

Enjoy Your Future

Proposals for the future of Europe

Young people living in Italy, with the guidance of ACMOS association, have written down these proposals for the future of Europe related to the topics of the project Enjoy Your Future.

INTEGRATION

Thinking about the concept of integration in relation to the European Union, the attention immediately goes to the several integration theories and to the numerous European institutions created to progressively overcome national sovereignty and strengthen cooperation between member states in different sectors.

In this document, however, we will focus on integration from the social point of view, meeting the challenge of building not so much a Union of States, but rather a Union of Peoples. For a strong European Union, able to find answers for its citizens and to place itself on the international scene, the unity, the sense of belonging and the solidarity of its citizens are fundamental. If today the Union is weak and the sovereignist and nationalist movements are advancing in many of the member states, it is not only because of the difficulty of finding answers to global challenges, but also because few European citizens define themselves this way and most prefer to find solutions for "self" rather than for "us". To facilitate this process of social and cultural integration among people, under the motto of the Union "united in diversity", we consider relevant the issues of European citizenship and the encounter between its citizens.

EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

The promotion of the meaning and the importance of European Citizenship is fundamental, and this can be done by the strengthening of its institutional and symbolic value. To do this, here are some considerations:

- as there is little awareness on European citizenship, it is proposed the elaboration of a Charter of European Citizenship that has to highlight rights, duties and possibilities of European citizens. This document will be at the center of the education process on European citizenship promoted by schools, regardless of the model of the schools system, and common between member states
- now, the access to European citizenship is based on the access to national citizenship, this does not facilitate the equal and uniform integration of new citizens and second generations within the member states. The only way is the progressive standardization of the systems of access to European citizenship
- to promote European citizenship, it is essential to progressively break down national barriers by promoting the possibility of access to public competitions and enlisting not only in the country of citizenship, but also in the other member states of the Union. At the same time, we propose the creation of the European Civil Service, an experience of civil commitment of citizens within one of the member states.

- it is also urgent to progressively standardize welfare systems so that certain minimum standards will be guaranteed in all member states and to all citizens of the Union. In this way, there'll be no more advantaged European citizens than others and the social tourism forms to reach a better welfare systems will be reduced. This aspect will progressively help European Union to achieve the objectives of equality and social justice.

MEETING and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

In order to create a Union of Peoples, it is essential to create opportunities for meeting and contamination among the citizens of the member states in the various stages of life and reinforce the Erasmus programs and mobility, but with some precautions:

- to promote the meeting between young people from different member states, starting from the school experience. In particular, it is suggested to make mandatory the involvement of each student in an exchange experience in Europe within his / her educational path, regardless of the school address or the projects planning and management skills present within schools.
- to increase the resources available to Erasmus projects for young people under the age of 25, in particular by investing more in people with low education and with fewer opportunities as they are less able to travel and to become aware of these opportunities
- to promote and strengthen the chances for European citizens to have training and work placements in institutions and companies within different member states of the UE
- to strengthen the cooperation and the exchange with young people from non-EU countries, in particular with neighboring countries and candidate countries for entry into the European Union
- to promote experiences of meeting different from trainings, such as trips and cultural, sports and hobby exchanges aimed at European citizens aged over 30 years to strengthen solidarity and socialization even among adult citizens
- to promote scholarships for the study of European languages and the acquisition of linguistic certifications up to level B2

BORDERS

The experiences of the European project were born in the years following the tragic events of the Second World War dreaming of a future of peace and solidarity. Mindful of the millions of deaths and the disastrous consequences of the arms race it was decided over the years to allow free movement of European goods and citizens within its borders, as well as to opt for a peaceful and progressive union between states. Today, in 2018, the global geopolitical context has strongly changed, putting a strain on the estate and effectiveness of the European dream, first of all the emergence of new wars on the borders of the Union and the widespread crises of sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East area. In order to implement a European Union that promotes progress and international pacification, it is necessary to face current challenges in terms of respect for and promotion of human rights by seeking to promote and extend the prerogatives reserved for European citizens to those who are not yet.

