#### "Would you like an M.Sc with that?"

Supplying education on a commercial basis

- implications from a student perspective

# ESIB – The National Unions of Students in Europe

- 47 members in 35 European countries
- Largest student representative in the world
- Represents approx. 10.000.000 students.
- Does work on educational issues: quality, access, equality, mobility etc.
- Globalisation recently on the agenda

#### Trade in Education

#### Result of:

- growing global competition
- Increased market thinking in HE
- Success of individual countries
- Development of international trade regulations

## Student concerns

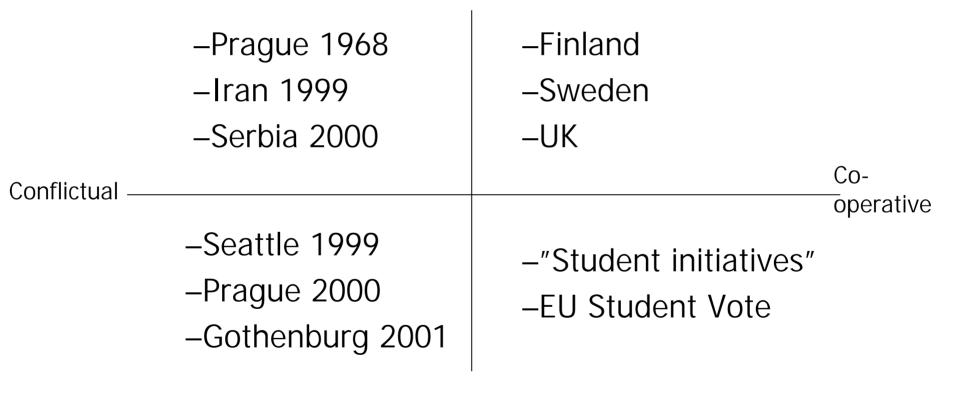


#### Student concerns

- Education is not a product, students are not consumers
- "Education market" excludes majority of potential students (Ex. developing countries)
- Undermining democratic function of HE
- Exclusion breeds misunderstanding

## Student unions in History

Organised



Disorganised

## Why conflictual?

- Excluded from decisionmaking structures
- Untransparent systems
- Not encouraged
- Historical backgrounds

#### **GATS**

- Increasing market orientation
  - > Focus on financial profit
  - ➤ Short sighted planning
  - ➤ Tuition fees establishment and increase
  - ➤ Long term negative effects?

## Regulation of trade in education

- Unclear consequences
- Incentives and support needed, not legislation (Ex. Socrates programme)
- Universities and students both critical
- Student protests of historical scale

### In summary:

- Unclear future consequences
- Consumer/provider notion is a gross oversimplification with unknown implications
- Students are not happy