

Impact of the crisis on education

Findings from EI membership surveys

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EUNEC SEMINAR *Education and Training in Period of Economic crisis*
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Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación

Outline

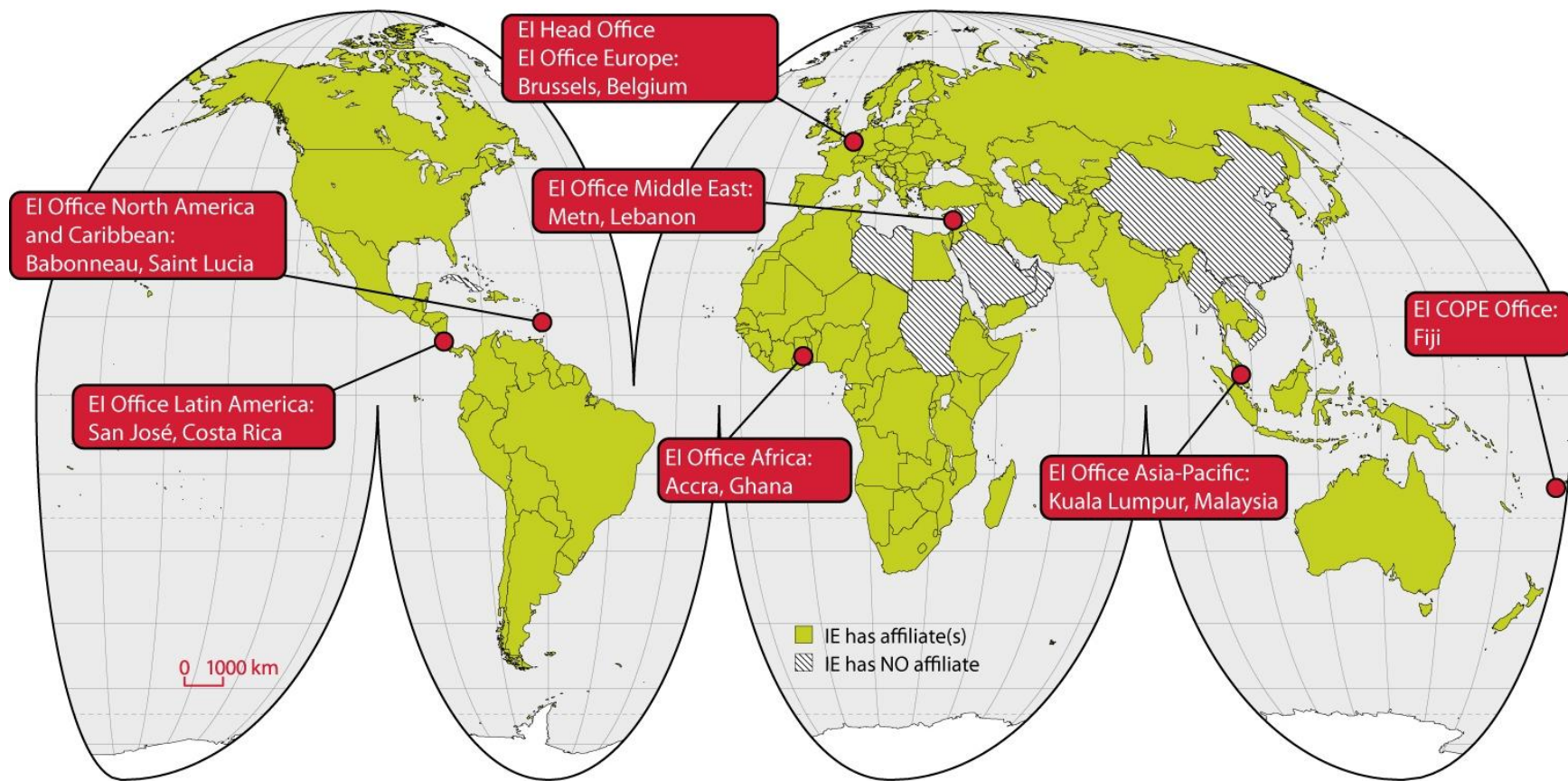
- Education International (EI) – who are we?