MIGRATIONS

Thousands of men and women fleeing countries at war or subject to dictatorships or violations of human rights in recent years have embarked on long journeys spattered with danger in the hope of applying for asylum in countries that are members of the European Union but are still colliding with

the consequences of the Dublin III Convention which obliges them to apply in the first country of arrival, often contrary to the desire to reach other destinations. It is therefore necessary:

- to overcome the aforementioned agreement allowing free movement within the Union, in order to apply for political asylum in the country that is really chosen: the free mobility of European citizens is a privilege that must become the right of everyone.
- to make effective the redistribution quotas of migrants welcomed in the border countries in order to not overload the latter and achieve widespread cooperation among all member states in the management of the migratory phenomenon
- to maintain the European Union as a point of reference for peace and development and therefore not a reality closed on itself but open to possibilities coming from outside, granting visas for those coming from countries in difficulty through their embassies and promoting humanitarian corridors that allow access to refugees without forcing them to useless and dangerous travels of hope.

BORDERS

in a world in which the international balances are being redrawn the same borders between states are subject to pressure and the so-called Schengen Area is therefore at the center of attention:

- it is necessary to not give in to the temptation to close the borders between states but to leave them open without restoring border controls, useful in this regard would be to build real penalties for states that do not apply Schengen. It would also be effective to overcome those

borders since all the realities present on the territory of the Union can make their own contribution to the human and material development of the same without getting stuck behind harmful barriers.

- extending the Schengen area as a first step to countries interested in joining the EU.

DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY

Often there are internal conflicts between countries for the resolution of foreign issues and the conflicts that emerge from it

- overcome the construction of only emergency instruments and generate a truly functioning system that sees greater cooperation between police and the military forces
- building a common police and military structure, in addition to the sharing of armaments and productive means to achieve autonomy from external competitors, in order to persuade states to find real unity in foreign politics.

ORGANIZED CRIME

The thought about organised crime begins with a specific reference to mafia organisations, but involves all organisations that similarly try in a violent and illicit way to pursue their own interests, rejecting the democratic process, to the detriment of the rights and freedom of the other citizens. Also the criminal organisations that promote, organise and do terroristic actions in behalf of specific ideas or interests, be they religious or economical, are to be considered involved in the discours.

We would like to underline the necessity to highlight the cultural nature that allows the spread of the criminal action, that legitimate the rights of someone instead of the rights of everyone, that legitimate corruption, power abuse and use of violence instead of the respect of the rule of law, democratic participation and justice.

The proposal for action related to organised crime in all its forms presume two main and complementary elements: on one side a cultural action of the civil society for awareness raising and prevention through educational activities, but also alternative and sustainable development models and practices; on the other, legal and judicial tools for contrast and repression that can be effective. In both cases the perspectives of action, the practices and the tools are to be developed and shared on a European dimension to be able to cope with problems that go far beyond national borders.

CULTURAL ACTION

- European Social Antimafia Network in order to share the practices, structured to involve both civil society organisations and institutions
- widespread awareness raising projects and activities, planning discussion meetings for the educators, and possibilities and opportunities for the participants to be involved in meeting and exchange travel in other European contexts and projects.
- social re-use of confiscated properties: projects for the requalification of confiscated goods that are economically sustainable and have a public value: services or inclusion possibilities for disadvantaged categories of population, productive activities of food or handcraft, educational and leisure activities for citizenship and in particular for young people and students.
- local unit: groups of active citizens that carry out supervision and awareness raising activities on a specific area, sharing with each other practices and tools.

