



GLOBAL Education week 2023

REPORT

**Peace for the planet.
A planet of peace.**



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Introduction

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.

The North-South Centre's Global Education Network supports the implementation of the Global Education activities. The network encompasses key national level stakeholders, who want to share Global Education strategies and practices. The network builds its force on its diversity, enabling peer and intercultural learning between formal and non-formal educators, policy makers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). [Each National Coordinator](#) of the Global Education Network is responsible to promote, at national level, the Global Education Week.

In 2023, the actions of the Global Education Week focused on two of the five pillars of the [Agenda 2030](#) (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership). The slogan of this 2023 edition was: “**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. 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. Peace and sustainable development are actually two sides of the same coin.

Youth have been at the forefront of efforts to demand urgent action on sustaining peace and addressing climate change, with positive visions of free and democratic societies with environments conducive to development and dignity, which address social, political, and structural inequalities, including climate justice.



During the 2023 edition of the Global Education Week, over 20 countries took part and joined the campaign including Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye.

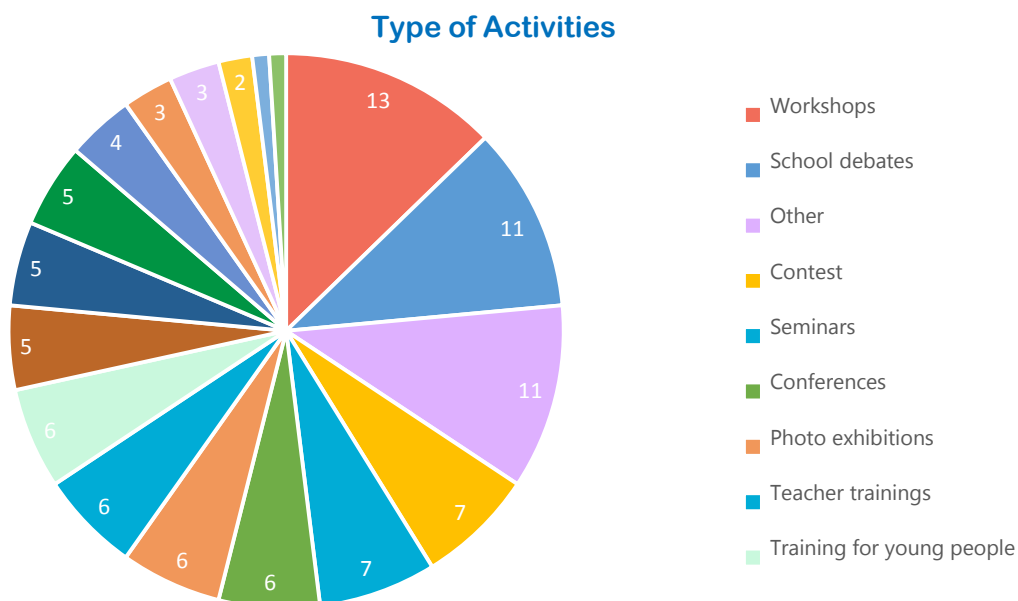
Overall Results

Please note the statistics and data are based on the information provided by the National Coordinators (20 respondents), and some details may be estimates or approximations.

Type of activities

This year's scope has been vast, including over 200 campaigns addressing various issues and more than 600 contests encouraging creative expression. With a focus on education, there have been over 220 school debates and numerous workshops, seminars, and conferences engaging both students and educators. The commitment to global awareness has been evident in events like international conferences and peace marches.

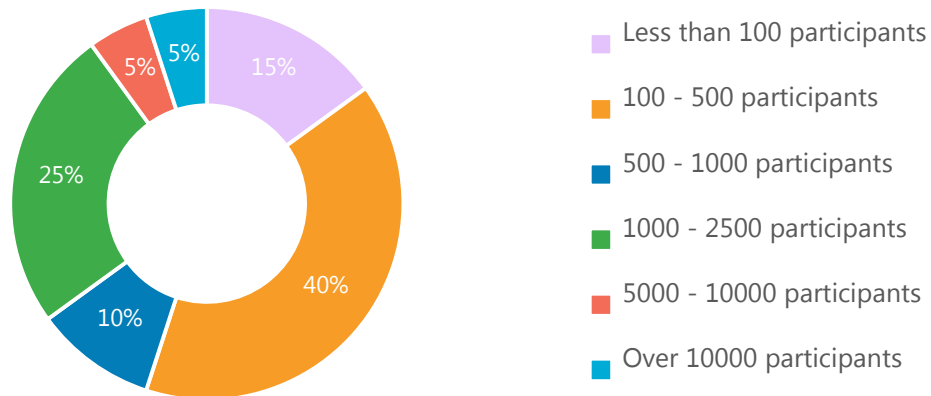
The most popular and widespread type of activities implemented during this year's Global Education Week were [Workshops](#) (13 countries), [School Debates](#) (11 countries) and [other formats](#) such as podcasts, flash mobs and escape games. Additionally, in line with the digital awakening that characterises youth and education, there has been [an increase in the use of modern tools like webinars and online debates](#). This year's campaign has proven to be a rich tapestry of initiatives aimed at fostering [awareness](#), [creativity](#), and [positive change](#).



