



enjoy your  
future

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# enjoy your future

The project “Enjoy your future” funded by the European Commission under the programme Europe for Citizens has started one year ago. After the collection of opinions through an online game and some meetings on the five topics of the project, all partners involved have prepared a document of proposals for the future of Europe. During the international meeting in Brussels, more than 40 young people from different European countries have reflected on documents previously prepared and they have written down this final and collective document of proposals for the future of Europe.



## integration

### Premise

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”. The notion of integration is deeply connected with the functioning of the Schengen area, the protection of freedom, the defense of human rights, the issue of solidarity (among the others) and the European Project *tout court*. The response we will give as Europeans will define what kind of Europe and what kind of European society we will contribute to create in the next future. 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.

The legitimization of the logic which naturalizes the “nation” and the “state” as static and pure entities, ignores their social and historical origins and creates boundaries that are not only geographic but also deeply-rooted in our society. This legitimization, united with fear-mongering, can destroy in a short time the trust and tolerance built up by generations. At the same time, we are living a deep identitarian crisis as Europeans, because there are no big narratives that can give an answer to people’s questions and needs and also to global challenges.

The construction of a new European social-integration model should be strictly linked with a broader political project of a united and democratic Europe, under the motto of the Union “united in diversity”.



## Our proposals

### *European Citizenship*

Our main proposal concerns the European Citizenship. EU citizenship already exists, but we noticed some limitations which could be modified to make rights more effective.

Today EU citizenship only exists on a second level: it can be acquired only by obtaining a citizenship of an EU member state. Nonetheless, different member states have different criteria to regulate the access to citizenship and this right is strictly linked to national sensibilities of each country. This does not facilitate the equal and uniform integration of new citizens and second generations within the member states.

It is proposed the elaboration of a different model of EU citizenship, which is autonomous from national ones: it would not be necessary to be citizen of a member state to become a European citizen. As a result, the right of access to citizenship will be harmonized in the whole Union, but at the same time national policies about citizenship will not be affected. EU citizenship should be inclusive as well, not exclusive: it should be possible to keep it as a second citizenship, besides the national one. It should respect multidimensional identities, considering and preserving different aspects of the numerous cultures present in Europe. European Citizenship, based on the adherence to the values of freedom, human rights, democracy, social justice and solidarity, should establish rights and duties respected to be part of European Union, a guarantee for all citizens.

### *Member States' adherence to values and duties*

European Union was built on common values shared by all its members, according to *Art. 2 of Treaty of European Union*<sup>1</sup> and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights*. Thanks to these basic values, the Union has been a model for the entire world since its creation. However, we have observed that in the recent years some of these fundamentals had been threatened by some Member States. We already know that sanctions exist for those States which do not respect such basic rights, but we deplore the weakness of European Union during these conflicts. Consequently, this lack of strength provokes an unstable power that is not respected enough by all different sides included in this huge "game".

For this reason, we think the European Union shall improve the procedure of punishment for a guilty State, even if it includes the modification to the *Art. 7 of the Treaty of The European Union* to simplify sanctions procedures.

### *Citizenship Education*

Aside from all the possible improvements, it is fundamental to increase people's consciousness about the European Citizenship.

To achieve this goal, we propose to include European citizenship education in formal school programs.

<sup>1</sup> "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities"





On the other hand, our proposal is to improve exchange projects. We believe that, in order to create a Union of Peoples, it is essential to facilitate encounters and contamination among European citizens in various stages of life. As it is now, European mobility mainly consists of the Erasmus project, which nowadays is accessible only for a part of university students. We propose to increase and differentiate exchanges for citizens, mainly according to two points of view:

- ★ cultural exchanges should be already introduced in high schools of all kinds, to give to every student the opportunity to experience other countries, no matter of their social origin. In some countries this program already works, we believe that citizens should encourage their own government to adopt these measures.
- ★ Moreover, we suggest to increase traineeship exchanges, to create opportunities also for workers and not only for students.

