

## Global Education Week 2023

### Concept Note

*“Global Education is education that enables people to reflect critically on the world and their place in it; to open their eyes, hearts and minds to the reality of the world at local and global level. It empowers people to understand, imagine, hope and act to bring about a world of social and climate justice, peace, solidarity, equity and equality, planetary sustainability, and international understanding. It involves respect for human rights and diversity, inclusion, and a decent life for all, now and into the future.”*

The Dublin Declaration (2022)  
the European Declaration on Global Education to 2050

Global Education Week has been celebrated for more than 20 years. In this time, there have been many achievements thanks to collective efforts, but obstacles remain in countering global issues. The challenges of today's world are increasingly diverse and require, more than ever, critical thinking, solidarity and resilience as essential elements of global citizenship. Global Education Week takes place every year in the third week of November. From 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the North South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Global Education Network will celebrate Global Education's ability to address the complexity of the world and respond to its interconnectedness. This unique international event offers infinite possibilities of participation, and aims at developing learning communities for an active global citizenship. Following the same structure used in previous years (a specific theme for the GEW, focused on any of the Five Development Pillars), the National Coordinators of the Global Education Network decided to focus the main theme of the GEW 2023 on 2 Ps, *planet* and *peace*. The motto for this 2023 edition is: *“Peace for the planet. A planet of peace”*.

The interconnections between *planet* and *peace* (that with Global Education form a kind of triangle of “sustainability”), are well highlighted for instance by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), that recognises that climate change has significant implications for global peace and security.

This nexus between climate change and peace is usually addressed focusing on violent conflicts, migrations and wars, on how they negatively undermine peace. One example is the *scarcity of resources*: simply looking at the higher and higher temperatures of the last seasons, that are causing countless extreme weather events (such as droughts, floods, etc.), it is evident that water will be (and actually already is) one of the main causes for conflicts; or our mobile devices, with their rare metals, such as coltan, lithium or nickel, are the main cause of conflicts in specific regions of the world. Generally speaking, the *military industry* has a strong impact at environmental level: a recent estimate from CEOBS and Scientists for Global Responsibility suggests that militaries are responsible for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions<sup>1</sup>, making a significant contribution to the climate crisis. But this is only an estimate, and does not include the emissions resulting from warfighting.

The link between climate change and peace can be also explored putting the emphasis on how this phenomenon impacts other forms of social conflict or crime<sup>2</sup>. More in general, *socio-environmental conflicts*

<sup>1</sup> <https://militaryemissions.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Ayyoob Sharii, Dahlia Simangan and Shinji Kaneko (2021) [“Three decades of research on climate change and peace: a bibliometrics analysis”](#), accessed on 23 August 2023.

are defined as mobilisations by local communities, social movements, which might also include support of national or international networks against particular economic activities, infrastructure construction or waste disposal/pollution whereby environmental impacts are a key element of their grievances<sup>3</sup>. Peace and sustainable development are actually two sides of the same coin, but the relationship between the positive dimension of peace and more local manifestations of environmental sustainability, remain grossly under-examined.

The [Institute for Economics and Peace \(IEP\)](#) identifies two conceptions of peace: *negative peace* (or actual peace), and *positive peace*. *Negative peace* is understood as *the absence of violence or fear of violence*, an intuitive definition that many agree with, that allows us to measure peace more easily. Coined by Johan Galtung, *positive peace* refers to the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies based on eight factors: well-functioning government, sound business environment, acceptance of the rights of others, high levels of human capital, low levels of corruption, equitable distribution of resources, free flow of information, and good relations with neighbours. Positive peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies; it is also associated with many other social characteristics that are considered desirable, including better economic outcomes, measures of well-being, levels of inclusiveness and environmental performance.

Youth have been at the forefront of efforts to demand urgent action on sustaining peace and addressing climate change. Young people's vision on peacebuilding and sustainable development revolves precisely around the notion of positive peace: it includes positive visions of free and democratic societies with environments conducive to development and dignity, which address social, political, and structural inequalities, including climate justice.

*Global Education Week is a world-wide campaign implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the [Global Education Network](#) in the framework of the [iLEGEND III](#), a joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe: co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe. It aims to raise awareness on Global Education as a tool for solidarity and change and contribute for a more sustainable, peaceful and equitable world.*

*The activities organised in the framework of Global Education Week are the sole responsibility of the organisers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Council of Europe.*



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<sup>3</sup> <https://ejatlas.org/>