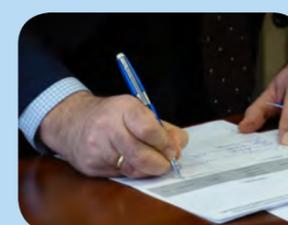


Global Education Network Europe (GENE) is the network of ministries, agencies and institutions with national responsibility for Global Education. GENE supports networking, peer learning, policy research, national strategy development and quality enhancement in the field of Global Education.

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.

For more information, please visit [www.gene.eu](http://www.gene.eu)





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# Annual Report 2016

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## List of acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ANGEL	Academic Network of Global Education Learning
COP	Conference of the Parties (United Nations Climate Change Conference)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DEAR	Development Education and Awareness Raising
DERC	Development Education Research Centre
EC	European Commission
GENE	Global Education Network Europe
GENEA	Global Education Network East Asia
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOE	Ministry of Education
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
OECD	Organisations for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference

GENE – Global Education Network Europe is the network of Ministries, Agencies and other bodies with national responsibility for Global Education in Europe. GENE supports networking, peer learning, policy research, national strategy development and quality enhancement in the field of Global Education in European countries.

GENE facilitates the European Global Education Peer Review Process, as part of its work of increasing and improving Global Education. GENE works towards the day when all people in Europe – in solidarity with people globally – will have access to quality Global Education.

# Message from the incoming GENE Chair



2016 was a challenging year for the world and for Global Education. While the year saw renewed hope for global political consensus towards greater solidarity, global justice, human rights and care for the earth, it was also a year in which several hitherto unimaginable events came to realisation. Core Global Education values of tolerance, solidarity and justice were turned on their heads by political developments in some European countries and in the USA.

Such events and the underlying issues affecting European societies are at the core of what Global Education is about. Therefore, Global Education becomes even more necessary. Our analysis

must embrace the causes and effects of issues and events. We must continue – as decades of global educators have done – to deal with local, national, regional and global justice issues in ways that are educationally sound, that inspire critical and reflective approaches to truth, fact and perspective. And we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that we reach out to include all people.

GENE has become better equipped to respond to these challenges, and to provide a modest, focused contribution through networking and sharing policy learning. During 2016, under the guidance of the outgoing Chairman, Dr. Helmuth Hartmeyer, GENE finalised plans many years in the making for a partnership agreement with the European Commission (EC). This has enabled GENE to develop a small but strengthened Secretariat to reinforce its work during 2016 and I was pleased, in my role as Interim Director, to be able to recruit a small team of highly talented individuals for this purpose. Together with EC funding, GENE is made possible by the support and contribution of national Ministries and Agencies. In 2016 along with continuing support from Austria (ADA and the Ministry of Education), Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Portugal, GENE was glad to welcome France and Luxembourg to the group of funders of GENE.

As a result of this support, GENE grew as a network during 2016, welcoming a number of European countries, ministries and agencies new to GENE. GENE also developed a stronger programme of networking, peer review, policy learning and research. New initiatives in 2016 involved reaching out to countries with emerging structures in Global Education and to other actors, such as civil society organisations (CSOs), Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), youth structures and academic networks. GENE also reached out to other corners of the world to inspire similar networking and it also started a more structured dialogue with international organisations.

During 2016 I moved from the position of Interim Director to taking on the role of Chairperson. I am honoured by the GENE Board's trust and confidence and I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the outgoing chairperson, to the Board, and to the programme and admin staff of GENE who during 2016, sometimes under very challenging circumstances, made what our erstwhile colleague, Liisa Jääskeläinen, called "the minor miracle that is GENE" possible.

We do this with one common purpose: working towards the day when all people in Europe - in solidarity with peoples globally - will have access to quality Global Education. This annual report will give a flavour of how we walked that path in 2016.

