



# CONCEPT PAPER

## National Seminar on Global/Development Education

### Slovakia

27-28 May 2010, Bratislava, Slovakia



## Action Title

Organization of the **National Seminar on Global Education in Slovakia** co-ordinated by the **Slovak NGDO Platform and partners.**

## Background of the National Situation

### The Slovak NGDO Platform:

An association of corporate bodies - **the umbrella organization of the Slovak non-governmental organizations** (21 regular members and 5 observers) deals mainly with **foreign development and humanitarian aid**. The Platform's role is to represent the common interests of its member organization on the domestic as well as foreign scene and to inform member organizations about current development aspects. In the frame of the Platform various working groups are created, one of them is a working group on Development Education.

The NGDO Platform is also the implementation body which carries out development education projects supported by SlovakAid. As a part of the first Call for proposal on development education in 2004, the Platform's project has been approved under the title: **Involvement of Slovak politicians and Euro-politicians in ODA of Slovakia and the EU**. This project was carried out in a close cooperation with MFA representatives (Department of development and humanitarian aid). There have been 4 presentations of the Slovak ODA prepared for members of following Committees: Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, Human rights, minorities and gender, Finance and Budget. The NGDO Platform has also started a formalized discussion with the representatives of MFA, the MPs and the Members of European Parliament on the topic of development and humanitarian aid. During the years 2007-2008 a **Working group for Development Education** has been set up by members of the Slovak NGDO Platform and their partners. In 2009 the working group was more closely specialized to the development education for the university students.

The development education has appeared as a new phenomenon worldwide and in Slovakia as well. The initiative started from side of the non-governmental organizations which felt a need to eliminate the low knowledge about developmental issues, wanted to gain the wide public support and mobilize it to an active involvement.

The web page <http://www.rozvojevzdelavanie.sk> is an internet information centre for Development Education and Slovakia's only web site of this kind, which strives to provide complex information about Development Education, and about governmental institutions, foundations and NGOs working in the field of development education in Slovakia and abroad. The web site contents current news and information on events, projects, publications, and campaigns, it offers a chat room for public discussions, methodological material for downloading, opportunity to publish various articles and access to a Virtual School of Development Education, where you can find a terminological glossary, learn about Development Education in Slovakia. The Virtual School offers ideas on theoretical and practical approach to education by offering selected educational activities and on-line games for students.

### Existing collaboration between the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs and NGDOs:

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA):

The first Call for proposal on development education has been announced in 2005. Since then every year there is Call for proposal on DE. There is no thematic focus of the calls, all target groups are eligible. The Ministry does not have written strategy for DE. This year the MFA has announced under the special subsidies system (beyond the ODA) the call for proposals for the preparation of DE strategy for Slovakia. NGDOs are also eligible to submit the proposal.

#### Ministry of Education (MoE):

Upon the initiative of MFA the MoE provided in 2006-2007 the unspent funds from the scholarship program for students from developing countries (amount of 300.000 EUR) on Development education for schools. The fund has been administered by the Methodology centres (state institutions). The NGOs or other organizations could apply for funding of some activities. The website [www.rozvojovevzdelavanie.sk](http://www.rozvojovevzdelavanie.sk) (portal on DE in Slovakia) has been created and is still functional. The existing methodological publications of Slovak NGOs on various DE themes has been re-printed in larger amounts and distributed by methodological centres on primary and secondary schools. The centres has organized trainings for teachers and approached trainers from NGOs to provide the training. The funding has stopped in 2007. Since then, there is no official communication or co-ordination between MFA, MoE and NGO community.

### **Current situation:**

Despite the initiative of NGOs in Slovakia, there is still not enough information and experience sharing among organizations, state and partner institutions and individuals about the topic. Creating a tradition of mutual information sharing would allow Slovak NGOs to compare the gained experience and provide space for new ideas, projects, public events and searching ways of improvement the level of public awareness about global education topic. The national strategy of Global education in the frame of Slovak official development assistance is still missing even though the subject of Development education is a part of Medium-term strategy for Slovak ODA for 5 years. Collaboration between the main stakeholders – MFA/SAMRS (national development agency), ME and NGOs does not achieve a satisfactory level. At the moment there is non-existent involvement of ME into development education strategy or implementation. The financial support for DE projects within the ODA National Program of Ministry of Foreign Affairs is influenced by the financial cuts of total bilateral ODA:

Overview of funding by MFA for DE projects (budgeted in National programs):

2004:	0
2005:	66.000 Eur.
2006:	190.000 Eur.
2007:	358.000 Eur.
2008:	233.000 Eur.
2009:	150.000 Eur.
2010 :	60.000 Eur.