### ***Immigrant integration program***

Nowadays, the European Union is facing one of the most important structural phenomenon it had ever dealt with: migrant crisis. This topic had been exploited by many nationalist parties to increase Euroscepticism. One aspect that contributes to transform this phenomenon in a social issue is the lack of integration policies.

We support the existence of quality standards of welcoming systems, with a specific attention to education and employment, and their effective application. In all EU countries migrants should be granted language classes and civic education from the welcoming country. This will represent an advantage both for migrants, who can understand better the rules of their new social environment, and for the proper states. On the other hand, migrants should be provided with programs for employment in their new countries.



### **Premise**

It is not only a rhetorical issue, young people represent indeed the future of the 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.



## Our proposals

### *Civic Education*

Knowing EU history and institutions is a way to develop a feeling of belonging to the European community, rather than just our national one.

To do that, the learning about the EU should be mandatory in school. Learning outcomes should include knowing Europe's history, having basic knowledge about the European institutions and their functioning, knowing the key moments in the process of European integration, and learning how to have a constructive debate about European policies and how to engage in European politics. For example, a proposal could be to have general and common guidelines to prepare lessons on national and European institutions.

This civic education should also include practical experiences (ex: languages, informatic like ECDL, skills).

### *Language*

Language characterizes European diversity, and learning a foreign one is a step to create a link between young people. Language can be a tool to improve the European consciousness sleeping inside each one of us.

To improve the quality of teaching in public schools, there should be introduced more mother tongue teachers. A mother tongue teacher enables pupils to not only learn a foreign language but also to understand culture and habits of the country in a more concrete way. Moreover, it prevents pupils from using their own language, and they can be updated about the country's situation by a local.

Let's make sure that until the beginning of the next financial framework (2021), there will be at least five mother tongue foreign language teachers constantly employed per EU member state. Teachers should be sent either in urban zones and in rural ones, so that each student can benefit from this advantage and have the same possibilities. Mother tongue teachers should spend at least 2 hours a week having conversation with the same class.

### *Autonomy*

We believe that the European Union has a role in helping young people to grow as responsible and independent adults and that EU should equip them with essential goods (ex: house, food and work..)

Autonomy is a complex topic that one acquires step by step, and which does not imply the same concepts for all age ranges. Therefore, proposals can be sorted by age ranges, even if one must keep in mind that these ranges are universal and can be adapted according to each case:

*Range 15-19 years old ("high school period"):*

- Having a job during the week-end or summer is a way of improving one's autonomy.
- Scholar education should be a conscious decision, which should not be influenced



or forced by a third party.

- Civic education can also play a role in the strengthening of responsibility, and consequently autonomy.
- European civilian service could be mandatory for some weeks/months to have a job experience while studying in high school, and beginning to understand what the working world.

*Range 20-26 years old ("university period"):*

- To have practical job experience and acquire skills you cannot acquire in your own country through Erasmus+ stage experiences in other European countries.
- Sharing houses with other students paying a reduced rent in exchange for doing small voluntary services for the residential community.
- To introduce teaching critical thinking and professional debating as a part of university curricula for all member states, then nurturing a high-quality debating culture with a theory and practice lessons. Putting in super strong efforts for regular EU-wide visibility campaigns for high-profile debating contests could be a small step on the way. The basic, necessary skills and competencies it requires are lacking for making informed quality opinions, based on facts and then to communicate them to one another.

*Range 27-35 years old ("young workers period"):*

- "Youth guarantee" could for example be extended to the age of 35.
- Strengthening projects such as "Youth guarantee", which aims to ensuring that all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship, traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

Information centers could be created or extended in order to inform young people/workers about European institutions. We consider that information about possibilities offered by the European system is the key to an efficient orientation.

### **Erasmus + Programme**

Erasmus + programme is a concrete way to both discover European culture and people, but also to give birth to a true European feeling of belonging.

First of all, Erasmus + should be promoted between young people (not only students) and not limited to studying, but also N&ET. This means that advertisement and information about the programmes should also aim at all young Europeans, including workers.

