

High quality education for all - The objective 4 of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development

As one of the 17 objectives, Objective 4 deals with education. Inclusive, equitable and high-quality education and promote opportunities for lifelong learning.

For today's consultation the main target 4.7. is significant:

“By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the necessary knowledge and qualifications to promote sustainable development, including education for sustainable development and sustainable living, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, world citizenship and the appreciation of cultural diversity and contribution of culture to sustainable development.”

Allow me a critical look:

1. Is it about future knowledge or the knowledge of the future?
2. Teaching or learning?
3. Do we make something definite or do we also allow indeterminacy?
4. Linearity in development or diversity in change?
5. The power of the rich or the empowerment of the poor?

Some conclusions

It needs above all a right-based perspective: the right of all to learning, understanding, acting.

The acquisition of competencies is more central than the appropriation of skills. Education should be addressed not only to individuals (and their individually successful future design); Education is also about the understanding and design of complex structures. In SDG 4 there is no critical access to the term "development"; It is expanded by the word "sustainable". The concept behind this is unchanged: development as economic growth.

Education is an opportunity to bring development cooperation into a proper perspective. SDG 4: material content in the foreground; There are also intangible needs. In education there is a great "surplus value": to perceive and understand existing, to give it meaning; It is about self-reflection, self-respect, empowerment to alternatives and change.

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