

Concept Note

Breakfast Roundtable: International Education Day

Date: 24 January 2025

Location: GPE Offices in Brussels, Belgium

Organized by: Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Educaid.be

Background

Both the GPE and Educaid.be are active in Belgium to mobilize relevant actors to champion education as a priority in its development cooperation. Belgium has historically been a key partner in advancing global education, and the launch of the campaign is an opportunity to reaffirm and expand this commitment.

The International Day of Education underscores education as a human right and a driving force for sustainable development. On this day, the GPE will launch a new campaign, “**Answer the Call**”, which urges all actors to act decisively to ensure no child’s education is left on hold. The campaign aims to engage development partners on the importance of education financing overall, laying the groundwork for successful financing efforts by education players.

This breakfast roundtable organized jointly by Educaid.be and the GPE will bring together key education stakeholders, member organizations of Educaid.be, and political forces to exchange on priorities and discuss strategies for sustaining and increasing mobilization to support the education sector in development cooperation in Belgium.

Objectives

1. **Launch the “Answer the Call” campaign in Belgium:** present the campaign video and related advocacy material to actors engaged in advancing the education sector in development cooperation in Belgium.
2. **Compare note and align messaging:** ongoing or planned advocacy strategies or action to ensure that Education remains a priority in Belgium’s ODA (official development assistance) as a cornerstone of its international development agenda.
3. **Strengthen collaboration with partners** (civil society organizations): Engage Educaid.be members and other stakeholders to align efforts and amplify Belgium’s impact on global education.

Proposed Agenda

Time	Details
08:30–09:00	Welcome and Networking Breakfast Informal networking over breakfast to foster connections among participants.
09:00–09:10	Opening Remarks - Representatives from GPE and Educaid.be introduce the theme and objectives of the discussion. - Representative from Belgium’s Ministry of Development Cooperation
09:10–09:20	Launch “Answer the Call” Campaign Screening of a short campaign video highlighting global education challenges and the call to action.
09:20–09:55	Roundtable Discussion: <i>“Sustaining Momentum: Opportunities for Belgium in Global Education”</i> Moderated discussion with participants sharing perspectives on: - The urgency of increased education needs in developing countries amidst decreasing ODA - Thematic priorities within the education sector - Effective strategies for aligning Belgium’s ODA with SDG 4 targets. - The role of partners in advocating for and implementing education initiatives
09:55–10:05	Launch of a new flagship on girls with disabilities Handicap International / Humanité & Inclusion
10:05–10:15	Closing Remarks Summary of key discussion points and commitment to follow-up actions.

Discussion Topics

Education as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development:

- The ripple effects of education on poverty reduction, gender equality, health outcomes, and climate resilience.

Belgium's Leadership in the Education sector in international cooperation:

- Exploring Belgium's successes in the education sector as part of its development cooperation and the need for continued and increased investment.
- Aligning Belgium's priorities in international cooperation with global education needs in fragile and conflict-affected regions.

Mitigating Global Challenges through Education:

- Addressing the learning crisis and education gaps exacerbated by COVID-19, conflicts, and climate change.
- Ensuring inclusivity in education for marginalized groups, especially girls, children with disabilities and refugees.

Urgency of Action: Answer the Call Campaign:

- Mobilizing Belgium and other stakeholders to act decisively and avoid holding education systems in crisis on hold.

Leveraging PARTNERS for Impact:

- Strengthening collaboration between Belgium's government, Educaid.be, and GPE to maximize the impact of ODA investments in education.

Expected Outcomes

- Reaffirmation of Belgium's commitment to global education as a strategic priority in ODA.
- Increased awareness of the urgency to act, inspired by the "Answer the Call" campaign.
- Identification of actionable steps for Belgium to enhance its contributions to education initiatives.
- Strengthened collaboration between GPE, Belgium, and Educaid.be members to advance the global education agenda.