*Liam Wegimont*

# GENE - a learning network



## A networking organisation

GENE – Global Education Network Europe – is the network of ministries and agencies and other bodies with national responsibility for Global Education in European countries. GENE brings policy-makers together into a network where they can combine their expertise through structured networking; enabling a sharing of knowledge and strategies through a peer learning approach that leads to enhanced results nationally and to greater policy and funding coherence internationally.

Starting in 2001 with 6 national institutions from 6 countries, GENE has grown to facilitate policy learning between over 40 Ministries and Agencies and other bodies from over 25 countries.

## A learning organisation

GENE is a new type of international organisation – an informal network of formal, governmental ministries and agencies. While GENE is made up of formal structures it provides an informal space where participating national policymakers can co-operate based on active participation and the sharing of experiences for the purpose of policy learning and practice improvement. Through this approach, cross-fertilisation of ideas, joint initiatives and common strategies can be worked out in a way that promotes policy and funding coherence in Europe.

The GENE Secretariat provides a hub for the network: facilitating policy and peer learning through the organisation of Roundtables and the European Peer Review process; supporting the development and growth of funding structures at national level; and supporting innovation, research and outreach. The GENE Secretariat can also provide support to national ministries and agencies in the development of national structures, national strategies, national funding systems, comparative policy analysis and advice, and sectoral and strategic initiatives. The GENE Secretariat also represents the network internationally. The small but rapidly expanded Secretariat in 2016 began the process of becoming a more systematically learning organisation.

## Offices

In 2016, GENE established a small administrative office based in Dublin on the north side of the River Liffey.

86 Amiens Street  
Fulcrum Offices, suite 8  
Dublin 1  
Republic of Ireland

# Global Education - a shifting landscape



The world is facing ever more complex challenges in all spheres of life: challenges related to income disparity and poverty, environmental and humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, terrorism, radicalisation, xenophobia and immigration. At the political level, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris climate agreement (COP21) suggest growing consensus that we need to achieve greater balance and more harmony in the world.

What role could Global Education play in this context? How can Global Education contribute to the kind of transformative change in our understanding of leadership, participation and education that will probably be necessary if we are to succeed in achieving a truly sustainable world? What are the specific challenges that Global Education could take on? What strategies and solutions have already been proven to work?

2016 provided ample opportunity for GENE to reflect on some of these core and emerging issues. At the GENE Paris conference in November 2016, participants put forward a range of suggestions and proposals. For example, many agreed that there is a need to speak to new audiences, and particularly to those segments of our populations that Global Education normally does not reach. This links to the notion that significant proportions of European voting populations are turning to right wing ideologies and populism and that this trend is fuelled by a lack of positive, constructive and fruitful engagement around immigration, asylum seekers and their roles in societies. Can we use innovative Global Education to restart and change the narrative with hard to reach groups?

Panellists at the Paris conference suggested that there are ways in which many current challenges could be addressed in new and innovative ways. For example, Elisabeth van der Steenhoven from Karama Europe suggested that individual, one-on-one conversations with people do change minds. Youth representatives highlighted the fact that immersive Global Education experiences at a young age often open people's eyes and minds and inspire a new, international outlook of tolerance through fresh perspectives. PLATFORMA (the European platform of local and regional authorities for development) suggested that cities may be the ideal actor and agent of change at the local level, offering new opportunities to create real sustainability e.g. by looking at how local infrastructure, transport and services can be made sustainable in addition to working with decentralised education system.

A range of new actors were also present in Paris, and they suggested that involving new structures, new sources of funding and the multitude of emerging, non-traditional actors with a potential role in Global Education could open up completely new avenues of collaboration and funding. Academics at

the conference brought up the possibility of better connecting research with policy making by providing access to research for policy makers, as well as enabling current policy priorities and challenges to inform research agendas.

All of these solutions and suggestions feed into the GENE programme of work:

- The Innovation Fund seeks to find and highlight projects that target some of the audiences that have to date been difficult to reach.
- GENE brings the questions and emerging issues into its Roundtable events to discuss and move forward with GENE's core participants.
- The collaboration between the Development Education Research Centre (DERC) and GENE through the Academic Network of Global Education Learning (ANGEL) picks up on the priority to link policy makers with Global Education researchers in order for both types of actors to inform each other's agendas.
- Some of the key questions are adapted and brought into the context of new Peer Reviews, while others find their way into GENE's Policy Research programme by way of briefing papers and concept notes.

