



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZUNANJE ZADEVE

# CONCEPT PAPER

## South-East Europe & Mediterranean Regional Seminar on Global Development Education

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

in collaboration with

SLOGA, Slovenian NGDO platform,  
Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and other NGDO platforms from the region

**4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

### Collaboration between the NGO platforms:

- Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID)
  - Bulgarian Open Education Center (OEC)
- Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform (CYINDEP)
  - Malta Solidarnost u Koperazzjoni (SKOP)
- Romanian Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Dezvoltare (FOND)
  - Slovenia Global Action (SLOGA)



## Background Information on the Countries of the South East Europe and Mediterranean region

In 2008 a Joint Management Agreement (JMA) was signed between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission for raising awareness of global interdependence and solidarity through global/development education and youth cooperation in Europe and beyond.

In the framework of this JMA, a series of national and regional seminars were organised in the new EU member states between 2009 and 2011. These seminars brought together different stakeholders, among practitioners and policy-makers, with the aim to discuss the situation of global/development education in the respective country and to promote national policy recommendations and practices.

The assessment of this initiative, made in 2012, revealed the following key-findings:

Overall an interest in GE/DE in the South East Europe region could be noticed, especially among teachers and education practitioners. Yet this has not been accompanied by an adequate institutional commitment towards supporting and strengthening GE/DE. Given the lack of investment and institutional support in the field, the civil society sector is not sufficiently strong to lead the process of GE/DE policy development. As a result a long term planning at the level of policy and national education reform is still to be encouraged.

In **Bulgarian** formal educational system GE or DE are not parts of the curriculum. Citizenship education, as a component of different school subjects contains some of the thematic areas of GE and DE, such as human rights, knowledge for active citizenship etc. Through citizenship education and through school subjects, such as geography and economics, philosophy, history, GE and DE are incorporated in the curriculum and are more recognized among teachers. Even with the qualitative difference which GE and DE brings to teaching, these remain, sporadic attempts implemented by innovative and open minded school principals and teachers. Lately, along with citizenship education, also health education, education for sustainable development, and intercultural education are included in the language of a draft of a new Law on Education which is still under discussion. One more step from the CSOs and Ministry side is needed for GE and DE to become part of this new wording.

Among the Mediterranean countries, **Cyprus** has a longer tradition in development cooperation and aid. In spite of its 2006/2010 Medium Term ODA Strategy, Cyprus does not have a proper GE/DE strategy. There is continuous interest in GE/DE although there are no financial resources available. The Ministry of Education and Culture has recently established an inter-sectoral committee for Global Education, which is now meeting regularly together with CSOs to coordinate GE activities within the education system.

Similarly to Bulgaria, **Malta**'s engagement in development policy mainly emerged after its accession to the EU. In 2007, the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the Overseas Development Policy. A national strategy for GE/DE does not exist so far but there are ongoing discussions about it between the NGO

platform SKOP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the national report, the main challenges that Malta faces when it comes to GE/DE is “both a weak commitment from institutions and a civil society sector that is not strong enough to lead such initiatives.”

**Romania** has been involved with global education processes at the level of teachers networks since 2001. Since its accession to the EU in 2007, it focused primarily on development cooperation policy and within this context on development education. As part of this process it has developed its National Strategy on International Development Co-operation Policy with five percent of the budget for development co-operation activities allocated to development education activities. In the follow up of the national seminar, efforts to develop a national GE/DE strategy were made; this was however done solely by the government, without a consultation process with civil society organisations.

After the political changes in Romania, lack of continuity and dialogue can be observed with regards the strategy as well as the insurance of adequate support to GE/DE. It has to be noted that a great diversity of somehow contradictory voices has appeared in the survey. On the one hand, claims that curricular reform has taken place before the seminars were started, and that the reforms did not really include GE/DE principles and approaches, on the other.

With the accession of **Slovenia** to the European Union in 2004, the parliament adopted the strategic document Resolution on International Development Co-operation of the Republic of Slovenia (2008–2015) of which development education and awareness-raising are an integral part. In 2007, the Ministry of Education and Sport prepared conceptual Guidelines for Education for Sustainable Development that represents the first official document in the field of global education. Given its non-operational and not binding character, Slovenia does not possess a national strategy that would guarantee the necessary support to GE/DE. Since the financial crisis, GE/DE projects and programmes have been cut.

