

# 2015 CEE Round Table

Bucharest 19-21 October

**Investing in education**

***Increasing privatisation?***



# Background:

## Education as an investment

### The **ETUCE Message on Investing in Education, 2014:**

*“...Education is an investment in the workforce of the future, and as such it has a key role to play in tackling the economic crisis, increasing social well-being and democratic participation in society, as well as in fostering sustainable and quality economic growth and prosperity.”*

### The **EI Enabling resolution 4: Financing of education, 2015:**

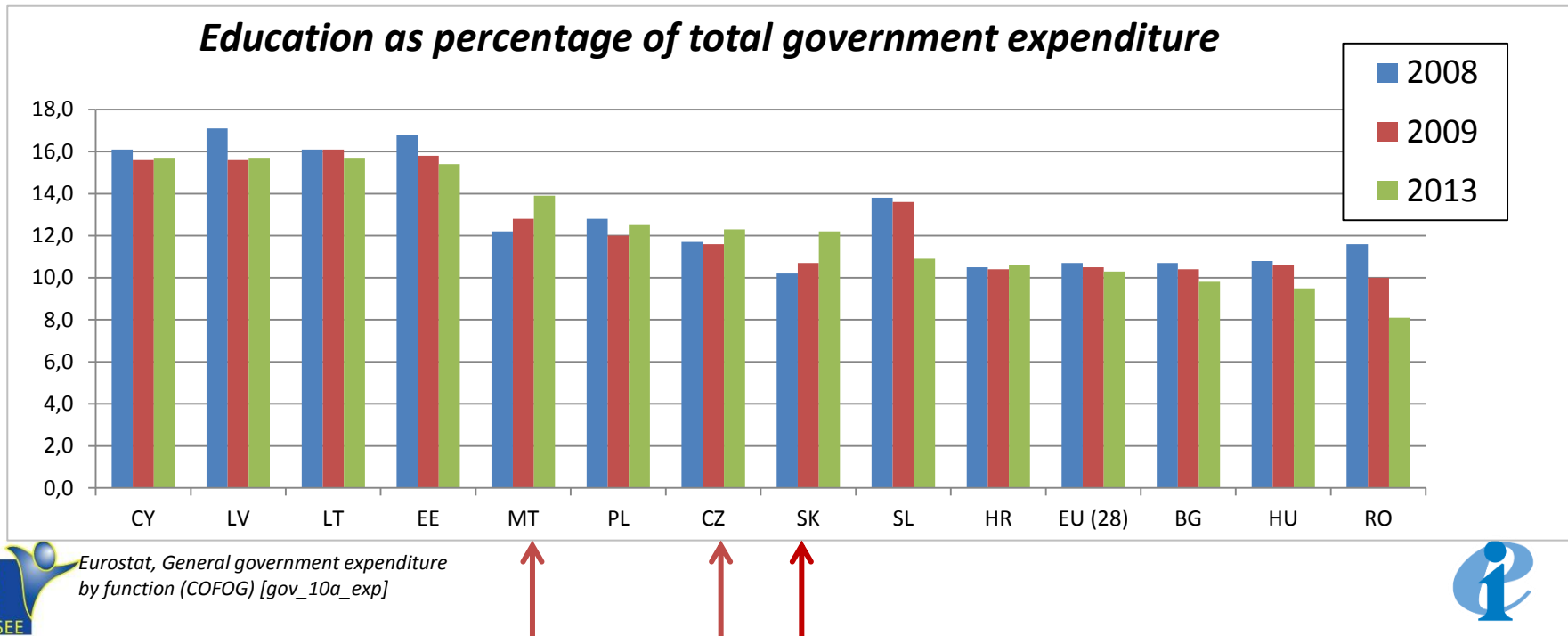
*“...All education in a country should be a public responsibility; that is, education should be **publicly funded and regulated**.*

*Governments and public authorities, in cooperation with education unions and other civil society groups, should oversee the design and impact of education budgets against key indicators of equity in order to ensure that spending is progressive and that resources reach the most marginalised.”*



# Challenges

- However, in a **framework of continued financial consolidation** and, in light of the **demands to bring down public debt**, it remains a significant **challenge for Member States to find the financial resources to invest in education..”**
- EXAMPLE: Only in 3 EU CEE countries (MT, CZ, SK) investment in education returned to pre-crisis levels



# Challenges

1. The **European Semester** of economic governance coordination - Started in 2010, it has so far mainly focused on the implementation of the EU's budgetary and fiscal targets. However, it has become **crucial for national reforms and financing of public education** systems across Europe (more integration of Europe 2020 targets);
2. Governments hit by the crisis and by budget constraints have been **encouraged to look for other ways to finance education:** e.g. by promoting **public/private partnership** or by **widening the spaces for private, commercial and financial actors in education;**
3. **Deteriorating teachers' salaries and working conditions** as an effect of reduced investment in education might encourage teachers to **leave the profession** or to **deliver private classes**, at the expenses of quality education for all.

# Possible actions?

1. ETUCE Action Plan on European Semester to raise awareness among teacher unions in Europe, gather and share national feedbacks and practices, cooperate on national actions on the **effects of economic governance on education and teachers** (including teachers' salaries and working conditions, teachers' training and professional developments, etc.);
2. ETUCE project '**Investing in education**' aims at **mapping the changing nature of investment in education** and whether it leads to privatisation; and at training and developing strategies on how to influence the European Semester;
3. Support the **EI Global Response to Commercialization and Privatisation** of education initiative.

*..Other actions engaging ETUCE and its member organisations on investing in education from the perspective of the effect of the crisis on education have been various, including:*

