



# CONCEPT PAPER

## Visegrad Regional Seminar on Global Development Education

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

in collaboration with

HAND - Hungarian Association of NGOs for  
Development and Humanitarian Aid

**5-6 September 2013**  
Budapest, Hungary

**Collaboration between the NGO platforms:**

FoRS - Czech Forum for Development Co-operation

HAND - Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid

MVRO - Slovak NGDO platform

Grupa Zagranica - Poland



## Background Information on the Countries of the Visegrad Group

The very first initiatives in Global Development Education (GDE), originated already in the 1990s in some of the four Visegrad countries (V4), Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. However, the very first attempts to develop comprehensive programs in this area, in the formal and non-formal education fields, go back to the years 2004-2006. Only in the last couple of years, different stakeholders started to engage more intensively in GDE, namely non-governmental organisations (NGO's), schools, pedagogic institutions, universities, ministries of foreign affairs and education among others. Initial multi-stakeholders initiatives have been established with the crucial support of national governments, development NGO platforms, European Commission (EC) and the North South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC).

More recently, the Visegrad countries have identified the need to give GDE a more comprehensive structure, to clarify the concept of GDE and to work on the improvements to integrate GDE in school curricula. Recent initiatives leading to the development of national GDE strategies or equivalent approaches have been supported in all four Visegrad countries. In some cases, some countries have advanced to a larger extent with the conceptualisation of a strategic approach to GDE, such as Czech Republic and Slovakia which adopted national strategies respectively in 2011 and 2012.

This process was supported by the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) signed between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission for raising awareness of global interdependence and solidarity through global/development education and youth cooperation in Europe and beyond. In the framework of this JMA, a series of national and regional seminars were organised in the new EU member states between 2009 and 2011. These seminars brought together different stakeholders, among practitioners and policy-makers, with the aim to discuss the situation of global/development education in the respective country and promote national policy recommendations and practices.

In 2012, as a follow-up to this process, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Education Congress – *Education, Interdependence & solidarity in a Changing World* - gathered practitioners and policy-makers in Lisbon to assess the work achieved since the first Global Education Congress held in Maastricht in 2002 (which established an European strategy framework for the enhancement of global education to 2015) and to reflect on issues at stake to be prioritised until 2015.

Among the GDE activities developed since 2002, the outputs of the national and regional seminars were taken into consideration in the drafting of the Lisbon Congress Strategic Recommendations covering the following five areas of work: 1) national strategy development and implementation; 2) curricular reform; 3) continuing professional development of educators; 4) quality support and monitoring; 5) campaigning and outreach.

The recommendations of the Lisbon GE Congress were also built up on the recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member States on education for global interdependence and solidarity, the first legal framework for global education, adopted in May 2011.

In order to assure the continuity of this successful process, a second JMA was signed for the period 2013-2015. A series of regional seminars will be organised to assess the work developed so far, namely the implementation phase of the GDE national strategies adopted in Czech Republic and Slovakia, and to follow up on the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European GE Congress. In addition, kick-off seminars will be organised in EU acceding and candidate countries. A closing conference, meant to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress, will take place in 2015.

The regional seminars intend to tackle 1) how the global development paradigm has developed in the Visegrad countries, 2) what have been the outcomes of the adopted GDE national strategies and what are the lessons to be learnt so far, 3) what is the vision of the respective key actors in the field on GDE, 4) how can the V4 countries cooperate to foster joint efforts in advancing the development of GDE national strategies, 5) how can such strategic approaches be put successfully into practice, 6) what can the V4 countries learn from more experienced partners in the EU context (peer learning) as well as from the global South, 7) what were the impacts and lessons learnt from the different European initiatives initiated by the NSC, EC, CONCORD/DEEEP or GENE in the V4 countries.

The outputs of the regional seminar shall also contribute to the implementation strategy of the Lisbon GE Congress recommendations, namely to the foreseen annual multistakeholder meeting, and to the definition of the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress foreseen in 2015.

