



Strategic Goals IDEA



2018-2021



Introduction

Who is IDEA

IDEA is an international association of 19 members which are all national debate education organizations. IDEA is one of the world's leading provider of debate education, providing resources, training and events to educators and young people. IDEA works with debate organisations (members and non members), schools and universities, knowledge centers, and community groups and partners with foundations, NGOs, businesses, and governments.

Our ultimate mission is to actively promote and contribute to open societies and democracy in the Dutch speaking countries, in Europe and beyond, via debate programmes for young people. More specifically, we aim to develop citizenship skills among young people who contribute as active citizens to democracy and open societies in Europe.

The programmes of IDEA also aims to contribute to social cohesion, intercultural cooperation and deeper understanding of each other's perspectives in the complex society of today. We understand that we live in an increasingly interconnected, complex world, and therefore we find it very important to build partnerships and consortia that function as a sustainable web/platform for young people to rely on.

IDEA NL believes that debate promotes mutual understanding and informed citizenship around the world and that its work with young people leads to increased critical thinking and tolerance, enhanced cultural exchange and greater academic excellence.

What brings debate education?

Debate education empowers young people to become active citizens who participate constructive and in a critical reasonable way in the society at all levels. Debate education helps young people to understand critically what their main problems are, to analyse the stakeholders and to reflect on solutions. It also helps young people to develop more empathy for those who think different and they deepen democratic values by experience one of the key components of democracy which is debating.

Debate connects also young people at various levels together via debate events, debate competitions and by being trainers or coaches during or in the way towards an event. Young people can also be connected with authorities or other stakeholders that have influence on topics they debate about.

On the long term, debate education **supports young people in their motivation to take further civic action**. Debate education supports young people to debate their ideas, problems and constructive solutions with those who can influence the desired change they have in mind. Debate education offers them more successes to be heard when they want to raise an issue of their interest. The youth



learn to speak up, to make themselves clear and to convince others. They experience that others listen to them and act in their interest, and this is motivating for them to continue, to participate in more debates, to support others in debates and be more active as a citizen.

Therefore debate education contributes in a very systematic and sincere way to the realization of article 12 of the Convention for the Rights of the Child, the right to be heard by governments and other stakeholders in society and to be given due weight to youth's opinion.

Like in the previous years we will emphasise with our debate education program the aspect of empowerment and connections mainly, but also in the hope that this will contribute to more active citizens in the end.

Also, like in previous years we will make a distinction between diverse target groups. The main target groups to design programs for will be:

1) debate organisations to develop their capacities to become stronger debate educators and to cooperate with them again in creating impact via debate education on young people. Those organisations are primarily the members of IDEA and also the affiliated partners. Affiliated partners are part (program 1)

2) secondary school students with teachers as multipliers and university students (program 2)

3) marginalised youth with volunteers and youth workers as multipliers (program 3)

Goals 2018-2021

1. To **develop young peoples' skills** to think critically, to find solutions and to debate about problems the world is facing today such as exclusion, discrimination, xenophobia or populism, in the Netherlands and Belgium and with an expansion to European countries and some historically connected African countries (to start with our member countries).
2. To build a **sustainable pool of debate trainers** (excellent student debaters, youth workers, English teachers) who empower youth from lower educational backgrounds in their debating skills about above mentioned subjects in the Netherlands and Belgium and at European level.
3. To engage and build long term **partnerships** with a consortium of debate centres, schools, youth centres, media organisation(s) and knowledge institutions (universities/institutes/network NGOs) to **foster well informed debates** between trained young people, their peers and local, (inter)national authorities, in the Netherlands and Belgium and in the coming two years up-scaling to the European level via European organisations, about the above-mentioned subjects.
4. To bring **youth responses and their perspectives into societal and political discussions** at local, national - Netherlands and Belgium-, and international - in Europe- level and to build capacities among relevant authorities to enable them to listen to youth perspectives, to



debate with them in an equal way and to integrate youth perspectives in policies and practices.

- 5. Developing capacities of debate organisations or youth organisations** so that they are more effective in empowering young people through debate education.

We will implement those goals for the diverse community of youth in Europe in close cooperation with members and partners of IDEA. We will be alert on societal opportunities and needs, the capacities of the office(s) and the available funding.

To achieve those goals the members and staff of IDEA have prioritised institutional strategic goals together with the members in previous capacity building meetings¹ for the period 2018-2021

Those are:

I Organising international, national and local debate education programs for young people across Europe

II Improving trainers capacity in Europe

- Inventarisation and archiving training for trainers materials that works
- Development of training for trainers materials at European level which can improve the trainers capacities and accredit and certify trainers on a standardized way.
- Mechanisms developed for improved linking and learning among trainers across Europe
- Development of various training programs for youth workers and other stakeholders to engage youth with fewer opportunities to debate

III Strong promotion of the necessity of debate education:

- Development of Alumni of IDEA debaters and IDEA trainers for further promotion
- Improved communication of the association, its members and IDEA programs
- Giving young people a voice to promote debate education across Europe and world wide

IV Capacity development of the members

- Capacity development on the level of organisational development
- Capacity development on the level of education/trainings (see above)
- Capacity development on fund raising

V Fund raising

- More fund raising to sustain the association its joint activities, office and members.
- Crowd funding

¹ Brussels 2016 with a focus on IDEA as an association and Budapest 2017 (idem as 2016) and Bratislava 2018 with a focus on capacity building plans.