

Theory of Impact for Global Citizenship Education

Information Leaflet



As GCE practitioners, tracking impact helps us to identify how, where and with whom our work is creating positive change, as well as areas in which our impact could be stronger.

For many years, IDEA members have been grappling with the concept of impact in Global Citizenship Education (GCE). Following the work of a Task Group of IDEA members in 2024, IDEA launched a Theory of Impact in 2025 that would enable the illustration of the long-term impact of global citizenship educators, through the gathering of quantitative and qualitative data.

Our Theory of Impact model sets out a progression from Intermediate Outcomes to Long-term Outcomes, leading ultimately to a high-level Vision of social change. As we move

‘up’ the pyramid, we move from being able to *attribute* specific outcomes to our work to being able to say that our work *contributes* to systemic social change. Another way of stating this is that we move from our ‘circle of control’ to our ‘circle of influence’ and ultimately to our ‘circle of concern’. We believe that this reflects the reality of Global Citizenship Education work and that it will enable us to illustrate complex GCE pathways to impact, whilst acknowledging that GCE does not take place in a vacuum.

The model sets out 14 Intermediate Outcomes, grouped under the three categories of Educators, Learners and Organisations. We will be collecting data from our members against these outcomes (see pages 6-8). These focus on who is doing what differently as a result of our GCE interventions. IDEA members are already documenting many of these outcomes, in the form of quantitative and qualitative results in their Results Frameworks,

in their Annual Reports and in their annual submissions to the Code of Good Practice.

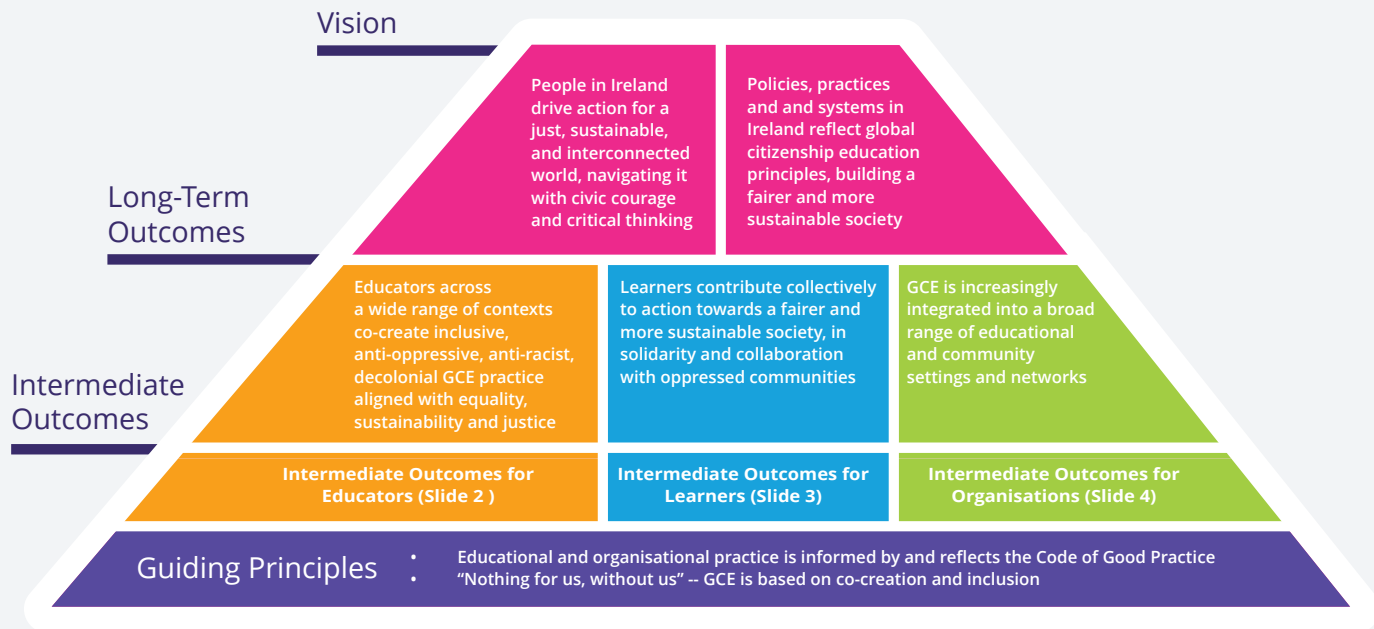
The three Long-Term Outcomes aim to articulate collective impact across the GCE sector. The model enables IDEA members to place the outcomes of their work into a much broader picture of impact. We will collate and analyse the data gathered for the Intermediate Outcome level and present it in a way that best illustrates progress towards Long-Term Impact via an online data visualisation tool. The data visualisation tool also will offer IDEA members a better understanding of how their work contributes to the wider sector.

The Vision level reflects the high-level change to which the GCE sector aspires. We acknowledge that the realisation of the Vision relies on the coming together of a multitude of initiatives from all areas of society. At the Vision level, we will articulate how we expect GCE to help create

the systemic social change to which we aspire. We hope eventually to be able to draw on a wide variety of relevant evidence to feed into this as it becomes available, for example, research carried out by IDEA members, and data from educational institutions and funders.

The data gathering will be conducted via an online form that IDEA will be sharing with members after the pilot phase.

This model will function as a strong companion piece to the Code of Good Practice for Development Education. The Code provides concrete illustrations of 'what good GCE looks like' and the Theory of Impact will demonstrate how good GCE 'makes a difference'.



Long-Term Outcome

Educators across a wide range of contexts co-create inclusive, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, decolonial GCE practice aligned with equality, sustainability and justice.



Long-Term Outcome

Learners contribute collectively to action towards a fairer and more sustainable society, in solidarity and collaboration with oppressed communities.

Values/Attitudes

Learners envision a fairer, more equitable and sustainable world; Learners connect local and global issues to their own experiences, fostering empathy and solidarity; Learners develop emotional literacy to help navigate what they've learned

Skills

Learners critically examine development models and question power relations; Learners develop skills and confidence to take informed, collective action on local and global justice issues; Learners collaborate with minoritised people to identify root causes of injustices; Learners co-design alternatives and solutions to existing unequal systems.

Learners will experience quality GCE

Knowledge

Learners understand connections between local and global issues; Learners understand the systemic nature of local and global justice issues; Learners understand structural oppression; Learners address biases in their understanding of global issues and materials they use.

Long-Term Outcome

GCE is increasingly integrated into a broad range of educational and community settings and networks.



Strategic partnerships are built with similar values-based movements such as trade unions, sports clubs, minoritised-people organisations, and youth groups



Communities of practice grow stronger through collaboration and ongoing learning



GCE in Ireland and Europe receives stronger and more secure funding, policy support, and institutional backing.

Strategic partnerships are built with institutions with a role in integrating GCE into education systems, policies and settings, such as donors, policymakers, educational institutions, local authorities, government bodies



GCE programming and advocacy is based on co-creation and inclusive decision making with impacted communities



Narrative around GCE shows its value, challenges misunderstanding, and highlights its positive impact



IDEA gratefully acknowledges core funding received from the Global Programmes and Global Citizenship Education Unit of Irish Aid, and additional support from Trócaire and Concern. The ideas, opinions and comments herein are entirely the responsibility of IDEA and do not necessarily represent or reflect those of our donors.

CONCERN
worldwide



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Trócaire

How to find out more?

To find out more about the Theory of Impact,
please contact us: **info@ideaonline.ie**

IDEA
6 Gardiner Row
Dublin 1
Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)18788480

www.ideaonline.ie