

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:  
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**  
2<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE   
PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 23-25, 2007

**ADOPTED MOTION**

**Abolish the Bologna process – for a Higher education policy guaranteeing free access to knowledge and science for all**

Capitalist globalisation has constructed its economic, political and cultural hegemony on the basis of a utilitarian model of social relationships and practices, which is legitimated by the notion of the market as the ultimate and only source of moral, political and social authority. In the context of this economist orthodoxy, which the E.U.'s policies are fanatically promoting, Higher Education, in general, and the universities, in particular, are perceived by the Commission as a new, vast market that will provide different kinds of educational services; thus as a privileged terrain for international economic competition especially with the US. *The White Paper on Teaching and Learning* (1995), the Bologna Declaration (1999) and the reaffirmation of its objectives in the meetings of European Ministers of Higher Education in Prague (2001), Berlin (2003) etc have made it clear that the establishment of "The European Higher Education Area" is informed by the requirement for the "entrepreneurial university" as the only viable educational model. By contrast with the European academic "humanist" tradition, the "entrepreneurial" university is considered flexible enough to meet the demands of the market which, according to the neoliberal ideology that the European educational policies are expressive of, are identified with the needs of society.

In accordance with the Lisbon Agenda the aim of the European Higher Education Area is to create a European market of educational services where the universities are forced to cut down on the cost and time required for the production of educational "goods" while, at the same time, state funding is reduced to a minimum. All this in the name of "competitiveness" and "efficiency" in the race with the US and other providers of the transnational educational market.

So-called experts and entrepreneurs began to plan a new University model of teaching, administration and academic research able to guarantee its economic survival and potentially profit. In this context, the European democratic tradition of education as a public and free good can no longer be sustained. Neither can education as a process through and by which young people are educated in the collective principles of democratic rights, social allegiance and critical thinking. This is a major implication of one of the most crucial aspects of this neoliberal onslaught: the shift of the emphasis from the "teaching" and basic research component to "learning" in the sense of a narrow vocational training. The basic question is no longer how to acquire a whole, complete scientific knowledge but how to be able to fit into and adapt to the flexible, precarious and competitive labour market. Consequently the most

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important objective of the “Bologna University” is to provide an obedient and semiqualfied working force for the labour market.

Typically, in the Bologna Declaration one finds as a main conclusion the "Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees (...) in order to promote European citizens employability and the international competitiveness of the European higher education system", and the Tuning project places as the core of the reform the education of responsible citizens, that is, citizens ready to accept a precarious and insecure work place.

The European Left resists to the process of transforming Higher Education into a motor of the neoliberal economic model in the interest of private business and the market. We are supporting a European High School policy – the “European University” as a public and free service, able to guarantee all the citizens’ right to free access to knowledge and science

The European Left has to promote strong and efficient policies of resistance to the neoliberal project and to contribute to the creation and consolidation of students’, professors’ and citizens’ unions, movements and networks ready to fight in that direction.

We are convinced that only a widespread consciousness and awareness about the real aims of the Bologna Process can change that trend, as was the case with the European Constitutional Treaty, neglected by people of France and Netherlands in national referenda for its inscription of today practiced neo-liberal economic policy into a constitution. Therefore we call all our membership and sympathizers to take actively part in the necessary information work and to encourage and support young people and students to demand their educational rights. The European educational policy of their national governments must be changed!

Indeed, the real battle means to defend the human right to education as a free and public good, that is, free of the bondage of the market forces, a battle that would substantially contribute to the European space through the education of citizens, sensitive and alert to the safeguarding and promotion of justice, peace and the common welfare of the people.