



THE INFLUENCE OF TRADE UNIONS AND TEACHER TRADE UNIONS ON LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

THE CASE OF ROMANIA

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HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR: “THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON
EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE”

Hotel Novotel, Warsaw, 2-4 September 2009



What is the argumentation provided by the government for cutting public budgets and salaries?

Argumentation of government:

- **Economical crisis induced GDP decreasing; government made twice negative adjustments of the education budget this year ;**
- **Needs to borrow money from IMF and MB (more than 20 billion Euros);**
- **IMF/MB conditions (adjustment of the expenses with budgetary salaries);**
- **Decrease of the income budgets obtained from taxes and rates due to the bankruptcy of several SME's;**
- **Diminution of the foreign investments;**
- **Expansion of underground (black) economy in crisis conditions;**
- **Limitation of access to short and medium - dated banking credits in advantaged conditions.**



What has been the reaction by the union?

Union reacted by:

- Press conferences/communicates;
- Mass-media interventions (radio, TV., press);
- Demand of international containment (thanks to our colleagues of EI);
- Meetings;
- Strike (for two hours or for one day; it is possible to have a general strike in this autumn!)
- Sympathetic strike with other budgetary sectors;
- Social dialogue using on-line forums.

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What has been the greatest challenge for the union in responding?

- Unique Law of Salaries project negotiation;
- Remuneration respecting the performance criteria in the whole educational system;
- Negotiations concerning the New Education Laws;
- Change of pension law and elimination of special pensions;
- Decentralization of primary and secondary education;
- Lobby for a good legislation concerning working conditions;
- Public opinion support;
- Immediate evaluation of the educational process quality in Romanian universities.

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What are the main achievements the union has reached?

- **Favourable premises in the implementation of all remarks of federal trade unions in the elaboration of education laws;**
- **We obtained in last three years an average rise of salaries of 80%, focused on the beginning of university carrier, where we have obtained more than 100% rise;**
- **Freezing of salaries for the period of crisis, but not the decreasing!**
- **Through the Education National Agreement all political forces have been engaged to confer 6% of the Gross Domestic Product to the education.**

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What awaits us in the next period?

Reactions of the trade unions.

- **10 days without payment between September and December;**
- **Continuation of the restructuring process in education system;**
- **A psychological pressure upon the impossibility of payment in the last month of the year;**
- **Pressure on government for the diminishment of unjustifiable budget expenditures;**
- **Pressure on government for defining a clear strategy of the crisis effect diminishment;**
- **If the situation will worsen a general strike oriented towards the government resignation will be possible.**

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