## **Aims and Objectives of the Seminar**

The main objectives of the action are:

### **1) To present and summarize the current situation in Global development education in Slovakia**

Presentation of existing DE projects and initiatives in formal and informal education, existence of informal networks and working groups on global education among different actors. Support for DE by state institutions: MFA and MoE.

### **2) To exchange experiences and best practices from partner countries in the field of Global Education in the international context**

Presentation of existing model from Portugal - how to develop and strengthen global education in term of building a National GDE strategy and action plan of implementation. To strengthen working relationships between the Slovak organizations and foreign partners working in the field of Global / Development Education.

### **3) To contribute to the building of systematic support for Global Education program in Slovakia**

Within the Medium-term strategy for ODA for the period of 2009-2013 one of the tasks for MFA is to support the creation of national strategy in term of the legislative and institutional framework for development education. Summarized experience in the final report from the seminar could contribute to the

discussion about the legislative and institutional framework of the GDE strategy in the National Program ODA. The involvement of the MoE into DE in Slovakia shall be identified.

#### **4) To increase the interest of public in Global development education**

Promotion of the seminar and its outputs could increase the public interest in development issues.

#### **5) To contribute to improving the ways of the cooperation among the European comparable countries in Global development education**

The problems connected with treating the development issues in some countries could be potentially similar and pointing out some common points could be helpful in the process of solving these problems and searching the ways of the best and effective solutions.

### **Date and Venue**

End of May 2010 (preliminary date and location: 27-28 May 2010, University Library in Bratislava or hotel ECHO)

### **Timetable of Action**

- **February 2010 - Reservation of the location, preparation of the program** – organization of series of the preparatory meetings with the staff, partners and suppliers. Reservation of the flight tickets and accommodation for international guests.
- **March 2010 - Selection of the participants, speakers, preparation of invitations** – announcement, invitations, communication with the interested people, preparation of the supporting materials (publication, invitations, etc.), organization of meetings with the organizational staff.
- **April 2010 - Final preparations** - preparation of the presentations and supporting materials (publication, handouts etc.) organization of meetings with the organizational staff.
- **May 2010 - Organization of the national seminar GDE** – preliminary date: 28th May 2010.
- **June 2010 - Debriefing, reporting of the Action** – preparation of financial and narrative report of the action. Organization of meetings and presentations in frame of activities of the working group for Development education.

### **Languages**

Slovak and English.

### **Conditions for Participation**

Among invited participants there will be representatives of all actors involved in the field of global development.

### **Participants – National and International**

Approximately 40 participants

- National authorities involved in the topic of Development education – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Ministry of Education (MoE) in Slovakia,
- Key agencies implementing national and international policies related to global/development education - Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS), Portuguese NGDO Platform - PONGD

- Teachers, educational actors
- NGOs and other actors active in the field of global development.
- Representatives of the local and regional authorities - regional school council representatives
- Youth organisations - JUVENTA, Youth Council of Slovakia
- Representatives of international organizations – North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

## **General Rapporteur**

General rapporteur will be appointed by Slovak NGOs Platform.

## **Main Partners for Organizing the Event**

The lead organization will be Slovak NGOs Platform and the seminar will be co-organized with the working group Development Education and its representatives from member organizations of Platform: People in Peril Association, Partners for Democratic Change, UNICEF, eRko, Pontis Foundation, Zivica and Integra Foundation.

## **Main Elements for Programme and Suggestions of Speakers**

- A starting point for seminar will be a summary of current state of the Development Education in Slovakia and presentation of best practices/case studies of Slovak NGOs active in DE in Slovakia.