What do we do?

- EI's work in the context of the crisis
- Survey results & case studies
- Ongoing research work

Who are we? What do we do?

- Global union federation representing education workers
- 402 member organisations in 173 countries
- Protect the human & trade union rights of education workers
- Improve teachers' welfare & status
- Promote free quality education for all – publicly funded & regulated education systems
- Working within trade union movement with other GUFs & partnership with(in) organisations (e.g. GCE, Oxfam/Novib, Action-Aid, UNESCO)



El's work in context of crisis

- 'Hands up' Campaign: www.ei-ie.org/handsup
- Resources: fact-sheets, reports, *El-Action Aid* toolkit for member organizations
- Conferences, seminars & strategies
- Global membership surveys & news monitoring
- Case-study field research

Invest in education: smart strategy for recovery

Through our member unions around the world, Education International is working hard to persuade governments to invest in education as a strategic response to the crisis, not to cut it. Give us the tools to teach, to help build the knowledge society of the future. We are part of the solution. We are 30 million strong, from early childhood to higher education, we can make a difference!



Unions worldwide call for the implementation of a global Financial Transaction Tax

Ahead of the informal meeting of the vice Finance Ministers and deputy Central Bankers of the Group of 20 nations convening today in Berlin, trade unionists and other activists around the world launched the "Make Finance Pay Week" on Monday calling for the implementation of a global tax on financial transaction. [...]

[>>> Find out more](#)



Mapping the impact, seeking solutions

Is education in your country affected by the crisis? Our interactive maps show what's happening in each country, and how teacher unions are responding.



Pick your region:

Africa
Asia
Caribbean
Europe
Middle East
North America
Pacific
South America



Read the Full Report



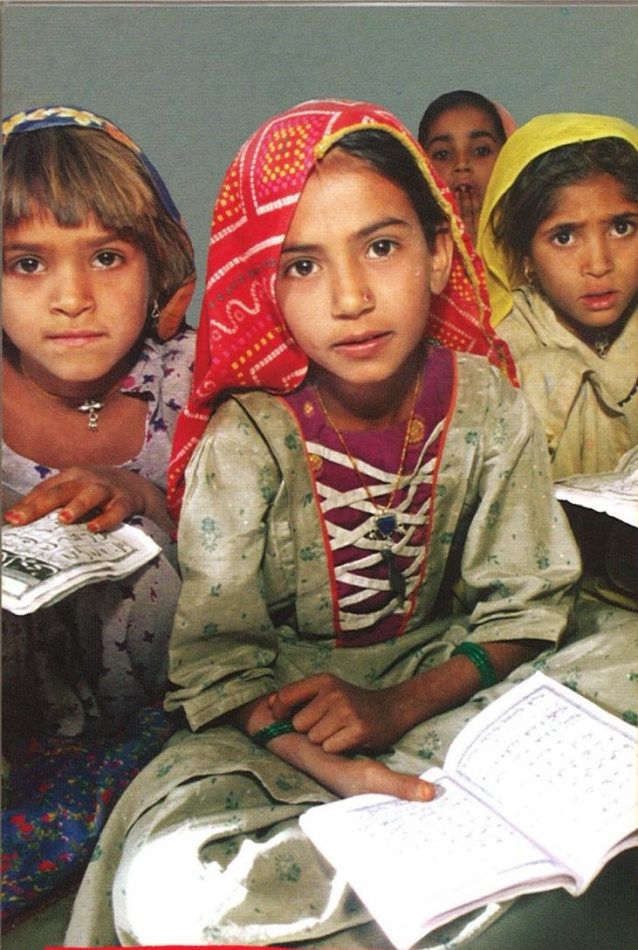
Affected by the Crisis?



