

INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE IDEC@EUDEC 2025 BELGIUM

Dear enthusiast, educator, co-creator of change, dialogue participant
Dear supporter of democratic education

We are excited to invite you to a unique and inspiring event: the [International Democratic Education Conference 2025](#), which will take place from August 1 to 7, 2025, at De Kluis in Sint-Joris-Weert in Belgium.

For the first time, this conference will bring together both the annual [EUDEC conference \(European Democratic Education Community\)](#) and the [IDEC conference \(International Democratic Education Conference\)](#) in Belgium. This exceptional gathering offers a unique opportunity to explore democratic education, an innovative educational model with a long and successful history worldwide.

As our societies face increasing democratic challenges and educational shortcomings, the democratic educational approach has been gaining more and more popularity. Recent research shows that conventional schools often struggle to equip students with the skills and competencies needed to navigate tomorrow's world.

We believe that reflecting together on the values and practices of democratic education can bring significant benefits to all schools worldwide.

What is democratic education?

Democratic education is based on two core principles:

- **Self-directed learning:** Students take an active role in their learning process, choosing what, how, when, where, and with whom they learn.
- **Participatory school organisation:** Students have an equal voice in decisions that affect them, in line with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Why is the conference relevant for you?

Democratic education offers concrete and proven solutions to current challenges such as:

- School fatigue and motivation issues
- Low academic performance
- Bullying and social exclusion
- Mental health problems among young people
- Stress and burnout among teachers

Many principles and methods used in democratic schools can also enrich conventional education. Think of effective strategies for conflict resolution, collaborative decision-making, and learning driven by intrinsic motivation.



IDEC @ EUDEC 2025 Belgium
August 1st to 7th
De Kluis, Sint-Joris-Weert

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Introduction weekend

Are you curious but not yet familiar with democratic education?

On Saturday, August 2, and Sunday, August 3, we are organizing a special introductory weekend for teachers.

Here, you will gain both theoretical insights and practical tools to apply elements of democratic education in any setting with young people.

In addition, the conference offers an excellent opportunity to network with teachers, educators, and policymakers from both within and outside Belgium.

Speakers and Open Space Program

For the list of attending speakers, please visit our [speakers page](#).

We also offer an [Open Space Program](#), which gives every conference attendee the opportunity to co-create the program. This ensures that even the youngest participant can propose activities such as organizing a game of hide-and-seek in the forest and thus become an active participant to the event.

Accommodation, food and prices

For all information on accommodation, food and prices, please visit our [ticket info page](#).

To register for the conference, please visit our [registration page](#).

A new vision for education

With this conference, we aim to provide new perspectives and practical solutions to the challenges facing education today.

We hope to inspire you and work together to find ways to strengthen education in alignment with the rights and the natural development of children.

We invite you to join us on this journey, as the future of education begins with the courage to reimagine it today.

We hope to welcome you this summer at IDEC@EUDEC 2025 in Belgium!



IDEC@EUDEC 2025 Belgium - *A Culture of Dialogue*

www.eudec2025.org

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Armando, Cara, Charlie, Elena, Elsje, Fabiana, Kenny, Liliana, Marie, Martina, Pamela, Paola, Rachna, Sabrina, Samantha, Sigrid, Stijn en Yorick

Organising team International Democratic Education Conference 2025



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Registrations
are open

**International Democratic
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2025 Belgium
1-7 August 2025**



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