



Documentation

Results of the 1. Learn2Change Conference, 07.-11.06.2015

Purpose of the network

- Learning from each other / getting inspired / feedback
- Platform with applicable knowledge
- Shared values and topics
- Starting a movement
- Joint activities / campaigns; advocacy work / solidarity
- Maintain and deepen personal connections

Draft of the Learn2Change network

Coordination of the network

E.g. MoU, mission, organize personal meetings, PR, infrastructure, communication...

Who's responsible: mainly core group with the help of all members

Activities

e.g.: virtual exchange, toolbox, forum, planting trees, local meetings, communication...

Who's responsible: all members, e.g. in working groups

Core group

Diversity: continents, gender, age

Participants

- Individuals (meeting on an eye-level)
- Individuals representing organizations

Next personal meeting: June 2017 (we have a reservation in Loccum)

Structure of the network

Core Group

- should be rotating
- We can start with Germany as a base with an international support group. Later change to continents.
- balanced in regional representation, gender, age
- Out of members present → 5 – max. 8 persons?
- Direct action between members without “council / board” decisions shall be possible.
- Tasks:
 - *Holding strings together, coordinating working groups
 - *Representative function (→ also regionally?)
 - *Fund & resource raising
 - *Core group members act as facilitators

→ **Members:** Buso, Jorge, Hamza, Ruby, Timo, Geoffrey, Nana, Nina, Sabine

The group will work for half a year and decide then whether it works or not and who will continue.

Secretariat

- Physical place. Answering to external responses
- for pragmatic reasons: In Germany for the meantime but possible with international staff
- Secretariat until October: Gabi and Sarah (Gabi probably will be able to continue, Sarah doesn't know yet)

Decision Making

- As participatory / inclusive as possible but as centralized as necessary to have a functional network = Core Group organizes decision process among members
→ Feedback rounds & transparency => Core Group has mandate for final decision
- All ideas and goals from every member ist welcome. A strong board would not be a bad idea.
- Depending on the network structure and responsibilities we assume (for example related to the tasks , or regional networking.
- Transparency is the most important aspect: How it came to a decision? Who made it? Why?
- Participation should be possible for everyone.
- Have a constructive and valuable communication also when addressing "hot topics"!
- Openess for VETO!
- Conflicts are possibilities to learn, too!
- Initiative and democratic.

Does agree to disagree have a limit? Which power relations do we need to be aware of?

Power Relations to keep in mind → that may undermine Mission?

Dilemmas (power)

- Funders?
 - Admin / Coordination
 - Language can be exclusive – find ways to integrate non-English-speakers
 - Even in localized context?
 - Not the same possibilities to travel, visa restrictions
 - Invisible systemic structures, dominant discourses linked to the "Western" / European dominance
 - Fantasies about the "power" of the steering-group versus responsibility and time commitment
 - Trust in each other is not there automatically – it needs time and common experience to grow
- all West Europe centric?
→ German domination

Power structures

- Rethink power not about others but with!
- We should be aware not to reproduce existing power structures in the network (who has the resources ≠ decision maker).
- The structures that are put in place at the beginning are influencing the whole future of the network: L2C has a great chance to do it differently from the beginning

Dominant ways of thinking

- Broad Basing Mission?
- Other thinking structures included?

Approaches

- Trust and open doors for G.L. at local levels
- Low cost (self help meetings), add more people (different not same)
- Rotate coordination for platform (continents, sub continents)
- Promote more processes & ideas
- Maintain transparency (funds can be from anywhere)
- To think of holding the next event if possible in another country, e.g. Bangladesh, Chile
- Local networks within the network to overcome language dilemma

Communication

What? → Structure + Data base

- Conceptual + philosophical topics
- Methods + tools
- Materials
- News about campaigns, actions, crazy stuff...
- Internal news
- Bilateral communication
- Photos + videos
- Target groups

How?

- Face to face
 - Workshops, Summer Academies – global each 2 years; regional / country / continents
 - Shadowing (pasantias...)
- Books, handbooks...
- Virtual
 - Public website
 - Newsletter
 - Blog (public + internal)
 - Internal Dropbox
 - Youtube or Vimeo Channel
 - Skype
 - iversity
 - database
 - email

→ languages – resources; website ?