CONTRAST TOOLS

- sharing of prevention and contrast tools developed by each state to define common lines in the European Commission
- mapping of the criminal organisations in Europe
- common contrast tools like the one developed in law Rognoni-La Torre and 109/96.
- specific international laws related to organised crime
- strengthening of European public prosecutor office and european coordination of intelligence activities
- development of shared IT defence tools
- supranational judicial apparatus

YOUNGSTERS

It isn't only a rhetorical issue, young people represents indeed the future of European Union. They are the *bridge-generation* on which we should invest. A generation that was born in the Union and that is now used to take it for granted. The main interrogative that concerns us today is about the feeling of belonging to a community beyond one's own national borders. How many youngsters feel European and are conscious of the opportunities they have? We believe that, only by promoting the encounter with others from different nationalities, young people will feel more involved into the community and will be encouraged to think in a communitarian way, not perceiving it as an imposition. Mobility programs already exist, but what's their aim? Who are they addressed to? How elitist is it today to talk about Europe?

For all these reasons, our proposals look towards two directions. On one hand, the educative aspect, as far as it concerns EU history and citizenship, a major uniformity in teaching methods, and for promotion of european meetings or exchanges that rethink already existing programs. On the other hand, the need to increase and develop communitarian tools to support youngsters' autonomy,

both residential and occupational. Different member states have different situations, and we believe that it could be enriching to share and uniform some policies that support young people in building their future and their role in society.

EDUCATION

We want to approach the education issue with the aim of reaching a further uniformity between formation programs and a further sharing between youngsters. The goal is to rethink mobility programs: not only in universities, not only for those who choose them and who can afford them, not only to study.

- Unification of teaching methods and of university formation
- Integration in scholastic programs of EU history and European citizenship education
- Teaching of the history and traditions of other EU member states
- Mobility programs since high schools, not only from university and not only on a voluntary basis. Therefore, schools should introduce class trips or cultural exchanges on the model of Erasmus+, in order to let as many students as possible travel and meet other young people as them.
- Increase exchange programs not only in all kind of high schools, as European issue should not become elitist. Euroscepticism often develops among those who didn't have the possibility to travel, meet and know the "other", and who may develop suspicious and hostile sentiments towards the unknown.
- Increase and improve exchange programs which concern not only studying, but also working (ex. EVS). Promote exchange traineeship programs, as it is already going on in Germany.

AUTONOMY

- Young people from European states live in different contexts, where cultural traditions are intertwined with local policies. The transition to adult life is not supported in the same way into all the EU states, as far as it concerns the access to house and work.
- Sharing of models of support to residential autonomy (as it happens, for examples, with cohousings).
- Tools to ease the transition from student condition to the worker one.

WORK

The Italian verb "to work" (*lavorare*) contains in its etymology the idea of doing something for a purpose. Moreover, its meaning originally included taking something, catching something, desiring something. So, it means to decide intentionally to make an effort, which involves a whole person (body, intellect and emotions), to achieve an objective. These reflections can be interpreted in different ways. Anyway, work is a central topic in public discussions, maybe nowadays more than ever. Every day we are concerned by national politics about work, but the world is already globalised and globalising: what about work then? Which are European Union guidelines about it? And what are member states doing in this field? Are there any best practices we can spread over the Union?

Moreover, about the economic crisis, we know its beginning and that it has struck States in different ways, but which have been the different reactions? What does work mean now? Does flexibility have a single face? Is it really the only way?

And, finally, the issue of migration is really relevant in the public attention and debate, but what are "economic migrants"? What does it mean to widen our work horizon beyond the border for yourself and for the countries involved in the migration process (of origin and welcoming)? These are some of the questions at which we are looking for answers, not one answer. So, these are our main proposals and suggestions on work in EU:

WORK CONDITIONS

- Homogenization of labor market, wages, works conditions, social safety and common training;
- Meeting and integration with internships abroad;
- Repositioning of young people and migrants. Disadvantaged group should not be considered as "objects", but as subjects.

COOPERATION

- Promotion of European labour unions;
- Actions and knowledge sharing (like education and health);
- Sharing expert people between countries.

FISCAL UNION

- European fiscal union to avoid the wage dumping and the relocation;
- No tax havens