

*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, associate members, national platforms, and networks** listed with their logos below, the following organisations have explicitly expressed their wish to sign 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*

*Arci Cassandra aps, Italy*

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

*Asociația 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*

*Autonomous Province of Trento, 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  
CEFA, Italy  
CELIM Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Italy  
Centre tricontinental (CETRI), Belgium  
Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto, Portugal  
Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale, Italy  
Centrul pentru Studiul Comparat al Migratiei, Romania  
CESI-Center for Education, Counselling and Research, Croatia  
CeSPI ETS, Italy  
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 delle Ong Piemontesi, Italy  
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  
Cromo Alapitvany, Hungary  
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  
Entretodos - Ass. Portuguesa de Parcerias para Desenv. Social, Portugal  
European Coordination Via Campesina, Europe  
European Network for Citizen Initiatives in Global Solidarity, Netherlands

FAIR, Italy  
 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, Slovenia  
 Fondazione PuntoSud, Italy  
 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  
 Gruppo Speleologico SAT Lavis, Italy  
 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  
 IL GIOCO DEGLI SPECCHI APS, Italy  
 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  
 Liverpool World Centre, United Kingdom  
 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  
 Movimento Sviluppo e Pace, Italy  
 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  
 Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT), 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*  
*UNESCO Chair on Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education, University of Bologna, Italy*  
*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*