Membership

Who?

- Mainly: individuals who commit themselves (also as representatives of organizations) & representatives / leaders / founders of organizations
- Activists in global change based in Learning
- According to values & principles

Proposals

- Values & principles (for members)
- Tangible action in 1,5-2 years (action group)

Questions / Tasks

- What gets on the web?
- Which role do organizations play?
- How to relate to other networks?
- If we have focal points, will we have local, regional “sub-networks”?
- Process of selecting / deciding about new members
- Language? How can we include persons who do not speak English?
- Do we build a network among “Germans and people coming from other countries” or a “global network”?
- We should consider / be aware of restrictions (e.g. visa) and find ways to overcome them
- Resources, technology and languages are limits which don't depend on our decisions.

How?

- Keep it small for the first steps: open the network as soon as the website is filled/active & the core group is “ready”;
BUT:
 - *be open for those who address us directly...keep the contact, without including them officially
 - *invite them to the next meeting, give them access to the website
 - *watch out for interested / interesting groups
 - *build up contact to networks
- Steps to be able to:
 - *include other language groups
 - *balance between Germans and people from other countries / working group to overcome the term “Germans / people from other countries”
 - *missing topics / fields, e.g. nature groups
 - *relate to other networks
 - *local groups

Milestone 1: fill the website

Milestone 2: “Tangible Event” / Meeting / Conference (not in Germany)

Capacities and Resources – How do we run / fund the network in the next 12 months?

Funding opportunities in Germany

- Follow up project with Engagement Global, VNB could take over this application after discussion of a proposal with network participants and donors
- Up to now there is no budget line for projects in North & South at the same time, we need to advocate for this.
- Combine it with weltwärts program and others

Funding opportunities outside Germany

- Network application to EU-development-funding DEAR or capacity building Erasmus Plus
- Are there any possibilities for funding outside of Germany / Europe?
- Qatar foundation

General

- Resource is much more than money
- If we continue communication via internet, we can afford to go on.
- Would be quite important to organize a certain degree of transparency regarding the resources issue
- Once we start, continents / countries can seek support at own level
- Crowdfunding
- We need to use the human resources we have
- Money is power! Money is a plus, but not the engine!

What to do until when?

What?	Till when?	Who is responsible?
Review "mission statement" →see recommendations →include aspect of values & principles		Core group → semi final draft to network Final decision: core group
Write a discussion paper (essay? webinar?) on our understanding of learning with focus on decolonization of education; integrate global learning	Starts July	Working group (Marion, Jorge, Robin, Christine)
<u>Membership</u> *Make sure the (internal) website is "working" (contains discussions, tools etc.) →Core group needs to be installed (to have contact persons) →Be open to those, interested in the network: keep the contact, include in website... →Concrete steps / criteria to end the imbalance to be defined →Watch out for interested / interesting groups & other networks →Contact & invite groups / persons to the network & meeting →Define concrete steps to overcome imbalance	Before September Best now! (Latest September) From now on / when website is working When core group is working & website running From now on... With view to meeting 2017 After core group is formed	All of us! (supported by Christine) All of us! Core group & local / regional contact persons Core group + All All Core group + All

Local / regional contact person	12.6.	
How to become an "official" member? Needs further discussion		Draft core group
List of interest / iversity		Christine; filled in by all
Limit of members / has to be discussed later; depending on goals		
Communicate local issues / request for support; *develop an idea of support →take initiative Clarify usefulness with case-holder *Who would join? Request *Translate into education activities *feedback actions / developed material in the iversity platform (description of this point see description of Andreas)	Whenever it is urgent / coming up	The one who asks for support; Who has an idea and potential to do sth
Identify process leading to topic working groups Forming working groups on iversity	End of the year	Anna, Gabi
Define message & coordination Plant a tree as a symbolic action	End of September Earth's Day	Sabine, Jorge, Nana, every location Gabi organizes Skype conference for coordination
Skype on identity supportive collective action (for tree planting) Skype conference (at least twice / year)	Spring + Autumn	Gabi Core group
Song record *song melody *song video	September 2015 December 2015	Hamza, Rosa, Gaia, Preeti, Louis, everybody Timo & everybody (smartphone & friends)
Draft of a structure (website)	End of July 2015	Christine (draft!)
Dropbox, Photos, Video channel (Youtube, vimeo)	End of July 2015	Christine, Timo

