



Pope Francis' message to the EU YOUTH CONFERENCE 2022

## 'BE YOUNG WITH BIG EYES'

The Global Education Pact values of inclusion and sustainability



The message that Pope Francis addresses to the many young people gathered from 11 to 13 July in Prague for the EU Youth Conference, the initiative promoted by the Czech Presidency of the European Union that intends to put young people in contact with those who are called upon to make decisions and at the same time promote a common commitment to a sustainable and inclusive Europe, is full of confidence and hope. The Pope's invitation is clear: transform the 'old continent' into a 'new continent'. Not an easy passage but the boys, writes Francis, have 'good cards to play'. You are attentive young people, less ideologised, accustomed to studying in other European countries, open to voluntary experience, sensitive to environmental issues. That is why I feel there is hope.

Capable of giving Europe a new face, but also capable of looking beyond. The Pope dwells on the still unclear etymology of the word "Europe" and revives the suggestive expression of "eurús op", that is "big eye", "wide gaze". Looking at the **Global Compact on Education**, an initiative launched in 2019, for an alliance between educators and new generations, Francis invites people to make their voices heard. If they do not listen to you, shout even louder, make noise, you have every right to have your say on what concerns your future. I encourage you to be enterprising, creative and critical.

From here the Pope outlines a path that has as its first stage that of 'opening oneself to welcome', to inclusion because the other is always a wealth. Your ambition, stresses Francis, is not to "enter into elite educational environments" but into experiences that educate to the growth of the person, to the common good. "It will be" he writes, "these experiences of solidarity that will change the world, not the exclusive (and excluding) experiences of elite schools. Excellence yes, but for all, not just for some".

The Pope's other proposal concerns care for the common home, but in this regard he praises the concreteness of young people, "that is why," he writes, "I say that this time may be the right time. Francis recalls the need to "reduce consumption not only of fossil fuels but also of many superfluous things" and "in certain areas of the world, it is appropriate to consume less meat". He therefore invites people to read *Laudato si'* to commit themselves to an integral ecology. Do not be seduced by the sirens that propose a life of luxury reserved for a small slice of the world: may you have 'big eyes' to see all the rest of humanity, which is not reduced to small Europe; may you aspire to a life of dignity and sobriety, without luxury and waste, so that all may inhabit the world with dignity.

Speaking of Europe, the Pope refers to Ukraine where "an absurd war is being fought", and raises the concept of fraternity, emphasising that a united Europe arose from a strong yearning for peace. "If the world were governed by young people," the message reads, "there would not be so many wars: those who have their whole life ahead of them do not want to break it up and throw it away but want to live it to the full".

He then gives the examples of two young men 'with big eyes': Franz Jägerstätter, whom Benedict XVI proclaimed blessed, was a young Austrian peasant who, because of his Catholic faith, made a conscientious objection to the injunction to swear allegiance to Hitler and go to war. He died for this. The same fate befell Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young German Lutheran theologian and anti-Nazi.

Lastly, Francis recalls that "after the knowledge of oneself, of others and of creation, finally the knowledge of the beginning and the end of everything", he exhorts them to search for the meaning of life, looking upwards, at the origin and the end, "because one does not live if one does not seek the Truth". Hence the invitation to walk "with feet firmly planted on the earth, but with a wide gaze, open to the horizon, to the sky", thanks also to the reading of *Christus vivit* and after inviting them to the next WYD in Lisbon.

taken from: <https://www.vaticannews.va/it/papa/news/2022-07/papa-francesco-messaaggio-giovani-europa-ucraina-casa-comune.html>

'Guarding the common home'  
7th commitment of the Global Education Pact  
**ECOLOGY AND THEOLOGY**  
Halki Summit - Istanbul - between Orthodox and Catholics



A summit in Halki on ecology and theological, educational and ecumenical perspectives organised by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Sophia Italian University Institute took place on 7-11 June 2022. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis represent a unified approach and prophetic voice on the inseparable relationship between the sustainability of the planet and the salvation of the world, between environmental protection and the realisation of universal brotherhood. Thanks to their constant reminders, the awareness of the Catholic and Orthodox communities has grown, giving rise to common actions and reflections, as this summit demonstrates.

On behalf of the Holy See, Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani of the Dicastery for Culture and Education was present. Signed by the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, a message from Pope Francis reached the participants, in which he said he was "delighted that this conference is taking place". "As our common home faces the continuing effects of climate change, which threaten in particular our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, His Holiness prays that an ever-growing ecumenical response to the call to be good stewards of God's gift of creation will inspire many to commit themselves to it for the sake of future generations," the Pontiff's missive reads.

The summit was opened by the apostolic nuncio to Turkey, Archbishop Marek Solczynski, the rector of Sophia University, Giuseppe Argiolas, and Margaret Karram, president of the Focolare Movement and vice-rector of the Loppiano University Institute. The opening speech was then given by Patriarch Bartholomew, who emphasised two words of the summit theme: "future" and "together".

With regard to theological and educational perspectives, the work of the ecumenical summit focused on topics such as 'The roots of the ecological crisis', 'Commitment to creation as our common home: global and political perspectives'.

Translation from French:  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/eglise/news/2022-06/orthodoxes-catholiques-ecologie-creation-environnement.html>

Lumsa-Eis and Clayss event  
**SERVICE-LEARNING AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION**

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the "Centro Latinoamericano de Aprendizaje y Servicio Solidario" (CLAYSS), the EIS-LUMSA School of Higher Education (Educare all'Incontro e alla Solidarietà) promoted a presential and online event, to which teachers and students (school and university), doctoral students, researchers and people interested in Service-Learning pedagogy were invited. The meeting was addressed by Maria Nieves Tapia, Director of CLAYSS and world expert on the pedagogical proposal, who spoke to universities and schools.

