

Contribution IGLYO to the Rome Youth Summit Conclusions

IGLYO's contribution focuses on three elements evoking around the 50th anniversary of the Rome treaty:

- Youth and education;
- Building Democracy and Civil Society in Europe;
- The Social and Economic model.

Youth and education

With the Lisbon agenda EU has set a high goal with aiming *to become the most knowledgeable and sustainable society in the world*. This aim will only be reached if Member States enable to develop the access and quality of education together. Accessibility and minimum quality should be anchored in renewed EU constitution, whereas exchange of best practice amongst member states should be encouraged in the field of school curricula. Principles of equality and non-discrimination should, following the example of the Employment sector, be implemented in educational systems and sport, in order to ensure that pupils and students do not face unnecessary barriers whilst wanting to follow education.

Non-formal education has proven to be an important added value in addition to formal-education. EU should continue promoting non-formal education and recognize its value in an European-wide validation system for non-formal education. Particularly in the field of human rights education and citizenship non-formal education should be promoted.

Building democracy and civil society in Europe

Europe should promote the principles of Participation throughout society, to fully enable its citizens to enjoy citizenship, with equal opportunities for all. Civil Society plays an important role in promoting citizenship('s rights). Youth organisations should be recognized not only as a place where youth can learn and practise citizenship and democracy, moreover voices of young people should be validated.

The European Union has the duty to actively support Civil Society representation in European Policy making. Civil Society initiatives representing under represented or vulnerable groups should be given priority in such.

European Union should recognize that youth organisations can play an important role in promoting European values of Democracy amongst young citizens in Europe, and beyond.

The social and economic model

European Union's aim goes beyond economic goals of economic growth and sustainability, it should aim at enabling well-being of its citizens. Therefore models of social security have to be exchanged amongst Member States, whereas minimum levels of well being (in social terms e.g. following education, access to health-care and principles of equality and non-discrimination) should reach to all in society.

Particular attention should be paid to demographic changes, which will influence the well being of its citizens if EU does not develop a sustainable and coherent social-economic model. Young people, being the future of Europe and the ones to implement and sustain such model, need to have an active role in developing such model.