

POLAND

60 young people, who are active in their local communities all over Poland, gathered in Warsaw for the youth seminar on 02.03.2007 to discuss their vision for future of Europe and elect 3 representatives for the Rome Youth Summit.

The seminar was organized by the Polish Youth Council and the Representation of European Commission in Poland. It was based on common panel discussions and 3 thematic workshop groups.

Representatives of the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, the Polish Federation of NGOs, the Foundation for Development of Education System, Institute of Public Affairs and Center for Teachers Development took part in the debate as panelists and resource persons.

Additionally an essay competition 'My Europe-My Future' was organized to allow every interested young person to express his/her own views on one or more of the 6 workshop topics of the Rome Youth Summit. The winner is the 4th delegate to the Youth Summit.

Recommendations:

EDUCATION:

- **Education should prepare for involvement in society and economy**

Necessary elements are: knowledge of foreign languages, use of information and communication technologies, access to job advisory for young people, chance for practical experience in the field of studies.

- **Participation of students and pupils in the design of educational programs**

and involving them in the management and functioning of educational institutions should be granted, education systems need democratization

- **The role and values of Non Formal Education should be more recognized and promoted** towards employers, formal education system, society and the youth learners

- **More space for Non Formal Education in formal systems is needed.**

Non Formal Education is an investment in skills development but it requires time so there should be more flexibility of formal education to allow space for NFE activities.

- **Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in formal and non-formal education** should be executed more effectively

- **The information about existing opportunities should be increased,** use of ICT is a basis, but peer information and education should be also developed

THE FUTURE OF EU:

1. **Constitutional Treaty:**

- **A new short version of the Constitutional Treaty** should be worked out, it should be supplemented by thematic treaties
- The short treaty should include: aims and principles of EU, organizing structure, charter of basic rights.

It should also **strengthen the role of European parliament**

- The new Treaty should be adopted by a European Referendum, organized simultaneously in all EU countries

2. **Vision of Europe:**

- developing common foreign, energy and defense policy
- lowering taxes
- decentralization of power

3. **Common European Values:**

- Roman law
- Judeo-Christian values (not the religion itself)
- Greek culture
- Humanism and the heritage of enlightenment epoch

BUILDING DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE

I. **Development of participatory democracy**

- more mechanisms for participatory democracy and co-management and developing programmes such as LEADER +
- providing opportunity for the citizens to making INFLUENCE on policies
- developing participation with European dimension at local level
- financial support for civil society organisations
- reducing bureaucracy and obstacles in active citizenship
- Development of civic education (by practice not by theories)
- promotion of social responsibility of business
- supporting development of democracy by foreign policies

II. **More common space for networking and exchange of good practice**

- increasing access to information about opportunities in the EU
- adjusting the communication and information flow to the needs of recipients
- strengthening direct communication between people
- creating networks and space for cooperation at various levels and sectors
- increasing the identification with the united Europe, eg. by common celebrations
- more cooperation, transparency, monitoring and evaluation of implementing common objectives and recommendations