

EYE
Forlì

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YOUTH IDEAS
REPORT

EYE FORLÌ 2024

Organised by:



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
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CAMPUS DI FORLÌ



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EYE Forlì 2024

From 17 to 19 May, almost 4,000 young people aged between 16 and 30 met at the Forlì Campus for the European Youth Event - Local.

The event was organised by Punto Europa, an office of the University of Bologna and Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Studies, with the support and co-financing of the European Parliament, in collaboration with the European Commission and the National Youth Council.

Ten partners supported and collaborated in the organisation of the event: Giovani delle Acli, AICS Regional Committee Emilia-Romagna APS, Associazione Rad-Uni, Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi, Fridays For Future Italia, Gioventù Federalista Europea, One Hour For Europe Italia, Centro Europe Direct Emilia-Romagna, Centro Europe Direct della Romagna and Europe Direct Modena.

The contribution of institutional partners was also fundamental. Regional and territorial institutions made a major contribution. These included the Emilia-Romagna Region, the Emilia-Romagna Legislative Assembly and the Municipalities of Forlì, Cesena, Faenza, Ravenna and Rimini.

With the support of Emilia-Romagna Welcome and Visit Romagna, guests from other Italian regions and abroad were given a warm welcome. The hospitality was managed by the official partners Emilia-Romagna Welcome and Visit Romagna. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Chamber of Commerce of Romagna, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmi di Forlì, Ser.in.ar, Caritas Forlì-Bertinoro and Coop Alleanza 3.0.

Finally, the entire event was followed and documented by EYE-Forlì's media partners: Rai Cultura, Rai Radio 1, TGR 3, Euractiv Italia.





By young people for young people

Like all Local EYEs, Forlì's put young people at the centre, giving them the opportunity to make their voices heard and get involved by helping to make the event happen. 40 young volunteers from Punto Europa followed the preparation of the event from beginning to end. 137 youth organisations responded to the call and brought their vision of Europe to EYE Forlì. 150 volunteers took part in the activities, collecting the numerous ideas that emerged and that have been collected in this report.

One year after the flood

From 15 to 17 May 2023, the flood in Emilia-Romagna caused the overflowing of 21 rivers and the flooding of 37 municipalities, including the city of Forlì. One year later, in Piazza Saffi, EYE Forlì commemorated the first anniversary of the flood. A dance performance by the association B-Ped celebrated the rebirth of the affected areas. Blue hands and limbs represented water and earth, commemorating the tragic event of the flood. The performance of the Faenza flag-wavers filled the festive piazza with colour. The popular song "Romagna mia" brought the ceremony to a musical close.

Over 200 workshops, laboratories, artistic activities, debates, meetings and sports tournaments

At EYE Forlì, young people had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, from debates to workshops, from simulations of European institutions to conferences, from theatre performances and concerts to sports events.

These activities took place not only on the university campus, but also in various locations in the city, including theatres, churches and museums.

The values of EYE Forlì

The values that have inspired and guided EYE Forlì are those of inclusion and sharing. We undertook to establish environments in which all individuals would feel at ease and be esteemed, in which they would be secure and able to articulate their aspirations and concerns, and to share their personal histories and experiences. Inclusivity was the overarching principle that facilitated engagement with a diverse cohort of young people beyond the traditional university setting. The participants of EYE Forlì were presented with the opportunity to engage in discourse concerning the future and to conceptualise solutions to the contemporary issues. They collaborated on the basketball court and communicated through dance and music, acting and photography, painting and drawing.

Youth Ideas - EYE Forlì

The ideas were collected during EYE Forlì by a group of volunteers. At the end of the event, a total of 80 ideas were reported. Of these, we selected the 20 ideas that best summarised the issues that young people addressed at EYE Forlì. The youth ideas were divided by tags: **#rights and inclusion; #society; #green; #work; #world and #migration.**



M A K E

Y O U R

V O I C E

H E A R D

The 20 ideas

EYE Forlì



***#Rights and
#Inclusion***

#Rights and #Inclusion

The topics of mental health, gender, voting, civic education and citizenship were discussed by young people at the #rights and inclusion event, who called on the European Union to take concrete action to guarantee these rights. It was argued that only in this way will it be possible to include everyone and fully develop European citizenship.

