

Education for democracy a cornerstone for sustainable societies

What did we learn from the Global Education Meeting 2018?



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18.30-20.30

Mission of Belgium to the UN –
One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue
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Policy dialogue on Europe and SDG 4.7. prepared by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission hosted by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations



"We commit to strengthening education for global citizenship and for sustainable development to promote values of respect for life, dignity and cultural diversity and contribute to social cohesion, democracy, peace and social justice, and to improving the accountability of education as public good."

(Brussels Declaration, Global Education Meeting, 5 December 2018)

— The universality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and notably the relevance of the work on SDG 4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action has not left the Region Europe unaltered.



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■ Recalling Europe's history showing that sustainable development remains an empty phrase without democratic participation and respect for human rights, European countries as well as the European Commission and the Council of Europe have clearly advocated the importance of sub-goal 4.7 – and notably education for citizenship in global perspective – as hallmark for the implementation of all SDGs.

■ This message they jointly and consistently reiterated throughout the deliberations of the SDG Education 2030 Steering Committee, the UN official multi-stakeholder forum overseeing the implementation of education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

■ In the same spirit, the Council of Europe and the European Commission joined hands with UNESCO to prepare the regional consultation on SDG 4 for Europe and North America in Strasbourg on 24 October 2018. This consultation clearly informed the Global Education Meeting, organised by UNESCO and hosted by Belgium in Brussels in December 2018 with the explicit objective to prepare the evaluation of the implementation of SDG 4 as input to the HLPF and UNGA 2019.

■ How does Europe prepare for these ambitious goals? What instruments does it have at its disposal? What could be the role of the Council of Europe's *Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture* and the *European Passport for Refugees* that were picked up by the GEM 2018?

■ The debate on civic education and citizenship competences is of particular importance in the European Union after the recent elections to the European Parliament of May 2019, as was highlighted in the European Commission's contribution to the informal EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu (Romania) on 9 May 2019, entitled *Preparing for a more united, stronger and more democratic Union in an increasingly uncertain world*. How can the *EU Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning* as well as the work in follow-up of the *Paris Declaration of 17 March 2014 on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination* guide the work on civic education? What conclusions can we draw from the EC's annual flagship publication *Education and Training Monitor 2018*, and from the 2017 Eurydice report *Citizenship education at school in Europe*?

■ And above all – how can Europe further engage in dialogue with the World?

■ These and other questions are the topic of an interactive policy dialogue to which you are cordially invited.

PROGRAMME

- ▶ Welcome by **H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve**, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN
- ▶ Introductory address by **Dr. Stefania Giannini**, Assistant Director General of UNESCO and **Prof. Kazuhiro Yoshida** (Japan), Co-chairs of the SDG Education 2030 Steering Committee
- ▶ Setting the scene by **Mr. Villano Qiriaz**, Special Coordinator DG II – Democracy (Council of Europe) and **Dr. Marie-Anne Persoons**, GEM 2018 national contact point (Belgium/ Flemish Community)
- ▶ Interactive debate with speakers, representatives from the European Commission and the audience
Moderator: **Dr. Hilligje van 't Land**, Secretary General of the International Association of Universities