Collection of material: links, documents, etc.	Continuous	Everyone (done by Christine)
Newsletter / update about new contents	At least every 6 weeks	Has to be discussed
Beautiful publication		

Other ideas for activities

- Share video and photographic movies on global local activities
- Write a digital book describing how is the concrete work of each organization or guidelines
- Photo with the member and his/her local surrounding and a print (paper/flag/shirt) of L2C
- The network produces different online courses (webinars with topics + speakers from around the world)
- Using "world action days" e.g. against child labour or so to make joint activities
- Toolbox: information, methods, project ideas
- Every part of the network organize a meeting / conference on learning / education (in every country part of this network)

Documentation of the "results" of the Learn2Change meeting

- Book with essays and methods
- Stories from storytelling
- Working group for book built
- Documentation of the trips (responsible persons of the three groups: Sabine, Anna, Preeti)
- Documentation of games and energizer
- Structure of tools / methods
- Ebook is a possibility
- There should be a permanent update → Newsletter
- Ruby is responsible for editing
- Aleksandar is responsible for design / layout

Documentation of the Open Space

Open Space							
10:30-11:30	The technology challenge Responsible: Christine Höbermann	Discuss and concretize our understanding of Global Learning education Responsible: Marion	Skype experts interviews as method of Global Learning Responsible: Timo Steinert / Gabi	Learning beyond growth Responsible: Robin			
11:45-12:30	Peer leader International – How to empower Youth Engagement Responsible: Buso			Object Theater Responsible: Louis	Magical suitcase: Sharing stories from the heart Responsible: Timo Holthoff	Challenges in creating a global network Responsible: Veronika	
14:15-15:45	Prototype – designing for our network – Theory U in practice Responsible: Rita	Acroyoga – Learning with movement Responsible: Lili	Treasure hunting – Nature Hike for material collection / global learning Responsible: April	Group exchange with to “indigenous people” Responsible: Anna	Photo / Stories / Video Clips Refugee work Responsible: Lipi / Maissara	Educating migrant & labourers children on Brick Kilns Responsible: Preeti	
16:00-17:00			Medicine Walk Responsible: Anna	Theatre process of BITA Responsible: Sisir	What do we want to share on our website www.learn2change-network.org ? How can we all contribute? Responsible: Christine	Decolonizing education? Responsible: Robin / Christian	Education in developing world / Future for agriculture globally Responsible: Nana

Results workshops / methods

Below every part of the documentation of the different workshops during the Open Space there are one or two sentences written in italics. These are the next steps that Gabi defined for the network.

- a) General concept of education.

Learning beyond growth: the concept of growth and development is very critically discussed by all participants. Beyond different “development” levels of our economies we have in common that we have all brought into the myth of progress and modernity. *The discussion of a common understanding of development (beyond growth) and new educational concepts referring to this could be central topics to work on in the network.*

Discuss and concretize our understanding of Global Learning: The concept of Global Learning presented in the introductory seminar was discussed and further developed by the participants. *On the results of the workshop shall be worked on in the ongoing network-process. The results could become part of a shared understanding of the network and should be presented on the website.*

Decolonizing education: Education is often a tool to contribute to see society as a market place and to contribute to segregation and distinction. There are already best practice examples of alternative educational models, like the Chigshanta open schools in India. Alternative education models are necessary, but issues like social justice and injustice in the present system should be tackled. *For the further development of the network, it would be necessary to question the old narratives of education, development and growth. And we have to discuss together if we want to work in our “small best practice projects” forever – or do we want to advocate together for a change of educational and economic system.*

Group exchange with to “indigenous people”

Education in developing world / Future for agriculture globally

b) Specific Methods of education for change

Education migrant and laborer's children on Brick-Kilns Schools: A slide show on the brick-kiln schools and the teachers training for the same schools were advocated for by PCLRA and organized by the Government and Teacher Training by PCLRA. It is related to employers responsibility, government action etc.. (Rishi Valley). Suggestions were given to explore alternatives in India for self-learning models. Childrens education is critical and alternatives may be explored. *Share the various methods that people in the network practice.*

The magical suitcase. A Space between Stories. Collecting Stories of change with the help of the magic suitcase: Some powerful stories were shared. Mindful listening was practices. Creating and sharing of stories from the heart that contribute to an alternative narrative of beingness on earth against the monoculture of modernity might be a task for us. Storytelling as a method of learning.

