



PRESS RELEASE

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Participation for all young people!

Nicosia, Cyprus, 13 September 2012 // Fighting negative attitudes towards young people with a migrant background, granting their right to participate in democratic life, the role of youth organisations and education system in social inclusion, ensuring equal opportunities for all young people were among the topics addressed in the recommendations put forward in the conclusions of the EU Youth Conference.

From 11th to 13th September, young people around Europe and representatives of Youth Ministries from EU Member States intensively discussed participation and social inclusion with emphasis on young people with a migrant background, in the context of the EU Youth Conference. This event is organised by the Cyprus Presidency along with the support of the European Youth Forum, the European Commission and the Cyprus National Youth Council, and is the third Youth Conference in the current 18-month cycle of the Structured Dialogue.

“Cyprus Presidency’s decision to choose “Youth Participation and Social Inclusion” as the thematic priority of the third phase of the Structured Dialogue and of the EU Youth Conference stems from the belief that the participation of youth organisations and young people in the decision making processes and social and democratic life is essential for the creation of inclusive, democratic and prosperous societies” said Andreas Vyras, Chairman of Administrative Board of the Youth Board of Cyprus.

The event follows a European-wide consultation, led jointly by youth organisations and youth ministries in Member States. The consultation allowed to gather the views of more than 12000 young people across Europe, and its outcomes served as a starting point for the exchange of views at the Conference.

“We are pleased that a youth perspective has been brought into debates on social inclusion policies”, stated European Youth Forum President, Peter Matjašič. “We debated today the specific needs young people with a migrant background have for better inclusion and participation, but we should not forget that they also share the needs and expectations of all other young people and that youth organisations can do a lot to empower them to fully participate in society”.

Welcoming the conclusions of the Conference, Sophie Tsouris, President of the Cyprus Youth Council echoed this idea noting that “ the recommendations highlight the importance of youth organisations in enhancing participation and social inclusion of youth with a migrant background”.

The Presidency indicated that the Joint Recommendations of the EU Youth Conference in Nicosia will contribute to the relevant Conclusions and will provide input to the draft Council Resolution on the overview of the second cycle of the Structured Dialogue process on youth participation in

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democratic life in Europe. Both the Conclusions and Resolution are expected to be adopted by the Council of Youth Ministers in November 2012.

[ENDS]

Notes to the editor:

Read the Conclusions of the EU Youth Conference: <http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/political-calendar/areas/education-youth-culture-and-sport/eu-youth-conference>

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