



Open Education Centre Foundation



# CONCEPT PAPER

## **National seminar on Global/Development Education in Bulgaria**

**25-27 September 2009 in Sozopol**



## **Short background of the Bulgarian situation**

GE/DE as a special field in Bulgaria has started to develop in the nineties in somewhat different ways. In the field of formal education mainly the problems has been developed as a part of Human Rights, Civic Education, Geography, Economics, Environmental Education curriculum and to a certain degree some of the content of DE/GE have been incorporated into National Educational standards .In the field of Non-formal education GE/DE problems have been introduced by many international or national projects focused on Human Rights, environmental, problems, interethnic relations, poverty and social justice problems.

By the beginning of 2000 the new impetus had come from the growing interest in the ideas of sustainable development and as well from the emerging role of Bulgaria as a member of the international community – mainly as a part of the EU. Crucial was the support of Intergovernmental organizations like UNICEFF, UNDP, and UNESCO for focusing the efforts on GE/DE problems. With the institutional support of EU National platform of DE had been established and first projects on DE with Bulgarian participation had been realized under the EU calls of proposals in this field. "

There is a lot of projects and initiatives realized under the shield of DE/GE but still in the country lacks a policy in the field, lack of any coordination of the efforts of the different actors, lack of coordination or joint actions between the stakeholders. Public awareness of DE/GE is also a problem- it is not possible to have built this awareness without pro-active policy on behalf of the state and of the stakeholders, without enough institutional support.

## **Aim & objectives of the meeting**

- To explore the context of Development Education and raising public awareness in Bulgaria on the basis of the Strategy approved by EU and on the other International documents and to prepare general assessment of the DE/GE situation and to elaborate a Strategy for DE/GE Education and based on the Strategy Plan of Action;
- To establish working relationships between the organizations and institutions working in the field of GE/DE - at local, national as well as European level;
- To explore the opportunities for development of regional and community DE/GE educational programs and campaigns;
- To get an agreement on the place of DE/GE in the present curriculum and to elaborate the outlines for a new approach for promoting DE/GE in Formal and Non-Formal Education;
- To develop a comparative perspective on the DE/GE developments based on the analysis of DE/GE in the neighbouring EU countries – Greece and Romania and on the developments in the old members of EU.

## **Date & venue**

25-27 September 2009 in Sozopol, Bulgaria (approx 50 kilometres from the international Bourgas airport).

## **Language(s)**

Bulgarian and interpretations to/from English for the foreign participants.

## **Conditions for participation**

Identified as a key stakeholder in the context of Bulgarian global/developmental education and its development.

## **Expected participants**

Approx 35 participants representing:

- National DE Platform;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Policy and Employment and Ministry of Environment;
- Association of Bulgarian Municipalities;
- Representatives of several municipalities where GDE projects are realized – municipalities of Bourgas, Plevan and Plovdiv;
- Representatives of Bulgarian trade unions;
- Representatives of NGO's active in the field of GDE, education for sustainable development, civic education and human rights education;
- Representatives of the Bulgarian institute of Sociology and Bulgarian Institute of Economics;
- Representatives of media;
- Representatives of UNDP and UNICEF in Bulgaria;
- Bureau of the EU Commission;
- Representatives of embassies of several EU countries based in Bulgaria with well developed GDE programs (e.g. Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom);
- International experts: Nina Cugler Agenda 21 in Romania; Christos Christidis Gaja, Greece; Titus Alexander, New Scarman Trust, United Kingdom;
- Representative of the Council of Europe's Information Office in Sofia;
- Representative of North-South Centre of the Council of Europe;
- Representative of the European Commission/DGAIDCO.

The experts from Romania and Greece are selected because of the need to have a comparative perspective on DE/GE problems and developments from countries which are in the same situation in the field. The UK expert is invited because together with Open Education Centre a project "United Humanity. Toward a Global Citizenship" has been developed under which an approach for teaching GE and a manual on GE has been realized so he will be able to present the perspective of the EU on DE/GE.

## **General Rapporteur**

A General Rapporteur will be appointed – Professor Rumen Valchev who is a former Deputy Minister of Education, former reporter on the State of Environmental Education in South Eastern Europe – Kiev Conference of Ministers of Environment of COE in 2003, Global Education in Bulgaria, Romania, Albania and Macedonia in 2001, author of Development Education Project which concept note was approved on 21<sup>st</sup> of April, Chairholder UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Culture of Peace, Bourgas Free University, co-author of the United Humanity. Manual for Global Citizenship developed under EU GRUNDTVIG Project during 2005-2008.

## Main partners for organising the event

Open Education Centre with the support of Bourgas Free University and Municipality of Bourgas, Association of Bulgarian Municipalities as well as the National Platform for DE.

## Main elements of programme & potential speakers

- Analysis of the current situation with GDE in Bulgaria based on the National Report prepared by prof. Valchev and with the participation of the main stakeholders;
- Clarifying the idea of GDE based on the Guidelines of the NSC;
- Participants experience in GDE – sharing good practices;
- Developing GDE Strategy – Prepared declaration of the State and perspectives of GDE in Bulgaria;
- Going further – development of plans of action for Formal and Non-Formal Education;
- Building public awareness – looking for institutional support for GDE.

## Preliminary Agenda

*Friday 25 September*

- *Arrival of participants*
- *Welcome, presentation of participants*

*Saturday 26 September*

- *Main problems of Development and Global education – small group discussion and plenary session based on the presentation of the national report on GE/DE.*
- *European perspective on GE/DE – analysis of the basic documents and of developments in the field. Foreign experts.*
- *Presentation of the work of group of Bulgarian educators - GE/DE in the curriculum. Discussion and proposals.*
- *GDE as a part of non-formal education - presentation of group of experts from the National Platform on Development Education and a group discussion.*
- *The Community perspective – local authorities and development education. A panel with representatives of municipalities, NGO's and ministry officials*

*Sunday 27 September*

- *Developing GDE Strategy – Prepared declaration of the State and perspectives of GDE in Bulgaria*
- *Discussion over the proposed GE/DE Strategy and on the Declaration of the state and perspectives of GE/DE*
- *Work in groups on the main components of the Plan of Action*
- *General discussion of the Plan of Action*
- *Building an institutional support for the Plan of Action*

International Speakers that will be invited to give an input are: Nina Cugler Agenda 21, Romania; Christos Christidis Gaja, Greece and Titus Alexander, New Scarman Trust, United Kingdom.

- Nina Cugler is an well known expert on DE and is a leader of Agenda 21- partner organization with which OEC realizes two projects in the field of DE under EU call for proposals – on Social Justice and on Realization of MDG and on development;
- Christos Christidis is an expert and environmental and global education and is responsible for the organization of Global Education Week since the beginning of this initiative;
- Tytus Alexander is one of the leading experts in UK on Global Education with several manuals and books on the subject and participants in many international DE/GE Projects and initiatives.

### **Expected outcomes/results:**

Prepared Declaration on the State of GDE in Bulgaria;

Prepared Declaration on the state of DE/GE in Bulgaria and elaboration of a GE/DE Strategy and respective Plan of Action;

Developed model for GE/DE at community level;

Established patterns of co-operation between NGO in the field under National platform and between DE/GE actors at local and national level.

### **Background documents**

- National Report on the State of Development Education – Bulgaria;
- National Strategy on School Education 2005-2014;
- North-South Centre Global Education Guideline;
- Global Education Charter;
- Maastricht Global Education Congress Report 2002;
- European Consensus on Development Education;
- North-South Centre - European Commission Joint Management Agreement 2009-2011;
- Other international documents that will be translated and distributed prior to the national seminar.