



Roundtable 44

29-30 April 2021 | Online

Summary Report

Multilateral Networking of Ministries, Agencies and other organisations with national responsibility for Global Education.



Co-funded by the
European Union

The work of the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) is funded by the European Union, and by the following ministries and agencies: Austrian Development Agency and the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium; Ministry of Education, Culture Sport and Youth, Cyprus; Czech Development Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia; Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; Agence Française de Développement and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France; Engagement Global, with funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg; Ministry of Education and Employment, Malta; Ministry of Education, Montenegro; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Camões - Institute for Cooperation and Language, Portugal; Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation, Slovakia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia.

A multilateral meeting of Ministries, Agencies and other organisations with national responsibility for Global Education, Development Education, and Awareness-Raising, with the European Commission in attendance, convened (virtually) on 29-30 April 2021 at the invitation of GENE ...
[Participants list available [here](#)]

Day 1

...HEARD:

Welcome and introductions from Professor Dr Annette Scheunpflug, GENE Chairperson

*“The crisis makes visible that Global Education is more needed than ever, because without local, national, regional, and global solidarity, the pandemic will never be solved...
Looking at the situation in the global South, there is still a long way to go in learning solidarity in Europe related to the pandemic, migration, and climate change...
This Roundtable will focus on this need, on shared experiences and on how to give hope and reflect on education beyond the COVID crisis.”*

[Video available under this [link](#)]

An opening statement by Ms Henriette Geiger, Director, INTPA, European Commission

*“We live in an increasingly complex world: the increasing geo-political polarization the shrinking space for civil society for fundamental rights, the increasing authoritarianism in the world, the questioning of our multilateral system, the climate change, and the incredibly devastating COVID crises....
Now, after more than a year in that crisis we see first lights at the end of the tunnel. Things seem to be going in the right direction, due to an incredible global effort, but we are not over it yet...In this context, investing in global and development, education will be more important than ever with a strong focus on youth which is shaping our reality and digitalization....
Our key goal is to keep the solidarity of the European citizens with the rest of the world as we cannot survive on our own...”*

[Video available under this [link](#)]

Followed by the speech of Ms. Cristina Moniz, Vice-President of the Camoes Institute

*“Portugal currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and we strongly support the idea that multilateralism and solidarity are fundamental pillars of the European Union's role in the world. For Portugal this approach requires an inclusive policy to support awareness understanding knowledge and engagement of European citizens regarding development and global issues....
I would like to announce that last week in the framework of the 26th Ibero-American summits the Heads of State and Government of Ibero-America approved the very relevant policy initiative on a global citizenship for sustainable development, endorsed by Portugal, Spain, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay....We truly believe that in the coming years in a post COVID world, we will need more than ever, high quality development, education and Global Education, both in Europe and elsewhere..”*

[Video available under this [link](#)]

...HEARD:

Agenda for RT 44 was presented and agreed [Final agenda available [here](#)]

A Briefing Keynote input from Professor Elina Lehtomäki (Oulu Univeristy)

Ms. Lehtomäki shared a presentation on **Global Education: Now More than Ever (In an Uncertain World)** [Presentation available [here](#)] [Video available under this [link](#)]

Participants' Priorities from National Reports

Based on videos and national reports shared beforehand [**Padlet overview available [here](#)**], participants from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden shared questions and insights from their national settings and identified questions and themes of interest from colleagues' reports. [**National report compilation available [here](#)**]

Cross-cutting key issues were identified

Comments and questions raised during the National reporting session were gathered in a Thematic Padlet [**available [here](#)**] while cross cutting issues emerging were summarised by the GENE Director [**available [here](#)**]

...DISCUSSED:

Participants were invited to join an informal networking session and could freely choose with whom to network and what topics to discuss in different breakout rooms, drawing on the previous session on national reporting and cross-cutting themes.

...HEARD:

GENE Director introduced the GENE@20 to Maastricht + 20 with a teaser video

The first day of the Roundtable was then closed giving an outline of the next day.

DAY 2

...HEARD:

Two parallel sessions took place:

The Need for New Narratives of Solidarity: Ms. Ida Mc Donnell (Team Lead, OECD Development Co-operation Report) gave a keynote on the need for new narratives of solidarity and asked important questions for the future of foreign and development policy and Global Education [Presentation available [here](#)]. [Video of the keynote under this [link](#)]

The Future of Education beyond Covid: In a parallel keynote for education policymakers, Dr. Beatriz Pont (Project Lead, OECD Directorate for Education and Skills) reflected on ways to bridge the policy-implementation gap and shared a rich and data-informed perspective for a change. [Presentation available [here](#)]. [Video of the keynote under this [link](#)]

Both shared perspectives in the plenary session and provoked questions that will inspire a long-term vision for Global Education.

[Video of the plenary under this [link](#)]

...DISCUSSED:

Issues that had arisen in the national/country reporting on Day 1 of the Roundtable. Participants were split into groups to discuss key themes (see below):

Workshop 1: GE in Formal and Non-formal Education [notes in Padlet [available here](#)]

Workshop 2: GE and the Future of Education [notes in Padlet [available here](#)]

Workshop 3: GE and Digitalisation [notes in Padlet [available here](#)]

Workshop 4: Aligning Global Education and Awareness-Raising [notes in Padlet [available here](#)]

...HEARD:

Ms Agata Sobiech, Head of Sector DEAR and Youth, DG International Partnership, gave an overview of the future of the DEAR programme and outlined the findings from a recent evaluation. [Presentation available [here](#)]

Mr Liam Wegimont, GENE Director, presented GENE's **Draft Annual Report 2020** [[available here](#)] and **2021 Update Programme of Work** including an outline of the **GENE programme 2022-2024** [[available here](#)], while Mr David Gorman, Board Financial Advisor, presented the Financial report including details of the audited accounts for 2020 on behalf of the Board of GENE. Reports were approved formally by acclaim by the RT participants.

Ms. Sabine Seiffert from Engagment Global and member of the GENE Board informed the network of a recently established working group on international processes and organisations, particularly the

UN and OECD. She invited participants with an interest in such processes to contact the GENE Secretariat if they wish to join the group.

The **GENE Secretariat** presented new GENE products, including the Knowledge database and country profiles [[available here](#)] and informed the network of forthcoming launches, including the GENE Award ceremony on 19 May and the launch of a newly translated book on impact and evaluation in Global Education by German colleagues Susanne Höck and Claudia Bergmüller.

Mr. **Mark Little** (CEO, Kinzen) gave the closing keynote with a thought-provoking input on countering misinformation and the implications for educators and for global education.

[[presentation available here](#)] [[Video available under this link](#)]

The Roundtable was **closed by GENE's Chairperson, Prof. Annette Scheunpflug**, who thanked participants, speakers, facilitators, Board and Secretariat.

Please note that this is an internal report to GENE participants following the Chatham House rules and the contents are not for circulation or quotation.