



## Motion on budget cuts for higher education in times of crisis

For the EDS CM in Berlin, Germany

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5 Presented by MGERB, Bulgaria

6 We, European Democrat Students, the member organisation of the European  
7 People's Party:

8 - Regarding the impact of the financial and economic crisis on higher education  
9 systems across the EU,

10 - Having the strong belief that "Europe 2020" is the guiding line for all 27  
11 member states,

12 - Focusing on the recognition of higher education as a central pillar for  
13 sustainable economic growth at EU level by the European Commission,

14 - Recognising the principle of knowledge based economy,

15 - Emphasising that higher education is a factor for the economic recovery,

16 Call on governments to:

17 1. Ensure that education budgets are not cut even as economies contract.  
18 Moreover, a stable effective and efficient higher education system will cushion  
19 the negative effects of any financial and economic crisis on itself.

20 2. Increase investment in innovations.

21 3. Focus education on obtaining generic skills. Nowadays labour market demands  
22 skillful and well qualified people.

23 4. Prioritise higher education and research funding.

24 5. Develop higher education curricula, accreditation, management and  
25 legislation. Inefficient and ineffective courses, subjects, curricula and  
26 programmes should be improved or merged in accordance to students' and  
27 labour markets' demands.

28 6. Reform the process of HEI accreditation. It should be objective, precise, and  
29 more of it should depend on students.

30 7. Introduce rating systems for the HEI. It will make higher education institutions  
31 focus on better results and high quality.

- 32 8. Ensure transparency when spending public resources, especially in state  
33 financed higher education institutions. Separate academic from financial  
34 management at universities.
- 35 9. Encourage mobility within the EU by taking advantage of all opportunities  
36 (Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, etc.). It will gradually bring the process of  
37 synchronisation of EU higher education agenda and principles, good practices,  
38 etc.
- 39 10. Sustain investment in higher education and research. Effectively and  
40 efficiently invest in higher education and tuition systems and at the same time  
41 improve results in the field.
- 42 11. Engage (or enlarge the share of) private investors in higher education as  
43 another viable solution, closely related to making a higher education institution  
44 attractive (good reputation and results).
- 45 12. Coordinate and interact at EU level. There should be a common policy  
46 dialogue on what is happening in different countries in the field of higher  
47 education. On that basis strategies should be drafted, adopted and implemented  
48 in correspondence to "Europe 2020".
- 49 13. Reform public research and innovation systems. Implement market principles  
50 as public financed higher education institutions do not compete for higher quality  
51 and often provide poor education, skills and knowledge.