2016 was a tumultuous year in many ways. It was also the year when GENE stepped up its programme to begin a new chapter of engagement, policy learning and networking for increased and improved Global Education in Europe. 2017 promises further learning and joint effort to this end.

# Progress and achievements in 2016



GENEs work on improving and increasing Global Education in European countries takes place in the context of a growing GENE network. GENE's core participants are Ministries and Agencies and other bodies in European countries with responsibility for Global Education policy and funding. This group of actors is steadily increasing as more Ministries and Agencies from a growing number of European countries join the GENE networking process. The primary space for interaction and shared learning between GENE participants is the twice-yearly GENE Roundtable. The European Commission also participates in Roundtables as an observer. In 2016, South Korea attended on an observer basis as part of GENE's global outreach work.

In addition to its core participants, GENE collaborates with other stakeholders and actors on specific initiatives for the purpose of extending and enriching the learning process as well as the sharing of strategies and efforts to increase and improve Global Education. Such actors include civil society organisations, local and regional authorities, international organisations, as well as educators, academics and researchers.

This annual report on GENE's work in 2016, is part of the GENE work programme for the 3-year period 2016 – 2018. It includes the co-operation and funding agreement between GENE and the European Commission (EC), and other GENE work as agreed with the GENE Roundtable. The EC programme, entitled *Strengthening Global Education and DEAR in Europe: through Inter-Ministerial Networking, Policy Learning, and Capacity-Building*, is intended to consolidate and enhance GENE's work of improving and increasing Global Education in Europe. The EC Programme focuses on activities in the following areas:

1. Networking
2. Peer learning
3. Increase & Innovation
4. Policy research
5. Global outreach
6. Information and visibility

2016 saw some significant programme achievements in each of these areas of GENE's work, a summary of which is outlined in the following sections of the report.

# Networking



Two Roundtables took place during 2016 - Roundtable 34 in spring in Lisbon and Roundtable 35 in autumn in Florence. 45 ministries and agencies participated, several of which were in attendance for the first time. The Roundtables also saw the first step towards sharing the experience of regional co-ordination in Global Education policy learning initiatives with other parts of the world through the participation of South Korea and the launch of Global Education Network East Asia (GENEA).

The Networking programme area also achieved a major event in November 2016 – the Paris Conference on Global Education: Towards a World of Solidarity. The Conference opened doors to greater co-operation with other stakeholders – particularly civil society organisations, local and regional authorities, academic networks, new actors, and international organisations.

## Paris conference

One of GENE's strategic priorities, in line with the EC's own priorities in this field, is to develop better co-operation with other stakeholders, particularly LRAs and CSOs, as well as with youth organisations, researchers, international organisations and new actors and to enhance alignment between the work of Ministries and Agencies and other stakeholders in the field.

The Paris Conference on Global Education: towards a World of Solidarity took place in November 2016 and was organised by GENE in partnership with the French co-hosts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Development Agency (AFD), and in close co-operation with PLATFORMA, CONCORD and the European Youth Forum, with the support of the European Commission.

This conference took place at the start of the 15th anniversary year of the Maastricht Congress on Global Education and provided a space for key decision-makers and actors in the field to reflect on Global Education in light of broader global challenges. It also encouraged participants to consider approaches to transformative change through education and sought to facilitate policy learning through sharing successful strategies and practice among stakeholder groups. The conference explored new visions and strategies for Global Education in Europe, inspired by emerging actors and existing French and international practice.

# Peer learning



Two Peer Reviews were carried out during 2015-2016 - Ireland and Belgium - with two National Reports on Global Education published after extensive processes of information gathering, international visits, consultations and drafting. While the bulk of the work on the Irish Peer Review took place during 2015, it had its international launch at the GENE Roundtable in spring 2016.

