



Enjoy your future

Proposals for the future of Europe

Young people from ITALY, thanks to the contribution of the organization JEF ITALY, have written down these proposals for the future of Europe according to the topics of the project Enjoy Your Future.

INTEGRATION

Integration has an extremely broad meaning. On a general level, we can define it as “an act or instance of combining into an integral whole”. Our discussion during the project was mainly based on the social dimension of integration, focusing on the issue of migration since it is a structural phenomenon of globalization and a central topic of the European political agenda. More than any other issue, it is clear its supranational dimension, which reveals the limits and contradictions of an incomplete European institutional system. It is not an isolated topic and it is profoundly connected with the functioning of the Schengen area, the protection of freedom, the defence of human rights, the issue of solidarity, the spreading of fake news and the European Project *tout court*. The response we will give to migration as Europeans will define what kind of Europe and what kind of European society we will contribute to create in the next future. That is why it is so important to talk about it in a complex and complete way.

With no real European immigration and asylum policies, governments have progressively closed borders; on a narrative side, it is becoming more and more successful the idea of a “war among poor people”, as a sort of self-fulfilling prophecy. The legitimization of this logic comes as well from the reinforcement of a nationalist discourse, which naturalize the “nation” and the “state” (and the “nation state”) as static and pure entities, ignoring their social and historical origins and creating boundaries that are not only geographic but also deeply-rooted in our society. Moreover, ten years after the economic crisis, there have been no strong European signals (such as public investments and the creation of a consistent European budget) which would have been able to solve socio-economic issues and make the European Union closer to its citizens.

At the same time, we are living a deep identarian crisis as Europeans. It seems that there are no big narratives that can give an answer to people questions and needs. The nationalistic illusion tries in fact to fill this gap, although with obsolete proposals. We had also an example of an identarian exclusive logic brought to the continental level with the far-right operation “Defend Europe”.

Consequently, we have rapidly considered the different “integration” regimes present in Europe (although there is a big discussion whether the right word should be still “integration”). In an analytical continuum, we can identify “assimilationist” regimes and “multiculturalist” regimes. We didn’t have time to explore all possible limits and potentialities of the two systems, but we have interrogated ourselves about what kind of model should we promote at the European level.



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We have concluded that the issue of migration should be faced at the European level respecting human rights and realizing a real European solidarity. Following our discussion about social integration considering the phenomenon of migration, we have agreed on the following proposals:

- The construction of a new European social-integration model should be strictly linked with a broader political project of a united and democratic Europe.
- The need of a European Constitution which would finally mean that European values and principles are not ignorable, and they represent the heart of the European project.
- The European Union should be the political space where we can finally build/belong to a complex and inclusive identity, and not an identity based on exclusion as it has been for centuries with national states. In a globalized world, identities are multi-dimensional and not exclusive, and they should be promoted as such. The belonging to the European Project should be formalized through the European citizenship, based on the adherence to the values of freedom, human rights, democracy, social justice and solidarity.
- Considering the integration models, which have characterised the history of nation states, we should build an inclusive European model of citizenship, that recognizes, and it is enriched by, cultural peculiarities and clarifies which are the values and duties to be accepted and promoted by every citizen.
- At the same time, the European Union should become a real European Federation to guarantee democracy, the respect of fundamental values and to have the capacity to invest on the European level. In conclusion, with the last concrete utopia of our time, we could find solutions for several socio-economic issues, and we would give a progressive and prepositive answer to citizens needs and requests, showing the true nature of a dangerous nationalistic illusion and giving a necessary alternative to the violent rhetoric that considers the “other” as a menace.

YOUTH

The central problem that has been dealt with in the thematic table on young people is certainly that of training and of European identity which unfortunately is increasingly difficult among the new generations. Today having a European culture and therefore the possibility of traveling is a part of the wealthy civil society, thus alienating most of the population. Another problem is that of the distrust of young people towards institutions not only local but especially European and international ones. This is most often to remove young people from political life.

