



## **Final Declaration**

### **VI CEI Youth Forum “Youth: Promoter of Values”**

**Durrës, 22-23 November 2006**

We, the representatives of the Youth Delegations from the Central European Initiative Member States gathered in Durrës from 22-23 November 2006 for the VI CEI Youth Forum on “Youth: Promoter of Values” in the framework of the Albanian CEI Presidency in order to discuss the rising challenges facing the youth sector, in particular referring to the need for increased engagement with Europe’s core values of Democracy, Human Rights and the rule of law, and while acknowledging the diversity of national situations, adopted the following declaration:

Convinced that young people are the driving force in establishing a Europe without dividing lines based on the fundamental principles stated above;

Taking into account the need for a strengthened cooperation in the youth field in Europe, in particular regarding Human Rights, Youth Policy Development, Intercultural Dialogue and Participation in Public Life;

Further convinced that an innovative and coherent youth policy, focusing on needs of youth and based on common values such as solidarity, diversity and equality is paramount in guaranteeing the sustainable development of communities, regions and states;

Taking into account the social conditions and lack of facilities and accessibility many young people face;

Emphasising the need to involve youth in the development of youth policies which help to foster new youth initiatives, which are crucial means for youth to participate in shaping Europe and the society we live in;

Reinforcing the right of and providing the tools to young people to have and to express their views and opinions in an open and free manner and to actively participate in and influence decisions and actions which affect them;

#### **We request the CEI Heads of Government:**

- to regard youth as a partner and key resource for sustainable development;
- to acknowledge the significant potential and contribution of youth participation in further developing an active community and society.
- to provide and enhance conditions for the full inclusion of young people in decision-making processes

- to support and empower young people and their organisations in developing their own structures and to recognise the contribution of young people and youth organisations to society;
- to provide the necessary legal and financial support for the implementation of the “Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life”;
- to recognise the need for and/ or develop national youth strategies and youth policies and to involve young people in decision-making in all other policies affecting them to ensure their consistent implementation and necessary adaptation;
- to promote sustainable development not just as a future need but as a strategic and tangible goal that can be achieved today through education and participation based on the protection of the environment and social justice;
- to acknowledge the importance of formal, non-formal and informal education, including skills development and voluntary activities of youth, to further develop Europe’s core values;
- to recognise the need for all those in positions of authority to promote a culture of participation;

## Annex I

The CEI Youth Forum, before its next meeting, should be provided with a national progress report on the implementation of the following recommendations expressed in this declaration:

- to develop co-management and co-decision making structures in bodies and fora dealing with issues which concern young people at all levels (local, regional and national);
- to establish, where not existing, and provide with adequate resources a governmental body responsible for the coordination of cross-sectoral policies regarding youth and adopt a legal act that will ensure the functioning of above-mentioned structures at all levels;
- to develop long term national youth strategies, action plans and policies regarding young people and to ensure active participation of the youth community in this process;
- to fully involve young people in the elaboration and implementation of all policies which have a direct or indirect influence on them;
- to recognise youth councils and youth parliaments as one form of representation of young people and to provide these structures with real ways to participate through:
  - o definition of their rights and responsibilities;
  - o clear and sustainable financial support;
  - o active engagement on an equal basis with the representatives of these structures;
- to encourage local authorities to develop new and innovative ways of youth participation, bearing in mind the need to ensure as wide a participation of young people as possible, be they engaged in formal or informal structures of participation (youth parliaments, etc., but also project-based networks, community groupings, etc.);
- to develop an adequate monitoring mechanism regarding youth participation, taking into account also activities on the monitoring of the state of local and regional democracy undertaken by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- to undertake targeted youth research as a basis for the development of youth policies;
- to allocate a budget and to provide financial, material and technical support to projects, initiatives and organisations of young people, and ensure transparency while allocating funds;
- to provide training in youth participation principles and methodology for young people and those working with young people alike, bearing in mind the possibilities and value offered by non-formal methods of learning / education;
- to provide young people with all information relevant to them in a user-friendly way;
- to develop and adopt legal acts regarding the recognition of non-formal education and voluntary activities;
- to translate and to disseminate the interactive CD-Rom on the Revised European Charter and the upcoming "Manual on how to use the Charter" and to provide training in how to implement and work with the Charter;
- to mainstream a definition of young people amongst CEI countries;
- to increase the mobility of young people and youth workers participating in short term exchange programs and youth activities by facilitating the process of obtaining visa thus working towards a visa-free Europe;
- to support and engage in the Council of Europe "All Different – All Equal" European Youth Campaign on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation;

## **ANNEX II**

Having in mind the basic needs of young people, such as freedom, self-fulfilment, choice, respect, the right to play, safety, sense of belonging, recognition of youth culture and the basic cultural, social and environmental values of space, we recommend in particular regarding the role young people have in the sustainable development of communities:

- to promote and support the active role of young people in sustainable development of communities and especially their role in shaping their own surroundings throughout the entire process of initiating, planning, designing, implementing, managing and evaluating;
- to foster young people's responsibility in the use of space by involving them in the decision-making process;
- to improve the physical features of built environment regarding its basic functions such as safety, accessibility, flexibility;
- to use educational facilities to promote good practice of sustainability through formal, non-formal and informal education and provide access to interdisciplinary education through a wide range of activities;
- to make resources available and provide professional and technological support as well as know-how transfer, in order to strengthen youth participation in spatial development;
- to mainstream the holistic values of space such as identity, to further inter-generational cohesion;
- to foster international cooperation and promote research as a basis for raising awareness on values of space through the process of education such as with the R.A.V.E. Space Project (INTERREG IIIB CADSES Programme);