

CONCEPT PAPER

South-East Europe & Mediterranean Regional Seminar on Global Development Education

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

in collaboration with

Bulgaria Open Education Centre (OEC)

Sofia, 9-11 December 2016



Collaboration between the NGO national platforms of:

Cyprus (CYINDEP)
Malta (SKOP)
Romania (FOND)
Slovenia (SLOGA)



Background Information on the Countries of the South East Europe and Mediterranean region

Overall an interest in GE/DE in the South East Europe region could be noticed, especially among teachers and education practitioners. Yet this has not been accompanied by an adequate institutional commitment towards supporting and strengthening GE/DE. Given the lack of investment and institutional support in the field, the civil society sector is not sufficiently strong to lead the process of GE/DE policy development. As a result a long term planning at the level of policy and national education development is still to be encouraged.

In **Bulgaria**, after the announcement of the UN's Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals, a reformulation of the National Education Strategy took place in 2016, to envisage the inclusion of relevant issues, such as, civic education, health education, intercultural education and global education, in the Teaching-Learning Curricula. Although all these issues were being considered for integration, only the first three are actually mentioned in the final text of the New Law of Education.

For national stakeholders from Civil Society the non-inclusion of global education confirms that the implementation of the Global Development Education Methodology (GDE) is not among the Government Priorities in Bulgaria, although some of the issues approached by GDE can be integrated in the learning contents as optional subjects depending on the approval by each school's headmaster.

Consequently, the absence of global education in the new legal framework for Education has many implications on the implementation of GDE at the national level.

The first natural consequence is the lack of training provided to educators in these topics, since the only training courses available are solely facilitated by the non-formal sector of education (NGOs). Although, with this New Law of Education, a certification system is created to attest the competences acquired through the completion of these training courses provided by organisations from the non-formal sector.

The second consequence from this decision is the lack of public initiatives national wide to promote the topics approached by Global Development Education, such as, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also in this area NGOs are playing the main role. On this regard, the Bulgarian Platform for International Development, for instance, managed to: promote 12 regional meetings with representatives from the formal sector of education to discuss the inclusion of the Agenda 2030 in the education programs; to disseminate pedagogical tools for educators and students on the SDGs; to implement, at the national level, the "Global School Award"; to create an online platform to promote the dissemination and discussion of these GDE topics; and to implement the 4th National Conference on Global Education.

From the developments of the last year, what should be underlined is the leading action of the Civil Society Organisations on the promotion of GDE in Bulgaria. Although Global Education is not mentioned in the New Law of Education, some of the topics approached were in fact included, which opens-up the hope for the its full inclusion in the following years.

Among the Mediterranean countries, **Cyprus** has a longer tradition in development cooperation and aid. Global Education, its principles and deriving issues are effectively addressed and promoted on a more systematic and regular basis with the aim to develop students' literacy in all major issues of Global Education. The issues and deriving values of Global Education are incorporated in the national curriculum aiming at the transformation of individuals into active citizens inspired by democracy, social justice and solidarity; people that respect the natural environment and promote sustainable development, experience and promote gender equality, understand and interpret natural and social phenomena.

To this end Education for Sustainable Development is a complementary subject taught in formal (integrated in Pre-Primary and Primary Education and it is expected to be integrated in Secondary Education at a later stage) and non-formal teaching environments (Environmental Education Centres). The philosophy and objectives of ESD are in line/coincide with the philosophy and objectives of Global Education.

It is worth mentioning that since October 2007 the Council of Ministers adopted the National Strategy for Environmental Education focusing on Sustainable Development. The Strategy and its deriving actions have been used many times as an example of good practice.

