



GENE ROUND TABLE

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19-20 OCTOBER 2023 | ATHENS, GREECE

REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Autumn 2023 multilateral meeting of representatives from Ministries, Agencies and other organisations with national responsibility for Global Education in GENE member states, held in

Athens, Greece at the invitation of GENE, hosted by the Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports - and with Prof. Dr. Annette Scheunpflug, in the chair, heard:

DAY 1



01. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

from Prof. Dr. Annette Scheunpflug and Ms. Vassiliki Makri, Head of the Directorate of European and International Affairs Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, Greece.



02. PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

by Mr. Liam Wegimont, Director of GENE, and approval of the agenda by participants.



03. A PANEL DISCUSSION

focused on the importance of Global Education (GE) for national policy, considering the Dublin Declaration, with the participation of the following Roundtable representatives:

DAY 1

03. A PANEL DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

Dr. Katja Weigelt, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, Dr. Aravella Zachariou, Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cyprus, and Mr. Sérgio Guimarães, Camões – Institute of Cooperation and Language, Portugal. Mr. Liam Wegimont chaired the panel and invited panelists to explore the importance of Global Education to national contexts, aspirations, and policies. Dr. Katja Weigelt stated that we need a society and individuals who understand global problems and sustainable development. Dr. Aravella Zachariou stressed that for a small country like Cyprus, in facing complex issues like war, migration, violation of human rights, etc., Global Education is a pedagogy of hope, a channel to work together and build bridges to peace. Mr. Sérgio Guimarães stated that Global Education is important to Portugal because it enables people to reflect critically, and empowers them to understand, hope, and act for a better world.

In a second round, panelists shared how Global Education is reflected in national policies and were invited to discuss how the Dublin Declaration has been used to increase and improve Global Education at national level.

Mr. Sergio Guimarães stated that in the context of ongoing strategy work, the Dublin Declaration had helped frame discussions and that some of the terminology from the declaration was being used. Dr. Aravella Zachariou stressed that the declaration was important in forging coherence between different policies. Dr. Katja Weigelt stated that the declaration gave new impetus to the implementation of the German Education for Sustainable Development curriculum framework and also highlighted a school competition where students share ideas on how to tackle global challenges as a source of hope and inspiration. Mr. Sérgio Guimarães added that hope comes from the commitment of our stakeholders; we collectively believe that we are contributing to something that is bigger than ourselves.



04. NATIONAL REPORTS

from Roundtable representatives Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. Mr. Liam Wegimont, on behalf of the Secretariat, identified the following themes emerging from the national reports:

- Global Education policy learning with and between ministries
- New policies being created that include Global Education
- New strategies on Global Education and Education for Sustainable Development aligned with the Dublin Declaration
- Broadening inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder dialogue with Local and Regional Governments and Youth
- Increased funding in some countries, and continued efforts despite political challenges in others
- Query: Examples of low-threshold funding and partnership with informal youth groups
- Peer Review, Mapping of Global Education
- New academic courses on Global Education
- Evaluation/mid-term review of Global Education strategies at the national level with new approaches being explored and tested
- Dublin Declaration translation and dissemination – and as inspiration
- Integration of GE in the curriculum, global citizenship competencies models
- Teacher/ headmaster networks on Global Education / Education for Sustainable Development
- Initial and in-service teacher training with cross-curricular themes, Global Education in schools
- Whole-school approaches and assessment and accreditation
- A new upper secondary school established with a comprehensive Global Education focus as its founding principle.

05. A NETWORKING SESSION

facilitated by Ms. Ditta Trindade of the GENE Secretariat provided an opportunity for structured sharing between participants with the aim of strengthening the linkages between GENE participants. Participants were asked to identify the key issues that interested them the most from the national reports and use these as a basis for sharing. This structured networking session took place outdoors.



06. UPDATE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG INTPA

was given by Ms. Thaïs Leray and for the first time in a Roundtable, DG EAC was represented and the work presented by Ms. Ulrike Pisiotis. Ms. Thaïs Leray, Head of Sector Youth, DG INTPA, reported on recent developments in the field of DEAR. She highlighted the Commission 2019-2024 programme and the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework in the context of current challenges and circumstances. She also noted the results of a survey on international partnerships for Global Education and gave a provisional update on the last DEAR call for

proposals as well as the Youth Action plan. Ms. Ulrike Pisiotis, Policy Officer, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, gave an overview of the history of the European Education Area and its key principles centered around quality and life-long learning. She highlighted the 2022 progress report along with [The Education and Training Monitor](#) and also mentioned work on Learning for the Green Transition as well as the [European competence framework on sustainability](#) ('GreenComp').



07. OVERVIEW OF GENE'S WORK IN 2023

was then presented by Mr. Liam Wegimont including: Dublin declaration follow-up work at national level and with stakeholders and partners; ongoing support for ministries and agencies; two Roundtables organised; the peer review process with Latvia; research and policy work; and the ANGEL UNESCO Conference in Paris in June. It was also noted that there has been a further increase in

a number of countries, ministries, and agencies involved in GENE, including welcoming back countries previously involved; and welcoming new ministries and agencies.

Mr. David Gorman, Financial Advisor to the GENE Board, presented a **financial update** appreciating the funding support from the EC and funding ministries and agencies among GENE's members.

DAY 2

01. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE SECOND DAY

from Mr. Panagiotis Passas, Director General of Education, Religious Affairs and Support of the Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, who reflected on our commonalities as professionals working in the field of education: Human rights, democracy, understanding, dignity, inclusion, and sustainability are at the core; our belief that the “soft” power of education gives people the hope needed for a better world.