Audience and Attendance

Overall, the total estimated number of participants, online and offline, is **312,667** across the 20 participating countries analysed in this report. The results from the survey reveal the diverse engagement levels across countries during the Global Education Week 2023. It's encouraging to see a substantial number of events with modest participation, showcasing grassroots involvement and local initiatives.

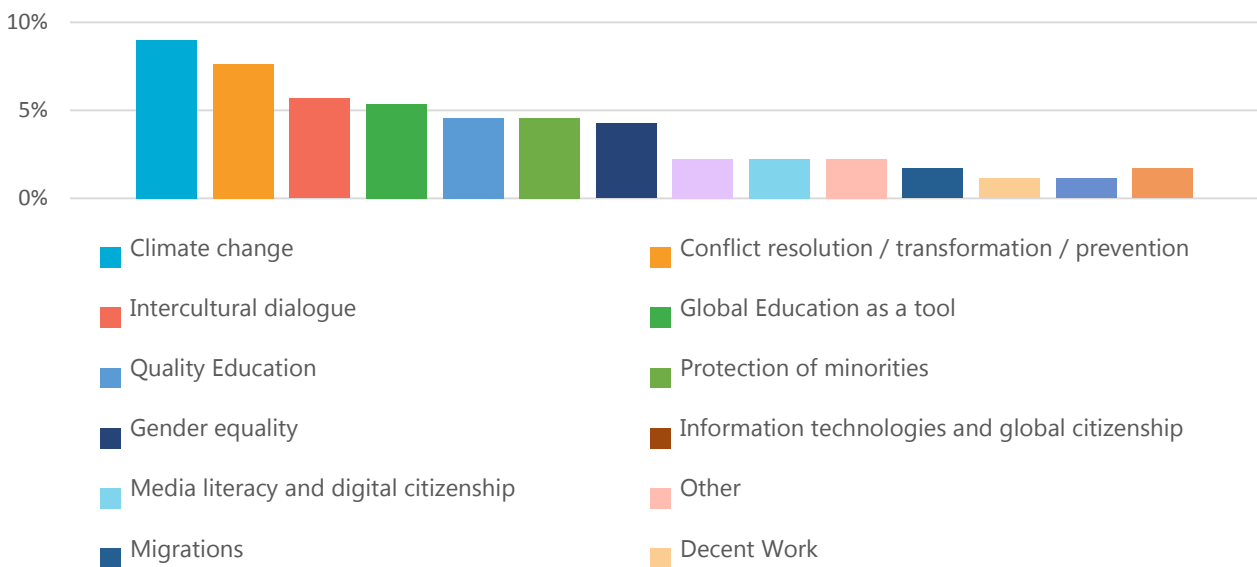
How many people took part in the GEW in your country?



Activity Focus

In the activities reported by the participating National Coordinators, 'environmental sustainability', 'climate change', and 'global education as a tool' were among the most frequently chosen themes, emphasizing the interconnected nature of global challenges and the need for a holistic and collaborative approach to address them.

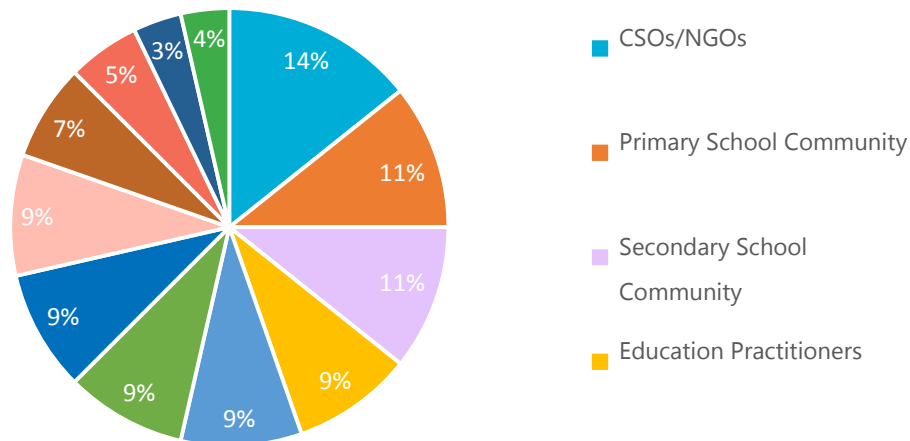
Main Topics of GEW activities



Target Groups

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were the primary target group that the activities intended to reach, followed by Primary and Secondary school communities (students and teachers). Ultimately, in third position came Education Practitioners and Educators, Governmental Representatives, and young people in general.

