

Education snubbed in FF-FG deal on government, says IFUT

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The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has said that the demotion of education to a single sentence reference in the 'Confidence and Supply' agreement on government between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael is a major snub to education, teachers and students.

Mike Jennings, General Secretary of IFUT, said that in the case of higher education, numerous reports from the HEA and third-level colleges, as well as IFUT analysis, all warn that the very fabric of third-level is being undermined by years of government cutbacks.

“It is startling that, after almost two months of talks and discussion on formation of a future government, the educational needs of our society, educational establishments, teachers, researchers and students should be ignored so blatantly,” he said.

Mike Jennings said that a comparison of spending on education published last month by the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) reveals that a number of European countries have recently begun to reverse spending cuts, “but Ireland is not one of them.”

“Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and whatever Independents form the next government must immediately address the crisis in third-level and education generally to ensure that the damage done by almost a decade of recessionary cuts is tacked with immediate effect,” he said.

ENDS

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