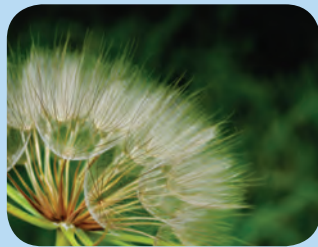


GENE
Global Education
Network Europe
Networking
Ministries
and Agencies



Annual Report 2017

GENE Annual Report 2017

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANGEL	Academic Network of Global Education and Learning
CEAAL	Council of Popular Education of Latin America and the Caribbean
CONCORD	Confederation for Cooperation of Relief and Development NGOs
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
EU	European Union
GE	Global Education
GENE	Global Education Network Europe
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCL	University College London
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Message from GENE Chair

In a world of growing complexity and uncertainty, with each passing day and each deepening global and local challenge, we remain ever more convinced that Global Education (GE) is at the heart of an adequate response to the way in which we find ourselves in the world.

So, it is perhaps with some small hope that I commend to you the GENE Annual Report for 2017. After a time of some turbulence and much growth, GENE is in the midst of exciting times, and with some real and solid achievements beginning to emerge.



In this annual report you will hear tell of the following:

- GENE biannual Roundtables facilitating policy learning between a growing number of Ministries and Agencies from a growing number of European countries, and beyond.
- Deepened and broadened Peer Learning – with Peer Reviews launched in Belgium and Cyprus, and a growing recognition of the need to support countries in follow-up and implementation.
- The success of the Increase Programme, with countries new to GE or with little funding available, deepening commitment and growing policy and provision; while also recognising that those traditionally strong in GE provision also need support to maintain budgets, policy and provision.
- The first European GE Innovation Awards: recognising, highlighting and awarding quality and innovation in Global Education; with thanks to partner Ministries and Agencies, and to CONCORD and PLATFORMA for their involvement.
- The birth of ANGEL, the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning, a bridge between researchers and policymakers, established to enhance evidence-based policymaking and to ensure that research in the field has a strong policy basis.
- The second edition of *The State of Global Education in Europe 2017*, with strengthened emphasis on national structures, strategies and funding levels along with a new section on good practice.

This report outlines some of the work of GENE in 2017; it does not adequately represent, nor could it, the extensive work of Ministries and Agencies at national level in Europe, which is our *raison d'être*. I would like to thank all those Ministries and Agencies involved in GENE for their constant support and willingness to share experience, expertise and vision. They are at the beating heart of GENE, and together with the European Commission, they also provide the resources to make GE in Europe possible, at national and pan-European level. Sincere thanks also to the Commission, with whom we have worked during 2017 not only looking back at work in 2016, but also looking forward to 2019 – 2021, and to 2022 - 2024 and beyond. I am delighted to report that based on these conversations, GENE may now have a good seven-year perspective on which to base more long-term planning. I would also like to thank the Board of GENE for their dedicated and committed work. Finally, I would like to recognise and appreciate the work of the Secretariat, who, under the leadership of the Director, Luísa Teotónio Pereira, drive forward the work of the network, and make our programme memorable.

Liam Wegimont

GENE - Experiencing policy learning

Beginning in 2001, with six national institutions from six countries, in the intervening period GENE has grown so that today it facilitates policy learning between over 45 Ministries and Agencies and other bodies with national responsibility for Global Education from over 25 European countries.

As an informal network of formal, governmental ministries and agencies, GENE provides different spaces where participating national policymakers can co-operate based on active participation and the sharing of experiences for the purpose of improving policy learning. This policy learning is informed by research, based on practice, and in turn seeks to inform improved and increased practice. Through networking, peer learning and support, and dialogue with the academic and research community, national institutions responsible for public policies on Global Education are encouraged to hear from, to know more about and to understand differing national contexts and challenges. Policymakers, working at national level, draw from policy and practice in differing contexts, in order to inspire one another's practice, policymaking and effect.

