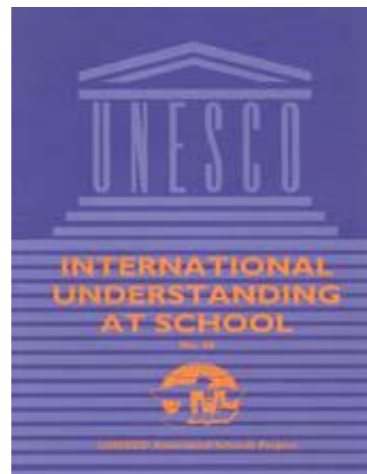


# A short history



**1953**

33 schools / 16 countries

**PROJECT LAUNCH** “Scheme of Co-ordinated Experimental Activities in Education for Living in a World Community”

**OBJECTIVE** Encourage the development of education in the aims and activities of the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies, and in the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**PARTICIPANTS** Secondary Schools

**1957**

Project renamed to “Associated Schools Project in Education for International Understanding and Co-operation”

**1958**

Activities are extended to teacher training institutes

First publications: *International Understanding at School* and *Some Suggestions for Human Rights Teaching*

191 schools / 42 countries

**1963**

**ASP International Meeting, France**

Definition of ASP study themes:

1. World problems and the role of the United Nations;
2. Foreign countries and cultures, and
3. Human Rights

Primary Schools join the project

Publication: *World Problems in the Classroom: the Role of the United Nations*

**1965**



Project renamed to “Associated Schools Project in Education for International Understanding and Peace”

1971

A fourth study theme is added:  
“The protection of the environment”

1972

1963-1973

Several ASP sub-regional workshops (Asia, Europe and Latin America) & two major international workshops (Hamburg, Germany)

**1974 Recommendation, Paragraph 23:**

“Member States should take advantage of the experience of the Associated Schools which carry out, with UNESCO’s help, programmes of international education. Those concerned with Associated Schools in Member States should strengthen and renew their efforts to extend the programme to other educational institutions and work towards the general application of its results.”

1974

1973

923 schools / 63 countries

“Associated Schools Project in Education for International Cooperation and Peace”

“Adoption of the Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms” includes several specific references to ASPnet

1976

Pre-primary institutions join the project

1973-1983

Nine ASP regional seminars and six international conferences

1980

Launch of first Interregional Project to enhance the study of human rights, disarmament and the New International Economic Order

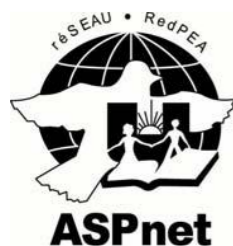
1,672 schools / 81 countries

1983

**ASP International Congress, Bulgaria**

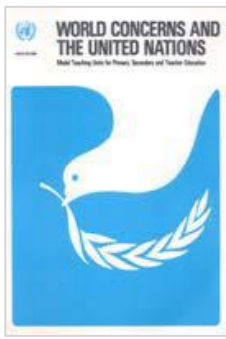
- First art contest for the ASP logo (won by an art student from Bolivia)
- First medium-term strategy: emphasis on mobilizing schools in support of the International Youth Year (1985) and the International Year of Peace (1986)

*“The Associated Schools Project corresponds to the fundamental principles defined by UNESCO’s constitution [...] These schools do not represent a special category of establishments operating on the fringe of each country’s educational system.”*



