



## Education for Human Rights, Social Justice, International Understanding, and Citizenship

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### ***Information and Projects***

ISDUE prepares and publishes reports and other informative material. This is also available on the Internet [www.ISDUE.org](http://www.ISDUE.org). ISDUE encourages and supports partnerships between member organisations on international educational projects.

### ***Social Integration through Education***

Credit to SI:

"Education is the key to sustainable development, democracy and peace within and among countries, and thus an indispensable means for effective social integration and participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century. Education is the most important tool for achieving freedom, progress and social justice. Education is a human right.

All children, boys and girls alike, should have access to full primary education. The international community must step up its efforts to achieve that aim by 2015.

Primary education is the first step; post primary education systems in developing countries must be strengthened and gender disparities in primary and post primary education eliminated. A knowledge-based development strategy is needed to establish knowledge as a key element of global progress."

The Socialist Internationals' XXII Congress took place on 27, 28, 29 October in São Paulo, Brazil, under the heading 'The Return of Politics: For just and responsible global governance -For globalisation governed by the people'.

### ***Education and work***

Investments in culture, knowledge, education and training are unavoidable conditions for sustainable development, able to keep together the reasons of competition and the defence and enlargement of rights and citizenship.

Through education every citizen can be enabled to participate in the working world by acquiring adequate, appropriate skills and knowledge which also allow to face the flexibility of change and the crisis of the labour market.

It is clear that knowledge is a value in itself, it cannot be determined by anything else because it is the basis of civilisation, of any individual or social community, but today more than ever the connection between knowledge and work becomes closer and closer.

Rising educational levels and increasing training opportunities for all, using new methods, are basic conditions to create more and better jobs: we need to extend basic education and its cultural quality and extend mass schooling, avoid early dual paths, integrate education and training, learning and learning by doing.

### ***Lifelong Learning***

The knowledge society, created by economic development, the new labour market, the development of technology and innovation, require a system of lifelong learning for people. Through it people can develop towards higher positions, better opportunities, more decent and richer chances of life.

Four main objectives of lifelong learning can be indicated: self realisation, active citizenship, social inclusion, employability and professional flexibility.

### ***Principles of Education Policy***

The main goal of a social democratic and socialist education policy is the desire to see the fundamentals of freedom, equality, justice and solidarity delivered in an integrated education system.

- Education is a universal human right and not a privilege in society; on its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, justice, democracy and sustainable human development.
- The denial of the right to education hurts people's capacity to work productively and to protect themselves and their families. On a society-wide scale, the denial of education harms the cause of democracy, social progress, mutual understanding.
- A policy of justice can only be based on access and acquisition of knowledge that today is the great driving force, not only of wealth, but also of inequality.
- For this reason we refuse to include education culture and health in the list of goods and services subject to world trade competition.
- On the other side education must ensure that technological advances enable societies to invest in its human resources and the risk of digital divide should be transformed in an international digital opportunity.
- Everybody must be enabled to develop their individual potential in a many faceted and extensive educational process, where individuals are treated with dignity and allowed to develop from their school experience a level of self esteem, self discipline and sheer enjoyment of learning.

### ***Activities***

The International Union of Social Democratic Teachers was founded in 1951. ISDUE has a worldwide network of national organisations. The members are either social-democratic / socialist Parties, affiliated to the Socialist International, or educational organisations associated to the Parties.

### ***Organisation***

The General Assembly convenes once a year and the Executive Committee, with one representative from every member organisation, meets through the year at various venues in the member countries.

Nearly all Western European countries are members, and an increasing number of Eastern European countries. There are also members in Africa and South America.

### ***EU Commission***

CSSEU, the commission of socialist teachers in Europe was founded in 1970. The commission works independently, organising conferences and debates on matters concerning education and its policies within their regions.

### ***Congresses, Conferences, Seminars***

ISDUE organises meetings every year, in conjunction with the General Assembly, dealing with varied aspects of educational policies. Recent meetings include:

Sheffield (UK) 1985, Madrid (Spain) 1986, Rome (Italy) 1987, Berlin West (Germany FR) 1988, Basel (Switzerland) 1989, Lisbon (Portugal) 1990, Helsinki (Finland) 1993, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 1994, Pisa (Italy) 1995, Birmingham (UK) 1996, Prague (Czech Rep) 1997, Oporto (Portugal) 2001, Italy 2002, Bucharest (Romania) 2003, Sofia (Bulgaria) 2004, Bratislava (Slovakia) 2005, Sao Paulo (Brazil) 2006, Vienna (Austria) 2007, Copenhagen (Denmark) 2008, Budapest (Hungary) 2008.

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