



## Pilot Project: The Wind of Peace

Slovenian ASPnet, 22 April 2025

### Introduction

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) was established after the Second World War with the mission of building peace in the minds of people and teaching children and youth about tolerance and intercultural cooperation. Its core goal has been to foster a culture of peace in educational settings. This mission has been reaffirmed by the UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, adopted in 2023.

In today's world, marked by conflicts and global challenges, the emphasis on peace—understood not only as the absence of war but also as a set of values such as tolerance, mutual respect, and good relationships—is more important than ever. Our world is facing wars, refugee crises, and natural disasters that affect us directly. We also witness severe violence within school environments, which deeply shakes us.

That is why the vision of our network is vital: to raise and shape happy children and individuals capable of empathy and compassion, thus building lasting peace in their communities; to transform schools into spaces where a culture of peace and empathy thrives, where conflicts are resolved constructively and peacefully, and where every individual feels safe, respected, and accepted; and to promote a way of life based on cooperation, understanding, respect for all, and harmonious coexistence with nature.

### The Voice of UNESCO's Children and Youth for Their Future

Today, children and youth from all UNESCO and other schools speak up because we are desperate and afraid. UNESCO and the United Nations promised us we would be safe and that we would be helped to feel safe as we step into life. And yet, today, we are not safe. Many countries are at war, and even beyond that, the feeling of safety is gone. So today, we call on you adults to stop all wars—natural disasters alone are already threatening our world. We also demand security and trust among all people across the globe.

We, the children and youth of the world, are warning you that this cannot continue. We observe what's happening around us and see that things are heading in the wrong direction. It has gone too far, and we fear for our lives and our future. How many people die in wars driven by greed and hatred the very moment a child is born? How many children won't be born because of war? You must give us the chance to live as you did. We want to see the world and travel like our parents did. In fact, we want an even better world than the one you had. But for that, we don't need

wealth—we just need the opportunity to live and grow into our future. As parents, you fear for us and want only one thing: to keep us safe and help us become independent. But the greatest enemies of children are war and disease.

That is why we demand that—for once—you truly listen to us children. Parents and everyone shaping today's world, listen to us, your daughters and sons! We're not speaking about one war—we're speaking about all wars, climate change, disasters, illness, hunger, and everything caused by human greed and hate—and about the peace we demand. Maybe even about a world without war and hunger.


## The Wind of Peace

**We invite all UNESCO children and youth to connect through a message of peace as a call for life and their future— a message that will blow like the wind across the world. Each country will ensure that the *Wind of Peace* is passed on to another country as quickly as possible. It doesn't matter where or how the message is delivered—what matters is that it reaches every country in the world.**

At each handover, **children state that they are carrying the *Wind of Peace* message and deliver the message in their own language and the language of the country they are visiting—**because languages connect us. Respect for and freedom of all cultures and languages contributes to peace; a world with only one language or culture would be much poorer. **The *Wind of Peace* will exclude no country**, as it is a call from children—not a political action. **All children should be involved** in delivering the message, especially those with disabilities (mobility impairments, blindness, deafness, etc.). **Only children and youth may speak**; adults can offer support but must not speak on their behalf. No political representatives of any country, city, etc. may be involved in these activities. **Each country is free to organize additional events across all regions**, without any form of exclusion based on ethnicity or background. When the *Wind of Peace* is transferred between continents or to island nations, children may also ask airplane pilots to assist in delivering it.

**The *Wind of Peace* begins in Slovenia and will be passed on to our neighbours in Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia.** We will only take the first step, allowing each country to organize the handover in its own way. As part of this initiative, we will prepare special notebooks that will travel along different routes from Slovenia to all corners of the world, symbolically connecting children and youth through their messages of peace.

## Handover Procedure

**Written message:** in a provided notebook (each country uses two pages  ). The content can be organized freely, but it must include translations into English or French or Spanish.

**Spoken message:** video recording in your own language(s) and the language of the neighbouring country.

**Symbolic gift:** At each handover, the participating country also presents a small symbolic gift representing peace (such as a dove, an olive branch, a sunflower, or another meaningful symbol). This gesture strengthens the message of friendship and hope between children across borders.

Upon each handover, the participating country sends the following to [windofpeace@aspnet.si](mailto:windofpeace@aspnet.si):

- A photo(s) of the written message
- A photo of the children at the handover
- A video of the handover (please upload the video to YouTube and send us the link)

All content will be posted on the dedicated webpage [www.aspnet.si/windofpeace](http://www.aspnet.si/windofpeace).

Participants are encouraged to share their actions on social media using the hashtag #WindOfPeace.

All participating countries are encouraged to organize an event to mark the handover, which should take place within one week of receiving the message. The handover may go directly to another country or travel within the country first as long as it reaches the other country within the given time and as soon as possible.

**Language of the handover:**

Children and youth deliver the peace message in their own language(s) and the language of the country receiving the message. Accessibility should also be considered (sign language, braille/audio description where possible).

**Handover location:**

The school handing over the message selects the location, in agreement with the school in the receiving country.

**Time in each country:**

Each country passes the message on as soon as possible, and no later than within 5 days.

Messages **should not contain political content**.

**National coordinators** (ASPnet national coordinators where applicable, and National Commissions elsewhere) oversee the process and provide support in organizing the events.

If a country is unable to participate in the handover, the message will be passed on to the next participating country using **the fastest mode of transportation**.

Countries with only one neighbouring country may return the message to the same country or use **the fastest mode of transportation to the next country**.

During the handover from one country to another, **children may ask for the support of a pilot or an airline** to help transport the notebook to the next country.

If a country is currently experiencing conflict, it will receive a **special notebook** to ensure that previous messages are not lost. Its response will be added and will be of special value.

The **last receiving country** on each continent will return the messages to **Slovenia** by **the fastest mode of transportation**.

**Countries are also encouraged to collect peace messages from all schools in their country and compile them into a national publication** (e.g., an e-publication), which they can

disseminate across their national school network and present to their government. This way, the initiative will not be limited to just two students and one school per country but will reflect the voices of as many children and schools as possible.

#### Timeline:

<b>22 April 2025</b>	<p><b>An invitation to participate is sent to members of the global ASPnet network.</b></p> <p>Countries will have three weeks to respond. In their reply, they are kindly asked to indicate their <b>school holiday dates</b> to facilitate the scheduling of handovers, to <b>specify the country or countries to which they could pass on the message</b>, and to indicate <b>how many days they will need to carry out the handover</b>.</p>
<b>22 April 2025 – 12 May 2025</b>	<p>Receiving confirmations from participating countries. Further questions are welcome and encouraged.</p> <p>Organization of a webinar with guidelines for participating countries.</p>
<b>12 May – 30 May 2025</b>	<p>Coordination with participating countries.</p> <p>Preparation of the message route.</p> <p>Publication of the schedule on a dedicated website.</p>
<b>2 June 2025 – November 2025</b>	<p><b>Kick-off event in Slovenia:</b> First <i>Wind of Peace</i> message handover from four ASPnet schools to neighbouring countries (Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia).</p> <p><b>The <i>Wind of Peace</i> travels from one country to another.</b></p> <p><b>Local and international events continue as the message travels.</b></p>
<b>November 2025</b>	<p><b>Final event:</b></p> <p>International online celebration</p> <p>Review and presentation of peace messages.</p> <p>All collected peace messages will be shared with world leaders, key decision-makers, as well as the United Nations and UNESCO.</p> <p>The day of the final event with detailed suggestion for joint celebration will be communicated later.</p> <p>We call on all world leaders to stop war for one day—or at least one hour—wherever it is taking place.</p>