



# Research and Policy Learning for Global Education

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Introductions

Welcome



# We are living in troubling times:

TRUMP

BREXIT

Europe's (Ireland's) woeful failure to welcome  
those needing sanctuary  
(Violent extremism?)

Persistence of poverty, hunger, war

Denial of basic human rights

Planetary concern

“Trump to the left of me  
Brexit to the Right  
Here I am stuck in the middle  
with EU”.

In these days of evil Presidents  
Working for The Clampdown  
....Well lately one or two have  
Fully got their due....

*The Clash, London Calling:*



Signs of Hope (Perhaps???):

Austria

The Netherlands

France

The young people in my school

This Conference



# Living in uncertain times...what should we do?

“There are effectively two ways to confront the uncertainty of action:

- Full awareness of the wager (bet) involved in the decision;
- Recourse to strategy”.

*Edgar Morin: Seven Complex Lessons in Education for the Future*



# Our Wager (Bet) and Strategy:

## ***Our Bet:***

Now more than ever, we need Global Education.

## ***Our Strategy:***

Those involved in GE for decades have been proven right in many respects. That doesn't make it any easier to move from GE being a minority sport, to quality GE for all. But move we must.



# Global Education

GENE uses the term **Global Education**  
as an umbrella term.



# Global Education

“Global Education is Education that opens peoples eyes and minds to the realities of the world, and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all”.

Maastricht Declaration

[www.gene.eu](http://www.gene.eu)



# Global Education includes:

Development Education

Human Rights Education

Environmental Education

Global Dimension of Education for Citizenship

Education for Sustainable Development

Intercultural Education

Peace Education

(But it is not all things to all people: there are “non-negotiables”.)



# Why we use this term GE ?

- ✓ Maastricht
- ✓ Plenty of Other

The term has been accused of being amorphous, generic, etc.

We use this term as a “common language” that has proven useful for comparative analysis, for policy learning, and to undermine the silo-isation of competing types of education for justice, local and global. Has proven strategically useful at national and European level.



# Strategy: Global Education for ALL

Since 2001, drawing on the Aarhus Convention and on the work of UNESCO in the field of the right to HRE, GENE has worked on the basis of what I describe as a “universalist, rights-based approach”.

We see it as our ultimate aim to ensure access of all people in Europe – in solidarity with people globally – have access to quality global education.



# GENE strategy – national policymakers

- GENE works with national policymakers – from Ministries and Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Education, their agencies and other bodies.
- Focus on networking, **policy learning**, on peer review, on innovation and sharing good practice.
- Over 40 Ministries and Agencies, with EC.
- Focus on national level improvement.
- European coordination, complementarity and cohesion.





And here are some policy makers...



# There is growing coordination of GE in Europe

- Concord – Civil Society and NGOs
- Platforma – Local and Regional Authorities
- GENE – National Ministries, Agencies etc. (with EC)
- North-South Centre – One World Week national co-ordinators
- European Youth Forum – Youth organisations in GE
- Researchers – Bamberg/DERC/Oulu/beyond
- Journals: IJDEGL/Policy and Practice/Synergias/ZEP, etc.



# Meanwhile, some challenges...

We work in a field that may have some anomalies:

- largely consensual: now we need diversity, dissensus, differing schools of thought.
- makes assumptions that are
  - ungrounded?
  - may be counterproductive to educational transformation and/or greater global justice?
- not so well-founded theoretically, we need theory.
- open to the vagaries of funding cut, evaluation trend and policy fad.

# The Strategic Question

Can we build and strengthen bridges between policymakers and researchers so that:

- Policy making is better informed by research?
- Research priorities are better informed by policy concerns ?

# GENE hopes to

- Support theoretical reflection in order to strengthen the theoretical basis of the field
- Encourage dissensus rather than consensus
- Strengthen bridges and cross borders between policymakers and researchers.

# Thank you

- ...and hoping for a stimulating Conference
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