

Global Education Network

Annual Meeting 2023

Lisbon (Portugal), 16-17 May 2023

Concept note

The GEN Annual Meeting 2023 is part of *iLEGEND III: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2022-2026)*, Joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe: co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The overall objective of the project is to increase the active engagement of EU member States, candidates and potential candidate countries' citizens (in particular young people) in safeguarding sustainable development and confronting global challenges and inequalities at local and global level.

Co-funded
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Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

Background

Implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and building on previous editions, [iLEGEND III](#) aims at mobilising commitment to sustainable development in Europe by promoting Global Education (GE) as an interdisciplinary approach that supports learners with the values, attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary in the 21st century to reflect, understand, and assume individual responsibility for social, ecological, political, economic, and ethical issues of common concern. iLEGEND III intends to bridge the formal and non-formal sectors of education to better align them to the underlying principles of GE. To monitor, learn from, and evaluate progress in the field of GE, the project continues to rely on a Network of National Coordinators: the [Global Education Network](#) currently comprises 40 national coordinators from Council of Europe member States plus Morocco (North-South Centre member State), representing CSOs platforms or Ministries of Education and/or Youth. iLEGEND III reinforces its advocacy dimension through a continued support to the national coordinators of the GEN, and through the enlargement of the GEN to a dual national representation (institutional/practitioner). Every year, during the first quarter of the year, the GEN meets physically with the following objectives: to assess national progress on the year before; to evaluate the preceding GEW and agree on the priorities and roadmap for the next one; to share feedback on the progress and upcoming milestones of iLEGEND III.

Objectives of the Annual Meeting

- To present the main findings of iLEGEND II and to introduce the new elements of iLEGEND III
- To reflect on the nature of the GEN
- To assess the GEW 2022 edition and set the basis for 2023 one.
- To get in touch with different Portuguese initiatives from civil society and institutions focused on intercultural and interfaith dialogue

Content of the Annual Meeting

- iLEGEND project: assessment iLEGEND II, new elements iLEGEND III
- The GEN: the ToR, rights and duties as GEN National Coordinator, dual representation, financial support to GEN, advantages of GEN through the NSC (FE and NFE dimension, access to Global South, strong youth dimension), turnover in GEN NCs
- GEW and communication issues
- Local visits organised by Plataforma Portuguesa ONGD

Methodology and working methods

The methodological approach of the GEN Annual Meeting is based on the [Global Education Guidelines](#), systematised by the North-South Centre, applying the [CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture \(RFCDC\)](#). Through a non-formal learning approach, collaborative and interactive activities and exercises will allow participants to contribute to both the expected results of the Meeting and their own learning process. Two facilitators will accompany participants during the activity, supporting their learning process, providing feedback, moderating discussion, giving inputs, and promoting further reflections on the main content of the Meeting. On the second day of the Meeting a visit to a local reality in Lisbon, working on the main topics of the Thematic Seminar 2023, is foreseen.

For the newcomer NCs, a preparatory online meeting is offered by the NSC, to update them about the last developments of the GEN.

Participants in the GEN Annual Meeting

35 GEN representatives, NSC representatives, 2 trainers/facilitators

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, more commonly known as [North-South Centre](#), is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the [Council of Europe](#) created in November 1989. The North-South Centre was the result of a European public campaign which aim was to raise public awareness of the complex structural relationship which affected European and Southern countries, and to promote policies of solidarity. The North-South Centre has over 30 years of experience in raising awareness about global interdependence and solidarity on the principles of global education and intercultural dialogue. It provides a platform for constructive dialogue between Europe and other parts of the world from a win-win perspective. The North-South Centre gathers people from different backgrounds and cultures to learn from each other and together build stronger, more resilient, and critically aware societies grounded on the values of human rights, democracy, and equity. In doing so, the North-South Centre acts as an interface of the Council of Europe in Europe and abroad, a window to the South, and an instrument of its policy towards neighbouring regions.

The North-South Centre develops multilateral, regional, and interregional cooperation projects that include field activities around three main programmatic areas: [global education](#), [youth cooperation](#) and [women empowerment](#). The main mechanisms of intervention are:

- Advocacy and confidence-building: encouraging a structured dialogue among elected representatives and other sectors of society to act on legislation for everyone to enjoy their universal rights in a more sustainable planet.
- Capacity building: expanding expertise, knowledge and critical understanding through dialogue, peer education and intercultural learning.
- Awareness-raising: spreading the message that every individual has a role and responsibility in building inclusive and sustainable societies.

The activities of the North-South Centre gather four main partners: governments, parliaments, regional and local authorities, and civil society. The latter is especially relevant to the work of the North-South Centre, which aims at taking its lead from experiences at the grassroots level by empowering, supporting, and working hand in hand with civil society, in particular with women and youth organisations.

The Global Education Programme

Global Education “*opens people’s eyes and minds to the realities of the world and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all; [...] global education is understood to encompass Development Education, Human Rights Education, Education for Sustainability, Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education; being the global dimension of Education for Citizenship*”¹. The Global Education Programme is aimed at bringing together different stakeholders, among which are practitioners and institutional representatives, to strengthen global development education through the means of intercultural learning, dialogue, and networking in the Council of Europe’s member States and its neighbouring regions. As of present, its main activities fall under the framework of the iLEGEND project: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue, a joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe. iLEGEND aims at strengthening global education and global development education where it is least established in the EU member States, candidate and potential candidate countries, by promoting multi-stakeholders advocacy and networking strategies, capacity building and exchange of education good practices. The primary beneficiaries and stakeholders include formal and non-formal educators and academia, civil society organisations, and members of the quadrilogue, amongst others. The programme unfolds through three pillars:

- Advocacy (through multistakeholder experts’ meetings and policy recommendations)
- Capacity-building (offering pedagogical resources, online and onsite trainings)
- Awareness-raising and networking (through campaigning, interactive webpage, and online data base)

¹ Maastricht Global Education Declaration, 2002