Building such a network, where participating countries have a voice, and can create joint initiatives and common strategies, is a constant, daily and year-on-year work, which may enhance results nationally and promote policy and funding coherence in Europe.

GENE facilitates policy learning through the organisation of Roundtables and of Peer Review processes, by supporting the development and strengthening of national structures, national strategies, national funding systems, and sectoral and strategic initiatives, by recognising quality Global Education practices around Europe and by publishing current thinking and analysis on crucial problematics and cross-cutting issues identified by its participating institutions.

In 2017, GENE and the Development Education Resource Centre (DERC) of the University College London (UCL) launched ANGEL – the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning, aiming at providing a space for dialogue between policymakers, academics and researchers in the field of Global Education; ensuring that policymaking will be informed by cutting edge thinking and the latest research, while research will be informed by the contemporary concerns of policymakers.

In this, and in other ways outlined in this report on the work done in 2017, GENE works to move beyond policy borrowing to deeper policy learning; increasing reach and improving practice in the process. GENE facilitates the common task of participating Ministries and Agencies, working towards the day when all people in Europe – in solidarity with peoples globally – will have access to quality Global Education, greater social justice and enhanced cohesion.

Global Education – Welcoming and discussing the conceptual landscape

Concepts are lively creatures – they have a history, they also are born, develop, die and they are transformed within changing societies. They come to life mainly through institutional promotion and less commonly through inspirational discourse. They reflect needs, concerns, aspirations, challenges linked to specific places and times. They are never neutral; they capture ways of living, power relations and driving ideas.

Global Education is the concept used by GENE and other actors in Europe for over 20 years. Drawing on the Maastricht declaration (2002)¹ for its definition, this broad consensus-based concept contains both an aspirational vision and a strategic intention. The global dimension is seen in the context of globalisation and the perceived growing interlinkages between local and global situations, with the aim to “*open people’s eyes and minds to the realities of the world, and awaken them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all*”. Simultaneously, Global Education acts as an umbrella term encompassing other terms, including Development Education, Human Rights Education, Education for Sustainability, Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education, “*being the global dimensions of Education for Citizenship.*”

As acknowledged in the recent GENE policy briefing paper on Concepts and Definitions of Global Education, nowadays, while some of these concepts have stayed in use, other concepts are gaining prominence, boosted through established international organisations and from the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE). This diverse and sometimes complex conceptual landscape resonates well with the complexity of the world we are living in: from the need to anchor our work within national communities past and present, to the need to find a common way; from the need to clarify, to the need to encompass and to be open, rather than restrictive.

The first *Global Education Digest*, published in the framework of ANGEL, the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning, highlights that “*the second decade of the twenty-first century in the field of Global Education has been characterised by the major expansion of academic and research material, the increased importance given to this area by UNESCO, the inclusion of relevant themes within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the OECD PISA Global Competence initiative for 2018*”.

Conceptual discussion is futile if we engage mainly at the institutional level or with ungrounded arguments. However, it can be an opportunity to reflect critically on some of the realities and challenges that we are facing as human beings and as societies.

This is why, while using the term Global Education, GENE continues to welcome the use of other related concepts. GENE does not propose uniformity, but dialogue within diversity in order to pursue a common goal: to work for positive social change, including social justice and cohesion, locally and globally.

¹ <https://rm.coe.int/168070e540>

Progress and Achievements in 2017

This chapter on GENE work in 2017 is part of the GENE programme for the three-year period 2016-2018 and it includes the co-operation and funding agreement between GENE and the European Commission (EC). The EC project, 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. It focuses on activities in the following six areas:

1. Networking
2. Peer Learning
3. Increase and Innovation
4. Policy Research
5. Global Outreach
6. Information and visibility

