

3.3.

Resolutions from the regions

Draft Resolution from the European Region

Proposed by: Executive Board
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The 6th World Congress of Education International (EI), meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) 22 to 26 July 2011

Context

1. Considering that many national governments in Europe are proposing or implementing severe cuts in education funding and presenting these austerity measures as a consequence of the global economic and financial crisis that started in 2007, while others recognise the importance of investing in education in response to the crisis;
2. Considering that the current crisis is the result of inadequate regulation of financial markets and the irresponsible behaviour of financial institutions;
3. Considering that the austerity policies advocated by European governments will impede job growth;
4. Considering that the existence of a huge concentration of money in relatively few private hands and the poverty of public budgets on the other side is damaging the welfare of our countries;
5. Considering that the reduction of education budgets will affect the quality and accessibility of education services at all levels;
6. Considering that, in the short and medium term future, education systems across Europe will experience substantial workforce shortages, mainly due to large numbers of educators reaching their retirement age and the failure of most governments to develop effective recruitment programmes;
7. Whereas education is a fundamental and universal right and a public good whose primary purposes are the development of the potential of the individual, the development of social cohesion and the development of personal well-being;
8. Whereas massive investments and support for the full range of education- Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary School Education, Vocational Education and Training, Lifelong Learning, Higher Education and Research -are widely recognised as a top priority for the sustainability of a knowledge-based society in post-industrial Europe;
9. Whereas the educator, teacher, trainer, lecturer and researcher, plays a central role in the education system;
10. Whereas the educator's working conditions, including an attractive salary, access to a secure and fair pension scheme, opportunities for continuous professional development, a reasonable number of pupils per classroom, health and safety systems to tackle work-related stress and violence and harassment at work are essential prerequisites;

- 55 11. Whereas equal treatment of all educators regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin,
56 disabilities, sexual orientation, spiritual and political beliefs and commitments should be
57 recognised as a non-negotiable standard;
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- 59 12. Having regard to the unique aspects of the European region in terms of its overlapping supra-
60 national institutions and structures and their policies, viz. the Council of Europe, the European
61 Union, the European Free-Trade Association, the European Economic Area, the Euro-zone, the
62 Schengen Area and the European Customs Union, which have a significant impact on the daily
63 lives of European people, and on education systems within Europe;
64
- 65 13. Having regard, especially, to the uniqueness of the European Union, which includes in its Treaty
66 the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the possibility for the social partners to participate in the
67 process of developing legislation, and the competence to *"contribute to the development of*
68 *quality education by encouraging co-operation between Member States and, if necessary, by*
69 *supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member*
70 *States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural*
71 *and linguistic diversity"*;
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- 73 14. Having regard to the existing European and EU-related education policies, viz. the Bologna
74 Process for Higher Education and Research, the Copenhagen Process for Vocational Education
75 and Training, the Lifelong Learning programme, the Open Method of Coordination and its related
76 European benchmarking process, which have a major impact on national education systems;
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- 78 15. Having regard to the increasing pressure for alternative funding especially in the area of Higher
79 Education and Research and the demand for modernisation and change of management
80 approach that lead to an increasing commercialisation and commodification of education;
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82 **Action**

83 **The 6th World Congress of Education International (EI),**

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- 86 1. Urges European governments to maintain and to increase the level of public investment in
87 education at all levels as well as to defend education as a public service;
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- 89 2. Calls on national governments and employers' organisations in Europe to recruit increased
90 numbers of highly educated teachers at all levels of education;
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- 92 3. Calls on national governments and employers' organisations in Europe to work with the teacher
93 trade-union movement through social dialogue and collective bargaining with a view to seeking
94 better working conditions and equality of treatment for all education workers in the terms stated
95 in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Resolution;
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- 97 4. Calls on the European and national policymakers to adopt and implement appropriate policies for
98 developing effective high quality, equitable and sustainable education systems at all levels of
99 education in Europe taking into account the equality and gender balance ;
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- 101 5. Demands that the European institutions and national governments, in implementing the
102 European policies and processes as described in paragraph 13 of this Resolution, must provide
103 for appropriate public investment, for the full involvement of the education stakeholders and for
104 public accountability at all steps of the processes;
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- 106 6. Calls on governments to change economic and fiscal policies in terms of distribution of the GNP;
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- 108 7. Demands that European Governments use fair and progressive taxation measures to obtain the
109 additional revenue necessary to increase their investment in Education, in order to provide high
110 quality Education services for all, and prevent the privatisation and commercialisation of the
111 education services;
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- 113 8. Mandates the EI and the European Region, ETUCE- to promote and defend vigorously the
114 principles stated in this Resolution and support related actions both of affiliates, in their efforts
115 and struggles at national level, and at international level throughout Europe.