

GLOBAL EDUCATION WEEK 2025 CONCEPT NOTE

“We urgently need to reimagine our futures together and take action to realize them. Knowledge and learning are the basis for renewal and transformation. But global disparities – and a pressing need to reimagine why, how, what, where, and when we learn – mean that education is not doing what it could to help us shape peaceful, just, and sustainable futures”.¹

UNESCO, Reimagining Our Futures Together: A New Social Contract for Education (2021)

GLOBAL EDUCATION AND GLOBAL EDUCATION WEEK

The [Global Education Week](#) is an international campaign that, since 2000, has mobilised policymakers, educators, and learners across Europe and beyond to raise awareness of the importance of global education as a key tool for building a more equitable and sustainable world. Global education promotes awareness, critical thinking, and responsible global citizenship, helping people to understand and address global challenges. Rooted in the principles of interdependence, equity, cultural diversity, and social justice, it also supports the protection of human rights by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and competencies to understand, claim, and advocate for their own rights and the rights of others.

The 2025 edition of Global Education Week will take place from 17 to 24 November under the theme “Shaping a Just, Peaceful, and Sustainable Future,” with the motto “Hope in Action”.

In line with the New European Consensus on Development, the 2025 annual theme, chosen by the National Coordinators of the Global Education Network (GEN), embodies the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership.²

GLOBAL EDUCATION WEEK 2025

Shaping A Just, Peaceful, And Sustainable Future - Hope In Action

Across the world, levels of anxiety, uncertainty, and hopelessness are rising, particularly among younger generations. One significant source of this concern is the increasing instability of global peace and security. Armed conflict between countries is seen as one of the biggest risks in 2025³ and, in recent years, more young people have expressed fear that their own country could become involved in war.⁴ Participation in elections continues to decline, while public protests on issues such as economic justice, climate change, and civil rights are becoming more frequent. This reflects a growing distrust in traditional institutions and a collective search for alternative ways to be heard and to create change. Another key factor behind this disillusionment is the climate crisis.⁵ Many people, especially younger generations, feel overwhelmed by the scale of environmental degradation and are experiencing eco-anxiety: a deep emotional response to the perceived lack of action in response to climate collapse. Feelings of powerlessness and fear about the future risk to weaken young people’s belief that they can make a difference, making them less likely to engage or take action.

¹ Report from the International Commission on the Futures of Education, [Reimagining Our Futures Together: A New Social Contract for Education](#) (UNESCO 2021) 7.

² See the [New European Consensus on Development](#).

³ World Economic Forum (2025), Global Risks Report 2025, Mark Elsner, Grace Atkinson, and Saadia Zahidi, 7-8

⁴ ILO, [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Decent Work, Brighter Futures](#) (ILO 2024) 61.

⁵ OECD, [Trends Shaping Education 2025](#) (OECD Publishing 2025) 11.

In this context, the rapid digital transformation of our societies presents both challenges and opportunities, acting as a potential risk and a valuable resource. This is also being addressed through the Council of Europe's [2025 European Year of Digital Citizenship Education](#).

Constant exposure to vast amounts of information, often contradictory or misleading, can intensify feelings of confusion and distrust. Widespread misinformation, the manipulation of public opinion, and growing polarisation reduce social cohesion and make it more difficult for individuals to actively engage in democratic life. At the same time digital transformation offers very powerful opportunities. It increases access to information, education and knowledge, stimulates economic growth through technological innovation and connects people around the world, encouraging cultural exchange, international cooperation and social inclusion.

When used critically and responsibly, digital tools can encourage participation, foster connections, and increase awareness. Therefore, it is essential to equip both older and younger generations with the skills and knowledge needed to benefit from digital technology. This involves raising awareness about effective digital use, promoting critical thinking, and encouraging responsible behaviour online.

In these challenging times, inspiring hope and encouraging people to take action for a better future is more important than ever. Hope fuels motivation, resilience, and creativity, all of which are essential for overcoming difficulties and driving positive change. Education plays a vital role in this process by providing the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to turn hope into action. It not only allows people to imagine a better world; it also gives them the confidence to see themselves as active contributors to that change.

The Global Education campaign is part of this collective effort. It empowers individuals and communities to first envision, and then actively shape, a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future. Through a variety of formal and non-formal learning opportunities, the Global Education Week creates inclusive spaces for reflection, dialogue, and active global citizenship. During this week, education is presented not only as a way to transmit knowledge, but also as a powerful process of personal and collective empowerment, giving both younger and older generations hope through action.

Global Education Week is an international 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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