



RESOLUTION:

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
In Zagreb, Croatia, on the 7th of March 2015

Recognising that:

- European institutions took important steps to ensure that the EU has strong affirmative legislative solutions towards youth unemployment in EU member states;
- By establishing the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), EU institutions showed strong political will to determine their priorities in accordance with the needs of young people;
- The European Parliament underlined its position on youth unemployment through the following documents:
 - *European Parliament resolution of 16th January 2013 on a Youth Guarantee*¹
 - *European Parliament resolution of 17 July 2014 on Youth Employment*².
- The European Commission expressed its concern regarding the lack of efficiency and the implementation of this program in the beneficiary countries and made a proposal in order to amend Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council³.

Acknowledging that:

- After the adoption of the YEI and the European Social Fund (ESF) Regulation, the results do not align with initial expectations;
- The frontloading of the YEI commitments as such and other specific measures for the YEI have not led to the expected quick mobilisation of the resources from the YEI;

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2014-0010+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2014-0010+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13460&langId=en>

- Among the main reasons for this which have been identified are:
 - the ongoing process of negotiation of the relevant operational programmes and the roll-out of respective implementation arrangements in the Member States,
 - the limited capacity of the authorities to launch calls for projects and to process applications speedily and,
 - the lack of sufficient pre-financing to launch the necessary measures which was solved by adopting the proposal of the European Commission to raise pre-financing funds.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to swiftly adopt guidelines in cooperation with governments of beneficiary countries of this initiative *when making an operational program*;
- The governments of beneficiary countries to make and implement systematic and harmonised programs for the improvement of skills for responsible officials in order to increase their potency for launching a call for projects and processing received applications;
- The governments of EU member states to use the funds efficiently and help to create long-term quality jobs, rather than spending funds on “quick fix” temporary solutions.
- The Parliament and the Council to amend ESF rules by the summer of 2015 to allow the plan to front-load and the YEI funding to be put into effect and achieve its objectives quickly.