02. THE GENE 2024 PROGRAMME PLAN

was presented by Mr. Liam Wegimont, with the main activities envisaged for each area of work, including:

- Supporting GENE member ministries and agencies in their work at nation level
- Two Roundtables (RT 50 in Madrid in April 2024 and one in Brussels in Autumn)
- The Peer Review process with the creation of the Latvian National report launch in 2024, and new processes beginning.
- Engagement with the EC, OECD, NSC/COE, UNECE and UNESCO to continue jointly strengthening policy and promoting coherence at international level.
- Policy research and continued cooperation with ANGEL.

- Continued dialogue with the IEA (International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement) and a research partnership with EERA (European Educational Research Association).
- The Visibility & Partnerships area with the launch of the GENE Award and a possible GENE/OECD initiative focused on public opinion.

03. THE GENE KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

was presented by Ms. Ditta Trindade from the GENE Secretariat, to be launched in 2024. The purpose is to have an easily accessible and interactive online resource that offers useful content on Global Education, such as country profiles and examples of practice.

DAY 2



04. BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR 2024

Mr David Gorman, Financial Advisor to the GENE Board presented the 2024 Budget Projections for 2024, on behalf of the Board.



05. GENE PROGRAMME WITH THE EC (2025-2028)

Indicative plans for the next phase of the GENE programme with the EC (2025-2028) was outlined by Mr. Liam Wegimont with draft headlines for working areas, as well as a draft timeline for the process. The programme 2024 and overall lines of action for proposal with the EC for 2025-2028 were agreed by acclamation, as was the Budget for 2024. (European Commission colleagues had absented themselves for the programme and budget session, as is our custom and practice).



06. NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New board members were proposed by the Chair of GENE, also on behalf of the Board, to the Roundtable and approved by acclamation: Mr. Thibaut Lespagnol (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France) and Mr. Sergio Guimaraes (Camões – Institute of Cooperation and Language, Portugal).



07. GREEK SESSION ON GLOBAL EDUCATION

The host country Greece then presented three examples of practice that it wished to share with Roundtable participants to offer inspiration from examples of GE in different sectors:

Greek Development Cooperation: A Four-Year Programme in the Health Sector in six Partner Countries

— Eleni Nikolaidou, Expert Minister Counselor, Director of the Directorate of Development Cooperation Policy -Hellenic Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Skills Labs and the course on Global Education for teachers

— Panagiotis Piliouras, Head of the Department for Innovative & Inclusive Education, Institute of Educational Policy

Educational suitcase of the mysterious traveler of 2P, Global Citizen

— Dr. Anna Zoakou, Head of Programmes and Ms. Despoina Kardogerou, Education Program Coordinator, Action Aid Hellas

Field visits were organised by our Greek hosts, and participants split into two groups to participate:

Field visit 1: On the road to Sustainable Development: a primary school's narrative of project work in the framework of Global Education

Field visit 2: Implementing a learning process through cultural heritage towards Global Education

DAY 2

08. FOUR WORKING GROUPS THEN CONVENED

Three working groups focused on cross-cutting issues identified through recent GENE work with members and at Roundtables, and one session was for new GENE participants.



DAY 2

Working group 1: Session for those new to GENE – introductory session. This working group was dedicated to those attending an in-person Roundtable for the first time. It explored the foundations of Global Education and introduced the work of GENE, as well as opportunities to engage and cooperate.

Working group 2: Models of Evaluation in Global Education – exploration and reflection on new models offered an opportunity to discuss alternatives to results-based evaluation. A presentation was given by Ms. Virgine Gilbert, Luxembourg and the group discussed the merits of qualitative versus quantitative approaches and the importance of balancing the need for accountability and the pursuit of learning. A briefing document was also shared. The Evaluation in Global Education – Overview, References, Resources is available [here](#).

Working group 3: Global Education and Teacher Education heard examples of success in teacher education and discussed both initial and in-service teacher training: non-traditional formats and adaptive approaches, challenges and opportunities for supporting teachers based on their needs. The presentation from Ms. Silvia M. Velázquez Rodríguez is available [here](#). Also, a presentation from Mr. Mathias Demetriades is available [here](#).

Working group 4: Inter-ministerial cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement in national strategy development at national level explored some of the key components for successful cooperation between ministries in strategy creation and in multi-stakeholder engagement. A presentation was given by Mr. Sergio Guimaraes, Portugal, sharing insights from the Portuguese national strategy process and the group discussed key factors for success, such as leadership, resourcing and time commitments.

09. KEYNOTE

An input by Mr. David McNair, Executive Director for Global Policy at the ONE Campaign focused on the need to provide hope and space for long-term policy efforts towards greater tolerance and international solidarity.

10. CLOSING REMARKS

were offered by Prof. Annette Scheunpflug who thanked the host, all participants, the GENE Board and Secretariat for an inspirational event and a chance to come together again in person.

A WORD OF THANKS

We would like to recognise and express our thanks to the European Commission and to the increasing number of ministries and agencies that fund GENE. We very much appreciate the support. We also very much appreciate the consistent support of our ongoing, annual and long-term

funding ministries and agencies. Finally, we appreciate all the non-financial, but nonetheless precious, support and engagement by all GENE member state ministries and agencies that participate in various GENE policy learning and networking processes.

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Global Education Network Europe (GENE)

is the network of ministries, agencies and institutions with national responsibility for Global Education.

GENE supports networking, peer learning, policy research, national strategy development and quality enhancement in the field of Global Education.

GENE works to increase and improve Global Education towards the day when all people in Europe - in solidarity with people globally - will have access to quality Global Education.

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