

Pan European Congress on Global Education – 31 May and 1 June 2022  
Council of Europe - Strasbourg

Welcoming words by Ambassador Manuel Montobbio, Chair of the Executive Committee of  
the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome!

Today this word gains a strong resonance!

A vibrant welcome to your presence here in Strasbourg and to all our fellows across borders who decided to follow and contribute remotely to our deliberations and thoughts.

Welcome for this celebration.

Twenty years ago, in Maastricht, during the first Pan-European Congress on Global Education, we initiated this captivating journey, with like-minded companions sharing the same conviction about the centrality of education to the well-being and longevity of our societies.

Sharing the conviction that this well-being is only attainable through cardinal values, such as respect of the other and respect of the common good.

Confident that Education transcends the act of transmitting knowledge and equally promotes democratic awareness and responsibility.

Sharing the certitude that moving towards more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable societies can only be achieved in consciousness with these democratic values.

Sharing the certitude that these values go beyond borders, are inherent to our human condition and are essential for our survival.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Participants,

We are here today to celebrate education and above all, educators.

We are here to celebrate your work, your fortitude, and your leadership, as pedagogues but also as the conveyors of democratic values.

I address these words of gratitude to you, here present, and to all who are following us across the globe.

With the growing consciousness of the need to join forces to deal with global challenges that have been putting at stake environmental sustainability and planetary stability, educators from all fields are the guarantors of change.

Change of paradigm, promoting dialogue, collaboration, and solidarity.

Your role is fundamental and today, like every day, our role is to support you in this noble task which is contributing to a world of peace and justice for all.

We are honoured to engage in this reflection along these two days, learn from you, consider your expectations, and needs, and work together so that innovative educational models become real and contribute to an active and reasoned citizenship.

The outputs of the deliberations today and tomorrow will contribute to celebrate successful practices, identify issues at stake, and establish some benchmarks for our continued work, beyond the congress.

Allow me to celebrate this joint work, associating educators, civil society actors, youth leaders and decision-makers through a peer and intercultural learning process.

I am honoured to open the discussion of this fourth Global Education Congress.

Thank you all for your presence and awaited contributions.