

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY AEGEE-EUROPE AND JEF

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL DEMANDS A SECURED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES IN THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2014-2010.

Investment in education is a long term investment and crucial considering the current economic and financial crisis. Its benefits might not be visible in the very short term, but every Euro invested in education today will pay back tens of Euros in the future.

Currently 1,85% of the European Commission's budget proposal for 2014-2020 are allocated for education, training, youth and sport programmes, namely 19 billion out of 1025 billion in the overall budget. This means that cuts in this area will have a minimal effect on the overall budget. However, even small cuts in the budget allocated for these programmes will severely affect their efficiency and the reach they can have.

Mobility, through voluntary activities for young people (under support of Youth in Action) and students (under support of Erasmus and other programmes) benefits individuals and society at large. Young Europeans, who have an opportunity to be mobile, are:

- More advanced in their personal and professional development: Education as a whole and mobility in particular enable personal growth and help individuals to develop their intercultural communication, language skills and team work ability;
- More supportive for European Integration: European integration can best be achieved through personal ties, which have to be experienced first-hand. It can be further advanced through better understanding and teaching. Living, studying, working and volunteering abroad are the best way to achieve this.
- More skilled: Especially in the context of the current economic crisis and its consequences, including high youth unemployment and a lack of perspective for young people, we are convinced that education as a long term investment, including mobility, is a key factor in tackling the financial crisis. Learning mobility, despite being highly beneficial for individuals, has also a very positive impact on higher education providers, including teaching and administrative staff.

That's why EMI:

- Strongly believes that the success of the current Lifelong Learning programme in the area of youth and learning mobility clearly show the benefits of allocating resources on the European level.
- Fully support the European Commission proposal to increase funding for education, training, youth and sport programmes to 19 billion EUR over 7 years. EMI believes that it is the minimum amount required to achieve the objective of sustainable growth and jobs, as agreed in the EU2020 Strategy.
- calls the Member States for adequate support to education and youth programmes in the budget negotiations under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2010,
- Stresses the importance of maintaining a sufficient level of funding in the form of operational grants or administrative support for organisations active in both the youth and education sector in order to ensure the quality and resources for these organisations.
- while stressing the continued need of investment in education and youth also on a national, regional and local level, strongly endorses the proposed budget increase for the European programme in education, training, youth and sport.

Nicosia, Cyprus, 30 November 2012