



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

**TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Brussels, 13th May, 2014

**URGENT ACTION APPEAL: UKRAINE - STESU
SOLIDARITY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED URGENTLY**

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President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to seek your solidarity and financial support to help our colleagues from the Union of Education and Science Employees of Ukraine (STESU), whose headquarters in Kiev burned down during the country's recent political turmoil.

The Trade Union House in Kiev, where the Federation of Trade Unions in Ukraine and STESU had their offices, was completely destroyed by the fire, leaving several hundred trade union workers without workplaces. All office equipment and supplies and all union documents were lost in the fire. STESU is struggling to resume activities at a time when the union movement should contribute to resolving political tensions in Ukraine peacefully and through dialogue. Restoring operational capability requires significant resources, including the acquisition of new office premises.

Representatives of EI and of the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), EI's regional organisation in Europe, including, Fred van Leeuwen, the EI General Secretary and Martin Romer, the ETUCE European Director, have visited Kiev to assess the situation on the ground and collect information to prepare coordinated support for our Ukrainian colleagues. STESU is reorganising and re-establishing its administrative structure in temporary office premises but it urgently needs its own permanent office base. Otherwise, it will not be able to play a role in defusing political tensions in the eastern regions of Ukraine and in preserving the unity of the country.

EI and ETUCE have agreed to try to help STESU relocate its offices and re-establish communications with its regional and local branches. They propose to provide a loan of €200,000 from the Solidarity Fund to STESU to assist the organisation with the purchase of new premises. EI will provide half of that loan from existing solidarity funds and the balance from responses from member organisations to this and the earlier Urgent Action Appeal. The Solidarity Fund has received €20,000 thus far in response to the earlier appeal which leaves a balance of €80,000 to be achieved before the full amount of the loan may be made available to STESU.

We call upon you to support STESU's rebuilding efforts through the EI Solidarity Fund by sending financial contributions to:

**Education International
ING Bank
Avenue Marnix, 24, B-1000 Brussels - Belgium
IBAN: BE05 3101 0061 7075
Account: 310-1006170-75
SWIFT: BBRUBEBB
with the reference "Solidarity with STESU/Ukraine"**

The Presidium of STESU wrote recently to call on "*EI, ETUCE and teacher unions from other countries to support the aspirations of the people of Ukraine to live in a democratic and free country.*" You may send your messages of solidarity with STESU to Mr Georgii Trukhanov, President, and Ms Kateryna Maliuta-Osaulova, International Secretary, at trukhanov.g@gmail.com and kateryna.osv@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary