

*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" 28-29<sup>th</sup>  
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:*

*11.11.11, Belgium*

*4Change NGDO, Portugal*

*A proposito di altri mondi ets- Apdam, Italy*

*A.R.T. Fusion Association, Romania*

*ACMOS aps, Italy*

*ACODEV, Belgium*

*ACRA, Italy*

*ADRA, Czech Republic*

*ADRA Europe, Belgium*

*Africa e Mediterraneo, Italy*

*AIDGLOBAL, Portugal*

*Ambidekster klub, Croatia*

*Ambrela - platform for development organisations, Slovakia*

*Amref Health ETS, Italy*

*Andalucia Acoge, Spain*

*Anthropolis Association, Hungary*

*APA, Ireland*

*APDAM - A Proposito Di Altri Mondi, Italy*

*ARCI, Bulgaria*

*ARPOK, o.p.s., Czech Republic*

*Asociatia Antreprenorilor Sociali din Nord Vest, Romania*

*Asociația Clujul Sustenabil, Romania*

*Asociația Mai bine, Romania*

*Association Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21, Romania*

*Association for Democratic Initiatives - ADI, North Macedonia*

*Association for Shared Learning ELA, Bulgaria*

*Association Grdr Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement, France*

*Associazione "Luciano Lama" ODV, Italy*

*BFPA, Bulgaria*

*Bodi svetloba NGO, Slovenia*

*BOS+, Belgium*

*Broederlijk Delen, Belgium*

*BTIN, Italy*

*C.E.G.A., Bulgaria*

*CAONGD, Spain*

*CARDET, Cyprus*

*Caritas, Czech Republic*

*Caritas Czech Republic, Czech Republic*

*Caritas International, Belgium*

*CEAUP, Portugal*

*CEEweb for Biodiversity, Hungary*

*CELIM Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Italy*

*Centre tricontinental (CETRI), Belgium*

*Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale, Italy*

*Centrul pentru Studiul Comparat al Migratiei, Romania*  
*CESI-Center for Education, Counselling and Research, Croatia*  
*Chance for the Children and Nature of Bulgaria Foundation, Bulgaria*  
*CIR, Germany*  
*CIRSIM - University of Padova, Italy*  
*CISP, Italy*  
*CISU - Civil Society in Development, Denmark*  
*Clean Clothes Campaign International Office, Netherlands*  
*CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium*  
*Človek v ohrození n.o. (People in Peril), Slovakia*  
*Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), Germany*  
*Commerce Equitable France, France*  
*Concord Italia, Italy*  
*Concordia Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung, Austria*  
*Consorzio Ong Piemontesi ETS, Italy*  
*COOPERA ONG, Spain*  
*Coordinadora Andaluza de ONGD, Spain*  
*COSPE, Italy*  
*Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL), Croatia*  
*Croatian Youth Network (CYN), Croatia*  
*CROSOL - Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity, Croatia*  
*DBA, Belgium*  
*Deaf Hope, Czech Republic*  
*Diakonie ACT Austria Brot für die Welt, Austria*  
*Diakonie Österreich, Austria*  
*Diamorfosis IOSD, Greece*  
*Digital Stewardship, Romania*  
*Djapo, Belgium*  
*Društvo Humanitas – Center za globalno učenje in sodelovanje, Slovenia*  
*Društvo Šolski ekovrtovi, Slovenia*  
*DŠEV - AOGE, Slovenia*  
*Eclosio, Belgium*  
*Eine Welt Netzwerk Thüringen e. V. (EWNT), Germany*  
*Engagé-e-s & Déterminé-e-s (E&D), France*  
*Entraide et Fraternité, Belgium*  
*Entreculturas, Spain*  
*European Coordination Via Campesina, Europe*  
*European Network for Citizen Initiatives in Global Solidarity, Netherlands*  
*Fair Action, Sweden*  
*fair-digital.at, Austria*  
*FEC - Fundação Fé e Cooperação, Portugal*  
*Federación Aragonesa de Solidaridad (FAS), Spain*  
*Felelős Gasztrohós Alapítvány, Hungary*  
*Finnish development NGOs Fingo, Finland*  
*Focsiv italian federation christian organisations international voluntary service, Italy*  
*Focus Association for Sustainable Development,*  
*Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatia*  
*forum for international development + planning (finep), Germany*