Target Groups



Highlights

It is worth highlighting some individual and collective achievements and successes as reported by the participating countries:

- 🌐 Effective and encouraging engagement, involvement and dialogues with participants and stakeholders (including Non-Governmental Organisations' involvement).
- 🌐 Significant impact and diversity observed in events and activities.
- 🌐 Strong social media involvement and interaction.
- 🌐 Timely dissemination of essential information and materials.
- 🌐 Appreciation for NSC support and accessibility.
- 🌐 Increased and successful awareness, knowledge, and acknowledgment of Global Education and the GEW2023 themes.

To summarise, the collaborative effort, marked by the [seamless organization and logistical support](#), stood out as a notable improvement from previous years. The [timely dissemination of visual materials](#) proved instrumental in easing the workload for participating organizations.

Through a well-executed campaign, participants, particularly young people, delved into [understanding the essence of the 2023 themes: Peace and Planet](#), conducting research, drawing logical conclusions, and engaging in vibrant discussions. Participants were not only well-involved but also actively transferred the acquired knowledge and experiences to their peers and adults. Notably,

there was a [keen interest in open education resources and materials](#), reflecting a growing curiosity about innovative educational approaches.

One of the remarkable outcomes that stands out was the revelation that many young people were unaware of Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Education Week thus served as a [powerful platform to raise awareness and inform participants about these crucial topics, sparking widespread interest and a collective desire to delve deeper into global education](#).

Spotlight on successful GEW events and activities

In the following chapter, we will spotlight a few of the GEW2023 activities. These activities vary in format, scale, focus, target audience and objectives. These activities aim to showcase the diversity of the events and initiatives carried out in the frame of the Global Education Week 2023.

All activities of the 2023 Global Education Week can be found and explored on [the dedicated North-South Centre of the Council of Europe website](#).

International Conference ‘Global Citizenship Education: From Research to Policy’ with SOLIDAR (joint event)

On the 16th of November, the international conference ‘Global Citizenship Education: From Research to Policy’ organised by [SOLIDAR Foundation](#) and [Centre for Peace Studies \(CPS\)](#) took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. The Global Citizenship Education (GCE) conference brought together policymakers, experts, and civil society representatives, to discuss the research and existing trends and challenges of GCE, as well as opportunities and ways to go forward at the policy level. Participating as speakers and panellists in the Conference were Rocío Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the [North-South Centre](#) and Lana Jurman, Centre for Peace Studies (CPS), Croatia.

The conference provided an opportunity to endorse the Joint Declaration of Advocacy by SOLIDAR Foundation. Some participating organizations, along with S&D MEP João Duarte Albuquerque, actively participated and expressed their commitment. Consequently, the Policy Recommendations on Global Citizenship Education, as outlined in the [Policy Paper](#), garnered support from various partners and organizations.

The conference proved successful as it gathered interest and showed dedication of different stakeholders to advocate for quality Global Citizenship Education in all Member States.

[Read more](#) about the Conference and its outcomes.

A Week for Peace (Croatia)

One standout occasion to spotlight was the Week of Peace held in the small town of Pleternica in Eastern Croatia—an event of considerable scale for this community. The primary school, along with its 11 smaller regional counterparts, actively participated, involving 640 students, 85 teachers, and 15 administrative staff. This comprehensive, whole-school approach stood out as a highlight, culminating in a remarkable Peace March that resonated with the local community.

The objective of the Peace March was profound: encouraging individuals to embrace their personal responsibility for peace and comprehend the repercussions of its absence. The procession, held on Friday, November 17th, became a platform to explore themes of peace, interconnectedness, and unity. Students showcased their commitment with creatively crafted banners celebrating life, love, and friendship while conveying powerful anti-war messages. The event not only left a lasting impact on the participants but also engaged the broader community in a collective reflection on the importance of peace.

Some of the other activities organised during the Week of Peace in Croatia included celebrating Kindness Day on Monday 13th by spreading kindness and complimenting each other; a student-adult swap-over where the students got to know the way adults work and remind adults of what it is like to be a child.

