

The UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education

6 to 10 March 2017, Ottawa, Canada

Organized by UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Concept Note – 23 November 2016

Background

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) are two major programmes that contribute to make education relevant to today's global challenges. They aim to ensure that all learners – of all ages – acquire the knowledge, skills and values needed to promote sustainable and peaceful societies.

Since the launch of the United Nations Global Education First Initiative in 2012 and the declaration of the UN Decade on ESD for the years 2005-2014, ESD and GCED have continuously gained momentum; both are included under Sustainable Development Goal 4-Target 4.7 of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and are, indeed, relevant for the achievement of all other Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

UNESCO is the lead agency for ESD and coordinates the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference (37 C/Resolution 12) and acknowledged by the UN General Assembly in 2014 (Resolution A/RES/69/211) as the follow up to the UN Decade of ESD.

UNESCO is also leading efforts for GCED as one of the three priorities of the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, launched in 2012 (cf. Decision 32 of UNESCO's Executive Board at its 196th Session)¹.

Introduction

UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO will jointly organize **the UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: the role of Education**, scheduled to take place from 6 to 10 March 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. The Week will present the unique opportunity of bringing together, under one banner, the following two Fora organized back-to-back with sessions open to participants of both Fora:

- The Review Forum for the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD: Implementation and Innovation, and
- The Third UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education (GCED): the Role of Teachers

¹ Decisions of the 196th session of the Executive Board are available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002328/232890e.pdf>; See page 56 of the document

The Review Forum for the GAP will serve as an important platform to review GAP implementation since its launch in November 2014 and discuss the way forward for the following years of GAP implementation. The Review Forum will also explore emerging ESD issues, trends and ideas, and highlight innovative approaches.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the GAP at the global level and support the scaling up of ESD actions, UNESCO has set up five Partner Networks of around 80 key ESD stakeholders ('Key Partners'). There is one Partner Network for each of the five Priority Action Areas of the GAP:

- i. advancing policy;
- ii. transforming learning and training environments;
- iii. building capacities of educators and trainers;
- iv. empowering and mobilizing youth;
- v. accelerating sustainable solutions at local level.

The Key Partners will form the core of the participants of the Review Forum and UNESCO will prepare a GAP progress report as input for the Review Forum.

The Third UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education will draw on the foundational work of the two GCED held in Bangkok, Thailand (December 2013) and in Paris, France (January 2015), which, at each Forum, gathered over 200 international participants to discuss trends and exchange good practices in GCED.

Building on the conclusions of the September 2013 technical consultation meeting organized by UNESCO in Seoul (Republic of Korea), the First GCED Forum helped clarify the conceptual underpinnings of good quality GCED², while the Second GCED Forum firmly positioned GCED in the context of the post-2015 education agenda and as a means to support peace³. The focus of the Third GCED Forum will be on the central role of teachers and teacher educators in the effective promotion of GCED.

The Week will also provide an opportunity to showcase Canadian innovation and leadership in the areas of ESD and GCED.

Objectives of the UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development:

The Week is organized in order to maximize interactions, networking and free debates and discussions among its participants. The Week will:

- Provide space for participants to discuss strategies to implement Target 4.7 of Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Education;
- Enable exchange of good practices and experiences in the fields of ESD and GCED;
- Present the opportunity for participants to learn about the latest trends and innovation in pedagogical approaches and practices in ESD and GCED.

² The outcomes of both the Seoul and Bangkok consultations are synthesized in the publication: "Global Citizenship Education: Preparing Learners for the Challenges of the 21st Century". Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002277/227729E.pdf>

³ The final report of the Forum is available online at: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/pdf/FinalReport-GCED_21April.pdf

Specific objectives of the Review Forum for the GAP:

- Review progress of GAP implementation since the World Conference on ESD;
- Identify and plan further actions for the coming years of the Global Action Programme;
- Discuss emerging issues and innovations in ESD;

Specific objectives of the Third UNESCO Forum on GCED:

- Exchange good policies and practices for teachers and teacher trainers, with consideration of progress towards implementation of GCED at the country level, and a specific focus on the role of teachers and teacher development;
- Explore how GCED links to and contributes towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Programme Themes of the UNESCO Week

In order to pursue their objectives, both Fora will in particular address the following programme themes:

- Formal and non-formal education
- Transformative pedagogy
- Preparing teachers to teach ESD/GCED
- Whole-school approach
- Measurement – assessing impact and results

Programme of the UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development

The Review Forum for the Global Action Programme on ESD: Implementation and Innovation and the Third Forum on Global Citizenship Education will be organized back-to-back, under the one banner of The UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: the role of Education.

	Review Forum for the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)		ESD/GCED Joint sessions	Third UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education (GCED)	
	Monday 6 March 2017	Tuesday 7 March 2017	Wednesday 8 March 2017	Thursday 9 March 2017	Friday 10 March 2017
09:30 - 11:00	Plenary	Concurrent Session	Opening of the UNESCO Week	Plenary	Concurrent Session
Break					
11:15-12:45	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session
Lunch					
13:45-15:15	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session
Break					
15:30-17:00	Concurrent Session	Concluding Plenary	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Concluding Plenary
Exhibitions					

Description of Programme Components

	Concurrent Sessions			Exhibition booths
	Debate	Workshop	Town-hall meeting	Exhibition booths
Duration	90 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes	Throughout the Week
Format	Introduction by moderator, followed by 2-3 interventions & discussion	Short introduction by a workshop facilitator followed by a practical activity	Short introduction on a topic by a moderator followed by expressions of opinion by participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exhibition booth, including table and backdrop• Participants will walk through the exhibition area to interact with exhibitors
Ideal for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing information on issues requiring technical expertise/clarification• Dissemination of new information and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical work on a topic/issue• Learning by doing	Free expression of, and reflection on, diverse opinions, positions and ideas on a topic	Presentation of projects, activities and good practices/tools
Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator• 2-3 panelists	Workshop facilitator to prepare and lead the activity	Dynamic and skilled moderator who can handle diverse viewpoints and arguments	Publications and other materials for display and distribution to be brought by exhibitors

Date and location

The UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: the Role of Education will take place from 6 to 10 March 2017 at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, Canada.

Participants

Approximately 400 stakeholders from government, non-governmental and private sectors from all continents will be expected to attend the Week.

Participation will be by invitation only.

Working languages

English and French simultaneous interpretation will be provided for the Plenary and Concurrent Sessions.

(21 November 2016)

Partners

The Week is organized by UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, with the support of other partners

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