

EU DEAR Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting 27th January 2017

Present:

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| Rosário BENTO PAIS (chair) | European Commission | Emanuela BENINI | Global Education Network Europe (GENE) |
| Paola BERBEGLIA | CRéA onlus - CONCORD Italia | Miguel CARVALHO DA SILVA | North-South Centre of the Council of Europe |
| Gallia CHIMIAK | Polish Academy of Sciences | La Salete COELHO | Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo – University of Oporto |
| Mara COPPENS D'EECKENBRUGGE | MFA – Belgium | Anja DE WACHTER | Sint-Niklaas Local Authority, Belgium |
| Astrid FREY | Cités Unies France | Marine GAUDRON | PLATFORMA |
| Lynn HANSEL | MFA – Luxembourg | Mari-Helene KABER | Association Humana Estonia – CONCORD |
| Raffaella KIHNER | European Association for the Education of Adults | Rilli LAPPALAINEN | CONCORD – Kehys – Bridge 47 network |
| Diego LOPEZ GONZALEZ | International Trade Union Confederation | Bobby MCCORMACK | Development Perspectives - CONCORD |
| Alexandru OSADCI | Congress of Local Authorities, Moldova | Markus PIRCHNER | European Commission |
| Kerstin ROESKE | Engagement Global, Germany | Marina SARLI | CONCORD |
| Joseph SCHERMESSE | European Commission | Laia VINYES | PLATFORMA |
| Susanne VON ITTER | European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI) | Jady Wang | European Commission |
| Liam WEGIMONT | Global Education Network Europe (GENE) | Harm-Jan FRICKE (notes) | DEAR Support Team |

The meeting opened at 9.35 hrs. Agreed ACTION POINTS are indicated.

Welcome, opening and introductions

1. Rosário Bento Pais (RBP in the following) welcomed participants and outlined the agenda. She placed the agenda in the context of three recent (November 2016) Commission communications relating to the Agenda 2030, the Commission proposals for a new Consensus on Development and post-Cotonou (renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific). [The documents can be found [here](#).]
2. RBP also mentioned the mid-term review of the CSOs and LAs programme 2014 – 2020 which is currently ongoing. The outcomes of that review will inform the future MIP (Multi Annual Indicative Programme, containing a new strategy for DEAR), and the MAAP 2018-2020 (Multi Annual Action Programme). In that context RBP referred to discussions at a GENE conference in November 2016 about the need for DEAR to give attention to global¹ issues. During a roundtable introduction of participants, Liam Wegimont reiterated the latter point stressing that a key part of the relevance of DEAR/Global Education is in its connections with developments at local and national levels in Europe.

¹ local dimensions of global issues as well as the global dimensions of local issues

1. Update on EU policies and programmes

1.A EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT

3. Martin Heather, of the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development Unit A1, provided information about discussions regarding the design of the Commission's proposal for a new European Consensus on Development. Focussed around five Ps (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) the proposed Consensus provides suggestions on how attention to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental) can be translated into concerted and coherent action across and by all stakeholders.
4. The proposal is currently being discussed by the the European Parliament and in the Council, with the intention that a final document will be agreed in time for the European Development Days in June.
5. Participants raised questions about the absence of references to DEAR in the current draft, with many expressing the opinion that absence of attention to the European dimension and relevance of the SDGs ran counter to the universality principle of the SDGs. Martin Heather mentioned that no single EU programme was mentioned in the Consensus and that the broader context of the Consensus is mentioned in the 2030 strategy of the Commission. RBP mentioned that even if DEAR was included in the Consensus it would not change much in practice, since the Consensus is focussed on development policy.
6. However, many participants were of the opinion that, although individual programmes might not feature, the principles, values and approaches fostered by the EU's development policy in Europe, through DEAR, should be referenced to ensure that recognition of the *universal* character of the SDGs is made in the Consensus, i.e. global development does not only require action in and with developing countries but also in and with EU societies. Hence reference to the European dimension, to the relevance of global development in Europe, and to how this can be fostered should be a fundamental part of the Consensus. Many participants also made the point that without reference to DEAR or its principles and approaches, EU Member States might be less inclined to give attention to DEAR in their national policies.

[This discussion was continued under item 2, see below.]

1.B POST-COTONOU DISCUSSIONS: EU RELATIONS WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES

7. Rigo Belpaire, of the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development Unit D3, introduced the current discussions about the post-2020 relationship between the EU and 79 ACP countries. Although focussed on development the intention is to also include other aspects of relationships in the new partnership agreements.
8. Participants raised questions about the different priorities which are intended to guide future partnerships with particular groups of countries and questioned the lack of attention to climate change as a priority in relations between Africa and the EU.

