



GPENreformation Newsletter August 2017

**Dear participants in the network GPENreformation,
Dear readers**

We proudly present to you the latest issue of our newsletter!

Many things have recently happened in our network: On the Global schools500reformation Day on 23rd June 2017, the project was transformed into the new "Global Pedagogical Network – Joining in Reformation". In this new structure, the project will be continued even after the Reformation Summer 2017!

In this quite short issue of our regular newsletter, we inform you about this transformation and what it means for you as participants of the former project schools500reformation. At the same time, we give a short report about the International Schools Camp we had in Wittenberg in June and the ongoing activities in the Reformation Summer.

Particularly impressive is the report from South Sudan which is hit by a major humanitarian crisis. Let us show global solidarity and pray for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan for that they will receive the needed help and solutions soon.

Enjoy reading!

The project team of **GPENreformation**

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What's new?

Transformation from schools500reformation to GPENreformation

500 Balloons were rising towards the sky in front of the castle church in Wittenberg. On Jun 23, 2017, hundreds of students, teachers and representatives of education were celebrating Reformation at the "Global schools500reformation Day" in the centre of the very town where it all began (you can find a video of the EKD in German language about this event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqhMZfhXkMA>).

On this day, the Jubilee project "schools500reformation" was transferred into the network GPENreformation – the "Global Pedagogical Network – Joining in Reformation". Protestant schools and education institutions remain globally linked and continue the common perspectives that were developed so dynamically within the last years! Together, they gain impulses for high quality

education. Together, they develop measures to deal with global challenges and to facilitate learning for Global Citizenship for their students. Young global citizens learn to think critically about cultural differences, commonalities and global challenges, linked to each other beyond borders of countries and continents. The main topic after the Reformation Jubilee will from October, 31 on focus on the motto “Let us bring peace”; therefore, this year’s conference in Kigali, Rwanda, will be held about the topic of peace education and learning for sustainability.

New structures

Like the former project “schools500reformation”, GPENreformation lives by YOUR activities; the activities of participating schools, institutions, churches, friends and other interested parties. The former Steering Committee will be replaced by the **GPEN Council** which will gather for the first time in November and assemble members of all continents.

The network activities will from now on be created and accompanied by the **GPEN Ambassadors** who are representing their respective countries and at the same time contact persons for the schools in the network. The ambassadors themselves are linked globally to each other and give ideas to the GPEN Council.



Besides this, the fruitful cooperation between science and educational practice that was already present in schools500reformation will be continued: a **Scientific Consortium** will accompany the development of the network and support its goals and priorities scientifically.

The **administrative office** in Germany and other places is as before responsible for organisational matters, contact and communication. As for now, the staff members of the GPENreformation administrative office are the same as the former schools500reformation team.

Practical information – What’s New?

First of all the homepage has moved and presents itself in a new look and with new possibilities: www.gpenreformation.net. There you can already discover the participating schools and institutions on the world map and find some basic information about the network. Nach und nach we will migrate all other content like all news articles about the schools, the didactic material and all other information – at this point, we ask you for some patience, thank you!

The more, the contact address to the team has changed: from now on, you can reach the geschäftsstelle via team@gpenreformation.net. As before, we will support you in any possible way. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for any contribution to the homepage, with questions, ideas, feedback and critics – we are looking forward to hear from you!

Practical information – Your participation

With regard to the participation of your school or institution, nothing changed. All participants of former schools500reformation are now automatically members of the GPENreformation network. If you do not agree with this, please just let us know it via e-mail.

Equally, we took along the subscribers of our newsletter. If you had signed up for the newsletter of schools500reformation, you will now automatically receive the newsletter for GPENreformation. If you disagree or like to unsubscribe, a short note to our team will be sufficient.

We thank you for your engagement that made schools500reformation grow so fast and are looking forward to your contribution to the Global Pedagogical Network – Joining in Reformation!

Looking back to the International Schools Camp

It was just over a month ago that our International Schools Camp opened its doors for seven student groups from Germany and their tandem partners from Brazil, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, the Philippines and Rwanda. All of them arrived in Wittenberg on the 21st of June with many expectations and hoping for a good time. Right before the Schools Camp started many of the tandem partners already had already the chance to get to know each other when they stayed with a German host family from their partner school.



After arriving in Wittenberg after a long journey for most of the participants, they could choose their rooms to stay in for the next week inside the former Karl-Marx School and had the opportunity to get to know their surroundings and the other students that they would inevitably spend time with. On the following days all students and teachers participated in a various and exciting program that consisted of different thematic and creative workshops, a Fair-Play-Event organized by Bread for the World, common prayers and services, and a lot of free time that they spent inside the city centre with the other participants or in any other way they wanted to.

Even though there were so many people from so many different cultural backgrounds and speaking different languages, everyone got along and understood and respected each other. And by this the participants said their farewells after almost one week not only with tears, but also happy about the wonderful time spent together.

We hope that the community that was built during the Schools Camp will live on and that maybe some lasting and cross-border friendships were established during our time in Wittenberg.

Finally, we want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who made this time so special for us as well!