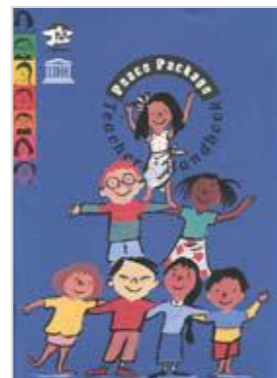
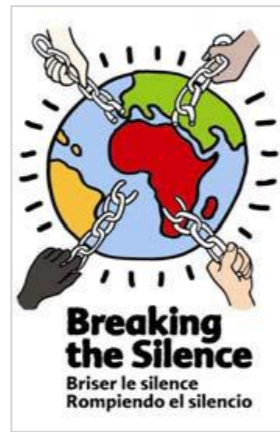
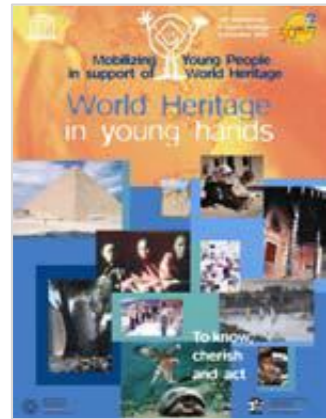
Publications:

- *World Concerns and the United Nations: Model Teaching Units for Primary, Secondary and Teacher Education* (based on ASP innovative teaching practices)
- *Challenges to Human Rights and Peace*
- *Seeds for Peace – The Role of Pre-School Education in International Understanding and Education for Peace*
- *International Understanding through Foreign Language Teaching*



*They are schools –primary, secondary and teacher-training establishments- that build into their curricula and activities different components designed to foster international understanding and that co-operate for this purpose [...] The Associated Schools are in the forefront of the institutions that are working, selflessly and effectively, for these objectives. In congratulating them most warmly on the work that they have already accomplished, it is my earnest hope that this Congress will open up new paths, which will enable them to pursue even farther their exemplary efforts to bring about understanding, friendship and peace”*

Mr. M. M' Bow, Director-General of UNESCO, Inaugural address, ASP 30th anniversary Congress, Sofia, Bulgaria, September 1983.



7,400 schools / 170 countries

**2003**

Launch of the [Great Volga River Route \(GVRR\) – Uniting the Seas \(Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas\) in favour of World Heritage Education for Sustainable Development](#)

ASPnet students participate in the [Mondialogo School Contest](#)

Regional Meeting “ASPnet: Education for Peace and Sustainable Development”, Luxembourg

Launch of the Pilot [“The Truce Story”](#)

**1989**

UNESCO supports a first regional flagship project: [the Baltic Sea Project](#)

**1983-1993**

Over 30 ASP regional and global workshops and seminars, including the first ASP Youth Encounter (1986)

**1993**

2,900 schools / 116 countries

**ASP International Symposium, Germany**

- 1994-2000 Strategy and Action Plan
- ASP renamed as **“Associated Schools Project Network”**

**1994**

North/South School Twinning for Intercultural Dialogue and Solidarity

Launch of ASPnet Calendars to support schools in their celebration of international days

**1995**

Seven “ASPnet Culture of Peace” Festivals and [Resource Kit](#)

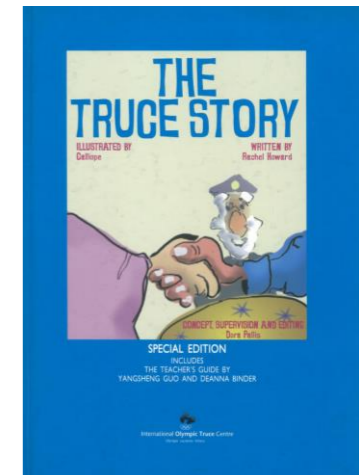
Launch of interregional and global projects: Education and Craft Professions; Energy, Development, Environment (EDEN); Caribbean Sea Project; Zambesi River Project; [Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion](#); [Breaking the Silence: the ASPnet Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project](#); [Time Project](#); [Agenda 21 NOW!](#)

**1999**

Children’s World Parliament and [Youth Manifesto for the 21st Century](#)

**2001**

ASPnet International Friendship Encounter “Sports in Favour of Peace”, St. Malo, France



**2005**



ASPnet students participate in the Campaign “Messages about progress for the future of our planet”

