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Baltic Regional Seminar on Global Development Education

Follow-up meeting

Vilnius, Lithuania

30 May 2017

Draft Concept Note

In partnership with:



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



LAPAS LATVIJAS PLATFORMA
ATTĪSTĪBAS SADARBĪBAI

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 Baltic region.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Short introduction to the activity

The follow-up meeting of the Baltic Regional Seminar on GDE (Tallinn, October 2016) will bring together approximately 20 practitioners and decision-makers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to assess the level of implementation of the recommendations agreed in Tallinn in the field of GDE policy and curricula development, pedagogical support and advocacy, in accordance with Zagreb Congress strategic recommendations.

Each national delegation shall include six to seven participants representing formal/non-formal education sector; CSO platform; local authorities; Ministry of Education (MoE) and/or of Foreign Affairs (MFA); parliamentary commissions on education and the national coordinator of the NSC GE network. These delegations correspond to national multistakeholder task forces established at national level to facilitate the monitoring process along the year through regular mid-term meetings and a regular consultation process.

During the one-day follow-up meeting, and based on Tallinn seminar report and on the outcomes of the annual task-force meeting(s), participants will review the state of advancement of Tallinn recommendations through three sessions dedicated to Policy Making and Curricula Development; Professional development of educators and quality support; Awareness raising and pedagogical tools.

Targeted outputs:

- Progress made in relation to Tallinn's GDE regional seminar recommendations is measured and issues at stake are identified;
- Strategies for the recognition and promotion of GDE developed since are shared;
- Complementarities between existing education national policies and the Zagreb Congress strategic recommendations and with CoE framework of competences for democratic culture are acknowledged;
- A monitoring calendar, with benchmarks, is agreed until the next follow-up meeting in 2018.

Targeted outcomes:

- Common challenges and practices in GDE in the Baltic countries are identified and regular national follow-up meetings of the multistakeholder task forces are agreed;
- GDE as an integral part of education and of development policy is promoted through regular assessment of the progress made in the field of Policy Making and Curricula Development;
- Opportunities to develop joint action and collaboration within and beyond the Baltic countries are discussed and planned through regular meetings between the regional NSC GE network coordinators;
- Recommendations and priorities for furthering GDE in the Baltic countries are established and benchmarked until 2018.

Targeted group(s):

- Formal and non-formal educators;
- CSO platform;
- Local authorities¹;
- Ministries (MoE and/or MFA)²;
- Parliamentary commissions on education³;
- 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.

¹ In accordance with the CoE [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#)

² When possible, in accordance with [GENE-Global Education Network Europe](#) representatives

³ In accordance with the CoE Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: [Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

VENUE

Amberton Hotel

PROGRAMME – 30 May

08h30 Registration

09h00 Introduction

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

10h00 Coffee-break

11h00 Parallel workshops

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

14h15 Parallel workshops

16h00 Coffee-break

16h30 Parallel workshops conclusions

17h30 Plenary session

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

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 Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2011\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on education for global interdependence and solidarity, Strasbourg 2011;
- Council of Europe [framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, Strasbourg 2016](#)
- White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue: [“Living Together As Equals in Dignity”](#) Strasbourg, 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

Eesti People to People (Estonia)

Eesti People to People is a Non-Profit Organization registered in 1997 and with activities since 1993 as a chapter of People to People International (PTPI) NGO. The purpose of People to People aims to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures.

Contact persons: Ruta Pels, President: ruta.pels@mail.ru

LAPAS - Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation

The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) was established in 2004, the same year when Latvia joined the European Union. LAPAS unites Latvian NGOs, which believe that Latvia's transition experience to a democratic market economy can be useful to others. LAPAS also promotes NGO participation in development cooperation and coordinates Latvia's efforts in development education.

Contact person: Inese Vaivare, Director: Inese.vaivare@gmail.com

Lithuanian Children & Youth Center, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania

The Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre organize different events, competitions and actions related to actual themes of with Global Education: Global Education Week (GEW) and Global Action Week (GAW). These events annually involve more than 20 000 participants (schoolchildren, students, children from pre-school institutions, teachers) from all over the country.

