



Wind of Peace 2026

Concept Note

ASPnet Slovenia, 30 March 2026

The Voice of UNESCO's Children for Our Safe and Peaceful Future

Today, children from UNESCO ASPnet and other schools are speaking up—because we are desperate and afraid. UNESCO and the United Nations promised us that we would be safe and supported as we grow. Yet today, we do not feel safe.

Many countries are at war. Even where there is no war, the feeling of safety is fading. That is why we are calling on you, adults, to stop all wars as natural disasters alone already threaten our planet. We also demand security and trust among all people across the globe. We, the children of the world, are warning you: this cannot go on. We see what's happening. We know things are heading in the wrong direction. It has gone too far. We fear for our lives and our future.

How many people die in wars driven by greed and hatred at the same moment a child is born? How many children will never be born because of war? You must give us a chance to live—as you did. We want to see the world and travel, like our parents did. In fact, we want a better world than you had. But we don't need your wealth. We only need the chance to live and grow into our future.

As parents, you fear for us. You want only one thing: to keep us safe and help us become independent. But the greatest enemies of children are war and disease. That is why we demand that—for once—you truly listen to us. Parents and all those shaping today's world, listen to your daughters and sons!

We are not speaking about one war—we are speaking about all wars, climate change, disasters, illness, hunger, and everything caused by human greed and hate — and about the peace we demand. Maybe even about a world without war and hunger.

Your daughters and sons



[Video in English]

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1. Introduction

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) was established after the Second World War with the mission of building peace in the minds of people, with its core goal being to foster a culture of peace in educational settings. This mission has been reaffirmed by the UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, adopted in 2023.

In today’s world, marked by conflicts and global challenges, the emphasis on peace—understood not only as the absence of war but also as a set of values such as tolerance, mutual respect, and good relationships—is more important than ever. Our world is facing wars, refugee crises, and natural disasters that affect us directly. We also witness severe violence within school environments, which deeply concerns us.

That is why the vision of our network is vital: to raise and shape empathetic, responsible, and engaged individuals who can contribute to peaceful and inclusive societies.

2. Background

In this context, a strong need emerged within ASPnet Slovenia to connect children around the world in a concrete and meaningful way — a unique opportunity made possible by the global reach of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet). At the same time, children are among the most affected by war, insecurity, climate crises, and social instability, yet they rarely have opportunities to express their perspectives directly to decision-makers.

Therefore, the *Wind of Peace* initiative was created to give children a voice to express their expectations of adults, especially those who have the power to shape the future they will inherit.

Objectives

1. To provide children with a platform to speak directly to adults and decision-makers, thereby fostering constructive intergenerational dialogue.
2. To connect children across countries, strengthen international cooperation among UNESCO Associated Schools, and promote meaningful intercultural exchange.

3. To create a unique global treasury of children's messages addressed to adults, reflecting their shared hopes and aspirations for a safe and peaceful future.
4. To ensure inclusive and equitable participation of all children in delivering the message, guaranteeing equal opportunities for girls and boys and giving particular attention to children with disabilities, including those with mobility, visual, hearing, or other impairments.

The project places special emphasis on the use of native languages, as respect for and the freedom of all cultures and languages contribute to peace; a world with only one language or culture would be much poorer.

3. The Wind of Peace Initiative

The project is centred on travelling *Wind of Peace* Notebooks, which circulate physically between participating countries, while children write their messages to decision-makers, world leaders and all other adults. The Wind of Peace begins in Slovenia and is passed on to neighbouring countries: Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia. From there, it continues globally, following a chain of participation. The last receiving country on each continent will return the messages to Slovenia.

If a country is currently experiencing conflict, it will receive a special notebook to ensure that previous messages are not lost. Its response will be added and will be of special value.

Participation is strictly **children-led**: messages must be prepared and delivered exclusively by children. Adults may offer logistical support but may not speak on behalf of students. **Accessibility should be ensured** wherever possible. **Political content must not be included**. Each country is expected to prepare the messages in advance and carry out the **handover to the next participating country as soon as possible**, and **no later than within five days** of receiving the *Wind of Peace* notebook. It doesn't matter where or how the message is delivered—what matters is that it reaches every country in the world.

