

Resolution on general affairs

From six different countries in the European Union, 27 young people involved in town partnerships have joined efforts to help resolve various issues that Europe face: tolerance, environment, mobility and political involvement.

Political engagement

It was agreed unanimously that being politically engaged is very important; it helps with personal development; it has the potential to inspire people and provides young people with a sense of security of belonging to a political group. Additionally, by becoming part of a political group, it can provide a strong starting point for a political career. By being politically involved, young people also learn information about their right to complain, which is vital knowledge.

Moreover, it was decided that by being politically engaged, it enables us to be able to discuss problems, find solutions, whilst respecting other people's opinions and raising awareness. Finding compromises is a skill that goes hand-in-hand with being politically involved.

Solutions proposed for Political engagement:

- More information needs to be made more accessible to young people, which could potentially increase the amount of people taking part politically.
- Additionally, it was suggested that the current approach to political discussions were too formal; they need to be less like interviews, and more like a simple discussion.
- In countries where there is no political education in schooling (for example, England) it should be made mandatory.
- Finally, Skype could be incorporated into school lessons to increase communication between town and Country partnerships.

Mobility

Being mobile and travelling is important to young people for many reasons: it gives us a chance to learn other languages, which are vital in communication and making us more employable, we also get to experience other cultures, meet new kinds of people, broadens our minds and increases our knowledge on other culture's ways of living.

The EU promotes youth mobility through the Erasmus project, in which you are entitled to study in universities in other EU countries for between six months and a year. The Erasmus project boosts employability, modernises education, training and youth work.

Solutions proposed for mobility:

- Education of the Erasmus program needs to be increased
- More young people need to be informed about the opportunities available to them

The Environment

Plastic pollution has become a rising threat to the environment in recent years, especially to animals and plants. In order to have a sustainable future as a society we need to improve for the next generation for the benefit of our planet. The conference has increased our awareness and knowledge about the effects of our actions

Solutions proposed for environment:

- Regionally, nationally and globally we should be more ecological. For example, reduce the amount of plastic that we produce, such as packaging.
- Education on environment needs to be increased, especially regarding the dangers of plastic waste.
- More money should be spent on environmental protection, for example, tax relief on green energy products, such as the use of solar panels.

Tolerance

Tolerance is where there is an environment of respect, equality, social justice, peace and freedom. It involves having a fair, objective attitude towards other's opinions, practices, race and religion. It strictly avoids exclusion, racism and homophobia.

Solutions proposed for tolerance:

- Local campaigns against racism and discrimination
- Education should be increased on the importance of tolerance
- Commemoration day
- Communication day for tolerance and against discrimination
- Cultural exchange and travel should be promoted in an inclusive, tolerant way
- Group activities – actively encourage people from varied ethnicities and backgrounds work together.
- Ensure the laws against discrimination in the EU are followed stringently