- Following panel presentation and discussion on three subjects:

### **a) How to eliminate the main obstacles of Global/ Development Education in Slovakia?**

What are they? Financial and legal aspects, limits, integration of G/DE within the formal education system, quality standards of different activities/concepts.

### **b) How to increase a support of Global/ Development Education in Slovakia?**

Within official development aid by involvement of various stakeholders – MFA/SAMRS, MoE and decision makers, NGOs, media, public...Looking for common understanding of the different activities and for the conjunction areas of collaboration.

### **c) How to build a national strategy of Global/ Development Education in Slovakia?**

Examples of the process of building national strategy of G/DE in Portugal – steps to be done, strategies, lessons learned and challenges. Question of formation of two specific working groups on G/DE (first one oriented on primary and secondary schools and second one dedicated for universities), working plan of each of them and collaboration schema.

- Working groups on three subjects, which will prepare the inputs and recommendation for the plan of action.

- Plenary presentation and discussion – summarization of the final plan of action.

## **Suggestion of speakers:**

(persons to be confirmed)

- Representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Representatives of SAMRS
- Representatives of Ministry of Education
- Representatives of NGDO sector – PIPA, eRko, Zivica, PONTIS...
- Representative from PONGD
- Representative from IPAD
- Representative from North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

## Expected Outcomes / Results

- **Increasing a pool of collaborators in the subject of G/DE on the national and international level.** 40 participants/representatives of state institutions, NGOs, schools/universities, students and academic community/ will take part in the discussion and will look for possibilities of further cooperation and will lead to reinforcement of the existing collaboration between the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs and third sector.
- **Experience and information sharing** will flow into a setting up an action plan of collaboration in the future.
- **Moving forward the process of building a National Strategy of G/DE in Slovakia** by creating a list of recommendation of the next steps to be taken.
- The Slovak NGDO Platform will assure a collection of all inputs, recommendations and issues raised during the seminar, and will assure a preparation of the **final report/publication** (10 -12 pages, 80 pcs), that will be distributed to MFA, Slovak Agency for International Development, Ministry of Education and Platform members /NGDO community/. This report will become a work material for the Platform **Development Education working group**. The seminar report will create a basis for a complete report for NSC that gives an overview on the current state of the affaires in Slovakia.
- The Slovak NGDO Platform will submit a **narrative and financial report** of the activity using the standard model annex to the Administrative Arrangement.
- **Promotion** of the event and its results through the website [www.mvro.sk](http://www.mvro.sk) and [www.rozvojovevzdelavanie.sk](http://www.rozvojovevzdelavanie.sk). The results will also be promoted on the NSC website and among the key stakeholders of the NSC, i.e. representatives of governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society actors.
- **Information for the media** about the seminar and final report.

## Relevant Background Documents

- Official website on Development Education in Slovakia  
<http://www.rozvojovevzdelavanie.sk>
- Slovak ODA National program 2009 (English language)  
<http://www.slovakaid.mfa.sk/en/index.php/article/articleview/103/1/1>
- Medium-term strategy for ODA for the period of 2009-2013 (English language)  
<http://www.slovakaid.sk/index.php/article/articleview/380/1/2>  
<http://www.slovakaid.mfa.sk/en/index.php/article/articleview/102/1/2/>

- Zuzana Fialová, study "Policy Coherence of SlovakAID at the national level" (Slovak language)  
<http://www.mvro.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/category/2-publikacie?download=14%3Akoherencia-slovakaid>
- Global Education Charter  
<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app2.pdf>
- North-South Centre - European Commission Joint Management Agreement 2009-2011  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/UE-NSC\\_JMA\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/UE-NSC_JMA_en.asp)
- European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising  
[http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/downloads/Consensus\\_on\\_DE/DE\\_Consensus-EN.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/DE_Consensus-EN.pdf)
- North-South Centre Global Education Guideline  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GEguideline\\_presentation\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GEguideline_presentation_en.asp)
- Maastricht Global Education Congress Report 2002  
<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GEgs-app1.pdf>

## **Total Project Budget**

Total project budget: 10.000 €.

## **Annexes:**

- 1) Budget overview national seminar on Global Education in Bratislava
- 2) Preliminary list of participants