

## **North-South Centre of the Council of Europe**

### ***Learning to live together in an interdependent world***

### ***Promoting intercultural dialogue through intercultural education and practice***

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is an honour for the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe to take part and contribute to the International Conference on Intercultural Dialogue. More than ever it is fundamental to bring up intercultural dialogue.

Recently, voices are preaching for isolationism and national pride. In this quest, such voices forget that we share one common future and that contributing positively to this future is a collective mission.

Today, citizenship means contributing to the development of societies while being aware of the interconnection between local realities and global issues. We all know that future seriously jeopardised if we do not take action for a sustainable development, **individually** through sustainable life-styles and **collectively** through sustainable economies and through a peaceful coexistence.

Living together implies knowing each other and trusting each other. Trust shapes from a shared history or from a shared present. Working together for shared future cements this trust.

Citizenship lays on the empowerment and democratic participation of the civil society. Education is empowerment, and through education we can aim for a citizenship built on intercultural understanding.

This is the foundation of the Global Education concept promoted by the North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe (CoE).

## **Why Global Education contributes to intercultural understanding and intercultural dialogue?**

- ❖ Global Education (GE) is understood as a holistic education dealing with the growing interconnectedness between local and global realities. It helps learners to deal with cultural variety of languages, identities and codes so that mutual understanding can be achieved.
- ❖ GE set of competences, defined in the *Global Education Guidelines*, promote intercultural understanding, multi-perspectivity and the deconstruction of stereotypes.

Its methodology lays on a learner centred and intercultural peer learning approach, and promotes intercultural dialogue, contributing to enhanced cooperation, conflict prevention and peaceful coexistence.

## **How GE contributes to the consolidation of a democratic culture?**

### **1. Through the capacity-building and professional development of formal and non-formal educators**

- ❖ The GE set of competences and methodology are implemented through the NSC reference pedagogical tool, the *Global Education Guidelines*, and through its in-service eLearning and residential training scheme targeting formal and non-formal educators, youth leaders and other stakeholders working in the field of cooperation and development, in a peer-to-peer approach.
- ❖ The pedagogical teams and group of participants reflect gender parity and geographical balance (participants from Council of Europe member States and other parts of the world, in particular the South and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean).
- ❖ These tools are regularly reviewed based on the feedback and experience from the participants and on emerging societal issues. In this regard, the *Global Education Guidelines* is being updated and will be complemented with CoE framework of competences for democratic culture. Interfaith dialogue and media literacy components will also be introduced in this new version.

### **2. Through an intercultural peer learning approach between formal and non-formal educators from Europe and beyond**

- ❖ GE is also promoted through exchanges and networking mechanism involving practitioners within the CoE member States but also between peers from the two shores of the Mediterranean. The GE network<sup>1</sup> - a network of practitioners and institutional representatives from the CoE and NSC member States, including Morocco, for the promotion of GE; and the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship, are the principal networking structures of the NSC supported the respective webpages, social media and resource centres.
- ❖ The NSC trainings on *Structured participation for youth leaders and educators* and on *Youth and Global Citizenship*, offered in the framework of the NSC Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship, contribute to the consolidation of democratic culture and practice: its pedagogical approach fosters participation in decision and policy making processes through an intercultural peer-learning approach and through dialogue sessions with institutional representatives from Ministries, Parliaments or Local Authorities. The translation of the *Global Education Guidelines* in 17 languages<sup>2</sup> complements this training scheme.

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1. This network is to be extended to Tunisia and Algeria, which are in the process to become NSC member States like Morocco.

<sup>2</sup> Available [on line](#) in English and French, and in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, German, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Polish, Portuguese, Serbian, Slovenian, and Spanish.

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"The challenge of intercultural education -Yesterday, today and tomorrow"  
Tallinn, Estonia  
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### 3. Through advocacy and policy development for the promotion of democratic culture

- ❖ Democratic culture and practice are also promoted through international or regional seminars bringing together practitioners and decision-makers, to develop national educational strategies for the promotion of GE in the formal and non-formal education, or to deliver policy recommendations to sustain democratic processes.
- ❖ The expertise of the NSC is recognised by the European Commission (EC) and the NSC is implementing the iLEGEND (Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue) project (cofounded by the EC), which is intended to foster quality education to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, mainly through global development education and intercultural dialogue.
- ❖ At a wider level, the NSC GE programme, through its pedagogical framework, is aligned with the UN SDGs, in particular the SDG 4.7 for the promotion of a Global Citizenship, goal 5 for the promotion of gender equality, goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, and goal 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
- ❖ The NSC also privileges coordinated actions with international and regional partners, among which Anna Lindh Foundation, the Alliance of Civilisations, the league of Arab States and UNESCO.

*Dear friends and colleagues,*

Through global education, the NSC contributes to the consolidation of a democratic culture and to the practice of a global citizenship.

This is made possible because this work:

- ❖ builds on a rights-based approach and on non-formal principles, and lays on an intercultural peer learning and participatory approach;
- ❖ targets, through a multiplying approach, formal and non-formal educators, in particular Youth organisations which have the expertise, pedagogical approach and capacity to reach out to and raise awareness among young people in their communities, fostering civic engagement at the grassroots level, while supporting a better understanding of multiple identities, beliefs, cultures, traditions and histories of people;
- ❖ consolidates active participation of youth in decision-making processes on both shores of the Mediterranean, fostering social inclusion of young people.

We are honoured to share with you our contribution to foster competences for critical citizens to build inclusive, tolerant and democratic societies and to live together in an interdependent and peaceful world!

Thank you.

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North-South Centre of the Council of Europe **Global Education programme**