You can read more about the events held in Croatia [here](#).

Workshop “Microsoft Minecraft for Active Citizenship and Democratic Dialogue” (Cyprus)

The [Cyprus Pedagogical Institute](#) and [CARDET](#) organised a joint workshop on “Microsoft Minecraft for Active Citizenship and Democratic Dialogue” with the focus on Planet and Peace.

The goal for this workshop was for teachers to develop their digital skills and enrich their knowledge by exploring a wide range of topics through the Active Citizen module of Microsoft Minecraft:

- 🌐 Diversity and inclusion
- 🌐 Equality and social justice
- 🌐 Peace
- 🌐 Democracy and active participation

As National Coordinators, CARDET and CPI were able to provide informative seminars and workshops that showed a deep level of expertise in the field. In addition, the teachers who took part in the activities were able to exchange experiences and develop fresh concepts. Among the highlights was participants’ interest in learning more about open education resources and materials available, as well as how to use them in their classrooms. Lastly, overall, the events planned provided the opportunity to meet new people and discuss potential future collaborations.

Peace Schools Conference in Senedd ‘from Classroom to Community’ (United Kingdom)

On November 8th, the Senedd played host to the 8th annual Wales Peace Schools conference. The event warmly welcomed more than 100 students and educators representing 10 schools from South Wales, along with leaders from community youth groups. The focus of the conference was on the theme 'From Classroom to Community.' Throughout the day, participants engaged in a dynamic schedule of creative and participatory workshops, fostering a platform for sharing insights, projects, and educational experiences. Schools ranging from primary to further education levels actively contributed to the vibrant discussions and collaborative learning environment.

Read more on [the WCIA website](#).

On the 23rd of November, the WCIA also organized the 2023 Climate Simulation Event encouraging young people’s critical thinking, advocacy & diplomacy skills around global challenges including the Climate Crisis.

The Business Challenge Competition (Serbia)

In the “Business Challenge” Competition, 106 students were divided into teams and addressed a specific business challenge whilst coming up with innovative ideas to solve real-world problems. The teams then presented their business ideas to a jury and the audience. The competition sought scientific, technological, and engineering ideas that tackle important environmental topics such as agriculture, food, transport and city development.

The competition was organized by the [Youth Achievements in Serbia organization](#) with the financial support of the American Agency for International Development (USAID), the Ministry of Tourism and Youth, the NCR Foundation, the UniCredit Foundation and the Metropolitan University.

The "Business Challenge" Competition was launched with the intention of encouraging high school students to use their skills in an innovative way to improve their entrepreneurial spirit and increase their employment opportunities.

Some highlights and successes of the “Business Challenge” Competition include:

- The 106 high school students, gathered in 22 teams, met on the spot, and developed creative and sustainable business ideas with the support of business mentors.
- Teams worked on a task to design a product or service that will use the worldwide attention of the Paris Olympic Games to work on solutions within one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. Teams needed to do research whether a sports event, full sport stands, television broadcasts, mobile networking applications, athletes and fans can be part of the solution that will contribute to poverty reduction, more responsible production, and consumption of resources, securing energy from renewable sources or ways to take a step closer towards gender equality.

Read more about the “Business Challenge” Competition on [the event page](#).

Conference on “Circular Economy in Eco-Schools” (Montenegro)

On November 1st, the Conference "Circular Economy in Eco-Schools" was inaugurated by Mrs. Irena Pavlović, the acting Director of the Institute for Education, alongside the esteemed guest, Mr. Peter Felten, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This significant event, organised by the Bureau for Education Services under the E-space project, served as a platform to formally recognize new members of the international Eco-schools' network. These deserving recipients were honoured with the prestigious "Green flag" award and certificates highlighting their outstanding achievements.

During the conference, representatives from three schools showcased their best practices in implementing circular economy principles. The presentations shed light on the project's outcomes, emphasizing its role in fostering a sustainable environment. Discussions and speeches underscored the importance of addressing such themes and engaging in related activities to enhance the learning environment and instigate positive changes within the community.

The project "Circular Economy in Eco-Schools" was launched with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of the circular economy and its connection with the global goals of sustainable development, including the fight against climate change, the preservation of biodiversity and the reduction of environmental pollution.

Read more about [the Conference "Circular Economy in Eco-Schools"](#).

Global Classroom workshop (Hungary)

On November 16th, the [Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) (HAND Association) organised the 2023 edition of the Global Classroom workshop, focusing on the pressing issue of climate anxiety. Tailored for educators, psychologists, and professionals working with primary and secondary school students, this online event aimed to delve into various facets of climate anxiety.

