



Trade Union of Education, Media
and Culture of Croatia (SOMK)
Trg Kralja Petra Kresimira IV. Br.2
10000 Zagreb
CROATIA

Ref.: JWG/sd
Contact person : Jan Willem Goudriaan

Brussels, 11 June 2018

Dear Colleagues,

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, supports the protests of SOMK (Trade Union of Education, Media and Culture of Croatia) for decent work and decent old age. Reforms are needed that benefit workers and people. We do need reforms that put people before profits, not the other way around.

Working in childcare but also in media and culture can be demanding. A pension age at 67 is unsustainable for most workers. We support your protests against the violations of law, the poor working conditions in education, especially for workers in kindergartens.

We want public authorities and our employers to respect the law on Health and Safety to prevent stress at work. We want them to create good working conditions to prevent burn-outs. This needs to be supported by the necessary public investment. Otherwise there is an increase in mental as well as physical illnesses and problems workers face. You are not alone in this struggle as many workers in Europe are confronted with the same problem that go back to lack of respect for our work and lack of investment in the services workers provided.

Your government should respect and enforce the State pedagogical standard. Not doing this leads to poor working conditions and the constant physical and mental strain on workers such as those in childcare. Such working conditions and health challenges and problems make it unsustainable for people to work until 67.

We are with SOMK and agree that pensions and the pension system need to be sustainable. And this should be done by addressing tax evasion, by ensuring employers pay their contributions and a fair share of tax. The grey economy needs to be tackled. We support your demand for an increase of minimum wages and in wages in general. Across Europe workers are fighting for decent pay increases.

We are from different countries and we share the same fight.

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We wish you much success with the protests in Rijeka and Zagreb this Thursday 14 June.

Yours in solidarity,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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