Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

Limited data indicate large gaps in mainstreaming education for sustainable development.

Monitoring progress on Target 4.7, with its unique focus on the content of education, remains challenging. A methodology has not yet been adopted for the global indicator, which aims to capture country efforts to mainstream global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, at all levels in their education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessment. However, reporting on the implementation of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms indicates the state of national education systems.

In the sixth consultation carried out in 2016, 83 countries reported on the extent to which their education systems reflect the Recommendation’s guiding principles and associated topics. In nearly 60% of reporting countries, the Recommendation has been ‘fully reflected’ in national education policies. Implementation is weakest for in-service teacher education, which ‘fully reflects’ the Recommendation in only 17% of responding countries. The most rapid progress was observed for student assessment, with more than four in five countries reporting inclusion, up from just under half in the fifth consultation.