



Organiser: SOLIDAR Foundation & ESU

When: 2 December, 11.00 - 12.30

[Register here before November 26th](#)

Commodifying education through evaluation

Concept

This event highlights how the current goal of education, and implicitly of evaluation, has been reframed to put the interests of the labour market and businesses ahead of the well-being of learners. It seeks to provide an overview of the process of commodification and privatization of education, using the way evaluation has been conceived at the moment as a case study for how New Public Management (NPM) approaches entered education, for the purpose of realizing that the way evaluation is envisioned is part of a larger issue of not having the learners and their well-being at the centre of the learning process.

The event will shed light on the decades-long and still ongoing privatization and marketisation of education which, via instances of New Public Management, has transformed how evaluation is approached, focusing on summative assessments that is aimed at ensuring that learners have competences aligned with the labour market needs. By viewing the way evaluation developed through the lens of political economy theory and the commodification of education, there can be a better overview of the processes that need to be changed in education before ensuring that there is an opportunity to re-think how evaluation is run. The type of evaluation currently existent is intrinsically linked to how learners progress from one level of education to another, to how educators/teachers/trainers are evaluated, to how funding is allocated to education institutions and to how education institutions are managed. To reform evaluation means to reform all the other processes as well, which is why this particular event would link these processes and provide some direction for the steps forward.

The discussion, centred on the SOLIDAR Foundation's Policy Paper on the Commodification of Education, introduces the challenges of privatization in education and establishes the link with the evaluation process. Based on this, participants will be then invited to participate in an exercise of establishing what is an adequate type of evaluation for the well-being of learners, and, finally, what governance in education would allow for that type of evaluation to be pursued. Participants will be brought to consider how their proposed evaluation system would fit in the current education system that is impacted by NPM, finding also solutions for other parts of education policy that need to be adapted in order for a learner-centred evaluation process can be adopted.

Agenda

- Introduction - MEP (tbc)
- Panel discussion
 - SOLIDAR Foundation's Policy Paper on the Commodification of Education and its impact on assessment in education - *Andrei Frank, SOLIDAR Foundation*
 - The views of trade unions on assessment in and commodification of education - *Tomasz Gryczan, Coordinator for Social dialogue, Economic Policy & Governance, European Trade Union Committee for Education*
 - Better working conditions in education and the link with assessment - *Matteo Vespa, European Students' Union*
 - Moderation: *Elisa Gambardella, SOLIDAR Foundation and LLLP*
- Q&A session
- Closing