



# **RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

ADOPTED AT THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM  
BRUSSELS, 26 APRIL 2014

With deep concerns young people all over Europe are following the developments in Ukraine.

As the situation in the region remains critical, the European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations continue to strongly condemn the use of violence.

Young people have been at the forefront of promoting peaceful dialogue. We stand by youth organisations in the crisis region in this difficult time and we urge them to continue to promote peace and dialogue.

No young person should be victimised by a political situation as we are seeing at present. We want European institutions to stand up for the rights of young citizens.

We call for measures to be implemented to protect youth rights, in particular those referring to access to education, information, welfare, protection, but also self-organising and freedom of movement. We believe that international cooperation must be enhanced, including the fostering of exchanges between young people.

Therefore, we encourage the European Union and the Council of Europe to ensure that a window is opened to young people in Ukraine, which is currently experiencing militarized conflict on its territory, and that priority is given to ensure space for youth participation and inclusion, youngsters' possibility to build democratic structures in all areas affected and beyond.

We call for the immediate opening of the mechanism for initiating projects on youth in the current Erasmus+ programme for Eastern partnership countries.

The Council of Members of the European Youth Forum calls the Forum to rapidly implement, together with all relevant actors, a sustainable action plan for the work in the Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EEC) Region. This plan should include concrete measures of peace, capacity-building, promoting youth work, establishing new cooperation, and increasing awareness for the different situations and needs of young people in all European regions.

We believe in our common values of solidarity, peace, respect and a mutual intercultural understanding.

Therefore we urge all parties involved, especially the political decision-makers, to continue to seek peaceful solutions and to respect national sovereignty, civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural human rights.

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According to the joint statement by the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum on the situation in Ukraine from 26 March 2014, we furthermore strongly support the following concrete requirements:

*1. In light of the increasing mistrust between different groups and the difficulty to have an objective and neutral perspective on the conditions of young people in Ukraine, the Advisory Council on Youth calls for a delegation of young people to an operational visit to all affected regions and report its findings directly to the Committee of Ministers.*

*a. For the delegation of such a visit we foresee members of the Advisory Council on Youth, members of the European Youth Forum, Youth Researchers, and cordially invite representations of the National Youth Council of Russia*

*(NYCR) and the Ukrainian Youth Forum (UYF), other national youth councils from relevant countries and other relevant institutions/organisations related to youth and peace-building.*

- b. All main regions involved should receive the same attention and should be visited.*
  - c. The outcome should be an evaluation of the current situation of young people and a concrete proposal on measures to improve their status taking into account the views of all parties involved, to be used:
    - i. For future evaluation and planning of the Framework Programme on co-operation with Ukraine and other affected countries in the field of Youth Policy, for 2014-2015, 2016-2017.*
    - ii. For future decisions on funding - from European Programmes and in particular the European Youth Foundation - of projects in Ukraine and affected populations.*
    - iii. For initiatives and future projects of the Council of Europe, and other organisations, where a comprehensive youth perspective can be included.**
- 2. The Advisory Council of Youth and the European Youth Forum acknowledge the increasingly contrasting views of young people across Europe.*
- a. We call upon increased resources for intercultural dialogue between young people.*
  - b. In particular, we encourage discussions among people to bridge the ideological gaps among young people.*
  - c. In this respect we call upon the European Youth Foundation, other youth funding and support bodies and also the framework agreements between the Council of Europe with both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to channel its resources towards this dialogue.*