



RESOLUTION:

STRENGTHENING CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN EUROPE

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

Recognising:

- The rise of extremist parties in many European countries in recent years;
- The continuously declining voter turnout in most European countries;
- The growing social and cultural diversity in our society;
- The suffering of millions of Europeans from the inhuman dictatorships of the 20th century.

Acknowledging:

- That a functioning society depends on the commitment to social cohesion in contrast to the pursuit of exclusively individual interests;
- That a profound knowledge of social values and of political concepts and structures is a prerequisite for full participation in civic life;
- That our political and social systems are based on the voluntary engagement of our citizens;
- That the pupils of today are the citizens of tomorrow;
- That studies have shown that economic competitiveness, participatory citizenship and social cohesion are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;
- That a stronger emphasis on participation and social cohesion in education could keep young people from sympathising with antidemocratic movements and violent action as a way of expressing their inability to have their voices heard, especially in periods of high youth unemployment.

YEPP calls on:

- All EU Member States which have not yet done so to establish a separate, compulsory subject focusing on citizenship education or at least to create dedicated teaching blocks within related subjects, enabling pupils to achieve political literacy, to develop critical thinking and analytical skills as well as attitudes and values – and fostering their active participation in school and in the community;

- All EU Member States to offer citizenship education as a specialisation in education of teachers; not only in continuing professional development programmes, but also in initial teacher education;
- All EU Member States which have not yet done so to establish a system of class representatives, of pupils' councils and of pupils' representation on school governing bodies at least for secondary education and to establish a system of parents' representatives as a model for their children;
- All EU Member States which have not yet doing so to take student participation in school or in community activities into account in their assessment, at least by validating active participation through a certificate or by mentioning it in graduation certificates;
- All EU Member States which have not yet done so to establish cross-party monitored agencies for citizenship education – at least on national level –, promoting political literacy and the assumption of societal responsibility by issuing free or cheap publications and organising congresses and excursions for all age groups.