



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

Head Office

5, Bd du Roi Albert II
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 11
Fax +32 2 224 06 06
headoffice@ei-ie.org
<http://www.ei-ie.org>

President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

Minister for Education
Slovenia

Brussels, 13th April, 2012

Dear Minister,

We have been advised by the Education, Science and Culture Trade Union of Slovenia, which is the Education International member organisation in Slovenia, of the extraordinary scale of the cuts in the salaries of public service workers and in the budget for education services which your government intends to implement.

We wish to remind you that education is recognised internationally as a key instrument in any country's efforts to overcome its economic difficulties. EI and its 400 member organisations throughout the world, believe austere economic measures are not the solution to economic crisis. We advocate for growth and development, which can only be achieved through building strong democratic societies, taking sustainable economic measures and providing innovative leadership. Increased investment in quality public education is at the heart of any comprehensive solution to the current economic crisis.

Investment in education means investment in teachers and in the ancillary services and facilities that make for an effective and successful education system. In this context cutting expenditure on teachers' salaries, which will make the profession less attractive to high calibre candidates for teaching and drive effective teachers out of the profession, is short-sighted and counterproductive. Many of the other cutbacks which your Government proposes will also undermine the quality of your education services and have negative and damaging effects on the education of the children of Slovenia into the future.

Education International joins with its member organisation, ESTUS, in asking you to rescind the proposed cutbacks in the education budget and to restore the salary levels and conditions of service of teachers to those which have heretofore underpinned the high quality of the Slovenian education system, as indicated in its OECD ranking.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen,
General Secretary

cc Branimir Strukelj,
ESCTUS General Secretary