Treasure Hunting: Find the house practice and the renewable energies. Discovery of plant compose, fertilizer plant, bio gas. Discovery by question and answer: interactive learning. Sustainable development explained by renewable energy and waste management as a topic for the network and as a topic of global learning within the very close livelihood of seminar participants / pupils etc.

Skype experts interviews: The very clear structure of the preparation of Skype expert interviews is useful as a tool for global education and global communication. It makes it possible to get in touch and communicate with people you otherwise never or difficultly will meet. And you can discuss issues you normally don't discuss, as you can reach target groups you normally don't reach. The technology is a challenge, it can be frustrating if you prepare Skype expert interviews very intensely and then the technique breaks down. But if it works, it is an excellent way of knowledge building, change of perspective, creation of action, etc.. *The method should be tried out in the network, occasions shall be discovered and used in order to stay in contact.*

Object theater: The object theater is a theater method developed in order to raise awareness on waste management, using the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse & recycle). First you collect waste and then you start playing a small theater piece with the waste on tables, creating with the waste persons, things, situations and discussing by that waste management. This and other methods are collected in a toolkit of “Aware and fair” from Malawi. It shall be put on Iversity and on the Website for others to use. The method can easily be used, it contributes towards good environmental practices and sound waste management. It allows / enables people to explore it in their work.

Theater process of BITA: Use theater for development education. BITA works on a community level. Community level is important for mobilizing for societal change. The network should develop common theater projects. *Cooperation with VNB-theater project on climate change and food is agreed. Cooperation with partners from Uganda, Malawi, Chile and Columbia is agreed.*

Peer leader international: Peer leader network was explained and made clear how it works. The network itself gave feedback on its ongoing projects. Next steps shall be making / keeping in contact with other organizations and using each other approaches in tackling certain situations. *Peer leader is an international network, just as learn2change. From the experience of peer leader international as global network learn2change can learn or adopt a few methods of how to work.*

Acroyoga: Acroyoga it’s relaxing to connect with others and it can be challenging as well. It is a different kind of communication / connection with each other (non-verbal): the body does not lie! *The method is very useful for network building. Learners exchange and play with each others, find contact and trust in each other. It incorporates the human body (as oppose to the human brain) into learning and education.*

Photo / Stories / Video Clips Refugee work

c) Networkbuilding and communication

Challenges in networking: there are various expectations in such a network. It has to be clarified, what are the benefits of such a network as learn2change. How much joined actions we need in the network? What are the common topics / issues related to common understanding, to common campaigning, common advocacy? What are the criteria of being part of the network? What is the minimum agreement? We have to be aware of unequal power relations and inequality in the possibilities of participation in transnational meetings. Funding is a core question. Very often the question of the resources is closely related to the question of ownership. Therefore we should be careful and look for diverse sources of funding, coming not only from one country. *Next steps should be the development of a mission: do we all feel an ownership? What are the values behind? And we have to agree on the background of the actors: volunteers, freelancers, activists, NGOs, desk workers, lobbyists. And look for stable funding.*

Prototyping for our network- theory U in practice: The results of the prototyping workshop are the following: keep online platform alive; take care for constant insights in other realities; network shall be a resource of energy and power; participants should apply some new ideas back home; take the network as an re-encouragement; research new fields of global learning; make a trust group; structure of the network shall be defined; network of local / regional activists all over the world as a source of Knowledge building, opinion, sharing, projects; network partners have regional networks with other partners; not all the network partners have to work all the time together; overlapping with other projects / networks; prototyping a new kind of international cooperation. *Next steps shall be discussed / shall be designed in the core group.*

The Technology challenge: No participants in this workshop!!!! Apparently people prefer to do other things together during physical meetings. *Nevertheless, as a virtual base for the networks cooperation an online platform is useful and necessary. The network should agree upon it.*

What do we want to share on our website? Discussions on details are needed. *The website shows the network to the public and offers resources to everybody – is the virtual face of the network!!!*