The **Global Compact on Education** project was discussed in the university section.

Erasmus and Global Compact on Education  
**LUMSA/SPAIN EXCHANGE**



CEC Undersecretary Fr. Friedrich Bechina met with a group of Spanish students from the Erasmus/LUMSA programme on 19 July 2022. These students are working on a project related to the Global Compact on Education with a view to drawing up a questionnaire on the GCE aimed at young people. After listening to the students' presentation of their work, the Undersecretary spoke with them about the working method used and the objectives set. Days before, the same students had had a lecture on the GCE at LUMSA and received the Vademecum in Spanish.

**TO EDUCATE WELL IS TO THINK BEYOND**  
120th anniversary of FTD Educação BRASIL



On 6 June 2022, the Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, H.E. Monsignor Vincenzo Zani, spoke online at a conference of the 'FTD Educação' about the **Global Compact on Education**, with a communication entitled: 'Charism, memory and education: the path towards a collaborative and supportive school management'.

This Conference was held on the 120th anniversary of the foundation of 'FTD Educação', under the slogan 'To educate well is to think beyond'. Mgr Zani, emphasised the truth of this slogan by saying that "We must go beyond our certainties, responding to challenges with creativity". He then presented three points: the challenges of the current context; the journey of the last decade; and finally, he spoke about the **Global Compact on Education**, emphasising three aspects: putting the person at the centre, promoting the culture of dialogue and inclusion, and putting oneself at the service of a development open to the future.

Cordimarian Education Network Student Forum  
**HUMANISATION AND CARE**  
The Brazilian students' view from the GCE perspective



On 18 June 2022, a Student Forum was held in which hundreds of young people and educators from the Cordimarian Education Network (Brazil) participated online. Fr. Ezio Lorenzo Bono, from the Committee for the **Global Compact on Education**, spoke at this Forum with a communication entitled "As Beautiful as a Greek god. Aeneas and the **Global Compact on Education**" (to access the video in Italian: <https://youtu.be/mMHsFNMs5cE> and in Portuguese: <https://youtu.be/xpqgGImypLk> ). Fr. Bono, who had already spoken last year to the educators of this Network about the **Global Compact on Education**, this time wanted to take up Pope Francis' speech addressed to the participants of the GCE Conference of 1 June 2022, where he pointed to the evocative mythological figure of Aeneas as a model of an educator, insofar as he knew how to preserve the past, carrying his own father Anchises on his shoulders, and knew how to look to the future, taking his young son Ascanius by the hand.



**LIFELONG LEARNING OF GLOBAL CITIZENS**

On 12 July 2022, an online conference was held on the theme: "Achieving SDG 4.7: Catholic Religious Organisations and the Lifelong Learning of Global Citizens". This event brought together the voices of religious organisations of Catholic tradition, present in many regions of the world, to share good practices and recommendations regarding the achievement of Goal 7 of SDG 4. Speakers included H. Juan Antonio Ojeda, Consultor of the Congregation for Catholic Education, who spoke about the **Global Compact on Education**.

## THE GCE IN KIKWIT - CONGO

Steps towards the Pan-African Education Pact



In July 2022, H.E. Msgr. Zani together with Dr. Nicola Tomasoni made a 10-day trip to Congo where they visited the Maison de paix de Kikwit and other local institutions.

On 9 July, Bishop Vincenzo Zani in Kikwit met the coordinators of the Catholic Schools in the diocese, to whom he presented the **Global Compact on Education**.

On 13 July, however, he met with the permanent Council of the Bishops' Conference of the DRC. During the meeting, he also presented the **Global Compact on Education** to the bishops, a topic that will be taken up at a forthcoming meeting in November together with other African Bishops' Conferences with a view to the drafting of a Pan-African Education Compact.

## A FUTURE FOR EDUCATION

New translation of the GCE Guidelines



Following the English translation of the Congregation for Catholic Education's volume published by LEV "Educazione tra crisi e speranza. **Global Compact on Education**. Linee Guida", the Spanish translation published by Educar, edited by PPC/MS, Madrid, has also come out in

these days. A Portuguese translation is also underway by the Pontifical Catholic University of Parana (Brazil), which will also edit the publication.

## THE GCE AT VILLA MADAMA

At the school of the new diplomacy



His Exc. Mgr. Vincenzo Zani, was invited to attend the meeting on 21 June 2022:

"Diplomacy and International Careers" organised by AESI European Association of International Studies. During the meeting, which took place in Casale Villa Madama MAECI - Rome, Archbishop Zani presented Pope Francis' **Global Compact on Education** project, a topic that met with great interest from the participants in the school of new diplomacy.

Diocese of Graz-Seckau

## THE GCE IN AUSTRIA



Walter Prügger, Head of the Department of Education, Art and Culture of the Diocese of Graz-Seckau, and Peter Jirak, Head of Campus Augustinum, visited Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani at the Dicastery for Catholic Education on 3 June 2022. The main topic of the meeting was local plans for the implementation of the **Global Compact on Education** initiated by Pope Francis. The two visitors were accompanied by Luisa Sello and Franz Kronreif from the Focolare Movement. In the course of the conversation, Archbishop Vincenzo Zani expressed his joy and gratitude that the diocese of Graz-Seckau considers the **Global Compact on Education** an important element for its further development and assured his full and personal support for its implementation.