

## **RCE Making Change Stick**

### ***A Proposal for the IDEC Community***

***July 2nd to August 7th, 2025***

### **In Pursuit of Wellbeing for People and Planet**

#### **Can the IDEC community step=up?**

Start getting answers to this question in the days leading up to the IDEC@EUDEC. Find out what others are thinking and encourage those attending to do what they can to ensure some significant plan of action with the will to implement it results from this gathering.

The [IDEC@EUDEC](#) starting on August 1st in Belgium presents a good opportunity to advance towards rights respecting education being adopted across the globe. A good number of people who participated in [the RCE Making Change Stick sessions](#) have indicated an interest in volunteer work aimed at engaging like-minded organizations and teachers in the collaborative task of bringing self-directed education to the mainstream. For their work to be fruitful, they need to be supported, and it falls to the IDEC community, and the people and organizations who have founded the Rights=Centric Education Network - RCEN, and/or have signed the Declaration of Child Rights-Centric Education to provide that support.

Numerous like-minded organizations and people have in the past been contacted and convinced to attend some related event, but they don't get engaged. There is poor attendance at the event and no buzz. They conclude nothing significant is happening and decide their time is better spent elsewhere, and it is harder to bring them back than it is to first bring them in. It is discouraging for the volunteers who encourage them to attend. They feel like they wasted the time of others, set the cause back a little and lost some personal credibility. We need to avoid this happening to those who volunteer to contact the like-minded.

#### **IDEC Proposal - Make Something of the 2026 Learning Planet Festival**

The 2026 Learning Planet Festival is where significant progress can be made towards engaging like-minded organizations. It is supported by UNESCO and has a long [partners list](#) of organizations we need to engage. We got a start at the 2025 Festival. Twenty-six events were conducted by supporters of the RCEN producing what can be described as a festival-within-a-festival and their contributions were appreciated by the organizers of the LP Festival. (See the quote below.) Some progress was made, but it was largely a missed opportunity. The events were poorly attended and the advocates of rights respecting education failed to establish a presence that conveyed we need to be taken seriously.

#### **From the Festival to RCEN presenters**

“The whole LearningPlanet Festival team has been really impressed by your ideas to further engage participants and your incredibly generous contributions to this year’s Festival. The Rights-Centric Education Network has been one of the top contributors in terms of number of events submitted. For this, and for your inspiring dedication, merci 🙏”

### **The Mission Should IDEC Choose to Accept It**

- Create a well-conceived festival to be conducted around the 2026 January 24th Day of Education.
- Promote it in partnership with the Learning Planet Festival as was done with the 2025 Festival.
- IDEC supporters agree in large numbers to [establish a strong presence](#) at the Festival. This goes beyond getting people to attend our events. It includes going to the events of others to share ideas and make contacts. In terms of a trade show, it means to walk the floor.

If this sounds like a plan you would support with some of your time, indicate your interest by filling out [this form](#) to get more information before making a commitment. Christine Kottmann has started a team to engage teachers in bringing rights-centric education to the mainstream. If this team is of possible interest to you, check the "teacher" box on the form.

**Efforts are ongoing** to have more people register for RCE Making Change Stick. Please encourage those you know who might want to be kept informed of developments to read [Rights versus Wellbeing](#) and to [register](#) for updates.

**Reserve for a show of unity the days around January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the [International Day of Education](#).**

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