Moreover the Interdisciplinary Committee of the Ministry of Education and Culture on Global/Development Education was established in 2009 and since then it has been convening regularly. Members of the Committee are representatives from the European and International Affairs Office of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC), the Pedagogical Institute, inspectors of Primary Education, inspectors from relevant fields of Secondary Education, as well as representatives from CYINDEP, the National Platform of NGOs, and the non-governmental organisations CARDET, Future Worlds Center and NGO Support Centre, which are working on GE/DE in Cyprus. The Committee works as a multi-stakeholder group with the aim of strengthening GE/DE in Cyprus through formal and non-formal education. Through the work of the committee, many collaborations have emerged over the past years between the governmental and non-governmental institutions working on GE/DE, thus enabling them to overcome to an extent the budgetary constraints faced due to the lack of financial resources for GE/DE. Some examples of collaborations include:

- the European Year for Development 2015 National Work Programme for Cyprus: For the first time two governmental organisations formulated a partnership with an NGO platform. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs as National Coordinator, the Cyprus Islandwide NGO Development Platform CYINDEP as National Beneficiary and the Ministry of Education and Culture (European and International Affairs Office) as Affiliate Partner worked together to realise the main five activities proposed under the EYD 2015 national work programme. The very successful programme aimed at raising awareness about international development towards children, youth and general public, by organising activities varying from documentary screenings, photo exhibition, public development lectures, a youth film competition in schools and a young journalists competition;
- collaboration under other EC-funded Development Education/Awareness Raising (DEAR) projects: The NGOs mentioned above are currently running, or run in the past years, GE/DE projects in Cyprus. Through the collaboration with the MOEC, a significant number of activities have been implemented such as:

- ✓ Teacher trainings
- ✓ Student trainings
- ✓ Development of educational material
- ✓ School gardens
- ✓ Other interactive activities, such as competitions, field visits, North-South exchanges
- ✓ Development of new technological tools
- ✓ Development of online learning courses

One of the main targets of the Ministry for the school year 2015-2016 was ‘we make our schools green, we improve the quality of our life’ which was linked to the 12 monthly themes identified by the European Year of Development 2015.

Malta

In 2016, the efforts to promote Global Development Education (GDE) among the European Civil and Political societies faced one more significant challenge, as the migration of a large number of refugees, coming mainly from the Northern-African Countries, caused the spread of fundamentalism all over the continent. This reaction was observed in the majority of the European Countries even to some extent in Malta. However, due to its long Catholic tradition a good number of Maltese do support appeals to help groups of refugees who have settled in the various towns and villages. Practical political initiatives are also being carried out to assist refugees, especially children and young people, to adapt better to life in Malta in collaboration with the local citizens.

A significant number of **educational projects related to GDE are already being implemented** in the formal sector of education. This results, mainly, from the cooperation between the governmental actors, *SKOP*, The National Platform of Maltese NDGOs, and other NGOs, such as *KOPIN*, *JRS* and *Nature Trust*.

The intention to promote the discussion of Development issues in educational institutions will also be reinforced through the implementation, which will start during the scholar year 2017/2018, of the *Learning Outcomes Framework*. The implementation of this Framework, which resulted from the collaboration of national and foreign experts working in different educational institutions, will promote the insertion into the learning curricula of cross-curricular themes, such as *Education for Diversity* and *Education for Sustainable Development*.

The discussion of Development issues in Malta was also promoted during **the international meetings that were held last year**, namely the *Valletta Summit on Migration* and the *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting*. For this last event, prior to its beginning, a declaration was prepared during the annual *Young Citizens Summit*, in order to be presented by the Primer-Minister of Malta to the Heads of State that were attending the meeting. This particular fact has an important meaning for the accountability process defended by the GDE promoters.

Also important to underline is the initiative of the *Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Changes*, in involving other *Ministries*, including the *Ministry of Education*, in all the different decision-making stages.

These elements respond to the recommendations of the *3rd Global Education Congress* in the field of curricula development and advocacy.

Although the positive aspects that were achieved so far in Malta, towards the implementation of the GDE, there is still some progress to be made in terms of promoting an intergenerational and life-long learning process on the GDE. January 2017 will also put Malta on the forefront at international level for it will be holding the EU Presidency. The agenda will surely focus on current global issues giving stakeholders, at political and social level, a golden opportunity to endorse practical decisions for a better Europe and a better world!

Romania

In Romania, the Global Development Education (GDE) is definitely calling the attention of the Educational Stakeholders (Formal and Non-Formal) and of the Youth generation, due to the challenges imposed by the global social events.

