



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

UNECE Regional Forum 2025 - Side Event by UNESCO

Education and well-being for learners: a dynamic nexus for equitable and resilient societies

(SDGs 3, 4 & 17)

UNECE Regional Forum 2025

3 April 2025

(13:15–14:45 CET)

Online

Background and rationale

Across the UNECE region, **countries are increasingly integrating mental health and well-being into education policies**, recognizing their critical role in fostering resilience and equity. While efforts are underway, challenges remain in implementation and scaling. High rates of mental health disorders and persistent disparities in education access and outcomes hinder progress towards inclusive and equitable societies. Addressing SDG 3 in alignment with SDGs 4 and 17 offers a strategic opportunity to overcome systemic barriers while fostering inclusion, equity and resilience in education systems.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

This session will **explore synergies between Well-Being and Education**, advocating for holistic approaches to well-being as key to advancing **SDG 3** and **SDG 4**. It aims at mobilizing relevant partners and stakeholders to drive robust policy actions, highlighting effective strategies for integrating well-being into education systems. The panel discussion will bring together panelists to share **best practices**, key **lessons learnt**, focusing on effective **national policies and strategies** from **Malta** and **Slovenia**. It will explore how education can enhance resilience, reduce disparities, and promote well-being as a foundation of sustainable and inclusive societies.

Organizers

Lead organizer: UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe

E-Mail: m.watanabe@unesco.org; l.bortolotti@unesco.org

Online Room: Access the event via the following [link](#).

List of Panelists

Speakers and Panelists (in alphabetical order)

Anna Mazenod, Lead Quality Officer, WHO Academy

Edward Duca, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics and Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, **Malta**

Vita Poštuvan, Deputy Head of the Slovene Center for Suicide Research (UP IAM), **Slovenia**

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice

Magdalena Landry, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Laura Bortolotti, Associate Project Officer/ED, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Megumi Watanabe, Programme Specialist/ED, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Agenda and Structure

13:15- 13:25	Opening remarks	Magdalena Landry Director	UNESCO Regional Bureau or Science and Culture in Europe (hereafter UNESCO Regional Bureau)
13:25- 13:45	Regional landscape and key data on well-being and its impact on education	Laura Bortolotti	UNESCO Regional Bureau
13:45- 14:25	Roundtable: Sharing best practices and effective policies and strategies to enhance well-being in learning environments	Dr. Anna Mazenod; Dr. Edward Duca; Dr. Vita Poštuvan Moderated by Laura Bortolotti	WHO Academy; Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Education, University of Malta; Slovene Center for Suicide Research (UP IAM), Slovenia
14:25- 14:35	Q&As	Laura Bortolotti	UNESCO Regional Bureau
14:35- 14:45	Key Takeaways & Closing remarks	Megumi Watanabe	UNESCO Regional Bureau