Creating a shared notion of Global Citizenship Education (GCED)

Bridge 47 global event

9-10 April 2019, Belgrade, Serbia

The Bridge 47 global event on ‘Global Citizenship Education: Recalibrating Civic Action for Systemic Change’ was held in Belgrade. This event was part of the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) organised by CIVICUS from 8-12 April 2019.

The Bridge 47 event brought together participants from very different geographic, cultural, professional, and other backgrounds, united in the commitment to use the transformative power of education to pave the way to a more just and sustainable world.

Around 170 civil society representatives from 48 countries were mobilised for this year’s event to contribute to a transformation towards global justice and eradication of poverty through Global Citizenship Education (GCED).

The objectives of the event were to:
- Critically reflect on the role that civil society plays in supporting civic action.
- Discuss in what ways GCED unfolds a transformative power, benefiting civil society efforts in mobilising citizens and addressing global challenges.
- Get inspired to actively use effective GCED approaches and methodologies for critical self-reflection and creative civic action.
- Learn from each other and share ideas and experiences with making a change in the world.

The four sessions organised over two days provided a dynamic hub to reflect, learn, discuss, and engage with each other on different aspects of GCED. In particular, participants worked to create a shared notion of the essence of GCED, critically reflected on their own work, and were provided new ideas and tools to use education for social change. Participant-led sessions on diverse initiatives and key debates were also held to facilitate new partnerships and fresh perspectives on their on-going work.

ASPBAE was represented by Anita Borkar in the Bridge 47 global event. She presented ASPBAE’s initiative on youth-led action research and its outcomes during one of the sessions at the event. She also contributed on the significance of Bridge 47’s work in advancing the target SDG 4.7 on Education for Sustainable Development for a video production of Bridge 47 as part of this global event.

Apart from getting to know each other and strengthening their work, Bridge 47 Network participants got an opportunity to explore the topics at the ICSW 2019 event on the ‘Power of Togetherness’, which discussed shrinking civic space, hope-based communications, and fundraising for civil society.

This article draws from information appearing on the Bridge 47 website. [END]