GENE's participants are Ministries and Agencies and other bodies in European countries with responsibility for Global Education policy, strategy, funding and co-ordination at national level. In addition, GENE collaborates with other stakeholders and actors on specific initiatives for the purpose of extending and enriching the learning as well as the sharing strategies and efforts to increase and improve Global Education. Such actors include CONCORD, representing civil society organisations (CSOs), PLATFORMA, representing Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), the European Youth Forum, representing youth organisations, and international organisations, such as UNESCO, the OECD and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Looking at enhancing a dialogue between policymakers and academics and researchers, GENE and the Development Education Resource Centre (DERC) of the University College London (UCL) launched ANGEL – the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning. Last, but not least, knowledge about and sharing with colleagues from other continents is becoming important. In 2016 GENE invited to the Florence Roundtable KOICA ODA Education Center and APCEIU from South Korea and in 2017, the Council of Popular Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL) also attended the Cyprus Roundtable.

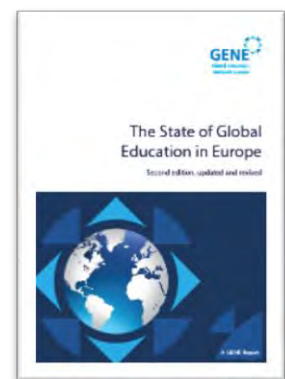
Overall, substantial progress has been made, resulting in important achievements in the six areas of the project, as outlined briefly below.

Area 1: Networking

Two Roundtables were convened in 2017 – Roundtable 36 was held in Brussels in April and Roundtable 37 in Nicosia in October. 45 ministries and agencies participated, several of which were in attendance for the first time. In 2017, Malta joined as a GENE participant. In all, six new institutions participated: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Cyprus, the Ministries of Education from Latvia, Malta, Slovenia and Spain and the UN Association from Norway.

As in the previous year, the Roundtables offered an opportunity to share the experience of co-ordinating regional Global Education policy learning with other parts of the world. In 2017 the focus was on learning with Latin America through the participation of the Council of Popular Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL).

GENE participants prepared country reports under Chatham House rules and GENE compiled them into two editions of the Country Updates that were shared during Roundtables 36 and 37 respectively. During the second half of 2017, the Secretariat worked with the countries who contributed reports during 2016 to elaborate the second edition of the State of Global Education in Europe. This publication drew on the content from the country reports, along with new content related to the institutional Global Education landscape at national level in Europe. It also looked in detail at the funding allocated to Global Education and DEAR among different national actors in Europe and sought to identify trends in policy themes and cross-cutting issues affecting national Global Education actors.



The Global Education Innovation Award featured at both Roundtables during 2017. The Award was launched and opened for application during RT 36 in Brussels, and the winning projects were presented with their prizes and were able to introduce GENE participants to their work during RT 37 in Nicosia.

As part of the Roundtables, participants are always invited to take part in a local Global Education experience. In Brussels, this entailed a visit to the Bellevue museum, while in Nicosia participants were invited to the House of Representatives for the launch of the Cyprus Peer Review report, as well as taking part in workshops focused on Global Education in Cyprus.



Area 2: Peer Learning

GENE's peer learning area of work saw the launch of the National Reports on Global Education in Belgium (at Roundtable 36) and Cyprus (at Roundtable 37) during 2017. GENE also produced a set of policy summaries in English and in the languages spoken in the countries reviewed. Summaries in Dutch, French and German were produced based on the Belgian report, and for Cyprus, the decision was made to produce summaries in the Greek and Turkish languages, to be finalised during 2018.

To share learning between countries, GENE invited representatives of the last three peer reviewed countries (Portugal, Ireland, Belgium) to make presentations at the Brussels Roundtable regarding their national consultation and evaluation processes in order to share the learning that took place at national level.