Moreover, the Erasmus + scholarship financial should be managed by a specific EU agency (also in order to balance host countries and hosted students) and scholarship financial should directly pass from EU agency to national agencies without passing through states.

By the creation of revisionary agencies, we could shorten the money flow from the EU to the national agencies, skipping the national governments.



## Premise

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.

Work is a central topic in public discussions, maybe nowadays more than ever. As these competences remain at national level, every day we are concerned by national politics on that. At the same time the world is already globalised and globalising and some problems can not be considered just national, but European and global: unemployment, social dumping and 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.

When it comes to touching upon the topic of jobs, career and work in general, a sense of lack of clarity and unease is on full display among many youngsters. Although some have clear goals and aspirations after graduating, those who have less means, education to obtain and rare, valuable experiences are increasingly faced with the reality of potentially having to adjust themselves and change their fields of work, city or country of residence or envisioned life quality.

A general lack of proper and well-predictable system and measures protecting employees' rights on many levels is being reported. Trust and true commitment are luxuries only a few can really afford on the long run. The education system predominantly fails to provide youngsters with knowledge, experience, in short the skills and competences the job market expects from employees.

From these reflections we have elaborated some proposals:

## Our proposals

### *Overcoming the bureaucratic labor market*

- ★ Development of a European guidebook for young professionals in order to facilitate tax filing under the different national taxation systems
- ★ Creation of common European guidelines for administrative procedures, especially for what regards social security benefits. Facilitate access to benefits for workers in different Member States through a common digital portal



### ***Future of work***

- ★ Promoting sustainable growth by investing in R&D in different industries and assisting communities in the transition process
- ★ Prioritizing the diversification of economies by supporting SME's and creating favourable policies for new industries

### ***Tackling unemployment***

- ★ To set the minimum duration of unemployment benefits to a standard of 6 to 9 months to tackle social exclusion and underemployment however, leaving room for national active labor market policies
- ★ Endorsing the principles of the Single Market on one hand and on the other enforcing policies that create obligations for companies which receive public funding to preserve regional employment
- ★ Improving the status of
  - unskilled workers by expanding the list of recognized qualifications within the Single Market and promoting re-education opportunities
  - skilled workers by encouraging mobility within the Single Market with the aim of preventing underemployment
  - young people by expanding current youth programmes to include NEET's and focusing current resources at prevention of early school drop-outs
- ★ Expanding the EU residence permit to allow job-seeking also in other Schengen member states



# **organised crime**

## **Premise**

Organised crime is a problem that knows no borders; criminal organizations thrive by exploiting the different legal jurisdictions inside the European Union. Criminal groups interact with each other to enhance their profits. Europol and Eurojust have stated that most criminal organizations are active in different countries. Therefore, only an effort on the European level can prevent and counter it.

On the side of prevention, common efforts have to focus on education and social action. Through these initiatives, valuable alternatives to organized crime will be offered to citizens. As far as counteractive measures are concerned, the current nation-based law enforcement system is unable to fight crime efficiently, and needs to be reformed con-





sequently. Therefore, a comprehensive, autonomous capacity, working at the European level in the fight against organized crime, has to be created. Furthermore, policies must be designed towards both the short- and long-term period.

## **Our proposals**

### *Prevention*

- ★ Introduce European-wide awareness-raising programmes in all educational systems. The focus should be on perception of the consequences of organised crime, in terms of dangers and social costs, and on the individual and collective responsibility.
- ★ Direct European effort towards sustainable projects aimed at creating a fair and legal mindset. These projects should have a positive social outcome and public value, on the model, for instance of the requalification of confiscated properties.
- ★ Enable self-fulfillment outside of organized crime by creating a comprehensive support system that includes training, employment, psychological aid and housing.

