



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación

## **The Impact of the Crisis on Education**

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**THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON  
EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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# Introduction

Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

## **Article 26.**

- (1) Everyone has the right to education.

El Constitution – Aims of Education International:

- “to promote the political, social and economic conditions that are required for the realisation of the right to education in all nations”
- Rationale of “crisis” poses this principle at risk:
  - ▣ Education is an expense
  - ▣ All expenses must be cut

# Purpose of Presentation

Based on answers to **survey** by 10 member unions, **analysis of crisis in CEE countries** and analysis of issues in the crisis in **factsheets**

Provide an overview of:

1. Data collected by EI (media and other reports)
2. Up to date Survey Responses

# Contents – Issues in the Crisis

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- The Right to Education
- Enrolment in Education
- Investments in Education
- Teachers' Salaries
- Pensions

# Issue #1: The Right to Education

- Financial crisis establishes an economic dominance over political discussions
- Sacrificing a generation of children to economic crisis does not match the human right for education
  - ▣ Minority groups are particularly vulnerable
  - ▣ Financial crisis creates 'new losers'

# Issue #2: Enrolment in Education

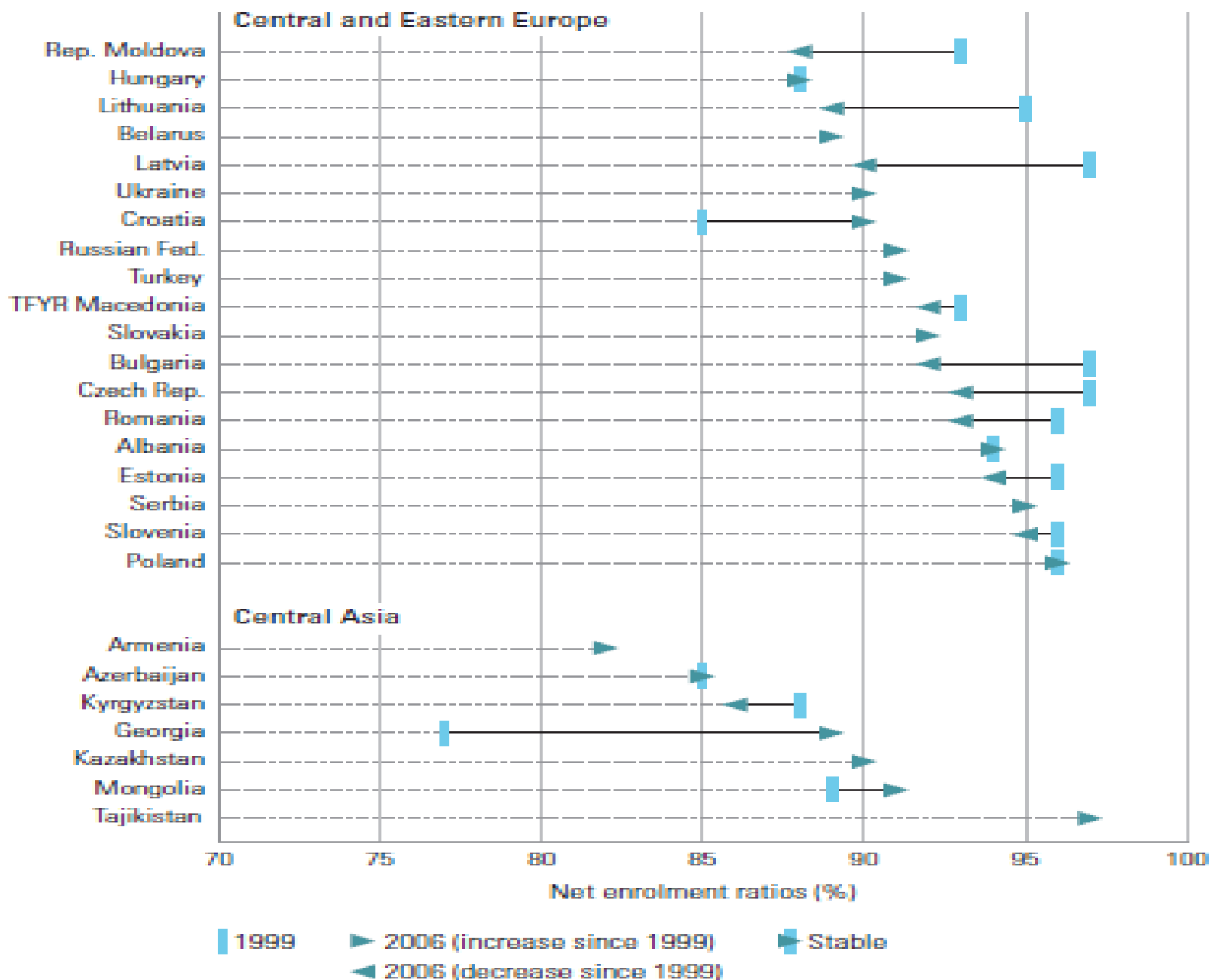
Problems of hidden costs of education leading to lower accessibility:

- ▣ Fees
- ▣ School books
- ▣ Opportunity costs of children/adolescents not working
- ▣ Increasing costs of higher education

CEE and Central Asia countries made progress

- ▣ However wide disparities remain (UNESCO Global Monitoring Report, 2009)