1.C MID-TERM REVIEW CALENDAR

9. RBP referred back to her introductory statement about the Mid-Term Review and sketched out the consultation with CSOs which is planned to be held in March of this year. Relevant committees of the European Parliament and of the Council will then consider the review and its future plans. In a best case scenario, the MIP and the MAAP for 2018-2020 will be agreed by the EU in December 2017.

1.D 2016 DEAR CALL FOR PROPOSALS

10. RBP reported that the selection process of grants to be awarded is still ongoing but should be finalised by the end of January. Contracts are likely to be awarded with successful CSOs and LAs by May-June. €92.95 million is to be allocated of which €17.9 million to work organised by Local Authority lead applicants, and the remainder to work led by CSOs. The timing and the shape of the next DEAR Call for Proposals depends on the Mid-Term Review and, following that, on agreement of the MAAP and MIP. However, a new Call will not be launched until 2018 at the earliest.

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11. Participants raised questions about the process and content of the 2016 Call and asked for discussions between (potential) applicants and the EC to inform the shape and conditions of the future Call. RBP responded that the EC was aware of the various suggestions made by CSOs and LAs both before and after the launch of the 2016 Call. Previous suggestions had been taken into account in shaping the 2016 Call and the same would be the case in the future Call.

2. Input, exchange and discussion on DEAR priorities in view of the new SDGs

12. RBP made reference to the questionnaire which had been circulated to the MSG after the March 2016 meeting. A low response rate made the EC decide not to circulate the results. Nevertheless participants expressed an interest in seeing the collated questionnaire responses. [See below]
13. Participants raised various questions in respect of the role of the MSG. Some participants referred back to the first meeting in which the role of the group had been discussed and terms of reference and initial action agreed. Others reiterated points made at the time regarding their perspectives on the MSG's role with some seeing it as focussed on information exchange, others seeing it as more than that, by building on exchanged information in offering opportunities for reflection and shared work.
14. Regarding the role of the group, RBP mentioned that "it is your group", i.e. the Commission's role is one of inviting and facilitating different stakeholders to come together and discuss issues of common interest. She also mentioned that opinions expressed by the group would be shared within the Commission. When asked if a group response to the draft Consensus would still be welcome, RBP answered that it would [see below].
15. Discussion amongst participants then highlighted two points in particular: one leading to an agreement to circulate the collated questionnaire responses to participants [see Action Point below], and the other to exploring the development of a joint input regarding inclusion of DEAR in the Consensus document [see Action Point below]
16. At 12.10 hrs RBP left the meeting temporarily and handed over the chair to Markus Pirchner. Markus Pirchner introduced the groupwork which, after discussion, was agreed to consider the following question:
How should the EC's DEAR programme develop in the light of the SDGs?
17. The meeting then divided into two groups to consider these issues until lunch at 13.00 hrs. The meeting resumed in plenary at 14.05 hrs. RBP re-joined and again took the chair. Each of the two groups presented their findings.
18. Discussions in Group A, summarised by Bobby McCormack, concluded that DEAR, in addressing the SDGs, should not limit itself by a strict focus on target 4.7. Instead work organised and carried out should use the values that underpin the SDGs as its entry point: developing dialogue with EU publics that addresses the public's various concerns and interests, facilitating their understandings and engagements with global sustainable development.
19. Discussions in group B, summarised by Mari-Helene Kaber, also touched on these issues but focussed in particular on the potential role of the EC's external development programmes in promoting the concerns of DEAR. The briefing on the Consensus [see point 1.A above] gave the impression that the EC strategy for development cooperation continued to be focussed solely on the 'South'/developing countries, thereby ignoring the universal character of the SDGs
20. Following these presentations RBP introduced a question concerning the future DEAR Call and the themes it should cover.
21. Participants suggested that it was not so much a question of 'themes' per se but rather a focus on the overall approach of DEAR and its methods to engage the public (a.o.: Mari-Helene Kaber, Diego Lopez Gonzalez, Maria La Salette Coelho da Silva and Mara Coppens d'Eeckenbrugge), putting the learner at the centre (Raffaella Kihrer), how the public can be actors in their own lives and how DEAR is mainstreamed in Member State (education) policies (Astrid Frey), illustrating and educating on the local relevance of global issues (Marina Sarli).

