



Fédération des syndicats SUD étudiant

Fédération Syndicale Etudiante

Press Release

11th Novembre 2012

14th November 2012 : Support for people struggling against austerity and for social justice!

The French trade unions CFDT, CGT, FSU, SUD-Solidaires and UNSA will take part, with all European trade unionism, to the day of action and solidarity of 14 November 2012. The SUD-Etudiant-e Federation and the Federation Syndicale Etudiante also support the call for mobilization and will take part to the local and national initiatives planned for that day.

That day, we will express our strong opposition to the austerity measures which affect successively the countries and which are likely to degrade our living condition and our condition of study and work.

In Italy, those measures comprise, among other things, the reduction of the number of employees by 10% and a 3-year freeze on wages (300 000 jobs cuts).

In Portugal, the minimum wage was reduced to 470 Euros in 2012 while 20% of students (more than 12 000) lost their grant. Measures breaking Employment Law were implemented: diminution of redundancy terms, limitation of the unemployment benefit, reduction of the overtime work costs and of the paid leave and bank holidays.

In Greece, the minimum age of retirement increased to 67 years, about 50 agencies were privatized or merged (23 privatization projects by 2013), family allowances, social help related to income and pensions for single women were reduced.

For those governments, the goal is to improve competitiveness by making the labor market more flexible, by reducing the costs and expenses of work, to the direct benefit of the capital. Thus, competitiveness has to be understood as a mean for the Bosses to have a workforce more exploitable, flexible and available. In spite of the change of government, those measures will soon be implemented in France. Between 2013 and 2015 the staff of most of the ministries will be reduced by 2.5% per year (Ministry of health, transportation, housing...). A spending cuts of 7% is expected for 2013 and 4% for 2014 and 2015. That will certainly not help the increasing number of unemployed which reached a new record in September

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Precarious situations are increasing. Millions of workers only get shorter and shorter fixed-term contracts. Redundancy plan get multiplied. 11 millions of people are touched by exclusion or poverty, including a lot of retired people. Wages in private as in public sector are stagnating. How can they say people are leaving beyond their means and have to pay the crisis!

Higher education and scientific research are not spared. Budget freezes are expected and their consequences: elimination of streams, classes overcrowded, and increase of education cost... Thanks to LRU law (2007), hardly fought, a quarter of French universities have budget difficulties but socialist government didn't intend to reverse it.

In view of a crisis helping the rise of fascism, a crisis that affects the people in the most precarious situations, women, and migrants first... Solidarity, Struggle and equality must be our way! People are in no way guilty: economic system is over. No plot, no conspiracy, let's fight capitalism!

In view of international attacks (Bologna Process, Lisbon Strategy, G8, G20...) to develop coordinated replies are necessary: let's organize and unite students in an internationalist dimension. On 14th November, struggle movement (trade-unions, associations, International Student Movement, "occupy" movements, individuals...) have to demonstrate to weigh up this one day... and for a long time!

In view of capitalism attacks and economic austerity, let's impose wealth-sharing by our collective organization!

Students, Workers, Unemployed and retired people...

Let's struggle continue and intensify itself: it will lead us to victory!

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