A visible effort has been made recently to implement the GDE into the Learning and Teaching Curricula. This is a process which is under the responsibility of both the *Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research* (MoNESR) and the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, and it has been supported, in a significant way, by numerous NGOs that were invited to participate. Resulting from this effort, the GDE has been successfully promoted by the formal and the non-formal educational systems.

As the main result from the formal system of education, is the insertion of the GDE in the School based Curricula through the *MoNESR Order no. 3542/27.03.2015*, which created, in the high school learning curricula, the optional subject entitled “*Development Education*”. The adoption of this Order was a direct result of the NGO’s *Agenda 21st APDD Association* project, called “*Achievement of Millennium Development Goals – High School Teachers’ and Students’ Involvement on Development Education Projects*”, that it developed in collaboration with the MoNESR. Apart from this main achievement, GDE thematic issues can also be found as clusters in the compulsory Social Sciences subjects and there is also the possibility of schools developing non-compulsory studies on the Global Education and Development issues.

From the non-formal system of education, the results were achieved by means of projects developed and implemented in cooperation by NGOs and the formal educational system.

Among these, there is a project named “*A different kind of School*”, that was launched by the MoNESR in 2011 and allows cooperation between schools, educators, students and NGOs in the field of GDE. This project which is a compulsory part of the School Year, takes places on the 2nd Semester, and is divided into three stages (Preparatory Stage; Development Stage; Assessment Stage). During the first stage, an online platform intended to the description of the NGO’s projects is open by the MoNESR, on its Website, to allow NGOs to post their ideas of projects so that schools could select the ideal partnership according with their intentions.

At the University Level of Education, many of these projects were also implemented. At this level, the most active NGO was the *Agenda 21st APDD Association*, with a wide range of initiatives for all different types of groups. For Educators, for instance, the Association contributed for the elaboration of a Framework to adapt the Learning Curricula accordingly with the GDE values and to evaluate the respective learning outcomes. For Students, on the other hand, created a project called “*Do you speak global?*” which the aim was to approach a variety of topics from GDE, but with a special emphasis on the migration phenomenon and on the reality of multiculturalism.

Overall, the progress that has been made in Romania towards the promotion and real implementation of GDE is real significant, and has its biggest expression in the efforts made for the adjustment of the National Education Strategy and *Teaching-Learning Curricula* accordingly with the GDE proposed methodology. The large involvement of Civil-Society actors in that process must also be highlighted.

With the accession of **Slovenia** to the European Union in 2004, the parliament adopted the strategic document Resolution on International Development Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia (2008–2015) of which development education and awareness-raising are an integral part. In 2007, the Ministry of Education and Sport prepared conceptual Guidelines for Education for Sustainable Development that represents the first official document in the field of global education. Given its non-operational and not binding character, Slovenia does not possess a national strategy that would guarantee the necessary support to GE/DE. Since the financial crisis, GE/DE projects and programmes have been cut.

Overall context of the seminar

In 2008 a Joint Management Agreement (JMA) was 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 2015. 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 to promote national policy recommendations and practices.

In 2016, in the framework of a new agreement signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-19¹, the NSC will start a new cycle of regional seminars, for the Balkan, Baltic, Visegrad and South-East Europe-Mediterranean regions. These seminars will serve to follow-up the implementation of the strategic recommendations agreed during the 3rd GE Congress, which took place in Zagreb in November 2015, and to monitor the progress of GDE in the region.

The 3rd Global Education Congress was the epilogue of a process initiated back in 2002, with the first GE Congress which established a European strategy framework for improving and increasing GE in Europe to the year 2015 (Maastricht 2002). Within this timeframe, progress was evident in networking strategies, capacity-building and in policy development, in particular through the adoption of the GE Recommendation by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, in 2011.

