

UNESCO Prize for Global Citizenship Education

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The UNESCO Prize for Global Citizenship Education provides an exceptional global platform to promote the visibility and recognition of projects and initiatives in the field of GCED from around the world.

Established in 2024 with the support of the Republic of Korea, the UNESCO Prize is the first of its kind. It will be awarded every two years and recognizes outstanding efforts in promoting and advancing GCED through two categories:

1. Youth-led organisations
2. Other: individuals, institutions, non-governmental organisations and other entities.

An international jury will select two best projects, one per category. Each prize winner will be awarded 50,000 USD.

The 2025 call for applications is open until 1 September.

Global challenges disrupting peace – such as escalating violence and conflict, worsening effects of climate change, and increasing discrimination and hate speech – can be traced back to entrenched societal inequalities and inequities. [Global citizenship education](#) (GCED) has a critical role to play in transforming education to help address these issues and the root causes of violence, and create more just, healthy, and peaceful societies. If achieved on a broad scale, GCED has the potential to impact future generations' attitudes, skills, and priorities in a way that contributes to peace.

To help address inequalities and inequities and constructively work together to contribute to solutions, GCED builds cognitive, behavioural, and social and emotional skills to foster competencies for people to understand the connections between global, national and local developments.



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Applying GCED means bringing multiple stakeholders together from various levels and types of education, formal and informal, to help ensure that every learner can receive an education that:

- fosters agency to redress inequities and injustice
- promotes inclusivity and reconciliation
- prevents violence, bullying, hate speech and discrimination
- fosters critical thinking, and
- promotes working together across groups and disciplines to find common solutions to local, national and global challenges.

Through this Prize for Global Citizenship Education, UNESCO promotes outstanding efforts in this area across the world.

Call for nominations for the 2025 inaugural edition

The inaugural cycle of the Prize will highlight and reward exceptional GCED initiatives.

Providing a framework for GCED efforts is the UNESCO [Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development \(2023\)](#) which is embedded with an understanding of peace that is not just the absence of conflict or violence but a positive and participatory process built by the actions of everyone.

Nomination process

Calendar

- **If you are an applicant:** submit your application to your National Commission or NGO in official partnership with UNESCO well by 17 July 2025 ahead of the nomination deadline on 1 September 2025.
- **If you are a National Commission OR NGO in official relation to UNESCO:** submit your top three nominations to the UNESCO Secretariat by **1 September 2025**.

Who can apply?

To apply for the category **“Youth-led organization”**: The applicant must be:

- An organization that is led by individual(s) aged between 18-30 years old

To apply for the **“Other” category**: The applicant can be either an:

- Individual,
- Institution,
- Non-governmental organization, or
- other entity.

Eligibility criteria

The initiative must be:

- Relevant to GCED
- The initiative should have been implemented for at least 1 year with evidence of concrete activities
- The project and its organization should not be affiliated with, or receive any funding from, UNESCO
- Be nominated by either a [UNESCO National Commission](#) or an [NGO in official relation with UNESCO](#)

Selection criteria

- **Collaboration:** The design and delivery of the initiative effectively engages relevant community members and relevant stakeholder groups, and partner organizations.
- **Application of GCED:** The initiative makes efforts to embed as many of the following principles in its approach, methodology, and activities (*These are*

selected.