## Objectives

Having the recommendations of the Lisbon GE Congress as an overarching framework in relation to: 1) national strategy development and implementation; 2) curricular reform; 3) continuing professional development of educators; 4) quality support and monitoring; 5) campaigning and outreach, the objectives of the regional seminar are:

- to exchange and jointly discuss existing perspectives on the concept and practice of GDE, both in terms of policy making and curricula development;
- to identify common challenges in the Visegrad countries and exchange information on best practices with GDE experts from the V4 region, other European countries/institution as well as with experts from the global South;
- to promote GDE as an integral part of education;
- 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 V4 countries and establish priorities, and if possible benchmarks, until the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress in 2015.

## Date

5-6 September 2013

Hotel Unio Budapest

## Preliminary list of participants

Participants will comprise key GE/DE stakeholders from each Visegrad country (including whenever possible stakeholders involved in the previous regional seminar and in the Lisbon GE Congress), distributed as follows:

- 1 representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Agency (4)
- 1 representative from the Ministry of Education (4)
- 2 representatives from higher education, including teacher training institutes (8)
- 6 NGO representatives, including the national coordinators for the [Global Education Week network](#) and CONCORD/DARE network (24)
- 2 teachers active in the GDE field (8)
- National and/or European parliamentarians (4)<sup>1</sup>
- 1 representative from the national platform for local authorities (members of Platforma - European Platform of Local and Regional Authorities for Development) (4)
- Experts from the global North and South - workshop facilitators and a key note speakers (4)
- International organisations (8)
  - o CONCORD (Board members, DARE, DEEEP, TRIALOG representatives) (2)
  - o NSC representatives (1)
  - o EC representatives (1)
  - o Potential donors (e.g. UNDP, OSF, another EC DG) (4)
- Organisers (4)

The numbers above are roughly estimated, the number of participants from each country may differ slightly. In total, the seminar aims at gathering a total of approx. 80 participants.

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<sup>1</sup> Parliamentarian representatives within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: by [national delegation](#) , by [political group](#) , and by [committees \(Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media\)](#)

## Main partners for organising the seminar

### Implementing partner:

**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 persons:

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### Partner organisations:

**FoRS - Czech Forum for Development Co-operation** is a platform of Czech non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs) and other non-profit institutions, involved in development cooperation, development education and humanitarian assistance. FoRS represents more than 50 organisations, which share the common interest of pursuing more relevance and effectiveness of both Czech and international development cooperation and enhancing its positive impact on people living in developing and transforming countries. FoRS has been strongly focusing on GDE on the national level since its inception in 2004. More than two thirds of FoRS members are active in this area and therefore formed the following working groups: “Global Development Education” for formal education in primary and secondary schools, “Public Awareness” for non-formal education (both groups have merged recently) and “Development studies” for formal education at universities. With respect to public awareness, FoRS has acted as a partner in the campaign Czech Against Poverty that has been running since 2005 and is the most widely known campaign related to development cooperation in the Czech Republic. FoRS also contributed to the development of the national GDE strategy in 2009-2010.

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**The Slovak NGDO Platform (PMVRO)** is an association of 33 NGOs which deal mainly with foreign development and humanitarian aid. In cooperation with 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. PMVRO is also an implementation body which carries out development education projects supported by SlovakAid, EuropeAid and other donors. 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.

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**Grupa Zagranica** is an association of 58 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.

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The seminar is taking place in the context and with the support of the **Joint Management Agreement signed between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission** (EuropeAid Co-operation office), which aims at promoting GDE in the twelve new member states of the European Union as well as in EU candidate and acceding countries and is implemented during 2013-2015.

## Documentation

The background documents for the seminar are:

- [Report on the Impact of Global/Development Education in the 12 New EU Member States](#) *(written on the basis of the global/development education 2012 survey on the outcomes of the 2009-2011 National and Regional Seminars on Global/Development Education) Lisbon 2012;*
- [Key Findings and Recommendations from the Country Reports on Global Education - 2011](#) - *Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia;*
- [Reports of national and regional seminars](#) developed in the framework of the previous JMA (2009-2011);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> GE Congress [Strategic recommendations](#), *Lisbon 2012;*
- Council of Europe [Global Education Recommendation](#), *Strasbourg 2011;*
- North-South Centre [Global Education Guidelines](#)—*a Handbook for Educators to Understand and Implement Global Education, Lisbon 2012 (2008)*
- White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue : [“Living Together As Equals in Dignity”](#), *Strasbourg 2008*