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- Introduce mother tongue teachers in public schools to learn the European language and culture without having recourse to private individuals
- To promote projects such as Erasmus and InterRail, in order to play young people to know Europe to live it and study it.



- According to schools guidelines on the study of law, civics and European languages
- Incentivate and disseminate the "Europe Direct" Centers
- Strengthening projects such as "Youth Guarantee"

WORK

The European integration process was mainly economic, until the Maastricht Treaty, while social integration (not just political) has been minimal. Indeed, the Member States still maintain social policies, including the theme of work.

Though these competences remain at national level, there are some European (and global) problems: the unemployment, the social dumping and the precarious work.

We have to consider that the European Union has paid attention to the topic of work. The European Commission, in particular, has promoted some initiatives to fight unemployment like the 2020 strategy, the European Social Agenda and the European Social Dialogue. These tools, however, have difficulties to be effectively applied.

During the internal debate, the discussion group on the "work" topic highlighted some issues like the delocalization of firms, the quality of job (including safety and health), the "downside social dumping" by workers (i.e., people go to other countries, where the pay is greater) and the partial uniformity of certificates (limited to high education/university, ECDL and driver's licenses).

Moreover, the group discussed about the relationship among quality, stability and equality, the own resources of the European Union and the Lisbon Treaty's dispositions about the Social Policy (Articles 151-161 TFEU).

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- Analysis of the quality life and economic models in the Member States.
- Harmonization of bureaucracies and administrative procedures in the Member States.
- A prevention of delocalization through sanctions that must have the obligation of destination to public investments.
- To allocate part of VAT revenue and EU's own resources to investments on increase long-term and quality employment levels.
- Investments on the standardization of qualifications for both skilled and unskilled workers, in particular linguistic certificates and recognition of work experiences in other Member States.
- A creation of European social standards through a multi-level collaboration with social partners.
- Improvement of the (embryonic) European social legislation and its extension in some important fields (for example, about the 'health and safety').

BORDERS

Although "borders" include many topics, all of them crucial for the European integration process, our discussing group chose to focus on defence issues. We firstly set some considerations about



the present situation. Today we face a faded progress toward common European defence mechanisms, border patrolling, coherent foreign politics, unified asylum requests system. The group highlighted current irrelevance of European armies, their inability to defend properly our borders against potential foreign menaces and the vast amount of money loss due to inefficient divisions between member states.

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According to this situation, we unanimously aim a bounce toward more integrated defences and we propose further ideas related:

- Firstly, a common cabinet composed by commanders in chief of every Army, leading to a better cooperation between member states, initially following NATO path. Cooperation must be set following the main goal of a unique European Army.
- To start a merging process between European weapons producers, sustained by contributions and proper regulations from the European Commission.
- To address foreign and defence policies to deterrence and peacekeeping. The former against military threats and the latter to third parties conflicts.

ORGANISED CRIME

The context of organized crime finds its place at the international level: in order to dismantle it, we need efficient supranational institutions. The non-sharing of information and the unconscious use of the same by the european intelligences, closely linked to the national reality of the country of origin, give rise to a fight against organized crime in Europe that is inefficient and disorganized. In addition, in cases of tax evasion, (ex. Apple / Google and European VAT), there is a political inequality that does not allow effective counteraction to this phenomenon and therefore legislative uniformity in this area will be necessary. International trade linked to the distribution of light drugs is unopposed in Europe and in the world: it is clear that a fight against organized crime can only be effective at European level (Europol collaboration).

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Proposals in this sense are the establishment of an effective European Intelligence and therefore of European investigative teams: this can be achieved either through a grant of competence by EU member states towards the European institutions, or through the implementation of a structured cooperation on the fight against organized crime, on the same model as PESCO. Furthermore, procedures will be needed towards legalization of light drugs, through greater cooperation between EU member states, to counter more effectively international organized crime, which bases its economy in this area, and an international Intelligence control, through the establishment of UN bodies designed for this purpose.