



## RESOLUTION:

### **To improve civic education about the European Union in schools**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Helsinki, Finland on the 17th of December 2016*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- That civic education is fundamental in a functioning democracy with active citizens;
- That civic education about the European Institutions is not a mandatory subject in the schools of European Union Member States;
- That the disinformation of citizens about the European Union seen in recent electoral appointments around Europe has increased;
- That up until now the “public sphere” in which political life is developed in Europe is mostly a National sphere, even when dealing with European politics most citizens have a National prospective;
- Many of the political decisions that concern the lives of citizens are taken at European level;
- That citizens feel far away from the decisional process and the EU institutions, most of the times that is due of lack of knowledge and personal formation.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- That the Bologna Process reformed the education system of the European Union, realizing the EHEA - European Higher Education Area;
- YEPP council at the 2015 congress in Porto has approved the resolution “Strengthening Citizenship Education in Europe” which emphasized the need to introduce a compulsory subject focusing on citizenship education in all EU member state’s schools.
- That the Bologna Process aims to harmonize the high education of all European youth to create a generation grown with a competent standing about the Union, its institutions and its purpose for the citizens and the world political equilibrium.

- The joint declaration convened in Bologna in 1999 states: "A Europe of knowledge is now widely recognised as an irreplaceable factor for social and human growth and as an indispensable component to consolidate and enrich the European citizenship, capable of giving its citizens the necessary competencies to face the challenges of the new millennium, together with an awareness of shared values and belonging to a common social and cultural space.
- In May 2015, after YEPP congress, the final report of the Yerevan EHEA Ministerial Conference about higher education underlined the need to achieve by 2020 a common environment: "[...] where educational opportunities provide the competences and skills required for European citizenship [...]"

**YEPP calls on:**

- The EU Institutions to respect the agreements taken in 1999 with the Bologna Process and to adopt right measures to enforce them;
- The EU Institutions to implement the conclusions of the Yerevan EHEA Ministerial Conference on fostering the Member State's effort to provide the needed education to make citizens aware of how the EU works.
- The Member States to revise their curriculum inherent the civic education in all the schools and grades and make compulsory the teaching of this very important matter.
- The Member States to train competent teachers in the basics of European affairs