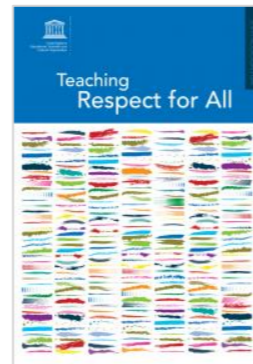
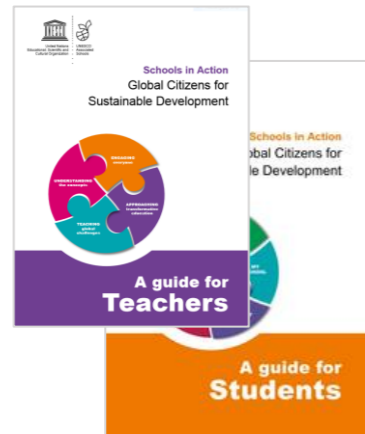
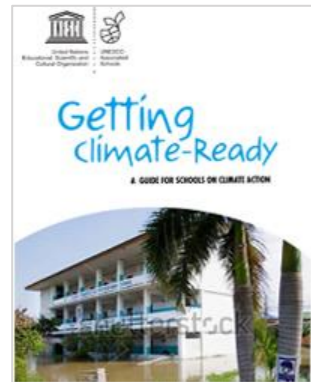
Piloting of [OzonAction](#)

Collection of Good Practices (1. [Quality Education](#) 2. [Education for Sustainable Development](#) 3. [Intercultural Dialogue](#) [Education for Human Rights...Young People Talking](#) (video)

Piloting of [Biodiversity Learning Pack](#)

Launch of Bringing Back Smiles Project and Stay Safe & Be Prepared Educational Kit ([Students Guide](#), [Teachers Guide](#), [Parents Guide](#))

Launch of [Teaching Respect for All](#) project ([video](#))

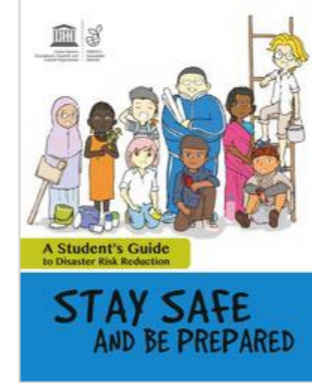


11,700 schools / 182 countries

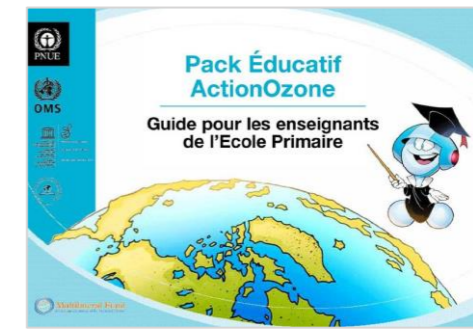
2023

70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASPnet

2006



2009



2012

2013

9,700 schools / 180 countries

ASPnet renamed to “**Associated Schools Network (ASPnet)**”  
ASPnet in Action online collaborative platform & Guides ([Students](#), [Teachers](#))

2015

Piloting of the [Teachers' Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism](#)  
Arts Contest [Opening Hearts and Minds to Refugees](#)

2016

Start of global pilot project on the whole-school approach to climate action [Getting Climate Ready](#)

2017

[Ark of Inquiry Project](#)

[Media and Information Literacy \(MIL\) CLICKS](#)

2018

Piloting of 5 UNESCO toolkits/manuals in 80 countries: Culture of Lawfulness, Sport Values in Every Classroom, Ocean Literacy for All, Writing Peace, European Year of Cultural Heritage: Engaging Youth for an Inclusive and Sustainable Europe

2019

Global Initiative [Teacher Training in Support of Transformative Education](#)

2020

COVID-19 [LearningNeverStops Campaign](#) & [1<sup>st</sup> Global Webinar](#)

2021

Launch of new [ASPnet Newsletter CONNECT](#)

Trash Hack [Teachers Guide](#) & [Global School Campaign](#)

[ASPnet X Futures of Education Focus Group Consultations](#)