

MeYouMe 2008 Final Declaration

25.10.2008

Analyzing the current situation in the Mediterranean area and, discussing about it referring to 5 topics (*Peace and International dialogue; Human rights and discrimination; Education, professional training and work; Youth leading role and participation; Social cohesion and local development*), as **responsible for youth association of the Mediterranean countries**, gathered during the Mediterranean Youth Meeting, **we pointed out some crucial issues for this area.**

- International dialogue is difficult in an area suffering from political, cultural, religious, linguistic fragmentation, despite of common and interlaced historical roots. Conflictual situations persist and make relationships between the states complex. Middle East conflict is a thorny question that creates tensions among peoples and cultures.
- The policies carried out by governments about human rights are inadequate. The lack of a shared democracy in many states determines problematic situations. Many essential human rights are still not recognized: access to work, information, freedom of speech, welcome and foreigners' integration. Narrowmindedness, fear of strangers, lack of knowledge of other cultures and little willingness to meet them, negatively affect the safety policies of European states.
- In this context, as Mediterranean young people, we do not feel encouraged by policies that support and encourage access to work and recognize training and educational paths in which personal skills and creativity have a greater weight in work training.

Therefore, we ask our governments, International organizations and civil society to:

- Under take to solve conflictual situations that interfere with International dialogue;
- About **representation** issues:
 - Involve young people in democratic proceeds and encourage youth representation in the many Parliaments and governmental bodies;
- About **human rights**:
 - To establish an independent Commission for human rights in those Countries that lacks in it.
 - To encourage access to work for people with opportunities, also recognizing sign language and official language of deaf people in Euro-Mediterranean countries in which is not recognized as such;
 - To enforce current laws regarding worship right, in order to encourage the free display of one's own belief, and the real chance to exercise it;
 - To promote the enactment of laws safeguarding the rights of political asylum petitioners;
 - To encourage access to citizenship to people permanently living and working in a different country from their place of origin; to encourage the regularization of those immigrants that are forced to live and work clandestinely in receiving countries;
- About **freedom**:
 - To expand freedom of movement already existing in the European frame to the whole Euro-Mediterranean area;
 - To assure access to information, promoting the overcoming of *digital divide* between the Countries provided with greater technological means and less equipped ones;
- About **education**:
 - To introduce civic education in the school systems of all Countries;
 - To encourage both formal and non formal education.

All these demands considered, as young people and youth and student organizations of the Mediterranean Countries, **we undertake the following commitments:**

- To urge governments to consider thorny and urgent issues like peace, International dialogue, human rights;
- To create greater spaces for discussion among youth organizations in the Mediterranean area;
- To create networks to connect people in the Euro-Mediterranean area (by means of forum, online meeting points, workshops, conventions, meetings), that allow the sharing of good practices and the development of common actions and projects;
- To promote voluntary work and association
- To supply alternative information.

The great commitment is to create a network gathering organizations from different States, to create peace dynamics that urge greater dialogue among societies and governments as well.