



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale



ETUCE – European Trade Union Committee for Education
Education International - European Region

ETUCE-CSEE

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To:

Mr. Ilie Bolojan, Prime Minister of Romania (pm@gov.ro)

Mr. Daniel David, Minister of Education (cabinet@edu.gov.ro)

Cc:

Mr. Simion Hancescu, President of FSLI Romania (presedinte@fsl.ro)

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Mr. Anton Hadar, President of FNE Alma Mater (office@almamater.ro)

Solidarity with Romanian Educators and Education Trade Unions

Dear Prime Minister Bolojan,

Dear Minister David,

The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), representing 122 education trade unions in 51 countries and over 4 million teachers and education personnel across Europe, expresses its deep concern regarding the recent austerity measures affecting Romania's education system.

ETUCE is recognised as a European Social Partner for education at EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is also the European Region of Education International (EI), the global federation of education trade unions.

The fiscal reforms introduced by the Romanian government—without consultation—have led to a significant deterioration in the working conditions of educators and the quality of education. These measures include increased teaching loads, drastic reductions in hourly pay, the merging of thousands of teaching positions, and the closure of up to 1,000 rural schools. Scholarships have been cut, and class sizes have grown, disproportionately affecting disadvantaged communities.

Despite the severe social consequences, these reforms yield minimal fiscal savings—only 0.21% of GDP—while undermining the very foundation of Romania's future: its education system. Teachers now earn less per hour than many unskilled professions, a stark indicator of the devaluation of the teaching profession.



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These last-minute drastic measures have left schools and educators in disarray and they were imposed on the education sector without any consultation. ETUCE and its members insist on the correct implementation of **principle 8 on social dialogue** and involvement of workers of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**: “The social partners shall be consulted on the design and implementation of economic, employment and social policies according to national practices”, in line with **ILO Convention No. 144** and **Recommendation No. 152 on Tripartite Consultation**.

ETUCE recognises that EU fiscal constraints limit Member States’ ability to increase public spending and that they pose a threat to adequate funding for essential services, including education. Such restrictions have historically led to underfunded education systems, prompting continuous strikes by education trade unions advocating for better resources and conditions. ETUCE and all European trade union federations call on the European Commission to reform EU fiscal policies which will allow crucial investments in public services and public education specifically, in line with the recent reforms on defense and security spending.

The EU has outlined an ambitious and necessary agenda to prepare Europe for the future and education has a fundamental role in that future. But to achieve the objectives outlined in the European Education Area, the Union of Skills and the EU Teachers Agenda it is imperative to revisit the current EU fiscal policies to allow for necessary investments in education. This point of view might be an opening for a meaningful dialogue between the education unions and your government.

ETUCE also recalls the 59 recommendations of the **2024 ILO/UNESCO High Level Panel on the Teaching profession** which offer an international standard, framework, best practices and guidelines for education and teacher policies while putting teachers and their organisations at the centre of educational development. It underlines that *“All governments should adopt, implement and regularly revise, as needed, comprehensive and holistic national teacher policies, aligned with national priorities and the overall education strategy and plan, through social dialogue with representative teachers’ organizations.”*

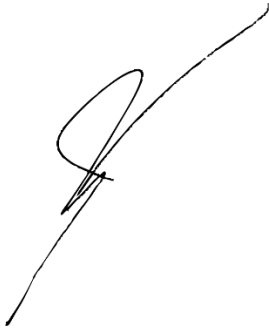
The highest-performing education systems place teachers at the heart of education policy and provide them with strong, sustained support. They treat teaching as a profession, teachers as professionals, and their representative organisations as trusted co-creators of education systems and practices at all levels. If Romania aims to ensure quality education for all, foster an innovative economy, and safeguard democracy the Romanian government must be bold and lead by example, integrating these best practices into the design education policies and programmes. Our members are ready to take on that responsibility.

ETUCE stands in full solidarity with its Romanian member organisations - FSLI, FSE and Alma Mater - and supports their protests and the national rally on 8 September. We strongly echo their call for:

- Adequate public investment in education
- Fair salaries and decent working conditions for all education staff
- Respect for social dialogue and labor rights
- A reversal of harmful reforms and alignment with international standards and best practices

Education is not a cost to cut—it is an investment in democracy, equity, and the future. ETUCE calls on the Romanian government to reverse these measures and work collaboratively with education unions to ensure quality public education for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Jelmer Evers

European Director

ETUCE – European Trade Union Committee for Education