



Civil Society Alliance for Global Citizenship Education's Statement on the European Commission's Proposal for the next MFF (2028-2034)

Introduction

On 16 July, 2025, The Commission presented its proposal for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), covering the period from 2028-2034.

The Civil Society Alliance for Global Citizenship Education reviewed the proposal and shaped its response around one key issue: the place of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) within the priorities of the upcoming MFF proposal.

As the European Parliament and Member States negotiate the next MFF, we urge them:

1. Do not give up on the DEAR Programme and its priorities
2. Make GCE funding transparent, sustainable and predictable
3. Ensure civil society participation and access to funding
4. Look beyond the surface: build active global citizens, not just workers

Key Messages and Recommendations

Global Citizenship Education is not an “extra.” It is essential for Europe’s future. It contributes to building resilient democracies at home and stronger partnerships abroad, and empowering citizens ready to face global challenges together in times of crises.

1 Don't give up on DEAR

- The future of one of the key GCE programmes, **DEAR** (Development Education and Awareness Raising programme) is highly uncertain in the ongoing MFF negotiations, while DEAR is more important than ever given the rise of populism, xenophobia, and armed conflicts in Europe and worldwide.
- **DEAR must remain a separate funding stream and cannot be sidelined or absorbed into broader funding envelopes.** It is in the EU's best interests that citizen engagement and global solidarity remain at the heart of the EU's global partnerships. **The upcoming MFF 2028-2034 offers an opportunity to reaffirm DEAR as a cornerstone of Global Citizenship Education and secure dedicated and sustainable funding for its continuation.**

2 Make GCE Funding Transparent, Sustainable and Predictable

- The next MFF must ensure **transparency, sustainability, and predictability** in the financial support of programmes, such as DEAR, Erasmus+, and AgoraEU, to Global Citizenship Education, Awareness Raising and Campaigning.
- **Improve cohesion and coherence between funding instruments and programmes that support GCE.** This helps strengthen the impact of regional initiatives and foster a consistent EU-wide message in citizenship education.
- **Create and protect sustainable and dedicated, clearly-labelled funding for Global Citizenship Education** within both the new internal instruments (e.g., AgoraEU) and the external Global Europe instrument.

3 Guarantee Civil Society Participation and Access to Funding

- **Promoting civil society initiatives is critical for advancing Global Citizenship Education (GCE) across Europe.** This funding should be accessible to all relevant education and information stakeholders: formal, non-formal and informal, for all age groups and learners as well as citizens generally in campaigning and awareness raising. In the new MFF must ensure robust support for programmes like CERV, Erasmus+, and DEAR, enabling organisations to deliver inclusive, high-quality GCE initiatives. This includes **safeguarding funding for CSOs** working on human rights, gender equality, peace, and accountability, even in contexts facing local political pressures. Strengthening these resources is essential for fostering informed, active, and globally responsible citizens.

4 Look Beyond the Surface: Build Active Global Citizens, Not Just Workers

- **Promote a lifelong, life-wide and transformative approach to education and learning, to ensure that all citizens can obtain key transversal and citizenship competences.** These competences are central to strategic foresight and building a sustainable future in which everyone can prosper. The current European Commission's focus on equipping people with skills for jobs risks overlooking and sidelining the democratic turmoil within Europe and beyond. What is urgently needed, including for driving the Commission's much wanted labour productivity, are citizens equipped with transversal and citizenship competences – able to think critically, act responsibly, and engage across borders. This can be achieved with a lifelong learning approach that draws from all learning environments: formal but also non-formal and informal.
- **Adopt a real global perspective in the MFF proposal.** In the current MFF proposal, citizenship education is narrowly framed around EU values, overlooking global challenges like climate change, inequality, peace, and human rights. Limiting it to a



regional perspective risks producing learners who are informed Europeans but unprepared for global engagement. Reintegrating a global dimension is essential to equip young people with the skills, solidarity, and critical perspective needed to be responsible and active citizens.

- **Strengthen Global Citizenship Education to support democratic resilience within the Union and prepare people to navigate and shape an increasingly interconnected world.**

What is the Civil Society Alliance for Global Citizenship Education?

The [Civil Society Alliance for Global Citizenship Education](#) brings together ca. 25 civil society organisations (CSOs) across Europe that are dedicated to advancing Global Citizenship Education (GCE). Through campaigning, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity building, and the development of learning materials, our members work to promote GCE from the perspectives of education policy, international cooperation, and sustainable development. Together, we strive to foster a more inclusive, just, and sustainable Europe. [Visit the Alliance's webpage here.](#)