

*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:*

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, Czechia

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., Czechia  
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

<b>NATIONAL PLATFORMS</b>	 Global Responsibility Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	 BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD CNCM-11.11.11 11.11.11 ACODEV ngo-koöperatie	 BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development	 Platforma za mednarodnu građanaku solidarnost Izvanak — Croatian Platform for International — Citizen Solidarity CROSOL	 FORS	 GLOBAL FOCUS
 AKÜ	 fingo	 COORDINATION SUD	 VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs	 Hellenic Platform for Development	 HAND	 dóchas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations
 Network of NGOs in Europe for the challenge of Emergency CONCORD ITALIA	 LAPAS Lamban Platform for Development Cooperation	 Cercle de coopération des ONGD DU LUXEMBOURG	 SKOP Solidarjetët u Koperazjoni	 PARTOS	 ZAGRANICA	 ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA
 FOND Federacia Organizacjo ne-Registrujita por la Defendo de la Homoj	 Ambrela Platforma for Development Organisations	 SLOGA Slovenian Global Action	 LA COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO	 CONCORD VIENNA	 bond	<b>NETWORKS</b>
 actalliance eu primary ANSOCS	 act:onaid	 ADRA	 Alliance 2015 TOWARDS THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY	 care	 caritas europa	 ChildFund Alliance
 CIDSE Together for global justice	 eucord European Union of Development Organisations	 GNDR	 Habitat for Humanity	 handicap international humanity & inclusion	 IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD
 OXFAM International	 PLAN INTERNATIONAL	 Save the Children	 Sightsavers	 solidar	 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL	 Terre des Hommes International Federation
 wecf	 Wetlands INTERNATIONAL	 World Vision EU REPRESENTATION	 WWF	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	 alda European Association for Local Democracy	 CARDET
 ea ea EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS	 European Partnership for Democracy	 EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM	 INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE	 NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL		