



**RESOLUTION ON**

**Better and Overall Support for Youth Policy**

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS/ EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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## **Introduction and background**

It is evident that today we have a situation which has deteriorated within the last year. The crisis has evolved not only financially but also mentally. The levels of unemployment in most states have risen dramatically therefore many young people are feeling insecure about their present and future. Young people are the least responsible for the financial crisis, yet they are among the groups that suffer most from the negative consequences, such as higher unemployment. Reducing the means available for youth organisations would just further increase this burden put on the shoulders of young people. Helping young people in these times of crisis is also a matter of intergenerational solidarity. It has touched the national policies and the capacity of other actors to put their contributions towards development of youth NGOs and their work. In many cases nongovernmental organizations are struck the most as they lose the financial tools and mostly political support for their activities, which play an important role in the empowerment of a young individual to have a successful and appropriate life.

## **Situation of youth NGOs**

Nongovernmental youth organizations have been recognized as an important and equal partner with the public institutions to ensure that young persons are fully integrated into society. Youth NGOs take responsibility to educate and provide an environment where young people can develop their capacity and skills, thus not only creating an added value for themselves but also for the entire society and community. The work within nongovernmental area allows young people to make their own choices and to take responsibility for their actions as well as creates possibilities for recognising and identifying personal potential. One of the strengths of Youth NGOs is that each young person is enabled to choose freely their interest areas and in this way provide measures and tools for building personal leadership. Furthermore, Youth NGOs have a preventative function as keeping young people from delinquency by providing free time occupation activities. The potential young people acquire in Youth NGOs is important for their personal and professional ability development.

## **Approach: keeping the overall support for Youth NGOs**

In these times of economic turmoil, Youth NGOs feel a crucial lack of support for the work that they are constantly doing with young people in empowering them, bringing them social capacities and educating them to be fully involved into society matters. We as young people feel that youth policy as such has been pushed down as a priority by accomplishing short term non-visionary goals. We strongly believe that investing in young people is crucial for a state and society to develop properly and in a long term perspective constant support is needed. Providing youth organisations with adequate funds will create a more positive environment for young people and cushion the overall negative effects the economic crisis has on them. In the middle and long term such an approach will save more money than cutting the support of youth organisations in the short term ever could. Investing in youth – in the future of young people – makes sense, not only morally but also financially and economically. We urge the national states and transnational organizations to keep the overall support for youth policy and to keep it within main priorities of the political agenda by including youth as a target group within governmental support packages.