



**CITIZENS' AGORA ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
6 - 8 NOVEMBER 2013, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS**

WE, youth from all European Member States, having spent three days in the European Parliament working together in a deliberative way, state that we want to work and we are committed to contribute proactively and meaningfully to society.

1°) WE call for a shared VISION in all Member States on the principle of the role and place of youth in society, that could be a "youth charter" including:

- recognising formal and informal skills,
- avoidance of abuse in internships and precarious jobs,
- introducing a minimum pay for internships, with exceptions only due to specific, justifiable reasons,
- encourage Member States to make internships and work placements more accessible,
- recognising the role and value of volunteering,
- ensuring equal opportunities according to gender and other causes of discrimination,
- introducing youth employment issues into Corporate Social Responsibility.

2°) WE consider that the European institutions should promote TOOLS to enhance youth policy, including:

- platforms for information, training, career orientation and mentorship,
- support for entrepreneurship,
- mobility in the European Union as a choice and an opportunity,
- mobility, however should never be forced through economic necessity: young people should also have the opportunity to stay in their home country,
- professional guidance and a mentor should be easy to access and free of charge
- mutual recognition of academic qualifications, skills and work experience across all Member States.

3°) WE are convinced that ENTREPRENEURSHIP belongs to our future and to the future of Europe, we ask for:

- greater awareness about entrepreneurship starting in school: introducing the concept of entrepreneurship into educational curricula,
- giving an enhanced status for young entrepreneurs (keeping benefits when starting an economic activity, advantageous fiscal measures, lower legislative or administrative burden),
- developing initiatives to support young entrepreneurs such as "Buy Young" schemes,
- giving priority, through public procurements, to young entrepreneurs.

4°) WE call for the promotion of VOLUNTEERING:

- recognising skills from periods of volunteering,
- increasing volunteering in Europe through mobility,
- facilitating young volunteers to support vulnerable youth and youth initiatives,
- developing a European-wide, free of charge, language learning programme (e.g. through the Internet).





5°) WE seek BETTER KNOWLEDGE of European programmes and European interventions:

- "youth task forces" coordinated at the European level to give information and support to young people about opportunities offered by European funds,
- internet platforms designed to be clearly understandable for youth, whatever their educational level and socio-economic background,
- enhancing coordination between schools and public bodies in Member States to make European programmes better known and more accessible.

6°) WE want to be ACTORS and PROMOTORS and not simply TARGETS of youth employment policies:

- involve youth in the decision-making processes of all policies that affect them,
- giving a small percentage of the Youth Employment Initiative to a committee of young Europeans (like the Youth Agora) to be dedicated to programmes conceived by youth,
- make better use of existing bodies representing youth at both national and European level, to promote youth policies, advertise youth initiatives, making closer links between youth, national and European institutions.

