

## **SPONGE Campaign (SDGs Project On Global Citizenship Education) Campaign for Practical Implementation of the SDGs in the ASPnet Community**

August - December 2021, Republic of Korea

### **General Information**

#### **1. Introduction and Objectives**

Global Citizenship Education (GCED), which builds on the work of peace and human rights education, is a strategic area of UNESCO's Education Sector and a thematic focus of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet).

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are goals that have been adopted by the international community as the global development agenda to be achieved by 2030. They aim to achieve an equitable and sustainable global society in which no one is left behind. The SDGs include 17 goals, the fourth of which concerns education. Under each goal are a number of targets, and GCED is the subject of one of the targets under goal 4 (target 4.7), not least because it is necessary to foster people's sense of global citizenship in order to achieve the SDGs as a whole.

People who have a strong sense of global citizenship are much more likely to make a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs, by understanding that they have a responsibility to make their local communities more peaceful, just and sustainable, and to bring changes that can have effects globally. Young people, the leaders of the next generation, have a vital role to play in achieving the SDGs, and to help them play this role, it is vital to help them grow into responsible global citizens.

The SDGs and global citizenship are inextricably linked and they have a mutually influencing relationship. UNESCO ASPnet, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea (MOE) believe that learning how to put the SDGs into practice at school level, notably in the ASPnet community, is key to the successful promotion of global citizenship and will contribute to the eventual achievement of the SDGs globally,

Implementing the SDGs in schools does not simply mean acquiring knowledge about the 17 SDGs. It means empowering students and teachers to become active promoters of more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable societies. It means learning how to recognize what action needs to be taken at a local level to build such a society, and learning how to take that action.

Young people witness many things in their daily lives – whether inconveniences or unsafe, unreasonable or unfair conditions – that raise awareness on the realities and challenges, and call for actions from around the world, such as on discrimination based on gender, origin and inequalities as well as poverty, climate change and natural hazards, freedom of expression etc. Some concrete examples may include everything from school staircases that people with disabilities cannot use, classrooms with poor lighting conditions, blind people having difficulty purchasing the drink they want at the store because Braille is not displayed, to piles of garbage piled up in alleys, pets abandoned for no reason, violence and bullying, and local heritage and traditions being forgotten. Implementation of the SDGs within schools refers to teachers helping students to identify such problems, which may turn into bigger problems in a few years, and then try to solve them by themselves. This is, we believe, a small but very significant step in helping young people to become better global citizens who contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, the primary aim of the SDGs Project on Global Citizenship Education (“**SPONGE Campaign**” for short) is to invite teachers and students to submit **ideas and suggestions, which may be based on a good practice already taken place, for action towards implementation of the SDGs** in their schools and local communities around the world, in the form of **short videos and written proposals. More precisely, it aims to identify and address solutions on local issues relating to the SDGs.** By identifying problems relevant to one or more of the 17 SDGs in their neighborhood and coming up with creative ideas to solve such issues, students and teachers can gain in-depth, practical knowledge of GCED and the SDGs and build a localized or contextualized understanding of how they can be applied in their daily lives.

The campaign will also contribute to building a strong network of international ASPnet schools by promoting understanding and friendship, and will facilitate the sharing of experiences and ideas through an online forum on GCED in October, and the international Global Students Forum hosted by UNESCO in December, 2021. Participants with the most creative ideas will be given an award by the Secretary-General of KNCU, along with a chance to participate in the international forums. The results, in the form of published report or an edited collection of videos, of the campaign will be disseminated to the international ASPnet community.

## 2. Objectives

- Submit ideas or suggestions for action as well as good practices and knowledge in the field of global citizenship and the local implementation of the SDGs at school level in the international ASPnet community
- Exploring how global citizenship and the SDGs are used in schools and local communities to create sustainable communities
- Interdisciplinary engagement of teachers and students in activities to promote the SDGs
- Discussion and sharing among ASPnet schools of good practices to spread the values of global citizenship by implementing the SDGs at local level

### 3. Methodology

	<p>Collecting ideas and good practices in forms of videos or written proposals for practical implementation of the SDGs in local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Video]</b> Format: mp4, flv, avi or any other video format Length: up to 3 minutes</li> </ul>
<b>Theme and Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Submission: Upload on YouTube and share the private video link file via the submission form on the South Korean ASPnet website below</b></li> <li>• <b>[Proposal]</b> Format: doc, docx / Length: up to 5 pages with photos included</li> <li>* <b>Submission: Upload the file via the submission form on the South Korean ASPnet website below</b></li> <li>• <b>[Submission]</b> <a href="https://enasp.unesco.or.kr/sponge_campaign/submission.html">https://enasp.unesco.or.kr/sponge_campaign/submission.html</a></li> <li>• <b>[Language]</b> English, French, Spanish or Korean</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and teachers from elementary, lower and upper secondary ASPnet schools around the world</li> <li>• Individual students/teachers or a group of students or teachers can apply</li> </ul>
<b>Period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August – December, 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An opportunity to participate and present at the <b>International Global Students Forum hosted by UNESCO</b></li> <li>• <b>Awards from the Secretary-General of KNCU for the best entries</b></li> <li>• <b>Cultural heritage gift box</b> with items from the Republic of Korea</li> <li>• Publication of results (collection of video clips and written proposals to be distributed globally)</li> <li>• Joining a network for further school exchanges</li> </ul>

### 4. Schedule

Date	Activities
<b>August-September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate as an individual or group with peers</li> <li>• Submit videos discussing and showing past good practices</li> <li>• Identify problems in the local community related to one or more of the 17 SDGs and suggest ideas to address the problems via a short video or written proposal</li> <li>• Prepare a short video or written proposal</li> </ul>
<b>September 30th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission deadline</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement of prize winners and distribution of awards to participants</li> <li>• Online meeting with other winners to prepare for the Forum</li> </ul>
<b>October 16th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the online ceremony and forum to present and discuss ideas among participants</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation and presentation in the international Global Students Forum hosted by UNESCO</li> </ul>

**5. Submission: Submission page on the South Korean ASPnet website**

[https://enasp.unesco.or.kr/sponge\\_campaign/submission.html](https://enasp.unesco.or.kr/sponge_campaign/submission.html)

**6. Deadline: September 30th, 2021 (midnight, UTC)**

**7. Participation and Commitments**

- No registration or participation fee
- Attendance and active participation in the Online Forum
- Completion of individual and team assignments related to the topics
- Promotion of campaign activity and knowledge gained from the campaign in teaching & learning community

**8. Official Language**

The official language for the campaign and the forum will be English, French, Spanish and Korean.

**9. Correspondence**

**All correspondence regarding the “SPONGE Campaign” should be addressed to:**

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