The Peer Review of Belgium yielded many interesting revelations and resulted in a set of observations and recommendations that open the door for further action with regard to Global Education policy, funding and networking in Belgium. In order to make the National Report accessible across communities in Belgium, GENE created a Peer Review Policy Summary Report and translated it into Dutch, French and German.

In late 2016, the groundwork was laid for the next peer review of Global Education in Cyprus. Terms of Reference were drafted and initial plans for a Secretariat visit were made in autumn 2016.

## The Peer Review of Belgium

The Peer Review of Belgium took place during the first half of 2016. It was complex because of the federal, decentralised nature of Belgium's system of government and education, but with a committed reference group and core partner (DGD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), GENE was able to form an understanding of the Belgian systems and how Global Education fits within them.

It should be noted that the review took place in the context of upcoming cuts in many areas of public spending in Belgium, including major cuts to Overseas Development Aid and the budget for Development Education. A significant reform process preceded these cuts that brought actors together to consider the context and framework of their activities. Many of these actors would be affected by the upcoming funding cuts, including some of Belgium's flagship initiatives like Kleur Bekennen/Annoncer la Couleur.

However, the reform process brought with it an internal consultation exercise that served several purposes, one of which we would like to highlight here as an example of good practice. The various civil society actors in Global Education in Belgium came together to put their work into context, to streamline initiatives and to start to operate within a common context or framework. Despite the current cuts, this exercise may serve the sector well in the long term, as one of the operational goals of Global Education within and between countries is the strive for more coherence and links between actors and initiatives.

## Increase & Innovation



The Increase Programme aims to assist countries with nascent Global Education funding and policy structures by offering co-financing, advice and recommendations regarding how policy and funding are structured. During 2016, GENE lay the groundwork for the programme and began discussions with several countries regarding possible collaboration. The intention is to agree Memoranda of Understanding with 4-6 countries during 2017-2018.

The plans and structure of the Innovation Award were finalised during 2016 and the Innovation Award was announced at Roundtable 35. The first call for applications will take place in 2017.

## Policy research



Two significant publications were produced in 2016. All publications can be obtained from the Secretariat or via [www.gene.eu](http://www.gene.eu)

*Global Education in Europe Revisited: Strategies and Structures, Policy, Practice, and Challenges* followed up on the previously published *Global Education in Europe* with new content and updated chapters on countries and structures.

The first edition of the *State of Global Education in Europe* was published in 2016, based on national reports from GENE participants during 2015. The book looked at trends, cross-cutting issues and policy learning from the perspective of a developing network.

In addition to its publications, GENE signed an MoU with the Development Education Research Centre (DERC) in the UK. The MoU includes the creation of ANGEL – Academic Network of Global Education Learning – that intends to strengthen ties between Global Education researchers and policy makers.

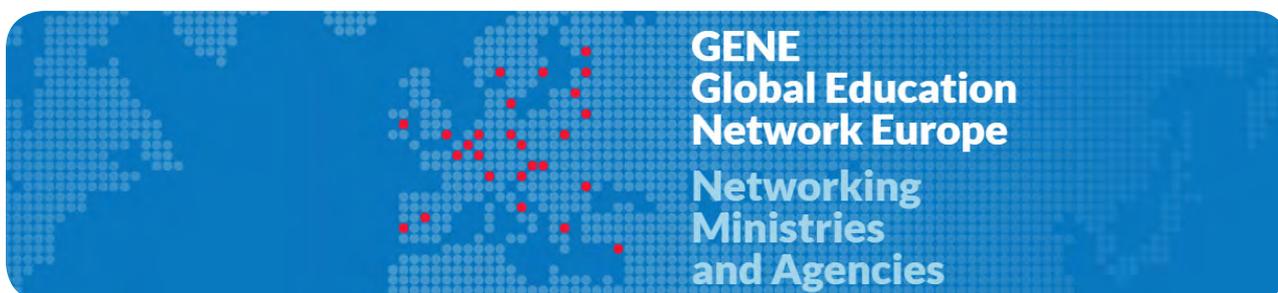
## Global processes



During 2016, GENE expanded its reach beyond Europe for the first time. Colleagues from the Global Education field in East Asia participated in Roundtable 35 in Florence. By the end of the Roundtable, it was announced that Asian colleagues would be pursuing the establishment of Global Education Network East Asia (GENEA) during the coming year. Inspired by this progress, GENE developed initial contacts for potentially building up similar initiatives in Africa, the Mediterranean and Latin America.