Cyprus Peer Review

The Peer Review of Cyprus involved international peers from Ireland (Vanessa Sheridan from Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and the Czech Republic (Michala Bernkopfová from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), along with the Chair of GENE Mr. Liam Wegimont and staff from the GENE Secretariat (Ms. Jo McAuley and Mr. Dirk Bocken). During the international peer review visit in June 2017, the review team met with many committed and knowledgeable national stakeholders who shared their knowledge and perspectives on the many facets of Global Education in Cyprus. Among them were the Ministry of Education and Culture and its departments and agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, universities, local authorities, NGOs, youth structures and bi-communal peace initiatives. All stakeholders gave generously of their time and expertise and shared their views about the rich and diverse history and current state of Global Education in Cyprus. All of the learning and impressions from the peer review were documented and collected in order to start the drafting process that would, after an extensive consultation process, result in the National Report on Global Education in Cyprus.



The Cyprus Peer Review report received special treatment through a high-level launch event at Parliament during Roundtable 37. In addition to the Ministries and Agencies participating in the Roundtable, the launch was attended by a large number of stakeholders who were involved in the Peer Review, along with local media. The event was addressed by the Minister for Education and Culture, as well as other high-level representatives.

Area 3: Increase and Innovation

The Increase Programme aims to assist countries with emerging Global Education funding and policy structures by offering co-financing, advice and recommendations regarding how policy and funding can be structured.

In 2017, national consultations took place with nine countries: Slovakia, Malta, Slovenia, Latvia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and contacts were also established with Serbia and other countries in the Western Balkans. The GENE team visited Riga, Nicosia, Belgrade, La Valetta, Ljubljana and Bratislava.

The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Slovak Development Agency in October 2017 and the second MoU was signed with the Ministry of Education and Employment of Malta in December 2017. Further agreements, in particular with Latvia and Slovenia, developed during 2017 will likely bear fruit in 2018.



Global Education Innovation Award

GENE's first Global Education Innovation Award received 83 applications from 27 European countries. The Award was unveiled in Spring and implemented in Summer (call closed end of July). The International Selection Committee was formed and completed their work, reviewing 83 applications received from 27 countries by September. Given the quality of projects submitted, 12 projects were awarded a prize of 10.000,00€ to be used for further activities in the field of Global Education (GE) and 20 other initiatives will be recognized by a publication which, in total, will present the 32 initiatives selected by an International Selection Committee and GENE Board. Representatives from the awarded projects from eleven European countries were invited to the Roundtable in Nicosia, in October, to present their projects and receive recognition for their work. The winning projects were showcased in a video accessible on GENE website and social media.



2017 Global Education Innovation Award winners at GENE Roundtable 37, Nicosia, October 2017.

Area 4: Policy Research

The policy research work progressed through, inter alia, the establishment of ANGEL - the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning. ANGEL was launched in May 2017 at the Institute of Education in London, during the first annual research conference jointly organised by GENE and the Development Education Research Centre (DERC) at University College London. The conference was attended by several big names from the Global Education research community, including Professor Annette Scheunpflug, as well as by Lydia Ruprecht, Head of Global Citizenship Education at UNESCO. The successful launch conference was followed by the development of the ANGEL website, which went live in December 2017.



*Annette Scheunpflug,
Bamberg University*

Work also progressed well during 2017 on the Digest of recent research in Global Education. The Digest is a publication created by DERC on behalf of GENE in the context of ANGEL. The first edition, covering the years 2015-2017 is due for publication in early 2018 and has a strong focus on policy-related research. It contains references to articles, reports and books in the field of Global Education research.

During 2017, GENE also drafted a policy briefing on the conceptual landscape and recent conceptual debates in Global Education.



Lydia Ruprecht, UNESCO

Area 5: Global Processes

The global processes area of work progressed well in 2017. It aims to strengthen policy learning internationally, including beyond Europe, and to prepare the ground for future co-operation with strategic institutions. During 2017, GENE participated in five international meetings organised by UNESCO, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, OECD DevCom and PLATFORMA.

Following the involvement of Asian colleagues at the autumn Roundtable in 2016, the focus in 2017 was to discover experiences in the field of GE from Latin America. Oscar Jara, the President of CEAAL (Consejo de Educación Popular de America Latina y el Caribe), participated in Roundtable 37 in Nicosia and this involvement formed the basis for further co-operation with Global Education policymakers in the region.



