

Development needs Citizens

The place of Development Education and Awareness Raising in the Development Discourse Summary of a CONCORD DARE Forum position paper – May 2011

Development as shared responsibility for planet and humanity needs active and engaged citizens in all parts of the world. Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) makes central contributions to this challenge:

DEAR fosters public engagement

Development needs strong and informed public engagement because:

- it gives legitimacy to development actors
- engaged individuals make a difference through their daily activities
- public support opens a space for debate on root causes of poverty.

DEAR enables a broad and deep democratic debate on development issues and makes global justice a central concern for all citizens. More ambitious DEAR policies are needed in order to obtain a real and solid democratic mandate for pro-poor policy changes, in particular in non-aid policies such as trade or climate change.

DEAR fosters a Global Civil Society

A Global Civil Society is crucial to shape globalisation in a positive way. DEAR promotes purposeful interaction of responsible global citizens, which is the fabric of a Global Civil Society:

- As DEAR is not involved with a “powerful giver – grateful receiver” approach, it can facilitate a global dialogue based on respect, reciprocity and mutual learning and thus support the emergence of a global ethic and shared values
- DEAR tools and methods promote individual rights and responsibilities and foster Global Citizenry
- Involvement of citizens provides legitimacy for political action.

Any future development roadmap must include a focus on building up a strong Global Civil Society by empowering people as global citizens.

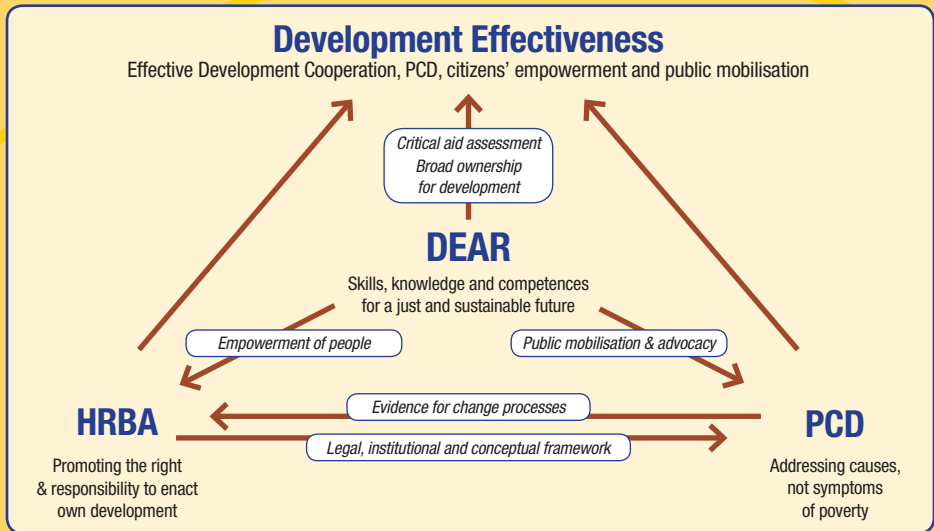
DEAR fosters new development paradigms

DEAR makes essential contributions to today widely accepted paradigms:

- Citizen's empowerment for change is a central principle of a Human Rights Based Approach to development
- Policy Coherence for Development can only be effective if supported by public mobilisation
- Through DEAR, the public can critically assess aid and development and thus contribute to the development effectiveness principle.



DEAR and the new development paradigms



CONCORD DARE Forum

The CONCORD Development Awareness Raising and Education (DARE) Forum works to deepen European public awareness and promote a critical understanding of international development, solidarity, and issues related to global mutual dependence. It aims to foster the participation of all citizens in the European Union, in worldwide poverty eradication, and the fight against exclusion. We seek to encourage and influence more just, equal and sustainable economic, social, environmental, human rights based, national and international policies.

Development Education

Development education is an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues, to personal involvement and informed actions of European citizens and public institutions. The concept of development education is a complex and multidisciplinary, taking different forms across the EU, including awareness raising, formal, non formal and informal education, life-long learning, campaigning, advocacy, training and learning. It involves a diverse range of players, predominantly non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), trade unions, educators, the media and public institutions.

European NGO confederation
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