



RESOLUTION:

PARTICIPATORY MECHANISMS AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*Adopted at the YEPP Congress, Porto, Portugal
On the 16th of May 2015*

Recognising:

- Over 500 millions Europeans live in almost 150,000 local communities and municipalities;
- There has been an observed decline in voter turnout in the elections of all kind in every country in Europe;
- The rising popularity and effectiveness of participatory mechanisms, such as participatory budgeting, in many countries.

Acknowledging:

- One of the reasons for the rise of populist attitudes is a lack of understanding of decisions made by government;
- The engagement of people in active participation in democracy starts at a local level;
- Presenting real impact and real indirect influence of people's decisions is the best way of developing active citizen involvement and a better self-governing society.

YEPP calls on:

- The authorities of regions and communities in Europe to introduce and strengthen the mechanisms of transparency in decision making processes.
- Member State governments to create a legal framework and institutional reforms granting more power to local authorities, moving decision making closer to the citizens;
- The European Commission to create instruments rewarding best practice and promoting examples of social participation in local communities.