

European Movement International

Resolution on the European Year for Development 2015

The upcoming European Year for Development 2015 will be the first European Year designated to the global theme of development cooperation. As a 2013 Eurobarometer survey shows, a vast majority of EU citizens consider it important to provide support to people in developing countries, and two-thirds think this should be one of the European Union's main priorities. At the same time, more than half of EU citizens are not aware how European aid is distributed, and only 6% know what the Millennium Development Goals are. As concluded by the European Union, it is high-time to bring development on the political agenda and closer to EU citizens.

The designation of 2015 as the European Year for Development (EYD2015), as decided by the European Council and European Parliament, is intended to communicate on European development cooperation, foster the direct involvement of European citizens and create interest in global challenges under the leading slogan "our world, our dignity, our future". Not by chance, the European Year for Development coincides with the deadline of the UN Millennium Developments Goals and negotiations for a new global development framework (Post-2015 Agenda).

The European Movement strongly supports the global goals of the European Year for Development and the role it will play in raising awareness and promoting the European Union as an actor in development cooperation. As a global player, the European Union, together with its Member States and local and regional governments, provides more than half of global Official Development Assistance. The European Year for Development, as the first European Year dealing with the external actions of the EU, offers an opportunity to consolidate and reinforce the significance of the European Union on the international stage. Notably, it creates an opportunity for the European Union to act as a truly united force contributing to the global development agenda.

Amongst its goals, the European Year for Development aims to inform European citizens about the importance of the EU's development cooperation for the European Union, its Member States and local and regional governments, foster direct involvement and genuine interest amongst diverse stakeholders, recognises the importance of decentralised cooperation and raises awareness about the mutual benefits of development cooperation, both for the EU and for the countries targeted. Thus, with citizens at its core, active involvement of Civil Society Organisations as well as local and regional governments is essential for the ultimate success and long term impact of the EYD2015.

The European Movement recognises the importance of the EYD2015 in the context of its own work and regards the role of the European Union as a global actor. Where possible, the European Movement will contribute to the goals of the EYD2015 in its communications work, projects, and in its diverse activities with civil society actors world-wide.