



## STATEMENT

### ADJUSTMENT POLICIES IN CULTURE AND EDUCATION

#### LEAVES EDUVIM OUT OF FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

After eight consecutive years, Eduvim Publishing Group will not attend Frankfurt International Book Fair. The reasons are clear: the economic crisis that affects Argentina, and particular the publishing sector, together with the severe budget cut in state-funded universities of the country have generated the conditions for our Publishing Group (its [press](#), its [distributor](#) and its [literary agency](#)) to be unable to travel and thus to interrupt its work agenda in the process of internationalization which started and has been developed since it was founded, ten years ago.

The agenda that was planned for this fair was the result of 10 months of work, and was focused on meeting foreign agents, translators and publishers who are interested in local and regional essays and literary works. As the most advanced projects, it was expected to reach agreements on the translation of works of our rights list into Italian, French, English, and German –among others. Besides, it was expected to move forward projects for the co-publication of **Eduvim** books with other Latin American publishers, both university presses and commercial imprints.

#### **The Moment of Books and of National Universities in Argentina**

The critical situation of the book in Argentina<sup>1</sup> speaks for itself: the increase in the prices of imported supplies for the production of books, the collapse of the internal market, reporting a drop in sales of 40-45%, the fall of 15% in the production of new works and of 30% in the average print run, the almost complete cancellation of books acquisition programs oriented to schools and libraries (which shows a clear lack of compromise on the part of public organizations in charge of promoting books and reading habits) and, as a corollary to this, the permanent closure of bookstores all over the country. Likewise, national universities have suffered from constant underfunding given that their budgets have not been updated in a context in which the annual inflation has reached 40%, and the budget cut<sup>2</sup> has been so disproportionate that nowadays many universities are debating whether they should give priority to pay the salaries of their workers, or the electricity and natural gas services (which prices have risen, depending on the area of the country, between 600 and 1000%).

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<sup>1</sup> See “No hay plan editorial que resista esta crisis económica”, *Página/12*, Septiembre 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Online: <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/140751-no-hay-plan-editorial-que-resista-esta-crisis-economica>

<sup>2</sup> See “Las universidades públicas argentinas salen a la calle contra Mauricio Macri”, *El país*, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Online: [https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/08/30/argentina/1535657030\\_515066.html](https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/08/30/argentina/1535657030_515066.html)



In this scenario, the recent devaluation of the peso against the American dollar and the inflation expectation on the rise (the forecast reaches an annual 45% rate by December, 2018) are just aggravating factors of a crisis caused by economic policies that prioritize financial speculation over productive investments, the payment of interest rates over the investment on educational and cultural goods and services. For this reason, **Eduvim** holds Cambiemos government responsible for the great damage that the country, the culture and the cultural industry is suffering.

### **The Argentine Stand, A True Reflection of the Sector**

Whoever attends Frankfurt International Book Fair this year will look at a diminished Argentine official stand, deprived of the most relevant production in the publishing industry of our country. The official stand that Argentina has supported since 2009 will be dismantled.

If compared to 2017, the participation of publishers who will be exhibiting in 2018 shall be reduced by more than 30%, with the peculiarity that the majority of exhibitors that will be absent are university presses. We may foresee that in 2019 the size of the Argentine official stand shall be even more reduced, having the same size as the stands of the countries that historically had a smaller GDP, and that are nowadays facing civil wars and humanitarian crisis.

Given the seriousness of the situation and the greater recession that has been announced for the following trimesters, we express a genuine concern for the critical situation in which the publishing sector was placed, of which negative consequences in the social and cultural fields are inestimable. The purpose for which we work every day is to find alternatives with the rest of the industry in order to survive this agonizing moment. Still, if there are no changes in the economic plan, there is no doubt that our purpose will remain a chimera.

Carlos Gazzera  
Director of **Eduvim** Publishing Group