EI held a high-level seminar on the impact of the global economic crisis on education in central and eastern Europe. [Click here to read more.](#)

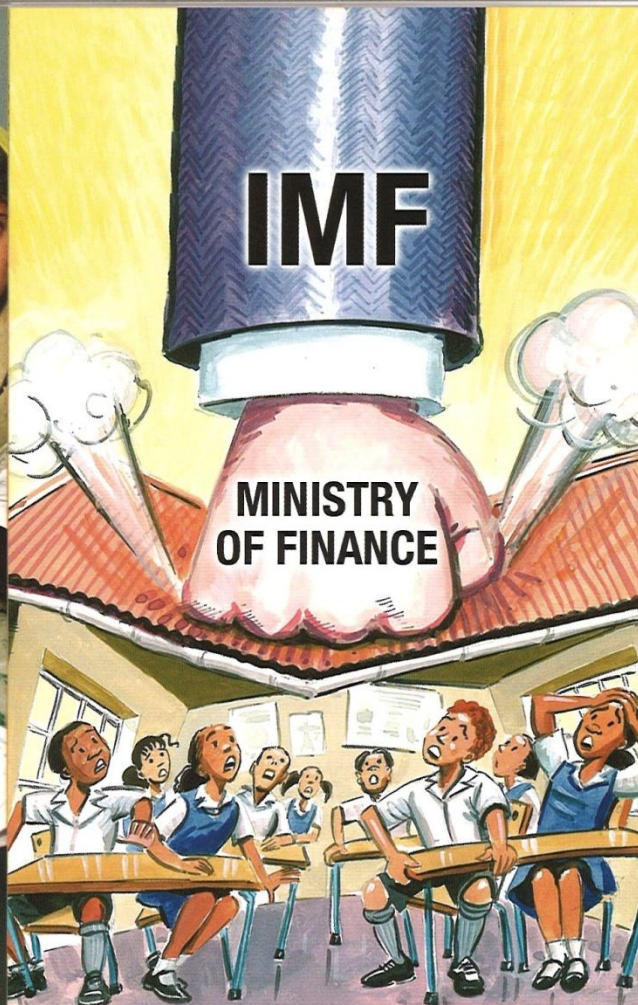


Bob Harris, EI's Senior Consultant to the General Secretary, shares information on the impact of the financial crisis on education funding, and how education can be part of the solution on his blog. [Click here to read it.](#)



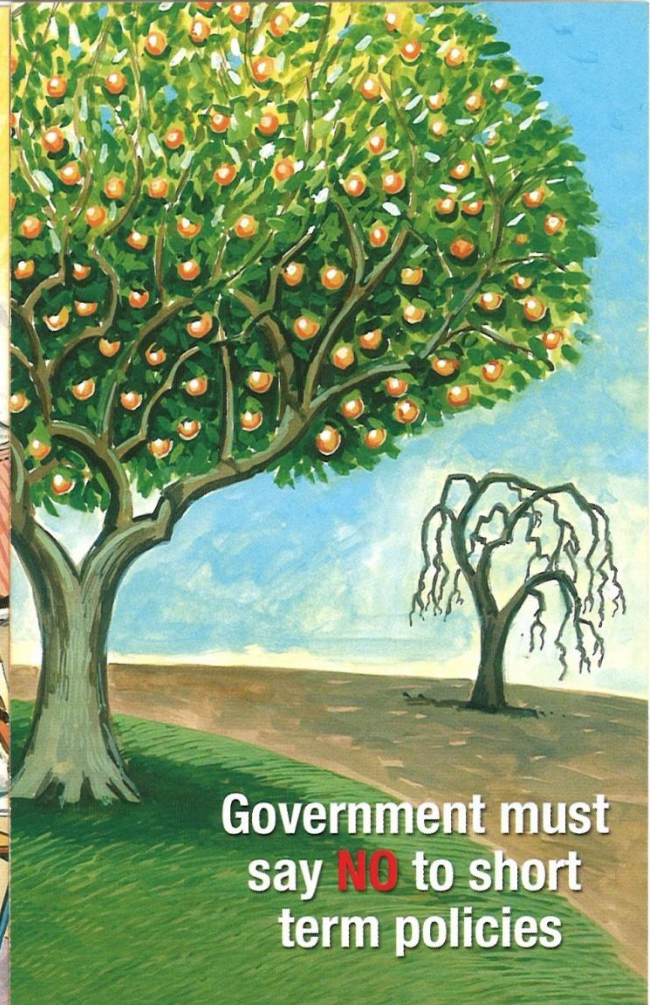
Ministries of Finance
must prioritize
education spending
to deliver on our rights

