



Youth in the world

What Enabel does

The world is facing huge challenges in realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Enabel is working with its partners, at home and abroad, to provide ideas to address the global challenges. Climate change, economic and social inequality, urbanisation, peace and security and human mobility are not only cross-border challenges. They are also trans-generational challenges.

Future generations will also have to deal with them, which is why Enabel considers young people to be of key importance. We want to motivate, guide and provide opportunities to young people to work towards a solidarity-based, socially just and sustainable future.

Everything is interconnected

The world is changing rapidly. We are evolving into a super-diverse society, in which people from diverse cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds live together.

At the same time, we are increasingly in contact with each other worldwide, sometimes consciously, but also often unconsciously. This is a consequence of digitisation, increasing mobility and international trade. In this globalised world, political, economic, social, cultural and ecological systems increasingly influence each other. Whatever happens in the world has an impact at home – and vice versa.

Societal challenges such as climate change, social and economic inequality or pandemics such as Covid-19 require a global approach. And this requires a strong global awareness and engagement, among citizens, in government, in business and civil society.

In this context, international cooperation on equal terms is an absolute necessity. To tackle today's challenges, countries, government departments, institutions and organisations, the business community and citizens need to join hands starting from a global awareness.



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Our expertise

Enabel's expertise is based on:

- A Brussels-based team of experts in youth engagement and global awareness, working on practical implementation and dissemination as well as supporting practitioners and policy-makers.
- The Junior Programme involving and actively engaging young people in tackling global challenges through a first professional experience abroad with Enabel or one of its 28 member NGOs.
- Networks with national and international organisations such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe, CONCORD and Belgian NGOs. Active participation in various expertise and research networks at national and international level, such as ANGEL, GENE and Belgian and foreign universities.
- A team of experts on global challenges (peace and security, climate change and the environment, social and economic inequality, urbanisation, human mobility) partnering with a wide range of public and private actors and civil society.
- National awareness-raising campaigns, such as the Fair Trade Week, a campaign to promote fair trade in Belgium at both national and local levels. Every year, for 10 days in October, activities are organised across Belgium to promote fair trade and fair trade products.

Enabel and youth engagement

Enabel is committed to promoting global awareness, explaining the complexity of global challenges and motivating, guiding and providing opportunities to young people to engage in the future of the planet through specific actions, in Belgium and abroad.

Such engagement is explicitly pursued in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (target 4.7): ‘By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development’

Strong global awareness is a lever for the global challenges. For example, climate change programmes benefit greatly from the backing and involvement of the population. Programmes assisting human mobility succeed where citizens understand the reasons why people migrate. Programmes that tackle inequality are supported when citizens understand the structural mechanisms behind inequality and how they can be addressed.



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How do we do so?

Motivating, guiding and providing opportunities to young people to help achieve the sustainable development goals can be done in various ways: through education, informal education, awareness-raising activities, advocacy...

Enabel and its centre of expertise BeGlobal (beglobal.enabel.be) have more than 20 years of experience in youth engagement, including through global citizenship education. BeGlobal focuses on three results areas that aim to motivate young people to work for a more just world:

- Advocacy with relevant instances to strengthen support for global awareness and engagement among young people;
- Develop and provide tools and approaches to educate, mobilise and inform schoolchildren about global challenges;
- Encourage and facilitate youth engagement by connecting young people and disseminating knowledge and expertise.

Enabel's efforts to bring diverse partners together is greatly appreciated by the various youth and global citizenship actors. Enabel wants to further pursue these efforts and broaden and diversify the scope. Youth engagement should be a global concern, which is why Enabel's ambition is to increasingly integrate youth and global awareness into its projects in partner countries and to promote youth cooperation across borders.

Enabel also fosters youth engagement through its Junior Programme, which mobilises young professionals to get started in cooperation projects in Africa and the Middle East as Junior Experts.

Our practice-based experience

SoliDare Fest and SoliDare Hub for and by young people

Enabel's BeGlobal youth programme organises the **SoliDare Fest youth festival** with young people and with partners from the public, private and NGO sectors. It is an annual low-threshold festival with an information market on international youth engagement, workshops and an inspiring artistic programme.

In addition, BeGlobal also launched a longer-term project called **SoliDare Hub** to boost youth engagement by strengthening and supporting youth solidarity projects.

Young people themselves set out the programme lines and decide on what they need to develop their initiatives.

Youth engagement in vocational education

Enabel does research and tests innovative pilot projects to reach certain specific youth groups. Studies show that young people in vocational education are much harder to reach and, therefore, despite a strong interest, are actually much less committed in international cooperation. BeGlobal is specifically working on innovative ways to better reach these young people.

Teacher training and youth engagement

Since young people spend most of their time at school, the education sector is an ideal partner to work on youth engagement. Enabel does this at different levels: through the schools, the policy-makers, the umbrella organisations and the teacher trainers.

Since more than 15 years, Enabel annually trains more than a thousand (future) teachers in Global Citizenship Education so that they can promote global citizenship among their students. All these sessions are recognised as part of basic or advanced teacher training. Those sessions also lead to broader projects in the classrooms and schools of the teachers involved.

Exchange of teacher trainers of Belgium and Uganda

In 2020-2021 Ugandan and Belgian teacher trainers were engaged in exchanging on history education. This was a collaboration between teacher trainers in Uganda and the Cultural Studies Master programme at KU Leuven with the aim of educating young people about global challenges and exploring how colonial history could be better addressed in the education systems of both countries.

The exchange also includes a five-episode documentary, 'Regimes of truths'. Each episode lasts 20 to 30 minutes and analyses a specific period of Ugandan history. The viewer travels from Belgium to Uganda to understand how colonisation still affects people in other countries. For using the documentary in the classroom, a lessons module was also developed.

Scan the QR code to watch the documentary:



Learning resources and tools

BeGlobal collects global citizenship education resources from both BeGlobal and the wider global citizenship education sector such as NGOs. Teaching and education professionals find a high-quality range of training courses, inspiring resources and teaching materials on global citizenship education here:

<https://beglobal.enabel.be/ressources/?lang=fr>

Junior Programme

Enabel's Junior Programme offers young professionals an opportunity to work abroad for one or two years in a project of Enabel or of one of the Programme's 28 Belgian member NGOs. In this way, the Programme aims to ensure that more young people remain committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whether or not by continuing to work professionally at Enabel or in the sector afterwards. During their field experience in Africa or the Middle East the focus is on developing competences, on innovation, on contact with the local reality and on networking. Since the Programme's start in 2006, more than 630 young people have taken this opportunity offered by the Junior Programme.



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