

**САМОСТАЛНИ СИНДИКАТ ПРЕДШКОЛСКОГ ВАСПИТАЊА И
ОБРАЗОВАЊА СРБИЈЕ**



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Belgrade, 07.03.2024.

Dear colleagues, dear members of EPSU,

We share with you our yesterday's statement. We kindly ask you to share and employ your pressure mechanisms to help our members and workers in the precarious position we describe.

Statement

on the position of preschool institutions in Kosovo and Metohija

The independent union of preschool education and education of Serbia addresses the President of the Republic of Serbia, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Education, as well as the representative office of UNICEF in Serbia, with the request that they urgently resolve the alarming situation of preschool institutions in Kosovo and Metohija that work in the public system of the Republic of Serbia, which directly reflects the well-being of thousands of children who attend these educational institutions, as well as the position of workers and members of our union.

Prishtina's decisions to ban payments in RSD and to physically prevent the transport of the Serbian currency to the municipalities of Kosovo and Metohija, with which the public is already familiar, lead to numerous unwanted consequences for the preschool institutions, but also for the entire public sector in Kosovo, which become more pronounced with passing of each day. The issue that directly endangers children is the procurement of resources for work, especially food. Preschool institutions are already facing a shortage of certain food products, as a result of which they are forced to adjust menus for children, but it is only a matter of days before we reach a situation of general shortage. The situation is particularly aggravated due to the provisions of the Serbian Law on Public Procurement - although it was conceived as an anti-corruption act, it is not the first time that this law shows shortcomings which workers need to bear, being left without timely procured funds for work. It turns out, however, that as such it is completely inadequate in this new situation, where the budgets of preschool institutions still have funds in RSD as the national currency of the Republic of Serbia, which a decreasing number of suppliers are willing and able to accept. The tenders that are mandatory for the procurement of food and work resources are already running late, but it is now certain that the suppliers with which the institutions cooperate will not apply for them, and that the work of the institutions, as well as the well-being of the children, will be directly threatened.

A special problem for our members and all employees is the inability to withdraw their wages: of the banks that work with RSD in Kosovo, only Poštanska štedionica remains, which today only allows withdrawal of 5,000 RSD (c. 43 EUR) in cash per client and that with several hours

of waiting in lines. Some workers even decide to travel outside of Kosovo in order to raise their wages, but it is clear that this is out of reach for all the workers and is not a sustainable solution.

The workers of preschool institutions in Kosovo today work in complete uncertainty about their position: not only are the consequences of Prishtina's current intentions becoming more pronounced day by day, but it is also uncertain whether more drastic and repressive measures will be introduced, bearing in mind that products from Serbia is already confiscated as contraband.

Bearing the above in mind, we ask you to react urgently and devise measures and steps within your competence to resolve the situation, but also to influence all instances of decision-making that are part of this problem.



President of the Independent Union
of Preschool Education of Serbia

Bosiljka Jovanovic

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