



Bologna, Italy May 2008



We will meet on Friday, May 16 in Bologna, Italy, and we will finish on Saturday, May 17, after we have exchanged ideas about the movements future activities. See the exact programme, schedules and location on [www.concrit.org](http://www.concrit.org) from the end of March. The challenge to you is to take care of your own transport, food and accommodation in Bologna and to be generally prepared to participate and contribute something, to work, think, discuss, reflect, be productive and critically constructive and to network across national boundaries.

Mail this to people you know might be interested in participating. You may register for the conference on the web page [www.concrit.org](http://www.concrit.org) which will present the latest news, papers as well as an update on the number of participants. Please suggest which kind of subjects you would like to discuss within the theme of democracy and how you want to work with these themes (i.e. discussions, happenings, writings, theatre, singing, painting, you name it...)

[www.concrit.org](http://www.concrit.org)

## Participation in an international critical meeting

We invite you to participate in a two-day international meeting/conference with discussions and analyses of trends in pedagogics and educational policy. The meeting will be held in an unconventional set up and serves the purpose of establishing international networks for the introduction and development of critical and alternative ideas and thoughts on pedagogical institutions and national educational systems. Focus this year will be on aspects of democracy.

**The meeting will be held in:  
Bologna, on May 16-17, 2008**

We are witnessing a combination of neo-liberal marketized solutions to educational problems and neo-conservative returns to higher standards. Many practitioners, philosophers and researchers around Europe are concerned about these trends. There is a general impression that techniques of accountability, measurement and "management" are increasing while the pedagogical opportunities are being limited and that we are seeing an unfortunate standardisation taking place. The pedagogical environments of Europe are able to provide

much more than that, which is what Europe needs:

- Is pedagogics the victim of a global competitive trend?
- Do political trends contribute to turning pedagogics into a technical quick fix?
- And do we narrow down childhood to a question of skills as a result of the policy pursued?
- Are the European democracies moving away from the idea of providing general education on a broad basis in favour of a kind of thinking dictated by the needs of the educational institutions?

Therefore, it is time to take the international perspective seriously and to stage discussions that invite broader reflection and analysis in addition to strengthening the democratic dialogue between the populations of Europe. For this reason, we invite you to take part in an unconventionally organised conference on:

**FRIDAY May 16 & SATURDAY May 17**