Oscar Jara, CEAAL

Area 6: Information and Communication

The project's information area of work moved forward with a restructured and updated GENE website and the systematic use of social media to disseminate information about new publications, key events and programme updates.

GENE's social media channels are established on the following platforms:



<https://www.facebook.com/GENEGlobalEducation/>



https://www.linkedin.com/company/gene_gloaled/



https://twitter.com/GENE_GlobalEd



During 2017, two leaflets were also produced, one on GENE as a network, and one providing information on the Peer Review process. Four bi-annual newsletters were published and shared. [Press releases submitted via the EuropaWire](#) news service highlighted the launches of the Peer Review reports, the ANGEL network, as well as the Global Education Innovation Award.

Financial Statement

GENE					
Management Accounts					
Year to 31 st December 2017					
Income and Expenditure					
	Year to December 2017		Year to December 2016		
	€	€	€	€	
INCOME					
National Funders	163,000		203,375		
EC contribution	844,784		471,556		
		1,017,784		674,931	
EXPENDITURE					
1. Roundtables and Networking	131,146		153,304		
2. Peer review process, national reports and follow-up	53,597		7,427		
3. Innovation and National Funding support Funds	178,615		182		
4. Policy research	31,248		33,805		
5. Global and regional co-operation programme	7,340		3,101		
6. Information and visibility	2,626		3,819		
Total – Direct programme costs		404,572		201,638	
Evaluation costs		12,089		0	
7. Staffing	600,386		414,769		
8. Equipment and Supplies	3,464		3,527		
9. Office and Indirect costs	63,748		46,617		
10. Audit, Bank. Financial Services	4,929		4,303		
11. Other Indirect costs	111				
		672,638		469,216	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		-71,515		4,077	

Financial Statement

GENE – Balance Sheet			
31 st December 2017			
			Dec 2016
	€		€
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Funders			
Cash in Bank	774,775		163,056
Total assets	774,775		163,056
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Funds			
Funds brought forward	5,107		1,030
Net result for Year	-71,515		4,077
Total Funds	-66,408		5,107
Liabilities			
Suppliers and accrued expenses	8,931		85,551
Funders and EC paid in advance	794,610		10,443
Payroll Taxes	22,011		45,860
Net salaries due	5,631		16,095
Total Liabilities	841,183		157,949
Total Funds and Liabilities	774,775		163,056

Board and Secretariat 2017

Board

Liam Wegimont	Chair
Dr. Helmuth Hartmeyer	
Arnfinn Nygaard	
Mirjam Bonting	
David Gorman	Financial Advisor

Secretariat

Emanuela Benini	Director (early 2017)
Luísa Teotónio Pereira	Director (from September 2017)
Dirk Bocken	Networks & Roundtable (until November 2017)
Jo McAuley	Peer Reviews & Policy Research
Ditta Trindade	Increase & Innovation
Katarina Kovacova	Increase & Innovation support
Lidia Labacci	Office Manager
Barbara Treacy	Administration
Debbie Brennan	Book keeping

Offices

GENE's main office, established in 2016, is based in Dublin on the north side of the River Liffey.

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

A Word of Thanks

We are very grateful to all the organisations, ministries and agencies who have contributed to the work of GENE during 2017, from involvement and organisation of Roundtables, participation and support in connection with Peer Reviews, engagement in National Consultations and Capital Visits, research, and of course through financial support. Without these contributions, GENE would not be able to operate and provide a network for shared policy learning in Europe.

Funding

We are very grateful for the funding from the following organisations, ministries and agencies for their financial contributions to GENE, and particularly grateful to the European Commission for its significant support.

The European Commission

Austria

**Austrian Development Agency
Ministry of Education**

Belgium

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Germany

Engagement Global

Ireland

Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Luxembourg

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Netherlands

National Committee for Sustainable Development Education

Portugal

Camões - Institute for Co-operation and Language

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



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the editors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.