

On March 11th and 12th the Ministers of Education of 46 different Countries will celebrate in Vienna the 10th anniversary of the Bologna Declaration.

A 10 year process...

Ten years ago, in the “far” 1999, 29 Ministers of Education from different European Countries subscribed the Bologna Declaration: a strategic document that all governments effectively followed in these years. The Declaration introduced:

1. The formative credit/ debit as a means to quantify knowledge.
2. The progressive class selection, introducing the 3+2 and successive education levels (very expensive MBA masters).
3. It increased the privatization of the services linked with the right to study and the reform of the Academic Governance, with declarations, recommendations and directives of the European commission or with the mere cooperation among governments.

Today, after ten years, we can see the result of the work that the ministers and the technocrats accomplished. We live in Universities where private companies can enter the Administrative Council and manage both the didactics and the financial part and inevitably the research too. The right to study is progressively “entrusted” to the speculator of the time, through means as the honor loans or the rent market; it’s always harder to access to services such as the refectory or university dormitories; gathering places are always fewer. In Italy what we’re saying is confirmed: the matriculations this year have reduced of the 2.3 %, with the low income regions on top, a perfect picture of the results of decades of neo-liberist policies.

We don’t want Incomplete victories ...let’s smash the Bologna Process!

The firm- University has been built in the last ten years with the reforms accomplished by governments of every kind of party. From the financial independence subscribed by Ruberti to the 2010 Gelmini reform there have been many laws and measures which have dismantled public university. Many demonstrations have been able to put the attention on the themes until autumn 2008 when a transversal movement among all education levels borne against the umpteenth attack to the right to study.

Students and researchers took the streets and squatted schools and universities placing the reforms in a wider restructuring process of the capitalistic system. Italy, though, hasn’t been an isolated case: from Greece to Spain, through Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, France, Basque Country, the protest exploded in Europe with strikes and protests towards the education model promoted by the Bologna Process. The necessary passage to guarantee an actual success of these mobilizations is the unification of the European struggles under the unique slogan: let’s smash the Bologna Process!

Who rules in Europe...

Behind the European judicial structure there’s a puppeteer that moves the strings of the reforms: its name is ERT (European Round Table of Industrialists), the most powerful European industrial lobby which decided to elaborate a common plan for intervention on the education mechanisms when the future labor force has to prepare itself to what will expect them: a precarious future, unemployment and exploitation, disguised behind the myth of flexibility. The introduction of traineeships and the subservience of public education to the necessities of the private capital already produce a disciplined labor force, for free, that will be immediately introduced on the labor market. In Italy, again, a law that will allow to spend the school years in traineeship, so working for free, is going to be approved.

...and who suffers

It’s clearly visible how the restructuring process of the education system is internally linked with the frontal attack to the collective rights of workers. This resolves the dilemma of ten possible alliances for us, the students: we can decide to league with the academic top brass who convey the neo-liberalist ideology in our universities and who apply the strategy of the firms in the Administrative Councils in our universities; we can also decide to take the streets with the workers who still resist because they “won’t pay the crisis”. For us the answer is clear. The concrete opposition project to the neo liberalist Europe must be built with who suffers it, not with who determines it. We will be in Vienna and in our cities to make this mobilization only the first step of a unified struggle path that should break the chains that tie knowledge and that connects us to a future made of exploitation and precarity. We must struggle for a public, costless, free and mass university and this doesn’t mean to put your hand up in Faculty Councils or only to ask a partial reform of the education system, as it is today. To struggle means to blow up the Bologna Process, and let it burn.

And it’s gonna burn...