



## Crossing Borders certification submission

### Name of the school

Crossing Borders

### Is your school/organisation internationally orientated? (does it look to incorporate a global perspective into everyday school life?)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

The NGO Crossing Borders is internationally oriented. It has been working with youth from all over the world since it was founded in 1999. Crossing Borders team is very international too with 25 staff, volunteers and interns from over 20 countries with different academic and professional backgrounds and experiences add to the international orientation of CB (Crossing Borders).

### Does your school/organisation participate in international projects? (international cooperation with other schools or between students, EU projects, pen pals, exchange students etc.)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

The majority of projects that Crossing Borders organize, coordinate or participate in are international. On an annual basis, Crossing Borders runs 10-15 international projects including youth exchanges, trainings both in EU and developing countries. Crossing Borders welcomes up to 5 European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers annually too. Moreover, Crossing Borders run Global School Services and aim at adding a global dimension to the school curriculum in Denmark as a contribution to the 2014 school reform. Through school services, CB brings the real world into the schools and the schools out into the world.

### Does your school/organisation have an internationalisation strategy?

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

Internationalisation is the core of Crossing Borders. CB believes that in order to develop and implement a global agenda, it is necessary to incorporate people from different countries, cultures, backgrounds. This is done via a diverse Crossing Borders team (as mentioned before, 25 people from over 20 countries) and international youth exchanges and trainings (up to 15 international projects a year). Moreover, we have over 70 National Coordinators all over the world who are former CB workers, volunteers or partners with the aim to continue spreading Crossing Borders vision and mission.

### Is your school/organisation making an effort to influence behaviors related to sustainable consumption? (ex. CO2 reduction, recycling, limit printing, save on electricity and heating)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

Our organization Crossing Borders is making an effort to reduce our environmental impact and encourage sustainable consumption. We are trying to reduce our environmental impact within the organization including initiatives such as recycling, food sharing (to reduce food waste), not using single-use plastic, saving electricity and heating. In this way, we are encouraging each other to consider the environment and consume wisely.

### Is your school/organisation making environmentally friendly improvements when renovating and expanding? (ex. renewable energy, solar panels etc.)

No

**Does your school/organisation in other ways encourage to take responsibility for the environment? (ex. green infrastructure, eco labels, ecological focus, school projects etc.)**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

The organization runs several local events, workshops and international projects on environmental protection and sustainability. For example, currently, we are organizing an event called 'Sustainable Christmas' which concerns anti-consumerism and waste reduction. Another example could be that we run school workshops and one of them is about Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) where our facilitators teach students about sustainability and climate action. Moreover, we have run a number of international projects such as "EcoHub" (empowering young people to create eco-enterprises) or "Youth Climate Ambassadors" that encourage youth to consider the environment and take action.

**Does your school/organisation provide free access to your facilities and resources to the wider community?**

No

**Does your school/organisation in any kind promote volunteering?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Many of Crossing Borders team members are volunteers who are working here in order to create a positive impact on the world. Many of us volunteer in several organizations, not only Crossing Borders. We believe that work is not only to earn money but also to learn, meet new people, widen your perspective and fulfil yourself. Volunteer work can be as important and meaningful as paid, sometimes even more.

We also host up to 5 European Voluntary Service volunteers annually who go to local Erasmus+ events and promote volunteering.

**Does your school/organisation prioritise community engagement?**

No

**Does your school/organisation give lessons in sex and relationships education?**

No

**Does your school/organisation have an active strategy for prevention and intervention of drug use and alcohol and tobacco consumption?**

No

**Is your school/organisation actively promoting a healthier lifestyle? (ex. nutritional food and drink, physical- and outdoor activities etc.)**

No

**Does your school/organisation make efforts to ensure equality for all in your institution - regardless of gender, sexuality, disabilities, ethnicity, belief system (incl. religion, political orientation)?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Ensuring equality for all is one of our core beliefs at Crossing Borders. Our team is very diverse and comprise people from different ethnicities, religions, political and sexual orientations. We seek to embrace the diversity rather than discriminate each other. CB promotes equality, solidarity, intercultural and interpersonal understanding, and peaceful co-existence.

**Does your school/organisation have accessibility for people with physical and/or mental needs?**

No

**Does your school/organisation actively take a stand against bullying?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

As mentioned before, Crossing Borders tries to promote understanding of each other and solidarity regardless of gender, sexuality, disabilities, ethnicity, belief system. CB provides young people and youth educators with knowledge about diversity along with the tools to create a dialogue between different viewpoints. Many of our local and international projects concern these topics such as 'My Story, Your Story, Our Story' or 'Spisdating' that promote understanding of people's stories and backgrounds.

