding the creation of the strategy there were the GENE Peer Review and the Development Education conference.) The process of creation of The National Strategy for GDE in the Czech Republic for the period of 2011-2015 contributed to the development and embedding of GDE in the Czech Republic. It was a unique opportunity to summon all relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; Czech Development Agency; FoRS; Research Institute of Education; National Institute for Further Education; National Institute of Children and Youth and others) to a common table and agree on the nature of GDE, its foundations and goals; and also to agree on the terminology to be used in the Czech Republic. Although the strategy was not a formal part of legislation and it provides a declaratory support rather than accelerating a greater push on decision-makers, it was the essential material approved through multi-stakeholder negotiation and could be used for stronger advocacy, networking and new partnership.

In 2015 an evaluation report on the performance of the strategy was prepared. The report served as the basis for kicking-off the process of revising the strategy conducted by the renewed and extended working group on GDE under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The process resulted in the preparation of the two-year action plan for the period 2016-2017 that should have helped enforcing the implementation of individual measures and achieving the specified goals; furthermore, the National Strategy was revised for the same period. The process of the creation and revision of the National Strategy also kicked off a closer cooperation among representatives of the NGOs, teachers, relevant ministries – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and other important stakeholders.

Currently, the future of a new national strategy for GDE is being discussed in the inter-ministerial working group – there exist two options. Firstly, a new national strategy together with an action plan for the next period (beginning by 2018) would be created.

Secondly, GDE would be incorporated into different strategic documents (Strategy of Development Cooperation 2018–2023 and Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development 2030) and an action plan would be created. Additionally, the Czech Development Agency (an implementing body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) that is responsible for a grant programme for financing GDE activities of NGOs is considering a reallocation of a part of the grant scheme to Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in order to increase its participation. These issues will be discussed in the near future.

Source: *A National Strategy for Global Development Education in the Czech Republic in Global Education in Europe Revisited*

▪ HUNGARY

Educational policy framework or recent reform process which could benefit the integration of GDE:

The Hungarian Government accepted the GDE concept in mid-December of 2016. This process was initiated approximately 10 years ago by HAND and respective GDE Working Group. Tasks are delegated to Ministry of Human Capacities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding formal and non-formal educational systems and national curricula, good practices usage and promotion of GDE, developing educational materials. Deadlines are continuous.

Main stakeholders dealing with GDE and levels of coordination between them:

- Ministry of Human Capacities
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry for National Economy

HAND and its GDE WG are working on involving all NGDOs/NGOs dealing with GDE working area (also those which are not HAND members yet).

Among the ministries there is an Intra Committee (IC) on international development. HAND has an initiative to become an invited partner of this Committee therefore more information will be available by mid spring as the work has just begun.

Overview/update in relation to the seminar workshop topics:

- 1) Policy making and curricula development: see as above;
- 2) Professional development of educators and quality support: in the near future it will not be the focus as the most important activities are related to point 1 and 3 although the importance is very clear.
- 3) Awareness raising and pedagogical tools: we count on a (slow but) big boom from now on.

▪ POLAND

Global education as set of issues and related topics (not as educational approach) is present in formal education system in Poland since 2010. Before, global education was mostly a part of non-formal education.

The institution responsible for global education is Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Grupa Zagranica in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Centre for Education Development, Ministry of Environment and several academic institutions during a long-term process created an official definition of global education which is still a framework of most activities

implemented by institutions and organisations. The process was finalized with the Memorandum of Understanding on promotion of global education in Poland in 2011. Since 2011 there is a stable relation in a multi-stakeholder process, which is focused on promotion of global education in Poland (e.g. cooperation between actors, national call for proposals etc.). Implementation of European strategic documents (such as Paris declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education etc.) on national level is not a part of the multi-stakeholder consultations.

At the moment, Poland is undergoing a reform of formal education system. The changes are going to be structural as well as content wise. New curricula for primary schools were already presented. Unfortunately, the introduced curriculum will be more historical and national orientated. "Global education" as educational concept is not mentioned. We observe a significant decrease of global content in the programs. Text books were not presented yet. The curricula for following levels of education are also not known yet. Grupa Zagranica commented on new curricula and asked the Ministry of Education to pay more attention to global education in the formal education system. GZ will also prepare the analysis of curricula for upper secondary schools, when they will be available.

Centre for Education Development under Ministry of Education coordinates the Polish network of teachers implementing global education in their school practice. They cooperate with CSOs to use their knowledge and skills in global education.

Due to the fact that SDGs have been criticized by conservatives because of the gender aspect included, CSOs expect backlash in introducing global education at school in coming years.

▪ SLOVAKIA

Educational policy framework or recent reform process which could benefit the integration of GDE:

Education policy in the country is facilitated and implemented by the Ministry of Education. Global education agenda is however being roofed by both, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (higher education and NGO grant scheme) and Ministry of Education.

Recent drafting process of National Education Reform might leave open some doors of possibility for the integration of Global Education also into the structures of Ministry of Education.

Main stakeholders dealing with GDE and level of coordination between them:

- **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs** – as the key actor in facilitation of GDE on the university level, namely through NGO project grant scheme, which to some extent incorporates and emerges from the National GE strategy.
- **Slovak NGDO Platform** – as the advocacy body of Slovak non-governmental development organisations in the area of global education. Besides the advocacy work, PMVRO also creates space for new partnerships and broadening of the coalition of GDE friendly organisations mostly through its campaign and awareness raising activities.
- **Non-governmental organisations** – including non-governmental development (most of which are members of PMVRO) but also non-development organisations (most of which are not member of PMVRO, but cooperate with it through awareness raising coalition building initiatives touching upon topics of sustainable development in general).

- **Ministry of Education** – as the key education policy actor in the state. Ministry of education is in the consultation process of the Slovak Education reform and should gradually undertake the coordination of GDE agenda in the near future.

Level of coordination between non-governmental actors is ongoing and facilitated by PMVRO and its member organisations, whether it is through organisation of GDE working group or within the framework of awareness raising initiatives and partnerships with non-development organisations.

Level of coordination between non-governmental actors and the two mostly relevant ministries has been weaker in the past two years – multi-stakeholder working group has not met in the past year. Communication frequency should however follow an upward trend, since the mandate of the National GDE Strategy 2012-2016 has ended and follow up steps for the future need to be undertaken. The process of preparation of Education reform may also open new windows of opportunity in terms of renewal of GDE coordination between state and non-state actors.