





Ljubljana, 23 June 2025

Subject: Update on the Wind of Peace Project

Dear national coordinators and members of ASPnet worldwide,

We are pleased to share an update on the international pilot project *Wind of Peace*, initiated by the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO and ASPnet Slovenia to give voice to the children and connect them worldwide.

Following the initial invitation to all national ASPnet coordinators to participate in April 2025, we received an overwhelming number of positive responses and many of you decided to actively take part in the project. After the application deadline, our team carefully prepared the itineraries and logistical plans. Each participating country has been informed by the route coordinators about where the notebook is coming from and to whom it should be passed on next.

The project officially began on June 2nd, 2025, with a press conference at the Ministry of Higher Education in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Children and young people shared powerful messages, calling for peace and a future where every child feels safe and heard, and were supported by Slovenian Minister of Education and Secretary-General of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO with no political messages. On the same day, four international handover ceremonies took place, and seven notebooks began their journey.

Each notebook is now being passed from one school to another, collecting powerful student messages to adults and particularly to decision-makers. In some countries the notebook will also travel for a few days between different schools within a country. The notebooks will continue their journey through Europe, Asia, America and Africa until the end of September 2025. We are regularly sharing updates, photos, and reflections from these events on our official website <u>www.aspnet.si/windofpeace/en/</u> and social media channels.

The Slovenian ASPnet is proud and deeply grateful to all participating countries and individual schools as - despite remaining outside political involvement - we have already achieved remarkable and meaningful results.

We have heard from children in forgotten corners of the world who, perhaps for the first time, feel connected with their peers globally — and through this, we are giving them hope. We are glad that schools and students are engaging in reflection and discussions on whether we are on the right path with the network.

They are sharing with us their ideas, wishes, and expectations for a strong network for peace — and for that, we are truly thankful. We will continue to discuss their input in the future and look forward to these new challenges.

In their messages, children are asking for a future and calling on us — the adults — to listen and to respond and that is precisely what is expected from everyone: to actively respond to their voices and do everything within their power.

The children are eager to connect with as many other peers as possible – including those who are not yet part of the project. Even if you are unsure of the power children hold, at the very least, give them the opportunity to decide for themselves whether and how they want to take part. Therefore, you are still warmly invited to join. If you decide to participate, please write to us at windofpeace@aspnet.si and we will do our best to include you in the project.

With warm regards,

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