



## RESOLUTION:

### **Protecting the use of native languages in public education in Ukraine**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Zürich on 23rd September 2017*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- The cultural diversity of Europe is not only a value of centuries, but a key factor for our national identities to prosper.
- Every national heritage between European states and nations are equally valuable and they have the right to exist where their forefathers did.
- European values have to include the rights for native minorities to protect and pass on their language and culture.
- Ukraine has a rich and diverse cultural history in which the native national minorities have an important role.
- The utmost importance of education to preserve national identities for minorities.
- Several Member States have expressed their concerns about the Education Bill of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada passed on 5th of September 2017.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- Based on the 2001 census more than 15 million citizens of the country spoke other than Ukrainian as their native language.<sup>2</sup> Including Romanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Polish, Greek, German and Slovak.

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<sup>1</sup> Hungarian Government; <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade/news/our-duty-is-to-protect-the-hungarian-people> (last downloaded: 13/09/2017)

<sup>2</sup> State Statistics Service of Ukraine; <http://www.ukrcensus.gov.ua/eng/> (last downloaded: 13/09/2017)

- Moraes-report on the protection of minorities and anti-discrimination policies in an enlarged Europe declares that European legislation works in favour of the principle of equality and against discrimination.<sup>3</sup>
- Alfonsi-report on endangered European languages and linguistic diversity in the European Union declares that teaching in people's mother tongue is the most effective way of learning.
- Alfonsi-report also stresses the point that the threat of endangered languages in Europe can be reduced through the guarantee of the principle that the concerned language is treated proportionately on the basis of quality and the interest of diversity.<sup>4</sup>

**YEPP calls on:**

- The Ukrainian government to engage in talks with official representatives of the minorities in order to provide a solution to the existing grave and discriminatory situation.
- The European Parliament to raise concerns at the restriction of minority language education of Ukraine's Act on Education.

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<sup>3</sup> Report on the protection of minorities and anti-discrimination policies in an enlarged Europe (2005/2008 (INI))

<sup>4</sup> Report on on endangered European languages and linguistic diversity in the European Union (2013/2007(INI))