During 2016, GENE also started engaging with other global actors, such as the OECD, Unesco and the Council of Europe to explore commonalities and potential synergies.

## Communication & visibility



GENE's information area progressed well during 2016 with an updated GENE website and the initial development of a social media strategy. GENE now has a presence on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn and all platforms were successfully used to highlight GENE's work during the past year.

For example, in the lead up to the Paris conference, GENE used Twitter and Facebook to create visibility for the event, with LinkedIn posts and a press release complementing these efforts on and just before the event. GENE submitted its press release via the EuropaWire news service. The combined social media and press activity resulted in unprecedented outreach across platforms for GENE, with the hashtag #GENEparis trending at number 3 on Twitter on the 28th of November, and reaching an audience of 68,000 via the GENE Facebook page.

# Financial statement



## GENE Income & Expenditure Report 2016

End of year 2016

	€
<b>INCOME</b>	
National Funders	203 375
EC contribution	471 556
<b>Total income</b>	<b>674 931</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
1. Roundtables and networking	153 304
2. Peer review process, national reports and follow-up	7 427
3. Innovation and national funding support	182
4. Policy research	33 805
5. Global and regional co-operation programme	3 101
6. Information and visibility	3 819
<b>Total - direct programme costs</b>	<b>201 638</b>
7. Staffing	414 769
8. Equipment and supplies	3 527
9 Office & indirect costs	14 830
10. Audit, bank, financial services	36 090
11. Provision for indirect costs as allowed by EC	-
<b>Total - staffing and overheads</b>	<b>469 217</b>
<b>TOTAL - surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>4 077</b>



## GENE - Balance Sheet

Figures subject to audit

	Dec 2016	Dec 2015
	€	€
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Funders		35 000
Cash at bank	163 056	24 806
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>163 056</b>	<b>59 806</b>
<b>FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Funds</b>		
Funds brought forward	1 029	19 932
Net result for year	14 077	-18 903
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>15 106</b>	<b>1 029</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Suppliers and accrued expenses	85 551	48 777
Funders paid in advance	443	10 000
Payroll taxes	45 860	
Net salaries due	16 095	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>147 949</b>	<b>58 777</b>
<b>Total - funds &amp; liabilities</b>	<b>163 055</b>	<b>59 806</b>

# Board and staff



## Board

Dr. Helmuth Hartmeyer	Chair (Austria)
Arnfinn Nygaard	Board member (Norway)
Mirjam Bonting	Board member (Netherlands)
Luisa Pereira	Board member (Portugal)
David Gorman	Financial Advisor (Ireland)

## Secretariat

Liam Wegimont	Interim Director (Ireland)
Dirk Bocken	Networks & Roundtable (Belgium)
Jo McAuley	Peer Reviews & Policy Research (Sweden)
Ditta Trindade	Increase & Innovation/Paris Conference (Slovakia)
Barbara Treacy	Office Manager (Ireland)
Debbie Brennan	Book keeping (Ireland)

# A word of thanks



We are very grateful to the below list of organisations, ministries and agencies for their contributions to GENE. Without these contributions, GENE would not be able to operate and provide a network for shared policy learning in Europe. We are particularly grateful to the European Commission for its significant support.

## 2016 donors to Global Education Network Europe

The European Commission

Austria

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)  
Ministry of Education

Belgium

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

Engagement Global

Ireland

Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands

National Committee for Sustainable Development Education (NCDO)

Portugal

Camões Institute, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