### *Counteraction*

- ★ Agree on a legal common definition of organised crime shared by all European states.
- ★ Create a common criminal code to effectively prosecute criminal organisations. Exclusive competence regarding organized crime should be given to a European Criminal Court. Ultimately these are intended as steps towards an integrated common European judicial system.
- ★ Establish an autonomous European police force, accountable to European institutions and fully equipped with all tools allowing it to investigate, prosecute and counter crimes which are under EU's jurisdiction.
- ★ Progressively enhance cooperation among Intelligence Services, eventually leading to the creation of a single agency, responsible for security in Europe.
- ★ Direct common policies on narcotic substances to hinder the illegally controlled supply chain. Thus a significant source of revenues for criminal organizations will be eliminated.



## Premise

Borders historically define the sovereignty of a State: it is about establishing *who* controls *what*. Societies are interacting more and more with each other in a growing globalization of human phenomena.

Defining some common European borders, in contrast with traditional national borders, is a necessary step to guarantee a good control of the consequences of globalization: common European borders are a way to make countries themselves more *sovereign*.

What happens out of the borders of European Union has crucial effects on European Union itself.

Having common European borders implies the communitarization of the European foreign policy by erasing the unanimity vote to take decision and by excluding more and more single member States from global negotiations in favor of a EU representation in those tables (including the UN security council): it would allow to face our common challenges in a more effective way, without the incoherence of 27 foreign policies.

Furthermore, the inefficiency in this common management could be itself a reason for member states to develop more and more an unilateral approach which would endanger the European community itself, like it does when Schengen area is suspended.

## Our proposals

Considering the communitarization of foreign policies as the final goal, and knowing how far we are from there, we propose taking actions in the spheres of defense and migration, where the problems deriving from the lack of common borders are more evident, in order to get closer to it.

### Defense

In the field of defense, we propose:

- ★ to start a path towards a unique European army, beginning by the establishment of a common cabinet composed by commanders in chief of every army, improving the experience of the European Union Military Committee;
- ★ to organize more common military drills and trainings by mixing national armies;
- ★ to enhance the experience of the European Security and Defense College by making Military Erasmus mandatory for the future military officers;
- ★ to start a harmonization process between EU weapons and military equipment suppliers, in order to avoid different standard of productions and saving money;
- ★ to improve the communitarization of police and intelligence services by making EUROPOL stronger;



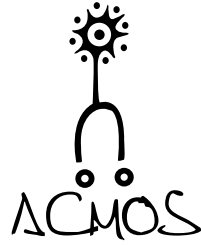
- ★ to improve Frontex by defining more properly and extend its mandate and through the organization of teams composed by more nationalities in order to: have a common control on borders (fostering “Europeanness” of them); implementing a system of reciprocal control like it is done in other fields (e.g. fishing...); creating an automatic system of distribution of national border patrols and intercultural mediators of different European origins, in case of local emergencies.

### **Migration**

Migration flows have multiple reasons. Facing them just by considering *what to do at the borders*, is not a sufficiently vast approach. We should for example think of development cooperation solutions to reduce inequalities (also caused by us) in the world, we should face the problem of selling weapons, etc... In this phase we decided therefore to focus on “borders solutions”, knowing that this is necessarily a partial approach. We propose:

- ★ the legalization of the situation of migrants arrived in Europe (those who can't be considered as refugees) through the release of residence permissions for humanitarian reasons and of travel documents to allow a spontaneous redistribution; it could create a positive example that could be started from one country and followed by the others -> it is not a “European solution” but it could impulse a European answer in the future. In addition to this, we could introduce a “last chance” system by offering to those migrants who do not manage to stay in Europe a training to become cooperants in the area of origin;
- ★ the establishment of a system to prevent job and asylum seekers from reaching Europe by illegal means and dangerous paths, through the attribution of residence permits already within the origin country, thanks to a coordinated European structure based on European embassies around the world;
- ★ reforming Dublin III by introducing sanctions to countries which refuse to take their share of coming migrants;
- ★ keeping separated funds for refugees from funds generally addressed to development cooperation in order to avoid misusing of resources.

These are not definitive solutions but could represent a way to improve our management of global phenomena and challenges which require a common European approach.



**Les Jeunes Européens**  
France

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