Each participating country is invited to:

- Prepare a **written message of peace** (two to six pages per country in a shared notebook, including translations into English, French or Spanish).
- Record a **video of students** delivering the message in their own language(s), including subtitles into English, French or Spanish.
- Organize a **handover event** in collaboration with a neighbouring country and/or organize a **ZOOM meeting** with another participating country.
- Ensure that **parental consent** is obtained for the publication of students' photos and videos within the framework of the project.

Optional:

- Include an **additional notebook** in the journey that will be national and will circulate within your country.
- Send **photos of the written messages, the students at the handover**, as well as **photos documenting your activities** throughout the entire duration of the project.

- One **news article** (max. 250 words) per country about your events or activities.
- **Symbolic gift:** At each handover, the participating country also presents a small symbolic gift representing peace (such as a dove, an olive branch, a sunflower, or another meaningful symbol). This gesture strengthens the message of friendship and hope between children across borders.

We invite you to submit the following materials to windofpeace@aspnet.si; in the case of large files, please use platforms such as WeTransfer. All submitted content will be published on the official project platform <http://www.aspnet.si/windofpeace>, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Participants are encouraged to share their actions on social media using the hashtag #WindOfPeace.

The target groups of the initiative include primary and secondary school students (approximately aged 6–18), UNESCO ASPnet schools and other participating schools, as well as national ASPnet coordinators and educators.

Timeline

Date	Activity
30 March 2026	Invitation sent
12 April 2026	Confirmation of participation
23 April 2026	Launch of the initiative
April –October 2026	Global circulation and activities
November 2026	Final global online meeting of participating schools; online publication and digital exhibition of collected messages; delivery of the messages to the United Nations, UNESCO, and world leaders

Guidelines for an in-person Wind of Peace handover

The notebook may be handed over directly to another country or travel within the country first as long as it reaches the other country within the given time and as soon as possible. Children state that they are carrying the *Wind of Peace* message and deliver the message in their own language and the language of the country they are visiting or in English/French/Spanish—because languages connect us.

The receiving school travels to collect the notebook, and both schools jointly agree on the location. The handover event should also include presentations of local traditions, cultural heritage, and landmarks, as well as opportunities for interaction and social exchange among children, thereby strengthening mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue.

Guidelines for a virtual Wind of Peace Handover / Meeting

In cases where an in-person handover is not possible, participating schools are encouraged to organize a virtual meeting to ensure a meaningful exchange among students.

The virtual handover or meeting should include the following elements:

1. Messages for Peace: Students present their *Wind of Peace* messages. Messages should be delivered in their own language and also in English, French, or Spanish.

2. Presentation of Local Culture: Students introduce key aspects of their local context, including: traditions and customs, cultural heritage, important landmarks.

3. Informal Exchange Among Children: Time should be reserved for informal interaction between students. This may include: asking questions, sharing experiences, discussing similarities and differences. The focus should be on creating a friendly and open atmosphere.

Additional Recommendations: Keep the meeting duration appropriate (e.g. 45–60 minutes). Ensure technical preparation (platform, connection, audio/video quality). Encourage inclusive participation of all students.

Guidelines for the National *Wind of Peace* Notebook

The National *Wind of Peace* Notebook is an optional component of the *Wind of Peace* initiative. It travels between schools within the country and connects students at the national level, including the voices of a broader group.

Format

The notebook may be physical or digital (e.g. PDF, e-publication), the *Wind of Peace* official notebook or their own based on the provided template. In the case of a self-designed notebook, it must include the name and logo of the *Wind of Peace* initiative, and a reference indicating that the project was initiated by ASPnet Slovenia. Each contribution should include: name of the school, country and region, age group of students.

Coordination

A national ASPnet coordinator or a designated focal person oversees the circulation and coordination. Countries are encouraged to involve as many schools as possible.

Use and Dissemination

The National *Wind of Peace* Notebook may be shared within the national school network, presented to national authorities or institutions, published online as part of the project visibility. Selected excerpts may be shared internationally to complement the global initiative. At the conclusion of the project, participating countries are encouraged to present the notebook to relevant decision-makers and to preserve it according to their own discretion, for example in a national archive or another appropriate institution.

Timeline

Contributions should be collected in parallel with the international notebook activities. Countries may define their own internal deadlines. Participating countries are kindly requested to provide information on the National *Wind of Peace* Notebook by the end of October, so that it can be included in the final report.