



Resolution

Against Privatisation and Commercialisation of Education

**Adopted by the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International,
meeting in Belgrade, on 6-8 December 2016**

The ETUCE Conference:

1. Reaffirms that education, from early childhood education through higher education, is a fundamental human right and a public good, and that its provision is the principal responsibility of governments, including the duties of the state to adequately finance them, and to do this in consultation and negotiation with representatives of education unions;
2. Notes that privatisation and commercialisation in and of education, in its many forms and arrangements, has negative consequences for children and young people, teachers and education support personnel, and additional costs for society as a whole;
3. Notes with concern the increased engagement and promotion of private actors in education governance (provision, funding, management and policy-making), coupled with major challenges in terms of educational access, equity and quality;
4. Notes with concern the fact that in several European countries, the privatisation of education is a creeping and indirect privatisation. Policymakers do not realise and acknowledge the danger and the full consequences of this kind of commercialisation;
5. Notes with concern the evidence of the spread of so-called low-fee private schools and their impact on the provision of free public education for all;
6. Observes that the privatisation and commercialisation of education exacerbates socio-economic inequality, gender bias, ethnic and religious segregation and undermines social solidarity;
7. Considers that private schools and forms of Public-Private Partnerships divert funding and support for state funded schools, and undermine public education.
8. Sensitise public opinion by demonstrating the full effects of creeping and indirect privatisation and commercialisation of education on the free and easy access for all citizens to a good public education for everyone;



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9. Fight against the systematic use of private consulting companies by the government which insidiously allow them to interfere in the public education system.

Calls on ETUCE and its member organisations to:

10. Denounce the action of governments and public institutions that have adopted public sector austerity policies in order to implement a concerted assault on public education and to drive through policies of privatisation, marketization and commercialisation in education;
11. Deplore those European governments that, under the cloak of their avowed commitment to international aid and development, have sought to create conditions for privatisation, commercialisation and profiteering in education in the developing world;
12. Welcome the commitment of EI, including the global response to privatisation and commercialisation in education, together with the actions of ETUCE member organisations in exposing and challenging actions by governments that are antithetical to the provision of free quality public education for all.

Mandates ETUCE to:

13. Collect, publish and disseminate with the support of member organisations, evidence on the activities of private actors in the promotion and implementation of privatisation and commercialisation policies and practices and the outcomes of their activities;
14. Encourage all ETUCE member organisations to engage their memberships, and allies in communities and civil society, in pro-active campaigns to defend public education and oppose attempts to privatise and commercialise education.