

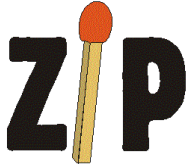
ZA IN PROTI,
ZAVOD ZA KULTURO DIALOGA



Listen to us! Youth Epistle is the final document of the 'Listen to us!' project prepared by young participants during two project events. The first was the International Debate Academy 'Listen to us!' held in Kranjska gora (2.-9.7.2011) and the second the youth forum, which marked the closure of the project and took place in the Slovenian National Assembly (11.11.2011). The majority of the participating youth was aged from 14 to 19 years and the Epistle represents their message to decision makers both in Slovenia and Lithuania as well as to decision makers on the European level.

The Epistle represents the final product of youth deliberations on issues affecting them in their daily life. The project participants took part in the international simulation of the European Parliament where they deliberated over two proposed resolutions: i) 'We should lower the voting age to 16 in all countries of the European Union' and ii) 'Secondary education should be obligatory in all countries of the European Union'. Part of the Epistle therefore represents their deliberations and accepted amendments during that event. The second part of the Epistle is a direct outcome of the Slovenian national youth forum where young participants actively engaged in a discussion with relevant representatives of the academia and the NGO sphere about the future of the European and Slovenian youth.

These are their conclusions.



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'LISTEN TO US!'

EPISTLE

youth participation

- the voting age should be lowered to 16 in all countries of the European union
 - more formal educational programmes should focus on the teaching of economics and politics
 - political representatives should do more to connect with the citizens, especially young people
- unconventional political participation of youth and their involvement in the NGO sphere should be actively encouraged
 - e-participation has to be encouraged

education

- high school education should be obligatory
- possibilities of international youth mobility in education should be substantially increased
- the institutions of formal education should put more emphasis on the analysis of current events
 - political institutions and NGOs should do more to reach out to youth and should substantially increase the representation of youth interests

socio-economic affairs

- in times of economic instability the state should actively work to prevent the marginalization of youth