

Call for Tenders

Research Consultancy: Strengthening Equitable Global North–South Partnerships in Global Citizenship Education



Terms of Reference

Background and purpose

This consultancy will identify and synthesise best practice for developing equitable, reciprocal and sustainable partnerships between organisations delivering Global Citizenship Education on the island of Ireland and organisations and communities in the Global South.

This consultancy is commissioned by IDEA (the Irish Development Education Association) in partnership with Concern Worldwide.

IDEA is the national network for Global Citizenship Education (GCE) organisations and practitioners across the island of Ireland.

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian and development organisation with extensive experience in Global Citizenship Education and partnerships with communities in the Global South.

Both organisations recognise that authentic partnerships with organisations and communities in the Global South are central to high-quality Global Citizenship Education. This consultancy will identify and synthesise best practice in developing equitable, reciprocal and sustainable Global North–South partnerships that move beyond extractive or symbolic engagement and centre the voices, leadership, lived experience and expertise of Global South partners.

The research will inform IDEA's ongoing work to support and strengthen Global Citizenship Education across the island of Ireland and provide practical learning for IDEA members, while also informing Concern Worldwide's ongoing Global Citizenship work.

This is intended to be a focused, practice-oriented consultancy. The emphasis is on identifying and synthesising existing evidence, examples of good practice and stakeholder insights to further develop practical guidance for the sector.

Throughout this document, the term "Global South" is used for consistency, while recognising that it is an imperfect term and that "Global Majority" may be preferred by some individuals and organisations.

Consultancy objective

The objective of this consultancy is to identify, analyse and synthesise best practice in partnerships between organisations delivering Global Citizenship Education on the island of Ireland and organisations and communities in the Global South.

The consultancy will provide practical, evidence-informed guidance for developing equitable, reciprocal and sustainable partnerships that centre the voices, leadership and expertise of Global South partners, while avoiding extractive or tokenistic approaches.

Specifically, the consultant will:

- Conduct a desk review of existing literature, research, case studies and frameworks relating to partnerships between organisations in the Global North and Global South in the context of Global Citizenship Education.
- Analyse current trends, gaps, challenges and opportunities in how GCE organisations engage with Global South partners.
- Identify practical examples of effective partnership approaches.
- Develop evidence-informed recommendations to strengthen Global North–South partnership approaches, including:
 - principles for equitable and ethical collaboration;
 - practical tools and frameworks for designing, developing and sustaining partnerships;
 - recommendations for strengthening inclusion, reciprocity and mutual learning.

Methodology and scope

The consultant will use qualitative and/or quantitative research methods, as appropriate.

The methodology may include targeted engagement with:

- Global Citizenship Education practitioners across the island of Ireland;

- Partner organisations and community representatives from the Global South;
- Relevant experts in Global Citizenship Education, decolonial practice, partnership building and international development;
- Key actors and partners identified by IDEA and Concern Worldwide.

The successful consultant will agree an inception plan outlining the proposed methodology, stakeholder engagement and timeline.

The proposed methodology should be proportionate to the available budget and timeframe while ensuring robust and practical findings.

Deliverables

The successful consultant will be expected to:

- Agree an inception plan outlining the proposed methodology, stakeholder engagement and timeline.
- Present emerging findings for discussion and feedback.
- Produce a concise, action-oriented final report containing:
 - key findings;
 - practical recommendations;
 - examples of good partnership practice;
 - practical tools, principles or frameworks to support organisations in developing equitable Global North–South partnerships.
- Produce a presentation summarising the findings and recommendations.
- Help lead a one-day IDEA learning workshop/training in early December to share the research findings and support Global Citizenship Education practitioners in applying the recommendations to strengthen equitable Global North–South partnerships.
- Submit all final outputs in accessible electronic format.

Ownership of outputs

All reports and materials produced under this consultancy will become the property of IDEA, with unrestricted use by IDEA and Concern Worldwide, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Draft timeline

- **13 August 2026** – Closing date for applications.

- **Within one week of the closing date** – Successful consultant appointed and applicants notified.
- **Early September 2026** - Consultancy commences.
- **September–November 2026** – Research, stakeholder engagement and development of draft findings and recommendations.
- **Early December 2026** – One-day IDEA learning workshop/training to share the research findings and support practitioners in applying the recommendations.
- **December 2026** – Final report and accompanying presentation materials submitted.

Budget

The available budget for this consultancy is in the region of €6,000 (inclusive of VAT).

Financial proposals should include all professional fees, expenses and applicable taxes. Additional workshop or training costs may be provided subject to need.

Requirements for consultant

Applicants should demonstrate:

- A qualification in a relevant field and/or substantial experience in applied research relating to Global Citizenship Education, partnership building, international development or global justice.
- A good understanding of Global Citizenship Education in the context of the island of Ireland and, ideally, wider European practice, policy and stakeholder landscapes.
- At least five years' experience conducting research, reviews or evaluations for NGOs, national organisations or governmental bodies, preferably in areas relating to education, community development or global partnerships.
- Experience designing and implementing qualitative and/or participatory research methodologies, with the ability to synthesise evidence from a range of sources into practical recommendations.
- Knowledge of equitable partnership approaches, decolonial practice, power-aware methodologies and participatory approaches.
- A demonstrated commitment to safeguarding, equity, diversity and inclusion, particularly when working with partners from the Global South.
- An understanding of ethical research practice, including informed consent, data protection and safeguarding.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against:

- Demonstrated understanding of Global Citizenship Education and equitable Global North–South partnerships.
- Quality and relevance of the proposed methodology.
- Relevant research experience and expertise.
- Quality and relevance of previous work.
- Value for money.
- Capacity to deliver the consultancy within the proposed timeframe.

The project partners reserve the right not to make an appointment arising from this call for tenders. Should exceptional circumstances arise, partners also reserve the right to amend the timetable or scope of the consultancy in consultation and agreement with the successful consultant.

Application process

Expressions of interest should include:

- CV highlighting relevant experience.
- Cover letter outlining suitability for the consultancy.
- Two examples of relevant previous work.
- Proposed methodology and indicative timeline.
- Financial proposal detailing all professional fees, expenses and VAT.

Applications should be submitted online to recruitment@ideaonline.ie by 9.00am on Thursday, August 13th, 2026. Interviews with short-listed candidates are expected to take place on Zoom on August 17-19th (TBC), and a tender contract will be awarded soon afterwards.

The successful consultant will ideally commence work in **early September 2026**.

Any queries relating to this tender should be emailed to recruitment@ideaonline.ie.