



Catalonia working with Europe

Supporting the active participation of Catalan institutions and citizens in European cooperation

#CATALONIA WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

FLIGHT 704 TO BEIJING NOW BOARDING!

© 2014 Jan Gejel

Like Tintin some time ago European educations are now exploring the world. This time not Sydney, but mostly Beijing.

Educations are queuing up outside the public offices in China to marketing and sell their educations, governed by the new business managements of our educations.

The idea is to generate economy for these institutions, through selling our educational products.

The new business managements are not doing this out of interest in China or in young people in China. They couldn't care less. It's about education industry.

Imagine this scenario: formerly critical pedagogical institutions working with a communist regime on authentic capitalist terms. What a post-modern cocktail.

The problem is, however, that those industrial education games seem to re-focus what the educations should do - to what they should not do.

While millions of young Europeans cannot find their way, millions of low-skilled adults need new competences and poverty is on the rise across Europe, such educations seem to be more interested in making business in Beijing.

Yes, we definitely need new management in education to innovate our outdated educations, and the ideas they are based on - a little innovation rhetoric will not do the job; but not new managements setting aside the real missions of education and engaging in business games not in any way linked to education innovation.

“The PRIMARY mission of education [is] the preparation of individuals for life as well as for being active citizens in increasingly complex societies.”
European Parliament *Report on rethinking education*, 2013

One of the results is that such industrial education management re-direct the focus from for example European collaboration to develop 21st century learning capacity among teachers, youth and unemployed towards making business in Beijing. There are many interesting examples of this...

The reason is quite primitive: more money in Beijing than in Erasmus+.

And yes, of course the usual justifications are rising in the horizon: “Imagine: if we can make money in China, then we can invest more in innovating our educations; don't you see?”

How come I find this so hard to believe?

I will try to miss my flight..!