

Convergence(s)

FOR NEW EDUCATION

A MILITANT DYNAMIC FOR EMANCIPATORY EDUCATION

The New Education... is always new, because it is part of a permanent movement that takes into account particular contexts based on values, convictions that are not dogmas but that constitute the shared basis of an emancipatory educational project.

While marking the centenary of the first founding congress of the International League of New Education (Calais 1921), and because they are convinced of the political stakes of giving back to new education its full place in educational issues at the international level, ceméa, CRAP-Cahiers Pédagogiques, FESPI, FICEMÉA, FIMEM, GFEN, ICEM, The LIEN, in-pledge a revival, a renaissance, a revitalization of the founding logics of the League of 1921 by creating "Convergence(s) for Education nouvelle" to open up to organizations from all countries that act on a daily basis according to the same principles and values.

Making an alliance, creating the conditions to better do Convergence(s) are major political necessities when, all over the world, we must fight to promote educational situations:

- _ which are based on the claimed postulate of trust in the Other, in his capacities to learn, to understand in order to act on reality.
- _ which develop practical situations which produce critical and complex thinking.
- _ which promote individual and collective emancipation, both physical and intellectual.
- _ who reject the spirit of competition, the quantification of the human being and academic and social control.
- _ that bring together instead of isolate, that include rather than exclude.
- _ which articulate knowledge, imagination and creation at the service of emancipations.
- _ which leave no one on the side of the road.

Thus, it is because it chooses social transformation and the rejection of relations of domination, because it carries the ambition to fight against all forms of poverty, social injustice and discrimination by promoting a culture of peace, that New Education is political! Joining Convergence(s) for New Education means contributing to the birth of a great momentum, a new international dynamic and reviving the ambition of our elders. That of an objective alliance, of a lucid complicity, of a fruitful conflictuality.

Convergence(s) for New Education: international momentum

7th principle of rallying Congress of Calais 1921. — The New Education prepares, in the child, not only the future citizen capable of fulfilling his duties towards his relatives, his nation, and humanity as a whole, but also the human being aware of his dignity as a man.

Education as we think of it contributes to the transformation of our societies by acting on the modes of organization, by supporting individual freedoms for more equality and rights. Resist the logic of simple adaptations when we campaign for transformation! Resisting commodification to reaffirm the role of public education services! Fight against the identitarian and nationalist ideologies that close when we campaign for intercultural openness... The approach we promote is that of education

working on the relationship between the different social times, between discontinuity and complementarity of formal and non-formal education spaces. These issues are present, in different ways, in many countries of the world. Thus, we are convinced: thinking about Education nouvelle can only be done from an international perspective that places humanism at the heart of the political project.

That's why we have set up an Erasmus+ project that aims to allow the arrival of youth workers from distant countries where living and educational conditions accentuate social inequalities. The contribution of experiences from multiple contexts contributes to the development of a common international culture on the conditions of emancipatory education.

An International Biennial to exchange, confront, debate

Mobilizing activists, the Biennale 2022, the third of the name, will play its role as an open and dynamic space allowing, in confidence: knowledge, confrontation, exchange, dispute ... It will potentially be the first to open up to other organizations that recognize themselves in the principles and values of the New Education while integrating their associative projects in logics of actions that may be different from those of the founding organizations. After those of 2017 and 2019, this Biennale will be a renewed opportunity to marvel at the practices and reflections of the Other, to accept doubt, to hear criticism, to say and contradict, to meet and to welcome, to give and to receive, because, in a complex context in more ways than one, if it is vital that we maintain and develop our capacities. of indignation and resistance, it is equally fundamental to maintain and develop our capacities of wonder, dream and care. This Biennial will be exemplary, articulating times to think, times to share, times to debate, times to live together. Exemplary because it will allow us to produce, to work of collective intelligence. Putting active education, pedagogy, at the heart of a collective space for reflection, sharing of experiences and exchanges, these are the renewed ambitions of this third Biennial of New Education.

It will respond to three intentions:

_ Share the fundamentals of New Education, Active Education, alternative pedagogies,... these unique concepts of education are part of the heritage of several countries. Each of the organizations involved in

Convergence(s) has built its identity from shared values. But we are not inactive spectators of the evolution of the world. We carry out actions designed from the point of view of their relationship to new Education so that they become real levers for change. Identifying these actions, sharing the original pedagogical practices invented by teams of activists, and questioning them, constitute the heart of the ambitions of this Biennale.

→ This will be the role of the "forum of practices" space that will allow the teams that have wished to present projects, approaches, actions. The identification of proposals is ongoing.

_ Debate together on "issues for our societies". There are always topical issues, political and educational issues on which we reflect within our respective organizations. Moving from a work logic specific to each movement to broaden approaches and enrich points of view is one of the pillars of our ambitions.

→ Spaces for debate will therefore be organized. If certain themes will be defined in the final programming, our organization will make it possible to implement debates including the themes, proposed by the participants. s, will be born of the first exchanges.

_ Live times of encounter, moments of cultural openness. Proposals for discovering Brussels, an es-space bookstore, but also suggestions for shows... will be part of everyday life.

A Political Manifesto affirming our militant ambitions

« A manifesto is a written and public statement by which a government, a person, a political party or an artistic current exposes a program of action or a position, most often political or aesthetic. In its sense of

« public statement", it originally referred to a text posted in a public place to let the community know about an initiative, a "WIKIPEDIA" program. Based on this definition, the Manifesto that will be made public at the end of the Biennale will be a political manifesto. It will reflect the common values, ambitions, concrete utopias, founding references of the New Education on the subjects that mobilize the movements, the organizations engaged in Convergence(s) and mobilized on the writing of this text.

The 10 themes of the Manifesto

- I. New Education: A Political Project
- II. New Education does not exclude anyone
- III. Constantly renewed convictions
- IV. We are activists who are part of the social realities of our living environments, combining practices and research
- V. Our permanent ambitions, our fundamental references

VI. Our practices, the implementation of our values

VII. The constant concern given to children, children and young people as a condition for progress

VIII. School: a world of contradictory issues...

IX.... which cannot overshadow other issues, other fields of intervention

X. New Education takes into account the new challenges of the twenty-first century

A first version of this text will be released in March 2022 for a critical review among activists of organizations involved in Convergence(s). The contributions received will then allow the development of a more reliable version. The final version of the Manifesto will be launched at the end of the Biennale. Translated into several languages, this text will then become the reference base for any organization wishing to join Convergence(s) for New Education.

Appointments and registration procedures

The Biennale will take place from **29 October to 1 November 2022** in Belgium, in Anderlecht, a municipality in the Brussels conurbation. The concrete modalities (accommodation, catering, reception of children, participation fees,...) will be specified during the pre-registration phase in June. An e-mail, distributed to the organizations involved in the Biennale, will list the activists' intentions to participate.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Identification of proposals for practice testimony workshops.
Elaboration of the list of topics of debate on "issues for our societies".

END OF MARCH

Dissemination of the V1 of the Manifesto.

APRIL TO END OF MAY

Collection of activists' reactions and contributions on V1 of the manifesto

JUNE

Distribution of the pre-registration email. Finalization and dissemination of the V2 of the manifesto.