www.actionaid.org



It is time to resist!
Put education first!

www.actionaid.org



Government must
say **NO** to short
term policies

Quality public education
is a long term
economic investment

www.actionaid.org



Follow-up survey: impact of crisis on education

- Follow-up from January-March 2009 survey undertaken in September 2009
- Issues addressed:
 - ❖ consequences for education budgets
 - ❖ Impact on teachers' working conditions and salaries
 - ❖ Measures at the school level
 - ❖ Role of financial 'aid' instruments
 - ❖ Unions responses, actions & expectations
- Collate information from member organisations (union perspective)

Follow-up survey: impact of crisis on education

- 62 union responses representing 48 countries in all regions
- Europe & North America most affected regions
- Uneven & evolving consequences on education
- impact on education sector dependent on government policies adopted

Evident policy directions / government measures

- **Protection of education budgets** despite expected budget decreases
- **Stimulus packages** launched - short-term measures (education generally not a priority)
- **Reduced public expenditure** to offset fiscal deficits

Impact: Central & Eastern Europe

- hard-hit by crisis – high exposure to external markets
- tightened public spending as a result of loan programmes to reverse soaring national deficits (Belarus, BiH, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Serbia & Ukraine)
- governments have reduced education expenditure, including higher education (Croatia (9%), Czech Republic (5% in 2010), Estonia, Hungary (10%), Latvia, Lithuania (higher education not mentioned), Romania, Serbia (25%), Slovakia)
- lowered salaries (Latvia up to 30%, initial increased of salaries in Estonia lowered back to 2008 level), redundancies (support staff) & hiring freezes, delayed pay-rise (Romania)
- GCE argues that IMF loans are expected to have disastrous effect on education policy (GCE 2009 'Education on the Brink')

Case study: Latvia

- 7.5 billion Euro bailout from IMF and EU
- 47 schools shut down as from Sept 2009, 100 schools closed or merged in total
- Union's report that approx. 6000 teachers laid off (from 35,000 total)
- Teachers' salaries cut by 30% in September 2009
- 20% cut in wages in public administration, education, pensions and health spending, further public wage cuts expected
- Cuts in higher education up to 49%
- 26% of population living in poverty (Eurostat)

Impact: Western Europe

- Iceland & Ireland - economies hardest hit, reduced education budgets (Ireland: 10% cut at primary level, actual increase but lower than previous yrs) leading to redundancies & hiring freezes in education
- Countries currently facing cuts in public spending: Spain, Portugal, Italy, Denmark
- Unions in Germany & Spain argue that crisis is used as pretext to promote more private spending in education
- (announced) increased investment in public services incl. education: France (higher ed.), Germany (incr. education budget to 12 billion Euro in 2013), Portugal (infrastructure)
- But: 16,000 teaching posts not being filled in France in 2009, UK (particularly private sector), Sweden (hiring fewer teachers & layoffs)
- Investment in higher education: Norway & Sweden