**Does your school/organisation have a youth council/student board?**

No

**Does your school/organisation have a policy that ensures student/youth/staff participation in decision making processes?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Our organization is not hierarchical; on a daily basis, we dialogue together regarding decisions to be made. One of our external goals is to promote active participation in the society - we apply that within our organization too; we believe that is crucial for creating an equal and enjoyable work environment. We have weekly staff meetings where we share our thoughts and participate in the decision making as well as individual meetings and feedback sessions.

**Does everyone at the school/in the organisation have the right to express their opinion? (e.g. does the school provide a platform for dialogue, have an active debate culture, offer discussions, have an open forum etc?)**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

As said before, our organization is not hierarchical; therefore, no one is higher or lower than one another. Expressing opinions, sharing ideas and taking initiative is very encouraged at Crossing Borders. This is done via beforementioned staff and individual meetings as well as everyday work at the office and our communication platforms (e-mail, Facebook). We believe that everybody's viewpoint is valuable.

**How did your organization address Goal 1? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

Generally, Crossing Borders is involved in activities regarding SDGs promotion such as 'Global Goals Cup', SDGs and Debate in Uganda or promoting SDGs within youth at Ungdommens Folkemøde (Youth Democracy Festival). To address SDG 1, Crossing Borders creates and, with the help of local funding possibilities, finances projects that are implemented in developing countries.

**How did your organization address Goal 3? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

We particularly try to focus on mental health at our organization. Being an NGO working with global issues, we understand the need for a strong mental health within and outside our organization. To achieve that, we focus on having open discussions, dialogues, promoting gratitude, solidarity and empathy both within ourselves and outside Crossing Borders.

**How did your organization address Goal 4? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

Crossing Borders provides learning opportunities, particularly for youth, through youth trainings and workshops. Formal education in Denmark is good quality but CB also offers non-formal Hojskole global studies and training courses in communication, conflict management, and media skills and publication of a youth magazine and educational materials for the dialogue creation which is very relevant in the current global situation.

**How did your organization address Goal 5? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

We provide opportunities regardless of a person's gender. We try to have a balance between female and male. Moreover, often we run activities connected to women empowerment, such as "Women Entrepreneurial Day". Added to that, the office that we work in is also the first mosque in Denmark for women with a female priest and weekly Friday prayings which add to gender equality as well.

**How did your organization address Goal 8? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

We provide decent work conditions and flexible hours for our team. We also have capacity building and trainings to provide opportunities for the team to develop their skills and capabilities. We also promote and provide space for feedback for staff on how to improve our working conditions and do our best towards meeting them. In the work environment, everybody's opinions are appreciated and everybody is involved in the decision making process.

**How did your organization address Goal 10? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

We have an inclusive policy, meaning that at our organization we don't discriminate people based on their gender, religious beliefs, ethnicity, background, sexual orientation. Everybody has the same chances and opportunities. We also do not discriminate people in our projects, everybody is welcome to join them and learn. In this way, we aim to reduce the inequalities gap and to give the same chances to success to everyone.

**How did your organization address Goal 12? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

This is done within the organization and outside. We encourage each other to consume responsibly, not to waste food and other materials, recycle. We also have organized several events on responsible consumption, zero waste, upcycling workshops, clothes' and books' swaps and other, we constantly invite experts, business representatives and other initiatives to give speeches and share their knowledge.

**How did your organization address Goal 13? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

Climate change and sustainability is one of our main themes within the organization. We have developed a number of projects connected to climate action, such as EcoHub - empowering young people to create ecoenterprises; Youth Climate Ambassadors - empowering youth climate leaders to advocate for their environmental rights and many more. We have also participated in People's Climate March and run a school workshop in Danish schools, particularly on this SDG.

**How did your organization address Goal 16? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

One of our core objectives is peace and justice for all as well as inclusive society, particularly youth empowerment and active citizenship. We have a number of projects related to dialogue, peace building, youth empowerment, promotion of active and inclusive participation in the society. We also run a school workshop in Danish schools, particularly on this SDG.

**How did your organization address Goal 17? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

Creating strong partnerships with other organizations is one of our top priorities. We always work in collaboration with local and international organisations that have similar objectives and values. Moreover, we develop and participate in Erasmus+ KA1, KA2 and KA3 projects and, particularly for this SDG, KA2 strategic partnership projects that are transnational projects designed to develop and share innovative practices and promote cooperation.

**Assessment Disclaimer**

- I hereby confirm that the information provided is true and accurate and I agree that it will be made public in the form of a report. The Nearest Contact Point may verify the information by the most appropriate means (such as visit or phone calls).