

Virtual side event at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development



**Promoting
SDG 4 and
its Role in
Combating
Extremism
in Europe**

Wednesday
6 April
2022
13:15
(Geneva Time)



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Promoting SDG 4 and its Role in Combating Extremism in Europe

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

COVID-19 had negative effects on the educational process which accordingly had negative effects on students' life styles. One of those negative effects was the increase of violence by youth. Thus, the world became in direct need to confront the role of education in combating violence and extremism.

In order to enhance the role of education in reducing and fighting the phenomenon of violence it is necessary to create a comprehensive environment for the learner that fully supports the deterrence of such acts, not only in national educational institutions but through all means of learning, which includes informal education through seminars, initiatives, and workshops organized by official and unofficial authorities in the country, in addition to activating SDG 17 through reflecting the role of non-governmental organizations, whether international or local.

This side event aims to highlight the deep connection between promoting SDG 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and SDG 16 on Peaceful societies.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

1. Discussing the intersectionality of the relationship between SDG 4 and the rest of the development goals, focusing on SDG 16, in terms of combating extremism and violence.
2. Presenting successful experiences on ways to develop SDG 4; strengthening formal and non-formal education mechanisms in line with the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Sharing the European success stories for other regions to learn from.
4. Coming up with recommendations on strengthening SDGs 4 and 16 in the context of the European continent, which will be submitted to the High-Level Political Forum at its next session.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

Contributors: People in Focus, Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Culture and Education (FECE), Just Access, Green Elephant, Entrepreneurship and Social Economy Group (EKO)

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Agenda and Structure

Wednesday, 6 April 2022 (13:15- 14:45, Geneva time)

#	Pillar	Duration (90 minutes)
1.	Opening speech: Introducing the Regional Forum and its role in promoting the development process (Hagar)	5 mins
2.	The effect of equal access to education on reducing violence and extremism (Mark)	10 mins

3.	Citing successful European experiences in promoting and developing Goal 4, in the context of the challenges of COVID-19 (Karolina)	10 mins
4.	The role of European educational partnerships in confronting extremism and violence (Eliana)	10 mins
5.	The youth role in combating violent extremism (Armelia)	10 mins
6.	The link between education and culture and how they can affect each other through combating violent extremism (Nevena)	10 mins
7.	Coming up with a memorandum of recommendations on Goal 4 and its role in combating extremism, to be submitted to the next session of the Forum	10 mins
8.	Questions & Discussion	20 mins

List of Panellists

Hagar Monsif, Vice Chairman at Maat for Peace (Moderator)

Mark Somos, Director at Just Access

Karolina Karpiuk, Project Manager at Green Elephant Foundation

Armelia Barci, Executive Director at People in Focus

Nevena Dobрева, Chair, FECE

Elisavet Vasileiou, European Projects' Coordinator ,EKO