**Figure 2: Changes in primary net enrolment ratios between 1999 and 2006**



# Issue #3: Investment in Education

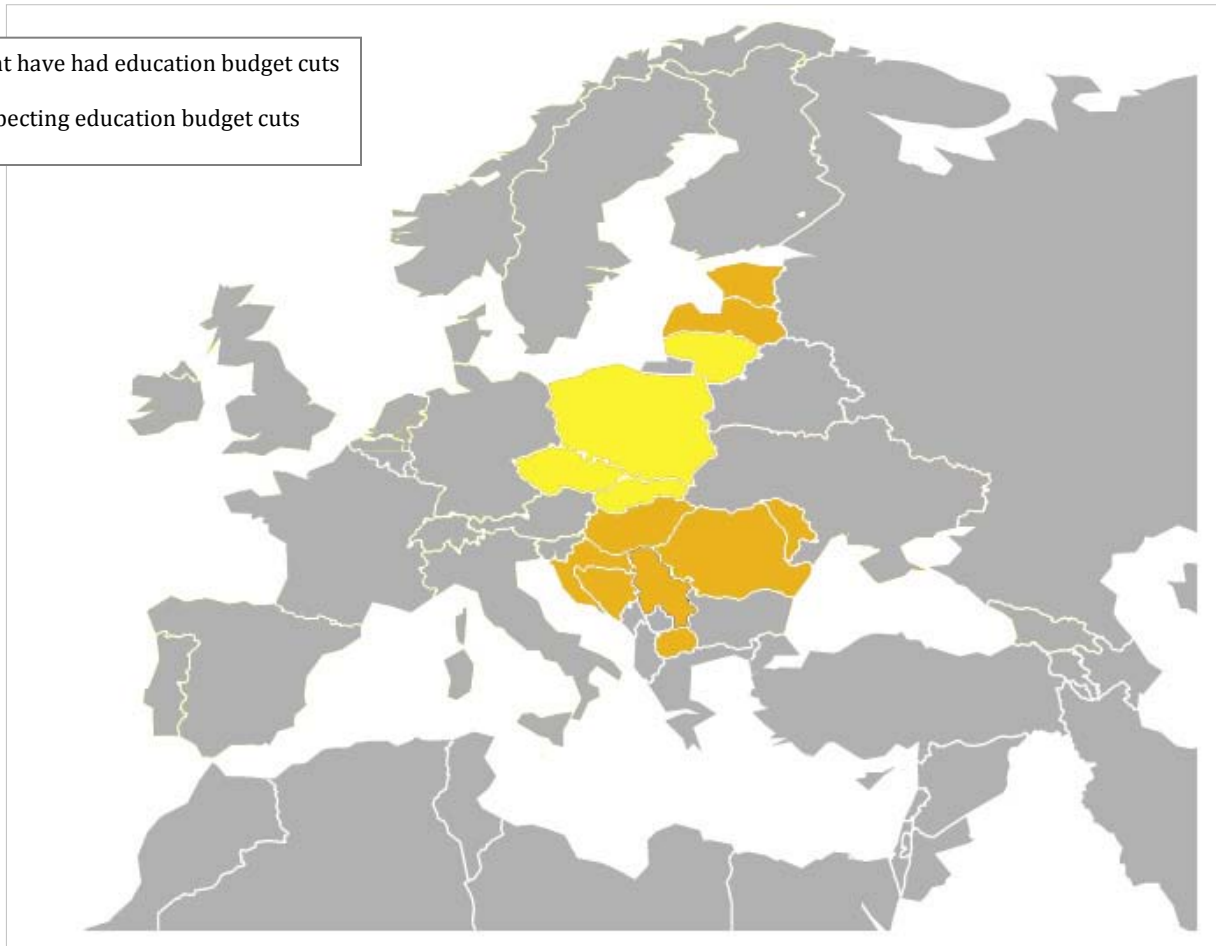
- Surveys show different types of cuts:
  - ▣ Withdrawal of:
    - Promised investments and pay increases
    - Foreign language courses
    - ...
  - ▣ Reductions of general expenditure
  - ▣ Delayed infrastructure investments
  - ▣ Cutting benefits such as pensions, childcare etc
- UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2009 shows:
  - ▣ Decline in foreign aid



# Cuts/Reductions in Education

Orange: Countries that have had education budget cuts

Yellow: Countries expecting education budget cuts



# Issue #4: Teachers' Salaries

- Survey finds:
  - ▣ Delayed payment of salaries (Romania)
  - ▣ Promised salary increases not given in full (Poland)
  - ▣ Salary freezes (Serbia, Romania)
  - ▣ Salary reductions (Lithuania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia)
  - ▣ Reduction of salary minimums (Estonia, Croatia)
  - ▣ Reduction in non-salary benefits (Estonia, Poland)

# Issue #5: Pensions (1)

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TEACHERS' PENSION FUNDS UNDER STRESS

INVESTMENT BANK



*"We'll start negotiations off with an apple for the teacher."*

search ID: dbrn1037

# Issue #5: Pensions (2)

- Pension funds have declined: due to loss on stock market
  - ▣ In OECD countries, pension schemes have lost 23% of their value and will recover slowly because of decline in growth (OECD 2009)
- Problem exacerbated by ageing population and decreasing labour market
- Public pensions have been included in public sector cuts



**Thank you for contributions!**