The right to mental health

The transition to adulthood is a pivotal and intricate phase of life, characterised by completing studies and integrating into the labour market. This transition is accompanied by considerable socio-economic pressure, as young people are required to meet social and familial expectations that frequently necessitate making sacrifices. The prevailing discourse tends to attribute blame to young people and precludes acknowledgment of their needs, thereby precipitating a confrontation with an unwelcoming labour market.

The current research agenda tends to prioritize the examination of mental health symptoms over an investigation of their underlying causes. This approach often overlooks the explanations provided by young people themselves. The mental health debate must incorporate the perspectives of young people, as their experiences are frequently misinterpreted as symptoms of a “fragile” generation.

Today, access to mental health is a privilege. The high cost of counselling, therapy and medication is a significant obstacle for many young people. Even when health insurance is available, it often does not adequately cover all necessary expenses. Moreover, the availability of mental health services is often limited, with long waiting lists and a shortage of resources, especially in rural areas. The social stigmatisation of mental health discourages many people from seeking help, for fear of being judged or discriminated against. Lack of information and awareness about mental health problems and available services is a further obstacle, preventing many young people from finding the support they need. Even when services are accessible, the quality and continuity of care can vary greatly due to a shortage of qualified professionals and limited resources. Public policies often do not prioritise mental health, with insufficient funding compared to demand.

We believe that the European Union can act in this regard, shedding light on the issue, recognising **the right of citizens to mental health, and putting in place instruments that promote access to mental health for young people.**

More space for women in politics

The debates at EYE demonstrated the enduring absence of opportunities for women and girls in the realms of politics and associationism, along with the pervasive sexualisation of these individuals. It is frequently the case that activism in politics by women is perceived by the general public in a negative light. This risks alienating them from demonstrating and making their voices heard. Conversely, associations and political parties should serve as forums for the exchange of ideas and the advancement of shared interests in public affairs and citizenship rights. Conversely, the formulation of policy proposals in opposition to gender mainstreaming is a challenging process, and the efficacy of existing proposals is difficult to ascertain. While gender quotas are an effective policy tool, they are not a panacea for achieving gender equality, particularly in the political sphere.

For an extended period, women have been excluded from the political sphere. The current political landscape is one that predominantly reflects the perspective of one half of the world's population, that of men. Women must be afforded the chance to develop their political ideologies and strategies. It is therefore crucial to establish forums where women can cultivate their political perspective.

Firstly, to afford women greater representation in politics, it would be prudent to provide them with a basic understanding of how they can engage with the political sphere, as well as information on their current involvement in politics and associationism. To achieve this, it would be prudent to invest in the establishment of **Gender Studies degree programmes in European countries**. Such programmes would serve to provide a robust theoretical and practical foundation on gender issues and women's political participation, while also disseminating **concrete examples of women's leadership**. It is also crucial to consider the cultural expectations that present tangible obstacles to women's involvement in politics and to attempt to surmount them through the dissemination of information and the raising of awareness. Moreover, a principal objective should be to facilitate the use of inclusive language, for example through initiatives in institutions or political organisations, to foster a more welcoming and representative environment.

#Rights and #Inclusion

A European higher education

The issue of higher education and training is of paramount importance for the European Union, as the future of the EU is contingent upon the capabilities and competencies of its younger demographic. The university system varies considerably between member states, as does the right-to-study system, which provides support and protection for students experiencing financial difficulties. Nevertheless, the establishment of a unified European model of higher education remains a challenge.

What measures might be taken to enhance the university system and achieve a unified model that could be adopted across the EU? It is important to consider the psychological well-being of the student when formulating policies for university education, given that students are often subject to social and family pressures in a competitive academic environment. Similarly, it would be beneficial to consider the role of social events and activities in conjunction with the traditional classroom lecture format. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to facilitate a greater exchange between the university and the world of work. Ultimately, an effective and equitable university system must address the increasing cost of living across Europe. This necessitates the provision of adequate housing and financial assistance for students facing economic challenges. In conclusion, a **revitalised university system could be founded upon the harmonisation of academic programmes and the immediate recognition of academic qualifications**; the expansion of Erasmus+ programmes; and the promotion of European research networks, which would not only be divided by subject areas, but also interdisciplinary.



