



# Resolution on the Impact of Neoliberal Policies on Education

Submitted for adoption by OLME (Greece) and TUS (Serbia) to the ETUCE Special Conference, the Regional Special Conference of Education International, meeting in Vienna on 26-27 November 2014

The ETUCE Special Conference in Vienna, further to and consistent with the [Resolution on the Teaching Profession](#), the [Urgent Resolution on Greece](#), the [Resolution on the Financial and Economic Crisis](#), the [Resolution “Those who have the least are those who suffer more from the budgetary cuts”](#) and the [ETUCE Policy Paper on Vocational Education and Training](#), adopted by the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International, in Budapest on 26 November 2012,

## **Recognising that**

1. The neoliberal policies implemented by some governments in Europe with a view to dealing with the economic crisis have had a serious impact on public services and education.
2. Due to these policies and the European Fiscal Pact pursued by the EU, the Troika and some EU member states, austerity measures and budget cuts continue to be imposed on the people of Europe, leading to ever more drastic cuts in workers' wages and pensions, as well as in the social welfare budgets of EU member states. These policies have a particular harsh impact on some countries, especially in Southern and Eastern Europe, and are also enforced in Central and Eastern European countries.
3. The debts have not been caused by the people of Europe, but primarily by the banking sector. With the existing austerity measures, wealth is being redistributed in favour of the rich and powerful at the expense of workers and the majority of the people.
4. In the education sector, the budget cuts have resulted in a large reduction of public spending, which is already at unacceptably low levels in many European countries. Some of the effects that these policies imply for education staff and institutions include school closures, bigger class sizes and the diminution of learning opportunities culminating in the removal of whole education disciplines and/or specialisms in some countries, e.g. in Greece where each year more than 20.000 students in vocational education and training are deprived of their educational choices due to budget cuts in education.
5. Cuts in teachers' salaries and pensions, dismissal of teaching staff combined with fewer permanent teaching contracts and demotion, an increase in flexible work and compulsory job mobility as well as an increase in teachers' workload seriously impact on the attractiveness of the teaching profession with the consequence of more education staff leaving the profession and changing careers.



*The Future of the Teaching Profession*

6. The EU has been promoting market values of entrepreneurship and competitiveness in the education sector at the expense of universal human values, through strategies such as the Rethinking Education strategy; similarly it has been promoting fragmented knowledge and skills at the expense of broader education and the pedagogy which should be shaping the democratic citizens of the future.

**Calls for**

coordinated and united action by member organisations across Europe for free and public education for all without discrimination.