



Resolution

Education for Democracy

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

The ETUCE Conference

Reaffirms that

The aims of the ETUCE are:

1. to promote the development of strong, independent and democratic education ;
2. to determine and promote policies in relation to European Union (EU) issues;
3. to represent member organisations in EU consultative structures and at EU meetings;
4. to respond to proposals, policies and decisions of the EU affecting education union members in Europe;
5. to develop and implement projects and programmes designed to further the interests of education trade unions in Europe;
6. to be the social partner for education personnel in the EU Social Dialogue process.

Recalls that

7. Both the economic crisis and the refugee crisis have revealed a serious neglect of civic education. Both crises show that, with the dominance of economic priorities, the amount of resources devoted to the social sphere is too low and political forces promoting democracy cannot grow to their full potential. European debates usually overlook or ignore learning for democracy. Not enough time has been given to considering how education trade unions should react to the radicalisation tendencies in our society and use their influence upon national education systems to restore meaningful civic education.

Believes that:

8. With its content, methods, concepts and instruments, learning for democracy offers an immeasurable wealth of teaching and pedagogical knowledge that is of fundamental



*Empowering Education Trade Unions: The Key to Promoting
Quality Education*

importance in surmounting the economic and refugee crises. Learning for democracy is also the key to European integration, being an integration of the economic, social and political spheres. It is the only policy that fully includes people in advancing the integration that makes it possible for Europe to change its course towards a comprehensive, sustainable and social economy based on solidarity.

Considers that

9. Living in a constantly changing world does not just mean adaptation and assimilation to change. Thanks to democratic principles, active citizenship also means that the people can and should not only influence politics and policy through elections, but also actively shape and change society. Each generation must learn democratic principles, values, ideas and underlying concepts of rights and responsibilities.

Asks the ETUCE Secretariat

10. to analyse the current ETUCE programmes of action directed towards member organisations, concentrating on needs that arise from new challenges - principally the increasing populism of society and politicians, and increasingly radical anti-democratic tendencies;
11. to prepare proposals for new activities and union-driven solutions that recast democratic approaches to teaching and learning, supportive environments and solidarity within a more holistic system approach to education.