The HAND Association's online workshop set out to achieve several objectives, including exploring the multifaceted dimensions of climate anxiety, defining its parameters, pinpointing affected demographics, and investigating conscious coping mechanisms. The event also sought to address the counteractive measures against its effects and shed light on the pivotal roles that professionals can assume in tackling this issue. Moreover, the gathering aimed to enrich participants' knowledge, raise awareness, and foster the exchange of professional experiences and best practices.

[The Global Classroom](#) emerged as a standout success during Hungary's Global Education Week. Participants overwhelmingly praised the event, particularly commending the insightful discussions with teachers and high school students about their personal experiences. This positive feedback underscores the event's impact and its significance in contributing to the broader discourse on climate anxiety. [Watch the recording of the online workshop.](#)

Webinar on “Transforming education to contribute to global citizenship and peaceful societies” (global)

In 2023 the Global Education week counted for the first time on the participation of international partner organisations, who organised an awareness-raising activity with a global outreach.

On November 16th, The [Ethics Education Fellowship](#) (a collaborative effort bringing together Arigatou International, the Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace, KAICIID, the Muslim Council of Elders, and UNESCO) organised a webinar on the topic [“Transforming education to contribute to global citizenship and peaceful and inclusive societies”](#).

Panellists, reflected on the importance of identifying opportunities to contribute to Global Citizenship Education through fostering inter-religious and intercultural learning and dialogue and on the importance of enhancing teachers' capacity to create transformative learning experiences for children. They emphasized the need for opportunities to dialogue, build relationships, and learn from interacting with those who are different. The discussions underscored the necessity for global citizenship education to permeate the entire education system, adopting a comprehensive whole-school and community approach.

The webinar, which included a presentation by the North-South Centre, as well an interactive discussion with participants, reached out to over 200 online participants from Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe.

Read more about the Webinar on the [event page](#) or watch the [recording on the webinar](#).

Recommendations

The National Coordinators faced a twofold challenge when it came to organising events. Firstly, they struggled with the disparity between registered participants and actual attendance, as the latter consistently lagged. The second [major hurdle involved engaging stakeholders effectively](#). Drawing participants to the events proved challenging, exacerbated by national holidays, which impeded promotional efforts on social media and other platforms.

The combination of these challenges demanded innovative strategies for boosting both registration numbers and participant engagement.

Based off the lessons learned and challenges faced by National Coordinators, a few recommendations and suggestions to the North-South Centre and the Global Education Network have been shared. National Coordinators have proposed several key recommendations to enhance the success of next year's Global Education Week (GEW).

Firstly, they [advocate for the implementation of specific sessions dedicated to sharing best practices and fostering collaboration](#), particularly aimed at newer National Coordinators. These sessions, conducted throughout the year, would focus on thematic discussions to enrich the coordinators' expertise.

Secondly, they emphasize the need to expand inter-country and sub-regional collaboration, suggesting joint projects, shared experiences, and sub regional initiatives for more effective GEW outcomes.

Thirdly, they stress the importance of increasing stakeholder and target audience involvement in the planning process to ensure broader participation and engagement.

Lastly, they propose incentivising involvement and participation by introducing diplomas, honours, or other symbolic rewards to boost the visibility and relevance of GEW activities.

These recommendations aim to address the challenges faced and further elevate the impact and reach of Global Education Week in the coming years.

Conclusions

Drawing on the findings of the analysis of the 2023 Global Education Week, the diversity of the events and activities was a particular highlight and success laying a solid foundation for further collaboration and activities for GEW2024.

The prominence of initiatives centered around the GEW2023 theme of Peace, encompassing subthemes like conflict resolution, transformation, and prevention, as well as intercultural dialogue, highlights the current global societal atmosphere. In times marked by conflict, war, and fragmentation, the significance of global education to attain peace and foster community is more crucial than ever. This sentiment resonates strongly in the conclusions made after the activities and events of this year's Global Education Week.

The National Coordinators shared enthusiastic reflections on the 2023 Global Education Week in their respective countries. They described the experience as engaging, interesting, and inspiring, highlighting the participatory nature of the events. The week was deemed not only fun but also instrumental in enhancing visibility for global education initiatives. Coordinators praised the excellent organization, fostering emulation among participants. The planned sessions, events and activities were praised for their varied and diverse content, making it a great experience for all involved. Importantly, the National Coordinators found the week to be useful, actively contributing to the promotion and advancement of global education as a tool for Peace and the Planet.

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