



Ljubljana, April 12th, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Approximately two weeks ago Slovenian government forwarded a proposal of this year's balanced budget amendment, in which the government proposes serious cuts, especially with regard to wages and rights of public sector employees. A few days ago, on April 5 to be exact, the government already accepted the balanced budget amendment proposal, which suggests that the trade unions had approximately 5 days to carry out negotiations and social dialogue. It is obvious to everyone that not much can be achieved (in terms of social dialogue) in such short period of time about such brutal cuts suggested by the government. One of the suggestions in the proposal is a 15% decrease in public sector employees' salaries, but there are other severe cuts proposed as well (concerning the rights of public sector employees).

The government is trying to save the most on education; they wish to decrease funding for education, culture and science for more than 260 million euros, out of which 175 million for education alone (12.2 percent of funding less than last year)! As if decreasing the salaries and other incomes was not bad enough, the government decided to save the most on public education by:

- increasing the number of students per classroom (in schools and kindergartens),
- raising the norms for librarians and counsellors
- increasing teachers' quota (direct teaching time) for teachers and kindergarten teachers,
- raising the norms for cooks, cleaning staff, accountants,
- merging schools (and consequently closing down smaller ones),
- etc.

ESTUS has already brought the question of collective strike to a vote and the majority of those employed in the fields of education, science and culture is in favour of participating in the strike that is to take place on April 18 2012. Most of other public sector trade unions have also decided to participate. Our common demands are as follows:

We demand that the government of the Republic of Slovenia withdraws:

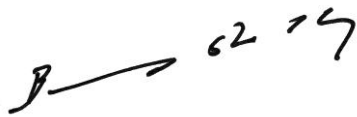
1. all the unjust measures that are tearing this country apart
2. all those measures that are lowering the quality of public education
3. the measure that is decreasing the salaries of public sector employees

Dearest colleagues, we would appreciate a letter of support from you to help us during these difficult times and in our effort to preserve what is left of our social country and to keep our education public and available to all.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards

Branimir Strukelj, general secretary,
Education, Science and Culture Trade Union of Slovenia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Strukelj', followed by the date '62 19'.