More recently, the focus was put on the post-2015 Agenda, and on the position of GDE in relation to recent advancements, in particular in relation to UNESCO Global Citizenship Education programme launched in 2013 and in relation to UN SDGs and Education 2030 framework. This reflexion was led, in preparation to the event, through a consultative process among institutional partners – namely CONCORD-DEEEP, GENE and UNESCO – and among NSC Global Education Week (GEW) national coordinators, GE practitioners and youth leaders. Based on the results of this consultation, a set of preliminary recommendations were drafted and guided the works during the Congress. The workshops, the panel discussions and plenary exchanges led to the endorsement of these recommendations in the field of National Strategy Development and Implementation; Curricula development; Professional Development of Educators; Quality support, Monitoring and Evaluation; Awareness Raising and Outreach.

The recommendations, together with the set of competences that workshops participants were invited to work on in the field of Intercultural & interfaith dialogue; Active citizenship; and Education & sustainability, serve as a basis for the NSC work for the coming three years.

¹ Ilegend-Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue - PA Grant agreement between the European Commission and the Council of Europe

Concretely, the set of competences will enable NSC to update its pedagogical tools (GE Guidelines; eLearning courses and training for trainers) while the Congress recommendations shall guide NSC advocacy work in the field of GE within CoE governing bodies and shall guide NSC policy-making strategy developed with its partners through the GE regional seminars planned in the Baltic, Balkan, Visegrad and South-East Europe & Mediterranean regions. These seminars will also serve to promote the CoE Competences for Democratic Culture project.

The NSC will keep its inclusive working methodology, involving institutional partners and stakeholders through a consultative process when outlining GE priorities and related activities, in line with the overall political context and directions taken by other stakeholders.

Objectives

Having the recommendations² of the Zagreb GE Congress; the conclusions of CoE Conferences of Ministers of Education; and the SDG 4.7 target monitoring scheme as an overarching framework, 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 and pedagogical resources);
- to identify common challenges in the SEE-Med 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 global 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 SEE-Med countries;
- to elaborate recommendations for furthering GDE in the SEE-Med countries and establish priorities, and if possible benchmarks.

² In the field of : 1) National Strategy Development and Implementation; 2) Curricula development; 3) Professional Development of Educators; 4) Quality support, Monitoring and Evaluation; 5) Awareness Raising and Outreach

Preliminary date

9-11 December 2016

Preliminary venue

Vitosha Park Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria

Preliminary list of participants

Participants will comprise key GDE stakeholders from each SEE-Med country (including whenever possible stakeholders involved in the previous regional seminar and in the Zagreb GE Congress), distributed as follows:

- 1 representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Agency³ (5)
- 1 representative from the Ministry of Education (5)
- 1 representatives from higher education, including teacher training institutes (5)
- 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](#) (25)
- 1 representative from the National youth Council (5)
- 1 representative from diaspora organisation (5)
- 1 representative from European Youth press (1)
- 1 representative/implementing partner of other regional GDE seminars (3)
- 1 teachers active in the GDE field (5)
- National and/or European parliamentarians (5)⁴
- 1 representative from the national platform for local authorities (members of the CoE [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#)) (5)
- Experts from the global North and South - workshop facilitators and a key note speakers (4)
- International organisations (4)
 - o CONCORD Board member (1)
 - o NSC representative (1)
 - o EC representative (1)
 - o Regional UNESCO/UNDP office, etc, (1)
- Organisers (5)

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. 80 participants.

³ When possible, in accordance with [GENE-Global Education Network Europe](#) representatives

⁴ Parliamentarian representatives within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly:
[Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

Main partners for organising the seminar

Regional Implementing partner:

Bulgaria Open Education Centre Foundation

Open Education Center is a leading NGO in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship and General Education developing New Educational Technologies, Models of Educational Changes Management, Programs for Civic Education, Professional Development of Teachers, Programs for Training and Development of School Boards and NGOs, with more than 50 publications on Civic Education. Working with Council of Europe, UNESCO and UNDP , Open Education Center have developed National and Regional Programs in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights Teaching, Intercultural Cooperation, Entrepreneurship Education, Education in Sustainable Development, etc. Open Education Center had facilitated the development of a Network of youth educational centers, which has become in a significant coalition for the educational changes in the country. The centers are independent NGO's with growing influence in the local communities. Open Education Center and the network Open Education organize trainings in all center's programs, in development of educational projects as well as training and consulting of NGOs.

