

LESSON 2 ABOUT GLOBAL LEARNING

Global learning is certainly a tool that can help us make this mindset shift. It is both a method of learning and a way of thinking. It is a pedagogical approach that promotes a multi-perspective view and the deconstruction of stereotypes, and builds on the global dimensions of citizenship education, such as diversity, human rights, sustainability, peace and conflict prevention, interculturality... Concept itself originates largely from the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational researchers, international organizations, dedicated youth workers, teachers and activists seeking to address various social, environmental, political and other global issues. Global education can equip and enable people to navigate the complexities of global challenges without despair, to develop critical analyses that connect global systems with their local contexts, to experience a sense of interconnectedness, and to work together in ways that open up different possibilities for co-existence in the future.

The Maastricht Declaration on Global Learning (COE, 2002), prepared by the Pan-European Congress on Global Education, describes global education in a way that encapsulates rational and emotional aspect of learning: *"Global learning opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of this world and encourages them to take action that leads to a world of greater justice, equality and human rights for all."*

In 2022, after a year-long process, this definition of Global Education was redefined in the so-called Dublin declaration, [The European Declaration on Global Education to 2050](#), which states: *"Global Education is education that enables people to reflect critically on the world and their place in it; to open their eyes, hearts and minds to the reality of the world at local and global level. It empowers people to understand, imagine, hope and act to bring about a world of social and climate justice, peace, solidarity, equity and equality, planetary sustainability, and international understanding. It involves respect for human rights and diversity, inclusion, and a decent life for all, now and into the future."*



Although global education has traditionally found its place mostly in the informal education system or in the educational activities of various NGOs and youth organizations, the rising unpredictability of changes both in our societies and in our natural environment is suggesting a need for the development of partnerships that extend way beyond these traditional contexts. Only by working together across many sectors and disciplines can we

hope to respond more robustly and perhaps, in due time, to these rapid changes. Challenges we are facing on a global scale are hyper-complex, multi-layered, interlocked (the solution for one thing creates problems in other places), involve many unknowns, have longer and uncertain timescales). Our formal education leaves us unequipped to address such challenges and associated complexities, uncertainties, ambiguities, diversities, paradoxes, unequal power relations, and conflicts that are inherent to them. Often this is reflected in our work no matter our good intentions. If global challenges are addressed as regular problems, the intervention of educators, activists, CSOs, youth workers, tends to reproduce harmful patterns of:

- simplistic "feel good" solutions that may address symptoms, but not root causes,
- paternalistic engagements with marginalized communities ("we know what you need attitude"),
- ethnocentric ideals of justice, sustainability and change.

FURTHER THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS:

If you would like to go deeper into harmful patterns and understand them better, we recommend you to watch this video:



Tackling global challenges and dealing with them on a local level through a global education lens could enable avoiding those harmful patterns and approaching them in a more holistic way, breaking the dominant system, which is premised on unlimited growth and exploitation that ignores the limits of the planet. However, you don't need to be an expert on the veritable sea of global challenges to promote global justice. More important is the enthusiasm and the constant willingness to ask yourself anew every day what impact your own actions have on your fellow human beings and on nature, and how each one of us, together with others, can contribute to change for the better.

We invite you to learn and read more about global education [here](#) (available in eng, slo, spa, bih, ger).

