



# **DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING**

## **A STATEMENT OF CONCORD**

20<sup>th</sup> November, 2004

Development education is an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues, to personal involvement and informed action.

Development education fosters the full participation of all citizens in world-wide poverty eradication, and the fight against exclusion. It seeks to influence more just and sustainable economic, social, environmental, human rights based national and international policies.

The Development Education Forum promotes the adoption of quality standards for attaining development education goals. Through a range of activities and accumulated experience it proposes working criteria, relevant and applicable in all EU member states, to guide education providers in the NGO movements and in civil society, in the active delivery of development education. The enlargement of the EU raises significant new perspectives on attitudes towards the interdependence of nations and relations between North and South. The Forum invites CONCORD to advocate for a European Development Education Strategy , providing definition, guidance , focus and coherence to the broad range of activities and research that constitute development education and awareness raising in Europe.

### **CONCORD's priorities for development education are:**

#### **Priority I: Public opinion**

Concord members believe that Northern public opinion can influence policy and be an important contributor to development. Development education plays a key role in informing and shaping public opinion, and empowering people to take action, through its work in formal and informal sectors of European civil society. Our aim is to include the experience of partners in the South in the process of awareness raising, to improve the impact of campaigns and lobbying actions on Northern, Southern and international institutions and forums.

**CONCORD, through the Development Education Forum, will promote a 3-yearly Euro Barometer to monitor trends and changes in European public opinion on international development co-operation issues, and particularly public interest and support for the Millennium goals.**

#### **Priority II: Funding for Development Education**

In 2004 the number of countries in the European Union increased by 40%. The NGO community actively involved in development education and awareness raising recognizes that there is an urgent need to designate a fixed percentage of the total "Development and Economic Cooperation Budget of the EU" for educational activities. This should be significantly higher than the present budget. Generating capacity, particularly in new member states, to educate and mobilize European citizens, local organizations and politicians, is essential if Europe is to be a strong global partner in the fight against poverty, and in the promotion of a fairer world, human rights and democracy. European NGOs, European Parliament, the European Commission and Member States can all play a significant role in promoting new "Educational Perspectives" for 2007-2013.

The working group of DEEEP will continue to lobby national governments to provide consistent recognition, support and financial resources for DE/DA, in the spirit of incorporating the recommendations outlined in the Resolution on Development Education adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2001.

**CONCORD considers important to secure substantial increases in ODA, with significant increases in funds to be allocated to development education.**

### **Priority III: Life-long Education**

Development Education has a widespread and far reaching commitment towards young people, and future generations of European citizens. It aims to work effectively with national education systems, school curricula, and youth organizations, to equip young people with the values, attitudes, knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to become informed, confident and active global citizens.

We believe it is important to engage with a range of organizations to enable a growing awareness of international development issues amongst people throughout their lifetimes.

The DEEEP 2003 Summer school in Portugal on Development education and the Formal Sector identified priorities for NGO actions at national and European levels. It provided opportunities for sharing effective methodologies, pedagogical materials and training.

Development education has a long history of professional development working in the formal education sector, led by the NGDO community, and this will remain a distinct priority in the DE Forum's work.

**CONCORD members engage to lobby national education ministries to encourage the adoption of development education in school curricula.**

### **Priority IV: Cooperation with other stakeholders in the field of development education**

The DE Forum recognizes the growing importance of alliances with non-state actors and other stakeholders, including trade unions, academics, etc., responsible for the integration of DE in civil society at a variety of levels of public engagement in development. The 2004 DEEEP Summer school on Media and DE, and the proposed 2005 summer school in Sweden on 'Inclusion and exclusion' will address the need to recognize other influences and stakeholders shaping the DE Forum's collective world view.

**CONCORD promotes new alliances to strengthen DE work at all levels, and to influence national development co-operation policies.**