Contact person: Virginia Valova virginia_valova@abv.bg

Regional Partner organisations:

CYINDEP-Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform

CYINDEP was established in 2009 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greek Cypriot NGDO Platform 'The Development' and the Turkish Cypriot Platform Cyprus NGO Network. This agreement and its accompanying Foundation Charter constitute the basis for the operation of CYINDEP, which aims to bring together NGOs working on international development, development education and development cooperation in order to improve the effectiveness of their work and advocacy.

Its mission is to bring together NGDOs working on international development issues and active global citizenship, to assist them in building their capacity, improve the effectiveness of their work and advocacy, as well as to network more effectively both locally and globally. CYINDEP is a member of the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD), of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

CYINDEP implemented an EU Presidency Project for the Cypriot EU Presidency in 2012 entitled 'Solidarity in Change – Development in a Time of Transition. CYINDEP was also the National Beneficiary for the European Year for Development 2015 National Work Programme for Cyprus.

CYINDEP is participating in the Interdisciplinary Committee of the Ministry of Education and Culture on Global/Development Education, while it has also established a good collaboration with the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contact person:

Kerstin Wittig Fergeson – President of the Board of CYINDEP

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Sophia Arnaouti – National Coordinator, Global Education Week Network

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SKOP – National platform of Maltese NGDOs

SKOP is the National Platform of Maltese NGDOs and is Malta's broadest network of voluntary and non-governmental organisations working in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid. SKOP was founded on 26 June 2001, on the initiative of Kopin (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta), and now has 15 members and 3 associate members. It is officially recognised by the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The Platform aims to improve Malta's contribution to international development cooperation by promoting the exchange of experiences, ideas and information amongst its members, between networks of NGOs in Malta and internationally. It also represents its members with the Maltese Government and other Maltese bodies with an interest in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

As an active founder-member of the pan-European NGDO confederation CONCORD, SKOP has a key role in advocating with the European Union about its development policy. It is also a member of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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FOND – Romanian NGDO Platform

FOND strategy aims at supporting and developing awareness campaigns targeted both for the general public and for the public institutions involved in programming and giving assistance for development and relief, working in close contact with organizations and local experts from the older and newer EU member states. In order to achieve all these objectives, FOND aims to develop its members' capacity and to establish the framework for dialogue and real partnership with all the relevant national governmental institutions and European actors. FOND members are active in the fields of Development Education, Education and professional training, Democracy and Good Governance (including Human Rights and Child Protection) and Health, and cooperate with neighbouring countries (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine).

FOND is a member of CONCORD, of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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SLOGA – Slovenian NGDO Platform

SLOGA, the umbrella organisation for 41 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. SLOGA operates through the following working groups and fields of work: Development Education; Policy; Global Volunteering; Africa; Reproductive Health Rights; Western Balkans; Food Security.

SLOGA is a member of CONCORD, of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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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.

Draft Programme

Day 1

Introduction

- Implementing partner
- Host authorities
- European institutions (NSC & EC)

Plenary

- Recommendations of the Zagreb GE Congress strategic recommendations
- Key note speeches from representatives of SEE-Med countries on GDE achievements and perspectives in relation to the reports and key findings of previous regional seminars.

National GDE strategies

- Parallel workshops addressing the multistakeholders groups participants (institutions, teachers, NGOs) on the areas of: 1) National Strategy Development and Implementation; 2) Curricula development; 3) Professional Development of Educators; 4) Quality support, Monitoring and Evaluation; 5) Awareness Raising and Outreach

Open space & workshop fair

Day 2

Plenary session

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

Continuation of parallel workshops

Open space & workshop fair

Day 3 morning

Plenary session

- Presentation of the main findings from the workshops and recommendations for future regional collaboration

Evaluation and closing of seminar

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.

Background documentation

The background documents for the seminar are:

- ✓ **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 **GE Recommendation, Strasbourg 2011;**
- ✓ White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue: **“Living Together As Equals in Dignity”**
Strasbourg, *Strasbourg 2008*

Regional background documentation (*to be completed by regional partners*)...