- Human-rights based,
 - Promoting non-discrimination,
 - Increasing access to education of good quality,
 - Instilling an ethic of care, compassion, and solidarity,
 - Advancing gender equality,
 - Promoting education that is equitable, inclusive, and respectful of diversity and knowledge of history, traditions, language, and culture,
 - Ensuring the safety, health and well-being of learners, teachers and education personnel,
 - Promoting life-long and continuous learning,
 - Promoting the co-creation of knowledge between learners and education policy-makers, education leaders, and teachers and education personnel,
 - Upholding freedom of thought, belief, religion expression and banishing advocacy of all forms of hatred,
 - Promoting participation and problem-solving through the ethical and responsible use of technologies
 - Promoting an international and global perspective, underlining the connections between the global and the local,
 - Promoting dialogue between cultures and generations,
 - Instilling shared responsibility for peace, human rights and sustainable development.
- **Evidence of progress:** The programme/project shows proof of progress and impact. This can include the number and variety/inclusivity of audiences and individuals reached, the impact on target groups including changes in behaviors, attitudes and learning outcomes, materials produced, or other achievements of project targets.
 - **Innovation:** The project demonstrates an innovative approach to GCED. Innovative features are concerned with new/original ideas, solutions, approaches, methods, devices and perspectives, or new ways of adapting traditional ones which can add value and make a concrete impact.
 - **Sustainability:** The initiative has taken steps to ensure it will have a lasting impact beyond the project lifecycle. This may include efforts to ensure:
 - the continuation of action;
 - institutionalization or continued use of approaches, tools and products;
 - stakeholders' continued mobilization and engagement;
 - generation of further GCED initiatives as a result of the initiative.
 - **Future plans:** The applicant indicates what the future plans are for the initiative based on its objectives and describes the plan for using the Prize money. The objective should be to scale up efforts or pursue innovations.

Guidelines for candidates: How to apply and request a nomination? ^

- Contact the appropriate nominating entity to inform them about your interest in applying for the Prize (*Note: Only reach out to one*):
 - [List of National Commissions for UNESCO](#)
 - [List of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO](#)
- After contacting the nominating entity, create your account: **request a user account through this form** and indicate which nominating entity type you will be applying.
- Once your account request is approved, go to the **online application platform**.
(*For information, a [presentation of the application form](#) is available*).
- Fill in the application form either in English or French. Answer each question clearly and concisely, keeping in mind the selection criteria. Note that there are maximum character limits in each response. All supporting materials (e.g., publications, photos, videos) must be transmitted electronically through the online system.
Follow-up with your nominating entity on the status of your application.

To be nominated by your country's National Commission for UNESCO

- Contact your National Commission to UNESCO by email as soon as possible to express your interest in applying for the Prize.
- Fill in the application form and submit it via the UNESCO online platform. This will be automatically sent to the National commission for review and consideration for nomination.
- If selected, the National Commission will provide the nomination to the UNESCO Prize Secretariat via the online platform.

To be nominated by an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO

- Identify an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO.
- Provide this NGO with information about your project and ask for a nomination.

- Submit the application to the Prize Secretariat via the UNESCO online platform.

Guidelines for nominating entities – National Commissions to UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO: How to nominate?

- Screen your candidates: set up a selection committee or panel to screen the candidates.
- Nominate up to three candidates: Select the three best candidates, whose projects are in line with GCED. Submit at least one nominee for both categories: 1) Youth-led organizations, 2) Other. You are encouraged to work with the candidates to prepare their submission forms.

National Commission for UNESCO

- National Commissions can access the platform with their generic UNESCO accounts. To access the platform:
 - Follow this link: <https://unesco.sharepoint.com/sites/committees/GCED/>
 - Enter the username (natcom.yourcountryname@natcom.unesco.org)
 - Enter the password associated with the UNESCO account for the national commission
- A National Commission can also initiate the process of nomination and submit an application on behalf of a candidate.
- To nominate a candidate, the National Commission should edit the online form by entering a written recommendation in the appropriate fields, in English or French, explaining why the project of the candidate deserves the Prize (max 350 words).
- If due to technical problems, the National Commission cannot access the online platform to provide the nomination, it can issue a nomination letter (in English or French) and send it to the Prize Secretariat by email at GCEDPrize@unesco.org

NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

- If solicited by a candidate and the NGO wishes to nominate them, the NGO should provide a nomination letter to the candidate that can be attached in the online form.
- An NGO can also submit an application on behalf of a candidate. To create and fill in the application, please see the guidelines for candidates

International jury

An International Jury will review and assess the applications and submit their recommendations to the Director-General for final decision.

The Jury will be appointed by the Director-General for two-year periods for a maximum of six years. Jurors will be independent members who have a recognized reputation in the field of GCED and will be nominated with consideration to ensure equitable geographical distribution and gender equality.

Statutes of the Prize

Read the statutes: [English](#) - [French](#)

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the Prize Secretariat by email at GCEDPrize@unesco.org