



RESOLUTION

Youth Participation

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Prague, 23.02.2019

Recognising that:

- Democracy is by definition based on the participation of the citizens, in order to provide solutions that meet the needs of at least the majority of the social network, are up-to-date and therefore enjoy broader legitimacy.
- The Voter turnout in the European elections has fallen from 61.99% since 1979 to just 42.61% in the 2014 elections.
- Voter turnout among 18-24 year olds in 2014 was only 28%. In the case of persons over the age of 55, voter turnout was 51%, almost double compared to that of the youth.
- The election processes (registration, election day, functioning of the system, etc.) are perceived by many to be too complicated, less competitive or too cumbersome.
- The interest of the younger generation in politics is very small and confidence in the elected politicians is also very low. As a result, participation in democratic processes is very low and populist positions from the left and right gain more and more.
- The youth is one of the most reviving and therefore essential factors of every society that guarantee its survival and improvement in order to face new challenges.

Acknowledging that:

- The ever-decreasing turnout in the European elections must be actively combated so that the elections also have broad-based legitimacy. In particular, the young generation must be actively involved.
- The necessary restoration of young people's faith and trust in politics cannot be achieved without giving space for younger people to come to the foreground of politics and political parties. Involving young citizens directly is the best practice in order to better voice our needs and inspire our peers to engage in politics themselves.
- That Voting systems and rules vary widely among member states. Some have voter registration requirements, while others automatically register voters. Regardless of the system, simplicity and user-friendliness increase young people's electoral turnout.

YEPP calls on:

- In countries where a registration is required to participate in the elections, the process of registering should be made possible by e-mail or an online portal.
- The EU Member States to recognize that political education is a core element in order to actively participate in the political events later on. The Member States should take measures to educate and encourage young citizens to be involved in civil society and become effectively prepared for the citizens' civil duties and rights.
- Member States and the EU to simplify the election processes and rules set.
- Member States to hold elections during weekends. In any other case, voters should be given at least half a day off to fulfil their civic duties.