

European citizens as catalysts for change

Changes in the richer societies of the world are necessary to meet global development challenges. Current global threats – from climate change to the food and financial crises – highlight this need more than ever. How can European citizens become responsible actors in global development, as consumers, as voters and as activists?

How can European citizens be empowered to become more active, responsible and aware actors in facing the world's development challenges? One of the key aims of the emerging field of 'development education' or 'global learning' is to change the behaviour of citizens, in both developed and developing countries, in a way that promotes development.

Led by the Multi-stakeholder Group on Development Education, this debate provides a unique opportunity to tackle the role of EU citizens – and the necessary transformation our societies need to go through – in order to meet the global challenges of development and in achieving such objectives as the Millennium Development Goals.

High-level guests from the global South and European institutions, member states, international organizations and civil society, will discuss this issue with development education practitioners.

After an introduction on the importance of development education and awareness raising by the co-chair of the Multi-stakeholder Group, Sergio Guimaraes, three development education practitioners will share concrete examples of successful development education in the fields of formal education, campaigning and adult education. In the following talk show, they will, together with high-profile politicians from the South and the North, explore the role of citizens as catalysts of change. The second talk show of the morning, moderated by the chair of the CONCORD Development Education Forum, Deepali Sood, will unite high-level decision makers from the European Commission, member states, European Parliament, international organizations and civil society in order to debate how to strengthen the sector of development education across Europe.

(The 2000,- Euro obligatory carbon offset for this side event was kindly covered by ENOP, the European Network of Political Foundations.)

Invited speakers:

- [Justin Kilcullen](#)
- [Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer](#)
- Eva Joly
- Koos Richelle
- Benjamin Mkapa

- Therese Olena
- Margot Wallström
- Beatriz Merino
- Denis Huber
- Wolfgang Schuster
- Anja Frings
- Stefan Kerl
- Åke Larsson
- Sergio Guimaraes
- Rilli Lappalainen
- Ben Vanpeperstraete
- Deepali Sood

Organized by:

- [The Multi-stakeholder Group on Development Education](#)
- CONCORD Development Education Forum (www.concordeurope.org)
- North-South-Centre of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre)
- European Network of Political Foundations (www.enop.eu)
- Club of Madrid (www.clubmadrid.org)
- European Youth Forum (www.youthforum.org)