Contact persons:

Dalia Navikiene - Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre, Deputy Director: Dalia.Navikiene@lvjc.lt

Algimantas Simaitis - Ministry of education and science, Chief Specialist of non-formal education division: Algimantas.Simaitis@smm.lt

Updated background information on GDE in Baltic countries

▪ Estonia

Estonian Ministry of Education works on the curricula development and on the new study program for human rights education, and Global Education will be a part of it. Meetings with experts from other ministries (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Social Affairs) were already held. Global Education working group of AKÜ (Arengukoostöö Ümarland - Round Table for development education, or Estonian National platform) discussed their own proposals and recommendations and will analyse new study program and make comments on it. There is ongoing discussion around terminology: "global education" or "global citizenship education". Experience of Finland in the field of GE has also been discussed.

The main stakeholders dealing with GDE in Estonia are Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Arengukoostöö Ümarland - Round Table for development education - and its members. Global Education working group of AKÜ is coordinator between these stakeholders.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is main donor for small scale projects on development and humanitarian aid. [Estonia is donor](#) for Afghanistan, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus at the moment.

Global Education working group of AKÜ is working at the moment on Manifesto during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2017 with the aim to send the key messages of civil society sector for development cooperation. It is an opportunity to discuss what the challenges are and what we as civil society want to do for a better world. The samples for discussions are [Latvian manifesto in 2015](#) and [Slovak manifesto in 2016](#).

AKÜ will organise couple of World Day festivals this spring in Tartus, Jõhvi and Pärnu for awareness raising about GE in Estonia. First festival will be in Tartu on April 29 in the frame of Students Days.

▪ Latvia

Policy framework development

There has not been any policy development progress recently.

Global Development Education has been mentioned by the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science as a part of the competency policy in formal education, however there are still no actions taken in order to centralize specific measures to accumulate knowledge and practice of the NGOs work in this field for more than 10.

At the practical level there is ongoing cooperation with the National Centre of Education under the Ministry of Education and Science, the representatives of the Centre take active part in DEAR projects and activities. Partly GDE policy lies within the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a part of its communication policy on the global sustainable development. Small amount of co-financing for DEAR projects (up to 20 000 EUR per year in total) is available in the budget of development cooperation policy. Also some specific activities like yearly movie month in regions and the World's Best News Day implemented by National Development Platform LAPAS are supported by small grant by the MFA but with each year resources devoted for GDE activities are asked to be diminished.

Ongoing lack of the ownership by the state authorities and weak recognition of the role of the civil society in boosting global development competencies is leading to the downshift of the NGOs working in the field of GDE due to constant lack of the resources.

In order to get political support for GDE NGOs have been seeking for allies in the National Parliament and even though as in all other government institutions, Parliamentarians also show weak knowledge of GDE issues, some of them have shown interest to meet with GDE NGOs and talk over possible cooperation.

Capacity building of NGOs

NGOs working in the field of GDE has established permanent GE working group under the National Platform in 2013, which meets few times a year to share best practice and develop common GE events.

One of the central events is the Global Education Week growing its strength with each year. As it does not have any additional resources, it mainly consists of the events organised by GE NGOs within different projects. The central event of the week is the workshop for all stakeholders who share their DEAR activities. Although, there are many ongoing activities in the field of GDE implemented by NGOs, they are fragmented and depending on the resources raised.

The negative impact of the change on the rules by EuropeAid DEAR call has put many NGOs in low capacity situation to continue their activities. As global issues are not on high agenda in national NGO calls (and have never been), there are very few resources available to continue.

Overall it is expected that Latvia will face downshift of NGOs working with GDE issues due to constant lack of political support and reduction of resources available at EU level.

Looking beyond

In order to sustain their practice, NGOs have been looking to change their priorities and have focused on SDGs agenda as the main instrument to cover GDE issues. Still SDGs have been implemented very formally with very low involvement of NGOs and society.

SDGs perspective has helped to strengthen multistakeholder cooperation and establish alliances between development NGOs, environmental NGOs, local and global NGOs and other players. UNESCO NC has been active to cooperate with NGO sector, as well as Environmental Protection Fund by mainstreaming SDGs in their project call. Foreign embassies of countries taking strong leadership on implementation of the SDGs have expressed their interest to cooperate.

Some activities at global level like Partnership Agreements between EC and NGO platforms (naming CIVICUS and IFP as ones of Latvian participation) serve as a tool to get integrated in global level actions. Still they give limited benefit as there are no resources at national level to implement.

Recently positive news of new DEAR project lead by Finland on boosting GDE has been announced. This project would give new opportunity to ensure some specific tools to support Latvian NGOs.

Strategic priorities

Taking into account resources available, main action in the near future would be:

- finding political supporters in the National Parliament;
- getting on policy agenda in the Ministry of Education and Science;
- raise of national co-funding of DEAR projects;
- boosting SDGs agenda in the NGO community and political level;
- continuity of coordination of sharing of best practice;

- continuity of traditional events to raise GDE capacity in the regions - GEW, WBN day, movie month.

Recent tools available

- Impact of international tax policy on global, national and local development www.godiginodoklivosiem.lv - EuropeAid DEAR (LAPAS in cooperation with ActionAid UK and 20 other partners). Materials: videos and research, sent to all secondary schools and vocational schools in Latvia, promoted internationally and in National TV and online newspapers, social media.
- Campaign on the Freedom of the Speech (May-June 2017 - available on www.lapas.lv in May) - Europe for Citizens (LAPAS in cooperation with platforms from Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia)

▪ **Lithuania**

On the 13th of December, Lithuanian parliament Seimas approved the programme of the new government formed by the coalition between the Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union and the Social Democratic Party. The parliamentary vote completed the government formation process that started after the second round of the Seimas election on the 23rd of October. On 13th of December the new government programme was approved.

The government is identifying coherence as the basic objective of development. The government is identifying coherence as the basic objective of development. Lithuania is planning to develop coherence among both the individual, human level as well as the public, state and economical level, through different areas – sustainable human and society, sustainable education and culture, sustainable and public administration. Among the activities, which were envisaged in governmental programme implementation action plan there were interlined activities related to the Global education issues in a broad sense such as:

- Implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the public administration field and community life, by raising public environmental awareness, involving citizens and non-governmental organizations in decision-making, shifting the ecological principles to the public sector.
- Updating educational environment and content of pre-school, general education programmes; adapting it to the pupils with different educational needs, integrating sustainable development, creativity, entrepreneurial and STEAM competencies to educational content.
- Creation of the teacher training, professional development and career system.

Committee of education and science at the Lithuanian Parliament started to discuss the National Agreement on the framework of changing the general content of education. This discussion should be finalized till the end of May. There are intentions to include sustainable development and global competencies to this framework. The questions of teachers' professional development will be included into the framework as well. Additional programme on global education is not planned; however there is a goal to integrate GE issues into the school curriculum.

Ministry of foreign affairs in December 2016, organised national conference with the purpose to summarize Lithuanian development cooperation initiatives, implemented in 2016. The topic of this conference was – Sustainable development goals 2030: contributions and responsibilities of Lithuania. During this event, projects, which are contributing to implementation of the goals, related to quality of education and peace, justice and strong institutions were presented.

After the conference there was an informal round-table discussion with the representatives of organizations, which are implementing projects, and representatives of organizations from partner countries. During the discussions the importance of Lithuanian embassy was highlighted. It is essential to have Lithuanian embassy's support in spreading the information on various issues and helping to solve the problems, which are rising during the implementation of development cooperation activities in partner countries. The participants agreed to continue to promote mutual dialogue and to search for more effective tools for the dissemination of information and coordination of activities.