*FOS, Belgium*  
*Frauen\*solidarität / Women's\* Solidarity, Austria*  
*FUNDAÇÃO GONÇALO DA SILVEIRA, Portugal*  
*Fundacja Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej (CEO), Poland*  
*Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie, Poland*  
*Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie (Buy Responsibly Foundation), Poland*  
*Fundacja To Proste, Poland*  
*Giovanni Tonutti, Italy*  
*Global Libraries Bulgaria Foundation, Bulgaria*  
*Go'n'Act Foundation, Poland*  
*HAND Association, Hungary*  
*Helpcode Italia ETS, Italy*  
*Helpo, Portugal*  
*horizont3000, Austria*  
*Humanitas – Centre for Global Learning and Cooperation, Slovenia*  
*Humundi, Belgium*  
*Hungarian Society for Environmental Education (HSEE), Hungary*  
*IDEA - the Irish Development Education Association, Ireland*  
*Iles de Paix, Belgium*  
*IMVF - Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr, Portugal*  
*INEX - Association for Voluntary Activities, Czech Republic*  
*Information Legal Centre, Croatia*  
*Institute Voluntariat, Slovenia*  
*Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF), Portugal*  
*ISCOS, Italy*  
*Istituto Oikos ETS, Italy*  
*ITECO - Centre de formation pour le développement et la solidarité internationale , Belgium*  
*Join For Water, Belgium*  
*Jugend Eine Welt, Austria*  
*Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUNDjugend) e.V., Germany*  
*Katholische Frauenbewegung Österreich (catholic women movement Austria), Austria*  
*KIYO, Belgium*  
*KOO - Coordination Office of the Austrian Episcopal Conference, Austria*  
*KOPIN, Malta*  
*Közel Afrikához Alapítvány, Hungary*  
*Lai-momo soc. coop. soc., Italy*  
*LINK 2007 - COOPERAZIONE IN RETE, Italy*  
*Madera Creation, Romania*  
*MADRE CORAJE, Spain*  
*MAIS - Movimento per l'Autosviluppo, l'Interscambio e la Solidarietà, Italy*  
*Mani Tese ETS, Italy*  
*Marche Region, Italy*  
*Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (ActionAid Denmark), Denmark*  
*Mise en scene NGO, Romania*  
*MONDATTIVO APS, Italy*  
*Mondo, Estonia*  
*MUNDU - center for global education, Denmark*  
*Municipality of Erzsebetvaros, 7th district of Budapest, Hungary, Hungary*

*Na mysli z.ú., Czech Republic*  
*NaZemi, Czech Republic*  
*Neslyšící s nadějí, z.s., Czech Republic*  
*Ngo-federatie, Belgium*  
*niemarudni.pl NGO, Poland*  
*NOVAPOLIS ASSOCIATION - CENTER OF ANALYSIS AND INITIATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT, Romania*  
*ÖGF, Austria*  
*OIKOS - Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, Portugal*  
*Oikos ets, Italy*  
*ONGD Rosto Solidário, Portugal*  
*Open Education Centre Foundation, Bulgaria*  
*Ortika Odv ETS, Italy*  
*OSVIC, Italy*  
*Oxfam Italia, Italy*  
*Oxfam-Magasins du monde, Belgium*  
*Particular, Portugal*  
*Partin, Netherlands*  
*Peace Education Institute, Finland*  
*People In Need, Czech Republic*  
*Policy Lab, Slovenia*  
*Polish Fair Trade Association, Poland*  
*Progettomondo ETS, Italy*  
*Quinoa, Belgium*  
*RE.TE ONG ETS, Italy*  
*ritimo, France*  
*SafaTalents Kulturverein, Austria*  
*Salesiánská asociace Dona Boska, z.s., Czech Republic*  
*Schone Kleren Campagne, Netherlands*  
*SCI Projets Internationaux, Belgium*  
*SEVER Centre for Environmental Education, Czech Republic*  
*Skuhna so.p, Slovenia*  
*Slow Food Youth Network, Netherlands*  
*SOLIDAR Foundation, Belgium*  
*Solidarietà e cooperazione - CIPSI ETS, Italy*  
*Solidarité Laïque, France*  
*Solsoc, Belgium*  
*Status M, Croatia*  
*Step4, Italy*  
*Studio Globo, Belgium*  
*Südwind, Austria*  
*Südwind Salzburg, Austria*  
*Südwind Oberösterreich, Austria*  
*Südwind Steiermark, Austria*  
*Tartu Environmental Education Centre, Estonia*  
*Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete, Hungary*  
*UCOS, Belgium*  
*University Centre for Development Cooperation, Belgium*  
*University of Bologna, Italy*

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, Belgium*

*Welthaus Graz, Austria*

*WeWorld Onlus, Italy*

*WIDE - Network for Women's Rights and Feminist Perspectives in Development, Austria*

*Wilde Ganzen foundation, Netherlands*

*Women on Air, Austria*

*WSM, Belgium*

*Zavod BALI NGO, Slovenia*



