



Development Education Centre

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The Education Committee (Uddannelsesudvalget)
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Offentligt

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To the Chair of the Education Committee

Threatened Closure of The Innovative Centre for General Education (SPF)

I was very concerned to learn that the Minister for Education, Mr. Bertel Haarder, has put forward a proposal, on behalf of the Danish Government in the Danish Parliament to close The Innovative Centre for General Education (SPF) from 1st of August 2007.

I write on behalf of an educational NGO that has cooperated closely with SPF over a number of years, both through the British Council and most recently a European Union (Socrates-Minerva) project. I have witnessed two separate groups of British teachers being incredibly impressed by what SPF has on offer. It really is a unique organisation and, I believe, an international beacon of innovation.

Since the introduction of the Education Reform Act of 1988 in the UK, despite its benefits, many innovative teaching approaches became lost. Only in more recent years has the UK Government come to realise the importance of thinking skills, learning styles and curriculum areas such as Citizenship and Democracy, Education for Sustainable Development and the Global Dimension. For example on 2nd December 2005 the British Secretary of State for Education, Ruth Kelly, said:

"We must educate our young people in a manner that helps them develop their understanding of this world, and that equips them with the means to direct and influence the process of global change – rather than being pushed along by it."

I know that SPF with its innovative school and Youth Town has a huge contribution to make in this area and I fear that once lost, the years of unique experience built up by the organisation could be lost to Denmark and the world forever.

Yours faithfully

Rob Unwin
Coordinator of DECSY
& 'Take Part Too' EU-Socrates Multi-Partner Project