In 2012, as a follow-up to this process, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Education Congress – *Education, Interdependence & solidarity in a Changing World* - gathered practitioners and policy-makers in Lisbon to assess the work achieved since the first Global Education Congress held in Maastricht in 2002 (which established an European strategy framework for the enhancement of global education to 2015) and to reflect on issues at stake to be prioritised until 2015.

Among the GE/DE activities developed since 2002, the outputs of the national and regional seminars were taken into consideration in the drafting of the Global Education Congress Strategic Recommendations covering the following five areas of work:

1) national strategy development and implementation; 2) curricular reform; 3) continuing professional development of educators; 4) quality support and monitoring; 5) campaigning and outreach.

The recommendations of the Lisbon GE Congress were also built up on the recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member states on education for global interdependence and solidarity, the first legal framework for global education, adopted in May 2011.

In order to assure the continuity of this successful process, a second JMA was signed for the period 2013-2015. During this period a series of regional seminars will be organised to assess the work developed so far, namely the implementation phase of the GE/DE national strategies adopted in Czech Republic and Slovakia, and to follow up on the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European GE Congress. In addition, kick-off seminars will be organised in EU acceding and candidate countries. A closing conference, meant to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress, will take place in 2015.

The outputs of these regional seminars shall also contribute to the implementation strategy of the Lisbon GE Congress recommendations - to be equally monitored annually through a multistakeholder meeting - and to the definition of the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress foreseen in 2015.

## Objectives

Having the recommendations of the Lisbon GE Congress as an overarching framework in relation to: 1) national strategy development and implementation; 2) curricular reform; 3) continuing professional development of educators; 4) quality support and monitoring; 5) campaigning and outreach, the objectives of the regional seminar are:

- to exchange and jointly discuss existing perspectives and recent developments on the concept and practice of GE/DE, both in terms of policy making and curricula development;
- to identify common challenges in the SEE-Med countries and exchange information on best practices between GE/DE experts from the region, other European countries and/or organisations such as the NSC, EC, CONCORD/DEEEP and GENE, as well as with experts from the global South;
- to promote GE/DE as an integral part of education;
- to provide the space and opportunities to develop joint action and collaboration within and beyond the SEE-Med countries;
- to elaborate recommendations for furthering GE/DE in the SEE-Med countries and establish priorities, and if possible benchmarks, until the 3<sup>rd</sup> GE Congress in 2015.

## Preliminary date

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## Preliminary venue

Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Preliminary list of participants

Participants will comprise key GE/DE stakeholders from each SEE-Med country (including whenever possible stakeholders involved in the previous regional seminar and in the Lisbon GE Congress), distributed as follows:

- 1 representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Agency (5)
- 1 representative from the Ministry of Education (5)
- 2 representatives from higher education, including teacher training institutes (10)
- 5 NGO representatives, including the national coordinators for the Global Education Week network, CONCORD/DARE Forum and European Youth Forum (YFJ) national coordinators (25)
- 2 teachers active in the GE/DE field (10)
- National and/or European parliamentarians (5)<sup>1</sup>
- 1 representative from the national platform for local authorities (members of Platforma - European Platform of Local and Regional Authorities for Development) (5)
- Experts from the global North and South - workshop facilitators and a key note speakers (4)
- International organisations (8)
  - o CONCORD (Board members, DARE, DEEEP) (2)
  - o TRIALOG representatives (1)
  - o NSC representatives (1)
  - o EC representatives (1)
  - o Potential donors (e.g. UNDP, OSF, another EC DG) (4)
- Organisers (5)

The numbers above are roughly estimated, the number of participants from each country may differ slightly. In total, the seminar aims at gathering a total of approx. 82 participants.

## Main partners for organising the seminar

Implementing partner:

SLOGA in close partnership with Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CYINDEP, SKOP, FOND, BPID and OEC.

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<sup>1</sup> Parliamentarian representatives within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: by national delegation, by political group, and by committees (Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media)

Partner organisations:

### **BPID – Bulgarian Platform on International Development**

Platform on International development is network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in national and international policies in the field of Official Development Assistance (ODA). BPID was founded by 17 organizations and currently its number is 20. The members of BPID work on various themes including development education, health, gender issues, environment and sustainability. NGOs' participation in the processes related to the international cooperation for development contribute in order to achieve better transparency and to legitimate the adopted policies as representatives of the civil society. In the same time NGOs and especially part of BPID' members can contribute for the successful implementation of policies in the targeted for Bulgarian aid countries through established contacts, knowledge on the situation in regard to civil society, and proven working approaches. In the process of its institutional development, BPID created various partnerships with state institutions active in ODA issues. Based on that experience and having in mind other good practices in that field at EU level. BPID operates through the following working groups and fields of work: Development Education; EPAN, Aidwatch, Policy Forum, Reproductive Health.