Case study: Spain

- Government introduce austerity plan to cut public spending by 6 billion Euro in May to offset public deficit (11.2% in 2009)
- Tuition fees applied/increased at higher education level, cuts in higher education in some regions (Madrid, Valencia, Cataluña & Galicia), R&D
- June 2010: public sector employees face wage reduction up to 7%, on average 5% (relative to salary level) & freezing of pensions
- 13, 000 civil servant jobs to be cut
- 2011 wage freeze for civil servants to be implemented
- Schools face cuts up to 10%
- 8 June: public sector intends to strike
- Unemployment: 20 percent

Reduced education spending

- Salary cuts between 5% to 30% in many countries of central and eastern europe in all sectors
- Increased decentralisation of funding to municipal level & private entities
- Loans have led to tightened public spending – conditionalities ultimately affect education
- Reduced spending affects all levels of education
- Cuts at regional or municipal level not reflected: unions in **Finland, Sweden & Switzerland** report reduced spending

Impact on teachers' & working conditions

- Cuts in salaries, redundancies and non-salary compensation
- Lay-offs and hiring freezes
- Job losses for support staff
- Reductions of retirement programs, maternity leave, child-care and health insurance
- Increased hiring of unqualified teachers
- increased workloads

Measures at the school level

- Closure and merging of small public (rural) schools & special needs schools in 11 countries
- Expansion of class sizes (in some countries already high)
- Special education classes reduced (Ireland, Switzerland)
- Curricula reduced: foreign language classes (Cyprus, Ireland & Poland) & guidance counselling (Sweden, Spain)
- Rise in tuition fees or voluntary contributions

Impact higher education

- Reduced spending higher education – Ireland (5%), Latvia (reduced by half since 2008), Poland & Hungary (4%-7%), Estonia (9%), U.K. (budget cuts up to 14% some universities), Portugal
- Cuts in teaching budgets at university level (UK, Belgium (Fl.), Estonia & Hungary) – lead to fewer study programmes & lowered employee salaries (Greece, Ireland & Latvia), hiring freezes (Estonia) (Source: EUA 2010)
- Increased/introduced tuition fees for students (Sweden – foreign students, Croatia – but protested)
- EUA argues ‘funding is increasingly targeted to achieve targeted objectives in line with national priorities’ – less autonomy universities
- Increased investment in higher education (Sweden & Norway), research (Sweden: 500 million Euro), VET (Norway: 9%)
- Ireland: funding of requalification schemes

financial 'aid' instruments

- Countries in CEE region secured different types of **loans** from IMF & EU during 2009 → conditionalities to reduce public budgets
- **Economic stimulus packages (22 countries)** - few with an education component, mostly focused on investment in school infrastructure (France, Norway, Portugal, U.K.)
- **Declining aid** to developing countries (SSA & Asia-Pacific) combined with budget pressures, slower economic growth – thwart progress to achieving EFA and MDG goals
- Increased **poverty & marginalisation** (EFA GMR 2010)
- high **teacher shortages**, poor teacher training, unqualified teachers

Union responses in context of crisis

- Unions only formally involved in discussions with national & local governments
- little union involvement in decision-making process
- Collective action of trade union → lobbying, demonstrations, negotiations
- Successes include negotiating non-closure of schools, teachers have not been laid off & lowered cuts
- Expect cutbacks in education spending (2011 – 2012)

Ongoing research work

- EIRI/OSI research project: 'Assessing the impact of global economic crisis in CEE' (Slovakia, Serbia, Romania & Poland)
- EIRI/UvA-IS-Academie research project: 'Education & the Global Economic Crisis: Effects and Policy Responses' (4 case studies, Mali & Bolivia)

What does it all mean? Where are we going?

- Countries in W. Europe just starting to feel impact on national budgets – what price will education pay?
- Loans will continue to have negative impact on education
- Exacerbate developments already taking place – lack of teachers, reduced posts
- Crisis used as pretext to introduce reforms, increase focus on effectiveness & student outcomes, reduce autonomy, increase privatisation?
- Aid-commitments to developing countries are lagging – how are the EFA goals going to be achieved?

Thank you!

Questions?