**Impact of the crisis in Spain**

**Q** What is the main impact of the economic crisis to education in your country?

The economic crisis has emerged in the middle of the implementation and development process of the important educational reform established by the Education Act of 2006 (LOE). Although the first economic and social effects of the crisis were produced during 2008, the National and Autonomous Communities budget for education was made according to the economical report of LOE, which established an extraordinary budget for education of 7,000 million Euros in 5 years, from which the Ministry provides 60% and the Autonomous Communities 40%.

On the other hand, it is convenient to remark that the educational measures foreseen at LOE have been implemented normally in the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. It is expected that in the academic year 2009-2010 the main part of the implementation of the measures established in the Act will be completed. In this double sense, budgetary and of education development, the effects of the crisis have not been important so far.

However, the economic crisis is having a deep impact in the employment sector. In the last year the percentage of unemployment has double, reaching the figure of 4 million people unemployed. This reality causes an special economic and social challenge to our country and creates a new circumstance that must be faced up from education, unavoidably: which must be the education objectives and priorities of a society with such level of unemployment, society that must adapt the youngsters education and the adult training to the new economic and social demands that this global crisis imposes, and that at the same time should reconsider the economic and social model in a global way.

Our Government commitment is firm. Our Minister of Education has declared a firm intention to provide a quality education for all youngsters that requires the effort of all the society to offer a public education appropriate to the social and economic challenges: investing in education is investing in employment.

**Budget**

**Q** Have there been already any cuts or increases to the education budget as a result of the crisis?

Yes cuts

**Q** Please indicate the sectors or levels affected and the percentage of cuts or increases

It is important to know that the Ministry of Education administers the 6% of the total expenditure in education, the rest is provided by the Autonomous Communities, these have full competencies in education. There has been a reduction of a 5% in the budget of the Ministry of Education for 2009 concerning the expenses for the normal functioning of the ministry but none concerning transferences, investments or educational programmes carried out.

**Q** Do you foresee a positive or negative impact of the crisis on the 2010 education budget in your country?

Unsure
Q) How significant do you expect this impact will be?

Probably the main impact affects the annual increase that is usually produced in the National Budget for education. Our government intention is to maintain the educational commitment and to guarantee the investment in education. Nevertheless it is difficult to specify the final increase in the national budget 2010 concerning education. It is important to remark here again that Autonomous Communities cover 90% of the expenditure in education and the corresponding budget is approved by their own Parliaments.

Q) What are the main expenditure cuts or cost-saving measures taken or expected to be taken by the government in your country?

The Spanish government has demonstrated a firm attitude to maintain the social expenditure in general and the educational one in particular. A similar behaviour is expected in the Autonomic budgets related to education.

Q) In what areas is your country investing additional resources as a response to the crisis?

Additional resources invested as an answer to the crisis have been addressed to families, social areas, local administrations, affected citizens, and unemployment and to the social sectors more intensively affected. Particularly, important resources have been addressed in order to improve the information and communication technologies at schools (a personal computer for all the pupils in the fifth grade of primary education) the learning of languages and the initial vocational qualification, apart from the intermediate vocational qualification.

Our government will devote 70 million Euros for unemployed youngsters with a university diploma to be able to follow a master degree. At least a 10% of them could benefit from it (30,000).

Funding of educational institutions

Q) Are educational institutions (schools, universities, training centers, …) experiencing other financial difficulties as a result of the crisis?

Unsure

Q) If you answered yes to above question, please give examples? If you answered no, or unsure, please state why?

Schools, universities and educational institutions funds are decentralized and the Autonomous Communities made the convenient decisions. There is not any evidence that these institutions could have been affected as a consequence of this crisis.

Participation

Q) Has the crisis made an impact on educational demand and participation in your country?

Positive

Q) Please state in which sector or on what level of education? If you answered no impact, or unsure, please state why?

The demand for education in the adult population has increased, not only at the social services but also at the educational institutions. On the other hand it is early to be able to value whether the demand for post-obligatory studies among youngsters with more difficulties to find a first job will increase.

Q) Do the deteriorating opportunities for jobs have an impact on educational choices made by
Q) Please state if you expect them to have an impact in the longer run and how?

It is foreseeable that the demand for post-secondary studies, particularly the vocational ones, will increase. It is also foreseeable an important increase in the offer and demand of the initial vocational qualification programmes. The demand for tertiary education programmes can also increase.

Policies

Q) Has your country developed a stimulus package for economic recovery?

Yes

Q) If you answered yes to above question, please does it include any measures relating to education? Which ones? If you answered no, or unsure, please state why?

The main measure is to stimulate young people education and citizens with a weak economic situation, through an increase in the grants policy, family benefits, tax reductions for these citizens, etc.

Q) Is your education ministry taking any measures for responding to the crisis?

It has been already mentioned in previous answers. The main measures consist of facilitating the access and the post-compulsory education to all citizens who demand this type of education, and guaranteeing a sufficient offer of school places in the corresponding studies.