

*Mr. Doens, Director General, DG INTPA,
Mr. Koopman, Director General, DG NEAR
European Commission*

13th December, 2024

*CONCORD a.i.s.b.l.
Rue de l'industrie, 10
1000 Brussels*

Budapest Declaration on DEAR Funding Cuts

Support Education for Global Citizenship: Maintain Critical Funding

Prepared at the Budapest Presidency Conference "Shaping tomorrow through global education" 28-29th
November 2024 in the European Youth Center of the Council of Europe

Dear Mr. Doens and Mr. Koopman,

As part of the current cuts to the EU's Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), the EU's development education funding programme (DEAR) suffered seemingly disproportionate cuts.

The undersigned organisations are deeply concerned by this course of action by the Commission and the repercussions it will have on the EU's Development Cooperation at large.

The DEAR programme is unique and irreplaceable due to its pan-European remit and its aim to promote activities and educational programmes on active citizenship, sustainability and human rights among European citizens (Global Citizenship Education – GCE). DEAR's work with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote global justice, human rights, sustainable development and democratic participation supports projects that engage mostly young Europeans and is of vital importance.

The Global Citizenship Education made possible by DEAR is an answer to polycrisis, insecurities, anti-democratic tendencies and disinformation, as emphasized by the European Declaration on Global Education to 2050 (Dublin Declaration, Nov. 2022). It prepares the European population to exercise their roles as global citizens fully, by exploring diverse realities, developing understanding and respect and facilitating spaces for civic participation.

It is an answer to the noticeable lack of solidarity in Europe between young and old, urban and rural, North and South, as global education enables people to develop empathy, a sense of belonging to the global community, and responsibility towards other people and the

environment, in their locality and beyond in line with the EU's Values enshrined in Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The DEAR programme is a keystone to 'development policy' here at home and in Europe. It is an investment in a peaceful and sustainable European future.

In these times, Europe must invest, not reduce funding, to promote educational programmes on global justice, human rights, sustainable development, and democratic participation for its citizens and, in particular, ensure DEAR predictability and sustainability, as recommended also by the recently launched CONCORD study "Do we care enough about Citizen Engagement?" launched in Budapest on 29 November 2024.

CONCORD therefore requests the Commission implement the following points to strengthen Global Citizenship Education in Europe, as already called for in the Envision 4.7. Roadmap endorsed in Helsinki 2019:

- Reverse proposed cuts to the DEAR budget in the current MFF
- Strengthen civil society support in education and awareness raising by implementing UNDP's recommendation: allocate 3% of ODA to development education
- Secure DEAR funding of an equivalent amount in the next MFF 2028-34 as in the current MFF before the cuts were applied

We hope that you will consider these points. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss them in more detail.

Your sincerely,

Rilli Lappalainen,
President, CONCORD.

In addition to CONCORD members, the following organisations wished to explicitly sign on to this letter in their own capacity:

MUNDU - center for global education, Denmark

Südwind, Austria

CIR, Germany

CEEweb for Biodiversity, Hungary

ITECO - Centre de formation pour le développement et la solidarité internationale - Belgium

Fundacja Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej (CEO), Poland

Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie, Poland

Fundacja To Proste, Poland

Go'n'Act Foundation, Poland

Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete, Hungary

Asociația Clujul Sustenabil, Romania

CISU - Civil Society in Development, Denmark

Mondo, Estonia

Engagé·e·s & Déterminé·e·s (E&D), France

Solidarité Laïque, France

Commerce Equitable France, France

Asociația *Mai bine*, Romania

Humanitas - Centre for Global Learning and Cooperation, Slovenia

Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), Germany

Focus Association for Sustainable Development

Skuhna so.p, Slovenia

Partin, The Netherlands

Peace Education Institute, Finland

ARPOK, Czech Republic

Institute Voluntariat, Slovenia

Ngo-federatie, Belgium
Polish Fair Trade Association, Poland
Bodi svetloba NGO, Slovenia
Zavod BALI NGO, Slovenia
UCOS, Belgium
niemarudni.pl NGO, Poland
Društvo Šolski ekovrtovi, Slovenia
Anthropolis Association, Hungary
University Centre for Development Cooperation, Belgium
Na mysli z.ú., Czech Republic
Wilde Ganzen foundation, the Netherlands
BOS+, Belgium
KIYO, Belgium
European Network for Citizen Initiatives in Global Solidarity, the Netherlands
IDEA - the Irish Development Education Association
Caritas International, Belgium
Eclosio, Belgium
ACODEV, Belgium
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium
Quinoa, Belgium
Iles de Paix, Belgium
Centre tricontinental (CETRI), Belgium
WeWorld, Italy
Djapo, Belgium
Join For Water, Belgium
DBA, Belgium
Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (ActionAid Denmark), Denmark
Deaf Hope, Prague, Czech Republic

4Change, Portugal APA, Ireland CAONGD, Spain OSVIC, Italy

ARCI, Bulgaria CEAUP, Portugal

COOPERA ONG, Spain

FOS, Belgium Diamorfosis IOSD, Greece C.E.G.A., Bulgaria

BFPA, Bulgaria

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, Belgium Association for Shared Learning ELA,
Bulgaria Studio Globo, Belgium

Broederlijk Delen, Belgium Entraide et Fraternité Belgium

Solsoc, Belgium

ritimo, France

CISP, Italy

Open Education Centre Foundation, Bulgaria

ADRA Europe, Belgium

11.11.11, Belgium

Humundi, Belgium

People In Need, Czech Republic

ADRA, Czech Republic

SCI Projets Internationaux, Belgium

INEX-SDA, Czech Republic

Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V., Germany

Caritas, Czech Republic

Oxfam-Magasins du monde, Belgium

LINK 2007 - COOPERAZIONE IN RETE, Italy

Global Libraries Bulgaria Foundation, Bulgaria

WSM, Belgium

Associazione "Luciano Lama" ODV, Italy

SEVER Centre for Environmental Education, Czech Republic

