



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 [details here](#).

Comment [x1]: The Preamble is about the present, so it describes the current state, not the desired future.

Comment [x2]: There is a discussion on changing the name to a more inclusive one by deleting "of Young Europeans". As this is more complicated on the legal level, this will be a next step.

Comment [x3]: When GLEN's impact is considered, "regional integration" in a larger scale emerge as an important added value. The obvious first context is the integration of Eastern and Western European countries, organisations and people, as well as host organisations in other regions, which network and cooperate (example: Benin).

Comment [x4]: This note and the "contributors" paragraph of the Preamble are in reflection to the comments that GLEN should make its power structure visible in the document.

Comment [x5]: Learning and self-reflection, as well as leading to (informed) action are in the core of GLEN. Hence the second part of the vision.

Comment [x6]: GLEN clearly positions itself as an educational program (beyond volunteer sending), focusing on the learning and action process of all involved actors

Comment [x7]: GLEN wants to step by step become global, using its networking experience at European level. The preliminary idea of how this could look like is detailed in the pdf document (click on "details here"). How it will look exactly and what are the steps will need to be clarified during the strategy process (see reference above). While GLEN grows global, it will most likely have to consist of regional "units", each with their own annual training cycles, in order to be affordable and manageable. So GLEN's impact on a global scale will consist of the strong local/regional impacts. In this way, GLEN will be able to fulfill its vision of bringing about fair and sustainable world by contributing to regional integration processes.

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.

Comment [x8]: As mentioned in the vision, GLEN considers (informed) action very important as a result of the learning process.

Comment [x9]: Meant as the cooperation and integration between different countries (mostly neighboring) on the social but also political level

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.

Comment [x10]: „Strives“ expresses acknowledging that this is a long term process, it can only be reached step by step.

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.

Comment [x11]: The reason for putting it this way is a comment we got saying „equal relationship“ is wishful thinking. Even two people or two organisations are not in equal relationship as they have different backgrounds and access to resources. So in „diversity“ as well as in „equality“ we want to stress that GLEN is conscious and transparent of power structures and carries operations accordingly in a just and fair way to live up to its values.

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.

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