



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación

Conclusions

Working Group 1

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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**

Demands from EI (1)

1. To prepare a statement to authorities such as EU, IMF on the demands of education unions – an EI position paper an appeal on those matters
2. To put forward measures against privatisation at the international level
3. To demand that money that is applied for aid to states is also given to education
4. To provide additional organisational support to trade unions from Balkan countries, as these countries have no access to EU funds

Demands from EI (2)

5. To have a data pool/central data bank on:
 - Similar proposals that are made across countries;
 - Activities that can be jointly undertaken by unions;
 - Positive things that have happened in other countries e.g. setting up of an insurance fund for teachers in Latvia.
 - Different topics e.g. salaries that applies to teachers at different levels in different countries, in order for unions to have a reference point.

6. To have central tools/ideas to fight against the crisis, to put forward argumentation against certain measures:
 - E.g. Increasing class sizes;
 - E.g. Increasing the working week for teachers, also comparing them to the working week in other countries;
 - E.g. Information on strikes in other countries and how effective they were

Demands from EI (3)

7. To use network of contacts in the international institutions to get documents e.g. the World Bank Report on Latvia in 2007, making it available to unions

8. To set up an *Invest in Education* Wiki-site
E.g. For unions to be able to advocate for investment in education
E.g. For unions to put up their research on returns from investment in education

Strategies for Unions – Tactics (1)

1. To research on issues is very important/for unions to be specific in their approach
E.g. rate of pay of teachers as related to pay in industry/economy
E.g. rate of return to investment in education/teachers
2. To have contact with the public – use of media
3. To have contact with parents/parents' associations
4. To have one voice with other education unions and general trade unions
5. To aim for binding results: legislation, collective agreements, accords

Strategies for Unions – Tactics (2)

6. To be quick in responding to the changing situation in their country
7. To be vigilant of governments' mistakes – to catch them out when they put forward the crisis as an excuse for their own wrongdoing
8. To be vigilant to solutions proposed to Government by others e.g. employers - which are disadvantageous to employees

Strategies – What to Deal with/Aim for

1. To raise the level of the importance of social dialogue.
2. To insist that crisis measures to be *ad hoc*
3. Concomitantly, to insist on the need to invest in education in the long term
4. To focus on QUALITY of education
5. To deal with problems not only related to education e.g. privatisation/unemployment in other sectors
6. To fight against privatisation – for this not to become the answer to the crisis
7. To make it an option for teachers who want to work beyond retirement age to be able to do this