



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



Global Education Week 2008

“INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”

The European Global Education Week is an annual awareness raising event encouraging global education practices in the member States of the Council of Europe and beyond. Global Education (which encompasses development education, human rights education, intercultural education, peace and conflict resolution) works on the understanding of the core issues of global citizenship :

- awareness of the wider world and of our own role as a world citizens;
- attitudes of respect for diversity and intercultural communication skills;
- understanding of the causes and effects of major issues effecting the world;
- opportunities to take action to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place

While there have been a number of national initiatives for some years now, European co-ordination of these initiatives first began in 1999 at the initiative of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC), with the pilot Global Education Week (GEW) in 12 member states. Thanks to the work of the national co-ordinators of the network, along with the support of an increasing number of Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs Ministries, NGOs, local authorities and educational institutions, the week has grown and the GEW network counts today 36 national co-ordinators from the Council of Europe member states and four international organisations.

In 2008, the 10th European **Global Education Week** will take place from the 15th to the 23rd of November, coinciding this year with the European Development Days, held in Strasbourg from 15-17 November.

The theme for Global Education Week 2008, chosen in consultation with the NSC GEW network national co-ordinators, and having the Millennium Development Goals as an inspirational background, is

“INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”

Global Education Week (also known in some countries as One World Week) supports teachers, youth leaders, young people and any other formal and non-formal educational actors to engage in education for global citizenship; and enhances the effectiveness of this endeavour nationally and throughout Europe, through co-ordination of initiatives and sharing of best practices.

All schools and youth organisations, as well as any other interested actors in the Council of Europe's member States are invited to take part in the event coordinated through the Global Education web-page on the North-South Centre web-site.

In addition, increasing and improving GE in Europe is achieved through the following complementary activities developed by the NSC Global Education & Youth Programme :

- Give visibility to, sharing and encouraging GE best practices through the World Aware Education Awards;
- Dissemination of the Global Education Newsletter, an electronic newsletter for GE practitioners, to share global education news and events, useful thematic links and educational materials, and serving as an informative support for the NSC GEW network;
- Highlighting GE policy developed in CoE Member States through country profiles.

The Youth Dimension of the Programme promotes, improves and gives visibility to the role of youth and their organisations as actors of development and global interdependence through training activities like the Summer University on Youth and Development; the global and interregional training courses for youth organisations (North-South TC, Euro-Mediterranean TC, Euro-African TC); the facilitation of interregional processes at youth level; seminars and workshops on youth participation in development; pool of trainers and training development on North-South and global youth work and research and exchange of best practices.

The NSC Global Education & Youth Programme is complemented by the Intercultural Dialogue and Transmed programme which aims at facilitating dialogue between members of parliaments, local authorities, civil society organisations and governments of Europe and Africa.

At this particular historical juncture, it is imperative that young people in Europe have access to education that opens their eyes to the causes of conflict and division globally; that enables them to envisage a world free from terrorism, intercultural strife, and international conflict; and that provides them with the global citizenship skills necessary to participate in bringing about a sustainable and equitable world that safeguard human rights for all. Global Education Week, by networking, co-ordinating and highlighting such education, brings closer the day when all European will be educated to understand themselves as global citizens. We cherish your support for this endeavour.

Global Education & Youth Programme

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

av. da República, nº15, 5º

P-1050-185 Lisboa

Tel.: (+351) 213 584 030

Fax: (+351) 213 584 072

www.nscentre.org