Template for Management Response and Action Plan

Name of Evaluation Report:	**External Evaluation of the Joint Project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "iLEGEND III: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2022-2026)", implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe**		
Date of Evaluation Report:	**02/09/2026**	**Date of Action Plan:**	**16/10/2026**

Overall management response to the evaluation: The North-South Centre (NSC) welcomes the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation and appreciates the forward-looking approach of the project's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and added value. The NSC agrees with the evaluation's overall conclusions that the programme is relevant and delivers its outputs reliably; that generates distinctive added value that is clearly recognised by external partners, value that derives from the NSC's Global South mandate, its neutral convening role, and the normative authority of Council of Europe standards. On the other hand, the NSC agrees that results beyond the activity level remain plausible but unproven, confirming that causal logic is strongest at the lower levels and becomes progressively weaker toward the top; that the activity schedule is too dense for the efficient use of its staff resources, and that the quadrilogue methodology should be reconsidered.

The evaluation provides timely and practical guidance for the upcoming new cycle of the project (2026-2030). The project team is including the recommendations in the design of the new proposal, as they consider the recommendations realistic and aligned with the DEAR Programme scope.

Dissemination plan for the evaluation:

The evaluation report has been already shared with the donor (European Commission's International Partnerships Directorate - DG INTPA) who manages the funds (the DEAR Programme). The main findings of the evaluation report will be shared with the Global Education Network (GEN) (one of the main target groups of the project), project partners and other relevant stakeholders.

The main dissemination will be through email and NSC website. A residential presentation will be held during the iLEGEND III final event, scheduled on the 3rd and 4th of November 2026 in Andorra.

Timeframe: Within six months following the finalisation of the evaluation report.

Responsible: Project team.

Management Decision[1]	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions[2] (determined by Entity)	Justification[3] for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action	Priority Level (High/Medium)
Recommendation 1: Resolve the quadrilogue coherently.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	In the next cycle of the project the "quadrilogue approach" methodology has not been included. It is still included in the NSC approach, but it has not been included in the next DEAR Programme's project; instead, to be consistent we refer to Public Authorities - CSO, two levels of governance we outreach in our activities.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	High
Recommendation 2: Institutionalise the network.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	In the next cycle of the project the "institutionalisation" of the Global Education Network has been included as measure for ensuring its sustainability, and an indicator has been included in the logframe for assessing the institutional commitment		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	High

[1] The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Partially accepted, Rejected).
[2] For implementing accepted recommendations.
[3] For recommendations that are partially accepted or rejected.

Management Decision[1]	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions[2] (determined by Entity)	Justification[3] for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action	Priority Level (High/Medium)
		towards the Global Education Network.				
Recommendation 3: Restore small grants with the safeguards already proven to work.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	In the next cycle of the project a sub-granting scheme substitutes the service contract system. Following up on the recommendation, a clear guidance plan has been designed to support grantees in the application, implementation and reporting process.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	Medium
Recommendation 4: Build an alumni architecture.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	In the next cycle of the project a stable alumni architecture will be built, a community of practice, with clear steps for progressing from online to residential courses, to active training and facilitation roles. This is a measure for ensuring the sustainability of the project.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	Medium

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Recommendation 5: Strengthen measurement and data quality.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC with DIO	For the new cycle of the project a proper M&E strategy has been set, with a particular emphasis on the quality, consistency and credibility of evidence, moving beyond the measurement of activities, participation figures and satisfaction levels to assess demonstrable changes in knowledge, competences, behaviours, organisational practices and cooperation arrangements, so to feed the higher levels of the logframe. The DIO has been consulted, but direct support in the action is outside the DIO's mandate.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	High
Recommendation 6: Optimise Southern access within the donor's participation requirements.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	The geographic participation ratios are set by the DEAR Programme, not by the NSC; nevertheless, for the next cycle project concrete measures		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	Medium

Management Decision[1]	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions[2] (determined by Entity)	Justification[3] for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action	Priority Level (High/Medium)
		have been set to improve the *quality* of access to the planned activities for participants from the Global South.				
Recommendation 7: Consolidate the portfolio.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	The new cycle of the project has more funds allocated, so it will still have a relevant number of activities. Nevertheless, in order to have enough human resources allocated, more staff of the NSC will be actively involved in the implementation of the activities.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	High
Recommendation 8: Agree a complementary division of labour with adjacent European global-education networks.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC with the EC	Under the coordination of DG INTPA, bilateral meetings will be scheduled in the next months with other EU platforms beneficiary of the DEAR programme, to clarify each organisation role, main field of intervention and target groups. Although so far there was not duplication of		28 February 2027	Next cycle project team	Medium

Management Decision[1]	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions[2] (determined by Entity)	Justification[3] for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action	Priority Level (High/Medium)
		activities, the biggest beneficiaries of the DEAR Programme should agree in advance on potential synergies and avoid duplicated actions. The EC is consulted but is not responsible for this action.				
Recommendation 9: Mainstream gender, strengthen the procedural human rights approach and introduce an explicit vulnerable-group lens.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	The next cycle of the project will have a stronger gender dimension: gender balance among participants, trainers and speakers will be ensured; participation and results data will be disaggregated by gender and other relevant characteristics; inclusion and accessibility considerations into the planning of activities will be included; a dedicated Tutored Online Course on Gender Equality is envisaged, alongside the integration of gender perspectives into existing online and residential learning activities.		30 November 2026	Next cycle project team	High

Management Decision[1]	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions[2] (determined by Entity)	Justification[3] for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action	Priority Level (High/Medium)
		Besides the "gender specific" dimension, intersectional discrimination will be addressed in the new cycle of the project, due to the specificity of its target groups / beneficiaries (youth organisations and young people) and its geographical scope.				
Recommendation 10: Conduct a renewed needs analysis for the next phase.						
☒Accepted ☐Partially accepted ☐Rejected	NSC	The NSC has revisited the needs assessment for the project's next phase even if no external service was commissioned due to pressing deadlines. The NSC will commission a new target-group-specific needs analysis in 2029, so to be ready for the design of the following cycle of the project (2030-2034).		31 December 2029	Next cycle project team	Medium