



ONE EUROPE
ONE WORLD!

Visionary Document

Preamble

In 2014 Global Education Network of Young Europeans (GLEN) is a non-profit, politically independent network of nine European organisations with ten years' history of cooperation. GLEN's main activity is to train multipliers in "global education" in a non-formal education programme that consists of three seminars, a three-month internship and a so called "global education activity". It puts emphasis on self-reflection and critical thinking in the context of global interdependencies, while serving local and regional integration in Europe. GLEN has given birth to a number of local and European-wide projects that show its strength in empowering and mobilizing young people to become active citizens and initiate positive changes in their communities. The Network is committed to share and use this experience as well as eager to learn from others to advance regional integration globally.

GLEN decided in 2013 to set up a "vision process" to discuss with all its stakeholders structural questions such as the global dimension and the European context of the Network, the aims of GLEN with global learning, the role and evolving position of internship host organisations and the role of the active members of the alumni. GLEN is conscious of the unbalanced power structures within the Network and therefore also aimed to open the discussion about decision making, responsibilities and representation of the different actors. The six-month "vision process", between October 2013 and March 2014, included two instances of online discussion and a seminar where stakeholder representatives met (Visionary and Networking Seminar, November 2013, Czech Republic).

This document is the result of this process, which serves as a guiding document for the development of GLEN and is followed by the so called "strategy process" that translates the new framework of vision, mission, goals, values and principles into an executable plan.

Contributors to the vision process are the different actors and stakeholders of GLEN, namely 1) current and former participants of the programme, 2) members of the seminar teams (e.g. tutors, seminar facilitators), 3) representatives and members of alumni organisations such as Association GéCo and Forum of the Global Education Multipliers, 4) host organisations (that host participants during their internships), 5) European global development education organisations (with whom GLEN is in contact through the Development Awareness Raising and Education Forum of CONCORD), 6) GLEN member organisations and their related networks.

Vision

Our vision is a world in which people reflect on the realities of the globalised world and their own role in it, and join hands, minds and hearts to build fair and sustainable societies.

Mission

GLEN creates spaces for people and organisations to learn and develop their potential as global actors and empowers them to contribute to a fair and sustainable development of their community, country and the world. Based on its European experience as an integrated network and eager to learn from others, GLEN wants to become a global partner network, foster fair and fruitful partnerships and the joint development of global learning concepts and programmes.

** The idea of the "global partner network" was born on the Visionary and Networking Seminar in 2013. Please find the report on the workshop in appendix below.*

Long Term Goals

- GLEN develops and provides a non-formal global learning programme for organizations and individuals to learn and to reflect on the global interdependencies and to develop their potential and skills to become active citizens.
- Organisations and individuals involved in GLEN influence local debates, bring together experience and expertise in a vivid global partner network and foster supranational integration as a contribution to fair and sustainable development of our societies
- GLEN is an innovative actor in the field of “global learning” through a constant development of the concept by experience and by learning from similar educational approaches.
- GLEN embraces sustainability in all its activities.

Values / Principles

Diversity

Global complexity needs to be approached in the way that respects, recognizes and affirms the variety and uniqueness of individuals, communities, organisations and cultures as well as biodiversity. GLEN is a network where the diversity of motivation, ideas, needs and potentials are not only accepted, but celebrated. Therefore GLEN strives to create balanced mutual relations within the whole network.

Equality

Human conditions and human developments are on the most fundamental level dependent on individual equal rights and the awareness of privileges and detriments. GLEN strives to promote equality between individuals and within its partnerships. To foster equality discrimination has to be fought against on all levels. It is also meant to bring transparency into the network of GLEN and raising awareness of privileges and power structures within the organization itself.

Empathy

Interpersonal relations lay the basis of every human reality and empathy is a way to embrace them. We believe in the importance of understanding each other's perspectives and needs by careful and conscious listening, and of transcending egocentrism to foster respect and connectivity.

Responsibility

We appreciate mistakes as a source of learning and development. At the same time we bear the responsibility for our activities and we want them to be transparent. We ensure the continuity of our actions and we are conscious of how we act.

Learning

Learning is a lifelong process. For GLEN it defines the way we interact within the network where everyone can share and learn about her/himself, with and of others, and embrace his/her own potentials. GLEN focuses on the concept of global learning (and similar concepts such as ‘popular education’, ‘education for development’ and ‘transformative education’) which stands for self-reflection, awareness and understanding. Learning through head, heart and hands empowers people to become global citizens.

Justice

Justice is reflected in a joint effort of addressing social unfairness and the promotion of human rights. GLEN strives for fair and conscious division of responsibilities and tasks. GLEN wants to cooperate with its partners on a long-term basis to build a sustainable network.

Joy

Many of GLEN activities create joy and we reaffirm the importance of this value as a main source of motivation, enthusiasm, satisfaction and positive state of mind. Joy is spread throughout many of GLEN's activities. Meeting people and sharing in a positive atmosphere, creates the vital energy and an essential condition for learning for the network and all of its actors.