BPID is a member of CONCORD and TRIALOG.

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### **OEC – Open Education Center**

Open Education Centre is a leading NGO in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship and General Education developing New Educational Technologies, Models of Educational Changes Management, Programs for Civic Education, Professional Development of Teachers, Programs for Training and Development of School Boards and NGOs, with more than 50 publications on Civic Education. Working with Council of Europe, UNESCO and UNDP , Open Education Centre have developed National and Regional Programs in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights Teaching, Intercultural Cooperation, Entrepreneurship Education, Education in Sustainable Development, etc. In year 2000 OEC developed three manuals on Education for Sustainable Development and won the World award of global education of North – South Centre. Since 2006 Open Education Centre has been developing Global Education programs participating in projects as Uniting Humanity: Educating for Global Citizenship (2006-2008), Education for Social Justice (2008-2011). In 2010-2013 Open Education coordinated and realized “Realization of MDG Project: involving high school educators and students in developing DE/GE Projects and Programs in which participated educators and students from Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Italy, United Kingdom, Romania and Bulgaria. Under these projects first Global Education manuals have been developed in Bulgaria. In 2013 two teachers manuals on Global Education and a Global Education Pack have been published in Bulgarian and English.

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### **CYINDEP - Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform**

CYINDEP was established in 2009 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greek Cypriot 'Cyprus NGO Platform 'The Development'' and the Turkish Cypriot 'Cyprus NGO Network', thus representing a total of 25 CSOs across the island. This agreement and its accompanying Foundation Charter constitute the basis for the operation of CYINDEP, which aims to bring together NGDOs working on international development issues and active global citizenship, to assist them in building their capacity, improve the effectiveness of their work and advocacy, as well as to network more effectively both locally and globally. CYINDEP is a member of the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) and a partner in TRIALOG V. CYINDEP recently implemented an EU Presidency Project for the Cyprus EU Presidency in 2012.

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### **SKOP – National platform of Maltese NGDOs**

SKOP is the National Platform of Maltese NGDOs and is Malta's broadest network of voluntary and non-governmental organisations working in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid. SKOP was founded on 26 June 2001, on the initiative of Kopin (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta), and now has 15 members and 3 associate members. It is officially recognised by the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The Platform aims to improve Malta's contribution to international development cooperation by promoting the exchange of experiences, ideas and information amongst its members, between networks of NGOs in Malta and internationally. It also represents its members with the Maltese Government and other Maltese bodies with an interest in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

As an active founder-member of the pan-European NGDO confederation CONCORD, SKOP has a key role in advocating with the European Union about its development policy. It is also a member of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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### **FOND – Romanian NGDO Platform**

FOND strategy aims at supporting and developing awareness campaigns targeted both for the general public and for the public institutions involved in programming and giving assistance for development and relief, working in close contact with organizations and local experts from the older and newer EU member states. In order to achieve all these objectives, FOND aims to develop its members' capacity and to establish the framework for dialogue and real partnership with all the relevant national governmental institutions and European actors. FOND members are active in the fields of Development Education, Education and professional training, Democracy and Good Governance (including

Human Rights and Child Protection) and Health, and cooperate with neighbouring countries (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine).

FOND is a member of CONCORD, of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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### **SLOGA – Slovenian NGDO Platform**

SLOGA, the umbrella organisation for 41 NGOs in Slovenia is involved in development cooperation and development education. The aim of SLOGA is to join synergies and strengthen the partnership between Slovenian NGOs that are active in developing countries or which work on awareness raising and global education. SLOGA operates through the following working groups and fields of work: Development Education; Policy; Global Volunteering; Africa; Reproductive Health Rights; Western Balkans; Food Security.

SLOGA is a member of CONCORD, of TRIALOG and of the NSC Global Education Week network.

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### Institutional partners:

The seminar is taking place in the context and with the support of the **Joint Management Agreement signed between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission** (EuropeAid Co-operation office), which aims at promoting GE/DE in the twelve new member states of the European Union as well as in EU candidate and acceding countries and is implemented during 2013-2015. Seminar is supported also by **Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.