



RESOLUTION:

Encouraging to Introduce Citizen Participation Solutions in European Cities

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Rome, Italy on the 10th of February 2017

Recognizing that:

- According to the United Nations 74,5% of Europeans live in cities (2017) and for the past decades this rate continually increases.
- Most of EU countries especially those so-called "young democracies" still lack citizen participation tools which would help to develop participation and political consciousness of their societies.
- Challenges faced by plenty of so-called postindustrial cities require involvement of politicians, NGOs and activists as they result in unsustainable development, growing inequalities and economic exclusion.

Acknowledging that:

- Urban regeneration and revitalization are a process of raising the quality of life which is essential for guaranteeing an improvement of living conditions.
- Engaging citizens in decision-making process on a local level makes them both more responsible for their surroundings and more reasonable voters in the elections.
- High level of social exclusion leads to augmentation of radical attitudes and makes a group of citizens more vulnerable to populist ideas.
- An attractive environment for investors, reached especially through creating Special Economic Zones in longer term results in offering wider range of employment opportunities and, in consequence, reducing unemployment rates.

YEPP calls on:

- Member States to encourage local governments and local communities to implement responsible and more inclusive citizen participation rules.

- Local authorities to promote public consultations especially the participatory budgeting that are based on the principles of universality, transparency, predictability and respect for the public interest in order to create solutions for a co-decision making and a real social change.
- Local authorities to promote social participation in revitalization and participatory urban planning which is suitable for any age group to improve the quality of life in European cities and create healthier, safer and more equitable communities.
- Local authorities to promote implementing education programs in order to increase the knowledge of inhabitants about the city's budget, increase data transparency and access to public information, strengthening substantive dialogue between local government and inhabitants and develop their competence as partners to co-decide about their city.
- Making deliberate use of the internet and new media in this process to include young people and immobile persons, such as parents of young children and the elderly, among others.