



---

"This project has been funded with support from the European Union. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

## **YEPP Resolution:**

### **Youth Involvement and Participation**

*Adopted by the YEPP Council in Kyiv on September 10, 2011*

Taking into consideration the latest low participation of the youth population in European elections, the rising percentage of Euro-scepticism in several Member States and the demotivating environment which does not allow for increased youth participation, YEPP seeks to promote the notion of integrating pro-European youth participation schemes so as to stimulate the inclusion of youth in all spheres of society and in decision-making processes which will stir personal development.

Youth participation in democratically governed organizations, whether governmental or not, serves as a chance for individuals to cultivate their lateral thinking, develop and innovate in matters that are vital for the multi-dimensional political well-being of the European Union. Political platforms of such character which uphold the aforementioned objectives are monitored and supported by official EU institutions and are therefore a source of political polyphony.

As a political organization comprised by national youth political organizations, YEPP is an example of youth participation in political matters of the European Union. Ergo, having the future benefit in mind, YEPP stresses the need for increased youth participation and inclusion in public matters.

### **Acknowledgements**

The youth of the European People's Party is:

- Concerned by the 4% decrease of participation in 2009 Euro-parliamentarian (EP) elections, demographically defined as individuals 18 – 24 years old;
- Stressing the increasing amount of Euro scepticism within the EU, which might ultimately lead to an unfriendly environment stifling political polyphony;
- Alarmed by the marginal inclusion of European citizenship training in formal and non-formal public education;
- Aware of the inefficient dissemination of information concerning the availability of political participation platforms throughout the public offices to educational sources in EU Member States;
- Mindful of the existing deficiency of collaboration among different youth organizations promoting political participation and inclusion in public matters;
- Heedful of the existing participation of individuals in actively partaking in projects pertaining to local and regional development;
- Conscious of the inadequate youth representation in positions of public interest;

### **Further acknowledgments**

The youth of the European People's Party:

- Appreciates the existing funding and support framework provided by EU institutions regarding youth organizations relating to political participation and educational platforms focusing on youth innovation and contribution;
- Salutes programmes such as 'Youth in Action' and 'EUREKA' which aim at providing funding structure and organizational context to organizations that wish to include youth in decision-making processes;

- Second the 'White Paper on Youth', crafted in 2001 by the European Commission and promoted by other political organizations affiliated to EU institutions considering the enabling of youth in public matters;
- Recognizes the existence of several political organizations, whether politically affiliated or non-governmental which offer an opportunity for inclusion and public participation;

**YEPP calls on:**

- ✓ the establishment of innovative ways of standardized and permanent youth national representation to the European level;
- ✓ EU youth funding frameworks, as mentioned above, to resume their practices to the maximum extent possible so as to cater to the needs of youth organizations;
- ✓ national youth organizations and public administration representatives to develop the existing methods of information dissemination in an effort to provide more assistance to those interested;
- ✓ a more Euro-centric approach towards political participation so as to promote proactive European citizenship among youngsters;
- ✓ the composition and future adoption of a Young Volunteer Charter, elaborating and signifying the rights and objectives of participation in youth organizations;
- ✓ European PPYOs associated with EP's Political Groups to institute concrete and synergic collaborations;
- ✓ the establishment of an EU Youth Summit comprised of representatives from national youth organizations which will be operating in a consultative manner;