March 2014

APPENDIX

GLEN Visionary and Networking Seminar 2013

Working Group: Partnership and Cooperation

„Partnership and Cooperation“ was one of the core topics in the preparation of the seminar and the beginning of the vision process. The following questions / proposals came up in online statements and the applications to the seminar (the number behind the statements shows how often this comment was raised):

- Developing a Global Partner Network (*Overcome the North-South approach(2)*host partners should get the possibility to meet and discuss the vision of GLEN as well * GLEN should host young people from the South in Europe (4)) * who is member, who is partner?
- Improving the current partnerships (*reduce power bias / inequality between northern and southern partners (2) *How can GLEN partners be involved in the network and informed about global education? * Involvement of southern partners in the selection process of volunteers *host partners should be asked for assessments (2)*host partners should be supported in building small networks to improve the work of GLEN hosts *involvement of african partners in training process (3) *sending the report of the pps to the partners *improve communication between sending and host partners and pps *Let the volunteers sign special agreements that they stay until the end of the internship *Prolong the intern period to 6 month, building small networks)
- Including capacity building for southern partners (*support the hosting organizations financially to make the impact of the volunteers sustainable (2) /*critical view on North-South values exchange *involvement of embassies and consulates of pps to build partnerships)

Based on these aspects the core question of the working group on the visionary seminar was: **“What kind of partnership do we want within GLEN?”**. This working group discussed in two different compositions of participants. On Friday we discussed in one group for the whole day. On Saturday this topic came up again and a lot of participants had the wish to discuss it once more. Therefore another working group (which included most of the pps of Friday) discussed the issue again.

Basic understanding of partnership

At the beginning the facilitator (Dominique Pannke) presented four different models which could shape the future partnerships of GLEN. These types derived from the history and former discussion of GLEN. The participants of the group had the task to position themselves towards their favored model.

- Improvement of current partnerships

Right now there is the GLEN network with 9 partner organization in Europe and many different host partners in the Global South. The different partners have different goals. The European partners focus on the training of multipliers with the MTC. The host partners are looking for support for the current activities of their organization. The approach would be to accept these different aims and improve the partnership regarding communication, transparency, a.s.o..

- Strengthening partnerships within GLEN and making the idea of global education global

The idea of this model is to strengthen the partnerships within GLEN step-by-step. Networks like they developed in Benin should be fostered. New partners should be found, who also work with the idea of global learning or similar concepts (like education for development, transformative education,...). All partners of the network share the same goal: to train multipliers and spread and develop the idea of “global learning” (or similar concepts). Partners can have different roles in this network (see below).

- Building a global partner network

The idea of this model is to make a radical new start with a completely changed partner structure. All partners are equal in their role. The common aim is not defined as it has to be defined by all partners. The proposal for the aim would be to train change agents.

- Take away the internships in the Global South

Here the whole activities in the Global South would be taken away. Partners are only organization in Europe. The aim is still to train multipliers, but without the practical experience in the South.

The positioning was very clear. All participants stood at the model to strengthen the partnerships within GLEN. Therefore the group decided to focus in the following discussions on this model. Nevertheless some of the group members considered the model without internships worse to talk about as well. We kept it in mind, as an option which could be added to GLEN as a new training cycle (there was no time on the seminar to resume this topic).

Why do we need to rethink partnership?

To add greater depth to the discussion and the model the group discussed why they think a new partnership model is necessary. The main reasons were:

- To overcome old structures of partnership, resulting of colonialism and power structures
- To celebrate diversity
- To empower emancipation (to develop own potentials through interaction) of partners
- To enlarge outcome /impact of the program
- To achieve other goals of GLEN / to become congruent with the values of GLEN
- To integrate the view of partners / built up together a definition of GE (considering existing similar concepts)
- To recognize global inequities
- To connect existing concepts about educational approaches
- To be a platform / space for transformation
- To ensure an equal benefit for all

How could it look like?

Moreover the group discussed how this new partnership model could develop and look like:

- Focuses firstly on strategic countries in order to scale up (e.g. Benin / South Africa)
- Should become a network of host-, sending- and training organization
Hosting organization: Host interns in their structures which support their activities
Sending organization: Administer the training cycle (and mainly the network?)
Training organization: Support with the development of the pedagogical work and the development of GE
All partners agree on the aim "to train change agents / multipliers" and contribute with their special skills and opportunities. Therefore GLEN combines learning, interacting and contribution.
- The combination of established structures and loose structures should be maintained
- Heading to open established structures (now GLEN members) for sending and training organization in the Global South and host organization in the Global North
- Looking for the establishment of regional networks based on long lasting partnerships

Summary

On Saturday the new working group was introduced to the results of the Fridays working group. Afterwards an intense discussion was held about the new partnership model. Nobody doubted the approach itself and it was soon clear that all participants are in favor of this model. But there were still a lot of comments on resources of GLEN, the role of the internship and questions of privileges and power structures. The results were the following sentences which describe the essence of the discussion and the new partnership model:

- GLEN is an educational network with the aim to train people in the sense of global education / global learning
- GLEN strives towards a Global Partner Network with equal partnerships (which includes the celebration of diversity of aims and goals)
- Step by step GLEN is starting partnerships with organizations which share the aim to train change agents. GLEN empowers current host organizations in GE if they are interested and jointly develops the idea of GE/GL together
- The internship is an important transformational element in the training process
- There will be host partners worldwide which have to benefit from the work of the interns. Host partners don't need to work in GE. Educational organizations are not identical with hosting organization.