

EEF preparatory meeting 24th of June 2006 in Amsterdam

during the CASA meeting (www.casa.manifestor.org)

Minutes

Present: Dag Hovland (Norway, Rosso), Martin Schmelzer (Germany, Schoolstudent's Union Northrhine-Westphalia), Shan Dakes (UK, Voice International), Bill Rigby (UK, Voice Int.), Davide Rossi (Italy, Unicobas), Nikiforos (Greece), Stella (Greece), Arno Rosset (France, Sud Education), Manos Skoufoglou (Greece, EAAK), Are Blomfeldt (Norway, Red Front), Diana Onu (Romania), Miguel Martinez (Spain), Isa Fremeaux (UK), Ole Erdmann (Germany, scudag-network)

1) Analysis of the EEF-process so far

- EEF 2005 in Bergen was a success, 300 participants, 100 of them international guests, mostly from Germany
- Event during ministers' conference was good for public attention
- Program was quite broad, more than 20 workshops about education issues
- Good coordination/network effect; lots of people got to know each other; but: could have given more possibilities to meet and discuss openly in order to improve/intensify networking
- Communication afterwards was difficult, website was down for a while, online-forum should be promoted
- A core of organisations, groups and persons found together to continue with the process (representatives from the first and the second Eef and also from different ESF-meetings were present)
- The demand for grassroots organisation with possibilities of participation for all (especially smaller groups) makes it necessary to go on with the EEF process;
- ESF should not be seen as competitor but complementary event; problem with highly professional and exclusive character to some extent.
- Language barrier between north (Scandinavia, Germany, UK, Netherlands etc.) with English speaking activists and south (Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece) where English is not that usual
- International preparatory was still actually a bilateral (Norwegian -German) preparation, more active multilateral commitment is needed
- Other networks and platforms have to be recognized; EEF should cooperate, i.e. with European Student-network (founded by Basque initiative), European Education Network (founded by ESF-activists, mainly trade unionists and teachers) and the ESF itself.
- EEF as platform for a discussion about our own idea and practice of education, more radical critique against the authoritarian concept of education

2) Next EEF 2007

- Need of updated mailing list: eef-mobilisation@ilpostino.jpberlin.de
- All present activist are interested in organizing the next EEF in 2007
- SUD education declares active support for the future
- Work of local and international preparatory group is needed
 - Local group: organizes the logistics and local/regional mobilisation, has carries the financial and organisational responsibility

- International group (European steering committee): supports the local group, organizes the European-wide communication and mobilisation, additional fundraising for travel costs, provides experiences of former EEF's
 - => basis for that are the EEF-principles and the statute approved in Rome, February 2004
 - concrete call should express the interests, latest developments and tendencies of the actual involved groups
- Discussion about place and time
 - all present agree that the next EEF should again take place at the same time as the ministers' conference, which is still not fixed but announced for may 2007 in London
 - contrarian ideas for the place
 - a. in London
 - i. to be able to express direct protest against education ministers in field of higher education; need to stop Bologna- process and create pressure for concrete improvements
 - ii. to catch public attention
 - iii. unify activists who in anyway will be in London during the conference
 - b. in Bologna
 - i. to symbolize the beginning of our own Bologna-process
 - ii. to express that there is not only higher education at stake but a universal and sustainable idea of progressive education which has to be developed with greater distance to the day-to-day politics
 - iii. be present in southern Europe
 - c. third place (France, southern Europe)
 - i. several ideas (Switzerland/Belinzona) were presented
- => Résumé: we have to check out local conditions and first of all activist who would be willing to organize the EEF !!
- there were demand for further topics which should be set up at the next EEF
 - immigration, possibilities of immigrants in education
 - sustainable concept of education
 - discussion about testing-procedures like PISA

3) Next steps

- a. Search for place/local preparatory group
 - in Bologna (Ole, Davide)
 - in London (Isa, Shan)
 - in France (Arno)
 - Further ideas, who has contacts
- b. Call
 - Draft until 16th of July
 - Responsible: Stella, Marco Pompe, Martin Schmelzer, Shan
- c. Meeting 14th of October in Rome

- Dag check's if the European Students networks meets in the period between September and October; if possibly we should combine the meetings!
- Davide is in charge to organize the place in Rome

www.eef2005.org

Ole Erdmann

Bonn, 27th of June 2006