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22. Other participants reiterated or expanded on those points by referring to the importance of a focus on the global dimension of local issues (Liam Wegimont), the universality of the SDGs and the engagement of EU publics who so far are not engaged (Bobby McCormack), the need to engage the 'disengaged' in development issues such as migration (Paola Berbeglia), and placing Policy Coherence for Development issues in a universal context, i.e. also applicable to developments within the EU (Rilli Lappalainen).
 23. Generally, the opinion amongst participants was that it should not primarily be a thematic approach that dictates the content of the Call; instead a methodologically based approach would be more suitable to meet the opportunities and needs of DEAR.
The discussion broadened to also look at other work carried out by the Commission that is relevant to DEAR. Suzanne von Itter asked about the possibilities of giving greater attention to DEAR and its approaches in e.g. the Horizon 2020 programme. RBP responded that contacts had been made with the programme and that this issue would be further explored.
 24. Also in respect of other work relevant to DEAR and carried out by the Commission, reference was made to the work of the various Erasmus and other education programmes led by DG EAC. **ACTION POINT Markus Pirchner:** It was agreed to invite a relevant representative of DG EAC to take part in the next MSG meeting.
In concluding this part of the meeting reference was made again to the previously circulated questionnaire. **ACTION POINT Markus Pirchner:** It was agreed that the collated responses would be circulated to MSG members and the questionnaire would be re-opened. [The questionnaire can be found [here](#).]
 25. **ACTION POINT MSG participants:** It was also agreed that MSG members (not including Commission representatives) would seek to input into the Consensus discussions by (i) contacting their governments and EU Parliamentarians, and by (ii) developing a joint input to be send to the European Commission.
 26. At 14.55 hrs RBP handed over the chair to Markus Pirchner and left the meeting.

3. Exchange regarding planned events/initiatives

27. Markus Pirchner had circulated a request for information about these in advance of the meeting. Responses had been collated in a document that was included in the meeting pack handed out to all participants at the start of the meeting.
28. Meeting attendees added to the circulated information and it was agreed **ACTION POINT MSG members** to provide further information about planned events and initiatives to Markus Pirchner [e-mail: Markus.Pirchner@ec.europa.eu]

Follow up to the meeting, date of next meeting, AOB

29. Joseph Schermesser suggested that the next MSG meeting would take place in March 2018.
 30. Mari-Helene Kaber mentioned that CONCORD is planning to develop a 'Global Citizenship Education Watch Report' (along the lines of previous 'DE Watch' reports) and it was exploring funding for this work.
 31. Liam Wegimont asked about the possible involvement of the European Youth Forum in the MSG meetings. They had been invited to the first meeting but had not responded.
- Joseph Schermesser closed the meeting at 15.50 hrs.

Annex: notes from group work (session 2)

Discussion on objectives for EC DEAR programme

Group A: notes by Bobby McCormack

- Need to be more strategic
- Important to participate and not just in 4.7 but all the SDG's
- Need to reflect the values underlying the Goals
- We live in a time of shifting sands....change is happening all the time
- Issue of language... Gender? Human Rights?
- The 5 P's could be the common theme of the DEAR programme
- Social Inclusion / social cohesion should be examined but critically so not to impose the status quo
- Relevance to people is key...
- Spaces for critical dialogue and enquiry are really important
- Partnerships and movements are key...
- Need to move from individualism to more of a global view
- An actor based approach is advocated
- A more radical and critical approach to education and development is required.
- PCD of Public policy was lacking and should be addressed.
- Include DEAR in the Consensus doc but NOT as a prog but rather as a philosophy and a method/tool
- Much added value to be gained from research and a stronger academic involvement – need for an evidence based approach
- Levels of Global citizenship are falling in the North and increasing in the South. Why? Globalisation is becoming more irrelevant.

Group B: notes by Mari-Helene Kaber

Proposed versions for objectives/themes:

- a. Focus on 4.7
- b. Focus on all SDGs
- c. Should DEAR programme look beyond SDGs, challenge them
- d. Emphasise aspects of 4.7 like lifelong learning, quality and global learning

Challenges:

- Is the term DEAR right? Would GCE or GE or GEL (global education learning) be better?
- Is target 4.7 a tool to achieve SDGs? Some of us think so.
- New and/or complimentary target groups – do we need new definitions to include new target groups?
- How can we challenge the thinking re the SDG implementation strategies – global strategy as a external one and internal strategy for implementation in Europe.

A broader proposal re programmes:

Global Education aspect should be included in all other programmes (in all dev coop projects).
Building target groups' awareness of their role locally and globally.