An in-depth documentation of the International Schools Camp is still in progress and will be published on our website after finalisation.

Ongoing activities in Wittenberg during the Reformation Summer 2017

The International Schools Camp and the Global schools500reformation Day were obviously the highlights of our network in the past weeks – but nothing is over!

The Reformation Summer in Wittenberg still continues and we are looking forward to various activities and encounters at the “talents tent”, the pavilion that presents GPENreformation on the

World Reformation Exhibition. The exhibition and with it our pavilion is open until September 10, 2017. As we did in the last weeks, we will keep you up to what's happening there, for example on our Facebook page, and share with you the different activities going on there.

News

News

Interested? Under the heading [News](#) we publish articles about the activities at the participating schools regularly. They also appear on the front page. Share your school life with our global community.

Welcome!

Welcome France! Welcome Ensemble Scolaire Maurice-Tièche!

Since April 2017, a new country is represented in our network: Welcome France! The first French school in our network is the "Ensemble Scolaire Maurice-Tièche" in Collonges-sous-Salève:

Ensemble Scolaire Maurice Tièche is a school dedicated to a balanced development of children and adolescents. It is since 1936 in Collonges-sous-Salève that its education solidly anchored in Christian vision has been perpetuated.

From early childhood education to primary as well as secondary education, Ensemble Scolaire Maurice Tièche has the reputation of transmitting high educational and moral values to children and young people. Here, build personality is a priority: children and young people learn to master themselves, to take their responsibilities, to make the right choice by developing a spirit of decision. Teachers provide individualized and quality education.

Caring is both rigorous and benevolent. The natural environment in which children and young people evolve offers them permanent contact with nature. It is not unusual to hear "former" students saying that their stay at Maurice Tièche was a highlight of their life which has leads them to personal and professional success.



The text has been taken from the homepage of Ensemble Scolaire Maurice Tièche.

Places

New participants

You want to know more? Take a look at the [list of schools](#) and [list of institutions](#) on our website. All participants are presented there on a world map. You can also look for certain schools and institutions filtered by continent, language, or age group.

The insight!

Humanitarian crisis in South Sudan: The children of the world's youngest nation are at risk

The humanitarian space in South Sudan continues to shrink, with humanitarian actors facing severe access restrictions in several areas, notably in Greater Equatoria and Unity. There has been an escalation of violence in the beginning of the year 2017 in Upper Nile, Unity State, Jongolei, Western,

Central and Eastern Equatoria. In Greater Equatoria, the security situation continues to restrict humanitarian access. Tens of thousands of displaced persons are seeking shelter in the towns, with many more hiding in bushes and swamps in remote areas with no access to basic services. The continued deterioration of the security situation is likely to further impede access across the country and affect the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance.

More than 3.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the conflict began in December 2013, including nearly 1.9 million people who have been internally displaced (with 50% estimated to be children) and more than 1.2 million who have fled as refugees to neighboring countries.

The impact of the crisis on education

Continued fighting between the two South Sudanese rival factions is said to have denied an estimated two million south Sudanese children access to education. According to UNICEF, South Sudan has the highest rate of out of school children at the primary school level (with close to 72%) and the second highest rate at the lower secondary school levels (with 60%; after Niger with 86% and followed by Central African Republic with 55%). South Sudan has the highest rate of girls who remain out of school, at rate of 76 % the highest rates of school drop outs in global conflict zones. “At no time is education more important than in times of war”, said UNICEF chief of education, Josephine Bourne.

About 35% of schools have been closed due to insecurity across the country and over 17,000 children are estimated to have been recruited by armed actors in South Sudan. Over 9,000 children were registered as unaccompanied, separated or missing at the time of writing. Anecdotal evidence indicates that child marriage is increasing due to conflict and economic pressures. An estimated one million children are believed to be in psychological distress.



Teaching at a Displaced Centre, Wau

Needs for the education sector

1. Support education in emergency through education supplies, Emergency rehabilitation of schools, and establishment of temporary learning space and reopen occupied/closed schools.
2. Payment of incentives to teachers.
3. Implement mobile primary healthcare response targeting most vulnerable displaced populations and schools.
4. Introduce school feeding programmes in schools to support the malnourished children age 6 to 8; this will improve re-enrolment, retention and progression.

5. Carry out school based and community based psychosocial support programmes. Introduce guidance and counseling services in primary schools.
6. Increase social and psychological rehabilitation of girls who are survivors of rape cases.
7. Provide in-service and pre-services scholarship for teachers.
8. Literacy and numeracy programmes in both primary and ECD centers.
9. Equip County and Payam education offices with basic equipment and stationeries.

This article was written by one of our project members from Juba, South Sudan. Besides education, other domains are attached by the crisis. The full article will be published soon on our website. The project team thanks the author of this very interesting and exploratory article.

News

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How to join

You are reading this Newsletter, but are not yet a member of GPENreformation? It is high time then! Just fill in the [Registration form](#) and click "Submit".



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On the Globalschools500reformationDay on June 23rd 2017, schools500reformation has been transferred into the new Global Pedagogical Network – Joining in Reformation.

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