



## **Resolution on Support of the possibility for the Erasmus students to vote National Elections during their period abroad**

*Adopted at YEPP Council Meeting in Tirana, February 2013*

### **Recognizing:**

- Student mobility for studies, the centerpiece of the programme Erasmus, enables 200000 students at higher education institutions to spend a period of study in one of the 4000 universities every year ;
- Periods abroad – both for studies and for placements – can last from three to 12 months each;
- The higher education institutions that participate to the Erasmus come from 33 countries;
- The 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2013, Mina Andreeva, speaker of the EU Commission, claimed the European Union supports all the efforts that are made in Italy to allow Erasmus students to vote and to cease this discrimination against them.
- In most of the EU Member States, students are not allowed to vote the parliamentary and presidential elections of their own country while participating in the Erasmus project abroad;
- EU citizens have the right to vote the European Parliament and the municipal elections in the Member State where they reside (according to the article 20, b TFEU).

### **Acknowledging:**

- Students should be able to express their votes without any discrimination: the transfers back to their national countries for electoral reasons have high costs and represent an incredible waste of time;
- A number of European Member states already give the possibility for citizens temporarily not in the national territory to communicate previously their position abroad and then vote by mail or at the consulate;
- Other countries allow citizens to register themselves in the list of citizens residing abroad only if they live in an other country for more than 12 months, which is impossible for an Erasmus student (whose program lasts from 6 to 12 months);
- The Erasmus project contributes in the creation of a full European identity and therefore it should let the participants vote the EU Parliament elections in the country where they are studying;

- As underlined by the Commission, at present times the article 20, b TFEU doesn't refer to national elections but the institution is aware of the electoral difficulties encountered by the citizens abroad.

**YEPP:**

- Calls on EU member states to recognize to Erasmus students the status of citizens residing abroad;
- Calls on the EU member states to allow Erasmus students to express their preferences in national elections by mail or by going to the nearest consulate after having informed their member state of origin of their positions within a given delay;
- Welcomes the European Institutions to embrace the possibility for Erasmus participants to vote for the European Parliament in the EU Member State where they are studying.