

Global Education Network Europe (GENE)

GENE is the network of ministries, agencies and other bodies with responsibility for Global Education policy, strategy, funding and co-ordination at national level in European countries.

Starting in 2001 with 6 countries, GENE has grown to include over 40 agencies from 25 European countries, sharing policy learning through networking.



Networking ministries, agencies and other bodies with national responsibility for Global Education in Europe.

The Global Education Increase Programme

Strengthening support, quality and reach in Global Education and DEAR through policy learning has been at the heart of GENE since its establishment. Its mission states that "GENE works towards the day when all people in Europe have access to quality Global Education".

The Increase Programme was established to help develop and strengthen structures of support, funding and dialogue for Global Education and DEAR at national level. It offers capacity building and practice sharing in countries where such structures of support or co-ordination are emerging or do not exist. It engages Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their agencies, Ministries of Education and their agencies, as well as other national stakeholders in this process of strengthening GE in the country.

Process

From an initial group of 12 countries identified and invited to be part of the programme, four Memoranda of Understanding were ultimately signed, following extensive dialogue: Latvia, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia. A Partnership Agreement was also signed with Cyprus.



Increase Slovenia - Global Education Forum 2018

Programme

While the programme is tailor-made to each country, it generally includes the following three key areas:

National Consultation Process

Support to initiate or strengthen a national multi-stakeholder dialogue leading to a National Seminar on Global Education (support to organise the event, involving diverse stakeholders, co-development of the programme, engaging external GE experts).

Co-funding Mechanism

Support to establish or strengthen a national GE and DEAR co-financing system; providing access to expertise on GE and DEAR funding systems.

Technical Support

Tailor-made support reflecting the needs at the national level. This involved among others development of national language GE materials, training of teachers in GE, training of youth multipliers in GE, development of teacher training curricula in GE, a study visit to another country with GE expertise.

Follow up

Several of the current partners have indicated that they are interested in continued collaboration and support from GENE. Further GENE participating Ministries and Agencies have also indicated an interest in participating in the Programme of National Support from 2019-2021.

For more information, please visit:

www.gene.eu/support/increase-programme/

Contact

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Highlights from the Global Education Increase Programme 2016-2018

Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus

The GENE Peer Review of Global Education in Cyprus in 2017 highlighted several recommendations that became the focus of the Interdepartmental Committee on Global Education, hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture. A multi-stakeholder meeting took place in October 2018 as part of a national consultation process, and the subsequent Partnership Agreement with GENE contributed to the development of a co-funding mechanism on Global Education. This led to the creation of a specific budget for GE projects and a call for proposals aimed at primary and secondary schools, as part of the School Mediation Programme. It also enabled the printing of Global Education manuals, purchase of stationary and educational materials.

Ministry of Education and Employment, Malta

The interest and involvement of Maltese GENE participants, and particularly of the Hon. Minister of Education and Employment Mr. Evarist Bartolo, were crucial to the development of the MoU between GENE and the Maltese counterparts. This led to a Launch Seminar on Global Education in June 2018, which facilitated a multi-stakeholder dialogue and an expert discussion on GE policy themes. The cooperation also involved the development of a GE funding scheme, implemented through an open call for Global Education initiatives open to primary and secondary schools. In addition, Malta's engagement with the Increase Programme also included the development of a teacher training curriculum on Global Education.

Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia

The national consultation process in Latvia started with a visit to the capital in March 2017. A series of events followed during 2018, among them a Launch seminar on Global Education in the General Education Curricula, a National Conference on the theme "Think, Learn and Live Globally", a study visit of Latvian stakeholders in Global Education to Finland, as well as the translation of educational materials on Global Education. A co-funding mechanism was also established with an open call for the development of Global Education materials, as well as activities in formal and non-formal education settings.

Slovak Agency for International Development and Cooperation (SAIDC), Slovakia

An intense national consultation process took place among the key stakeholders in Global Education in Slovakia during 2018, aimed at achieving more collaboration and involvement of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and of the formal education sector. A high-level meeting on GE took place in June 2018, bringing together ministries and agencies, international experts and other key actors in the field. A co-funding mechanism was established in 2017 to map Global Education in the formal and non-formal education sectors in cooperation with the NGDO platform MVRO. This was expanded in 2018 to include funding for Global Education projects. A training of youth multipliers and a youth worker handbook on Global Education was also realised through cooperation with the National Youth Council.



Increase Slovakia - Global Education High-Level Meeting 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

GENE's initial visit to Ljubljana, which included an inspiring lecture by Dr Helmuth Hartmeyer, led to a national consultation process and National Forum on Global Education and Education for Sustainable Development in May 2018. The Forum saw high-level participation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and also inspired cooperation with the National Institute for Education on the mapping of Global Education and Education for Sustainable Development in Slovenia. A co-funding mechanism was implemented through the Centre for European Perspective, dedicated to the project "Global Responsibility for the Future" and involving secondary school pupils.

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