

Global Citizenship Education as a Tool to Combat Racism and Xenophobia in Cyprus

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migratED

MEDIA EDUCATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MigratED project and Global Citizenship Education

MigratED, Migration and human rights enhanced through technology in education, is a Global Citizenship Education Project financed by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. The aim is to make way and promote a counter-narrative that defends the importance and respect for human rights, inclusion, intercultural dialogue and cooperation within educational settings. Youth and education professionals in 5 countries are involved in trainings on these topics using digital and multimedia collaborative tools. Youth and the educational community are also involved in a digital awareness raising campaign for promoting good educational practices and fostering a sharing and welcoming culture in Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Cyprus and Greece.

Global Citizenship Education in Cyprus

Cyprus is one of the founding members of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe and of GENE – the Global Education Network Europe.¹:

While Global Citizenship Education is not officially part of the Cypriot school curriculum, there is a significant overlap in terms of values as well as the aim to prepare students for the complexities of the 21st century. Furthermore, Education for Sustainable Development has been part of the Elementary School curriculum since 2012.

The Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth has established an inter-departmental Working Group on Global Education on 2009, which is comprised of member of the various departments within the MOECYSY, the Pedagogical Institute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance), Cyprus Youth Board and Cyprus Youth Council, as well as civil society organisations active in Global Education.

Even though there are not many civil society organisations working on Global Citizenship Education, those who are active in the field play a crucial role with regards to teacher trainings and have been working in collaboration with the Ministry and Pedagogical Institute and regularly offer trainings to educators across Cyprus.

Opportunities for Global Citizenship Education in the Context of increasingly Diverse Classroom

Rooted in values such as solidarity, equity and social justice, GCE enables learners to critically reflect on their own assumptions about the world and to explore a variety of perspectives to an issue. It can contribute to breaking down stereotypes and prejudices among learners of different backgrounds and encourage them to explore common values and ideas.



Sustainable Development Goal 4.7

“By 2030 we should ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”



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Challenges with regards to the Implementation of Global Citizenship Education

- Lack of clarity of the concept of Global Citizenship Education/ Global Education;
- Lack of Global Citizenship Education/ Global Education Strategy;
- Lack of funding for Global Citizenship Education initiatives;
- Lack of adequate training within the formal education sector;
- Teachers feel overwhelmed with meeting the needs of the curriculum and often times shy away from adding additional topics into their teaching – even though CGE can perfectly be integrated into a variety of lessons;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate the different dimensions of Global Citizenship Education into the pre-service (initial) and in-service education of teachers;
- Enhance coordination and partnership between actor to further promote and integrate Global Citizenship Education into teacher training and teacher education, as well as with regards to developing relevant teaching resources;
- Include Global Citizenship Education in all classes (through Education for Sustainable Development or other classes) to address specifically topics such as racism, diversity, migration
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Build on international days, such as the Anti-Racism Day to initiate Global Citizenship Education initiatives within the schools

RESOURCES

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, 2008: Global Education Guidelines – A Handbook for Educators to Understand and Implement Global Education

Latest data available is from 2019: <https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/>

All/6C25304C1E70C304C2257833003432B3/\$file/Demographic_Statistics_Results-2019-EN-301120.pdf?OpenElement