#Rights and #Inclusion

Involving young people: more participation politics and combating abstentionism

The phenomenon of abstentionism represents a significant challenge in the contemporary political landscape. The right to vote, a precious gift for which past generations have fought, is now regarded by many as a taken-for-granted and unimportant aspect of civic life. The right to vote is increasingly perceived as a means of expressing dissent against policies that are considered to be remote from the interests of citizens. Citizens must exercise their right to vote to effect change and contribute to the betterment of society. Democracy mustn't be taken for granted; rather, it must be safeguarded. Each individual's vote can contribute to a tangible impact on the political landscape.

The current approach to civic education in schools is inadequate in terms of student engagement with political life. These courses tend to be theoretical in nature and frequently lack teacher interest, with teachers constrained by timetabling and meeting obligations that detract from the quality of teaching. Ultimately, in an Italian context where there is a notable discrepancy between the political and socio-economic conditions of the north and south, young people in the south appear to exhibit a diminished interest in political matters, mirroring a tendency observed in other countries where peripheral regions display a similar apathy. Efforts must be made to enhance the promotion of European elections and to encourage political participation.

We contend that the EU is well-positioned to address this problem by restoring the right to vote to the value that has been lost over the years. Indeed, the EU is perceived favourably by younger generations due to its role in guaranteeing access to reliable information and combating climate change, a global issue of paramount importance for the future.

It would be prudent for the EU to **invest more in civic education courses, with a particular focus on ensuring the quality of these courses and on providing practical training rather than theoretical instruction**. Secondly, to reduce the knowledge gap between the North and the South in Italy (but the same applies to other European countries where similar gaps exist), **the European Union could reinforce the Europe Direct networks**, which are widely distributed throughout Europe, and provide them with the necessary resources to facilitate closer engagement between citizens and European dynamics. One proposal that emerged from the discussions held during **EYE is the promotion of cultural events with a European theme**, to be held periodically and in alignment with the "Week of the Regions" in Brussels. The objective is to foster awareness of Europe's cultural richness and diversity through a variety of initiatives, including cultural events, celebrations, and culinary traditions.



#Society

The ideas presented in **#Society** address a range of issues related to misinformation and European citizenship, exploring these topics from various perspectives. These include examining inequalities, the role of journalism, social issues, and youth political participation. The subjects were addressed through the use of games, roundtable discussions, debates, and quizzes.

Encouraging participation youth policy

The European Youth Event provides a forum for young Europeans to engage in discourse on the future, to deliberate on European policies, and to cultivate a sense of European optimism.

According to data from Eurostat, individuals between the ages of 15 and 29 represent approximately one-sixth of the European population. It is challenging to accept that the future is truly within our control when our voices are drowned out by those of the older generations. It is imperative that the rate of youth abstentionism, as observed in the previous electoral process, is no longer permitted to persist. These data compel us to fortify our voice and construct amplifying devices to reach locations where, by numerical considerations, it would otherwise be infeasible.

It is evident that there is a need for a greater number of events such as the EYE, as well as the development of new tools for youth participation. It is therefore recommended that the European institutions convene a new meeting of European youth with the specific objective of developing **new instruments for youth participation**. It is proposed that a substantial **European Youth Conference** be convened, a forum not only for confrontation and dialogue, but also for active construction. The coordination of the European Union and the support of select think tanks could facilitate direct dialogue between young people and the institutions, thereby fostering more incisive and conscious participation.

More spaces for young people in cities

In European cities, there are abandoned spaces, even in historic centres, which require redevelopment. Concurrently, the advent of the pandemic has highlighted the necessity for the creation of new spaces designed to facilitate the socialisation of young people.

Indeed, young people often report feelings of isolation and disorientation, which must be addressed. In the context of urban regeneration projects, it is essential to consider the challenges that young people currently face to identify potential solutions. Such projects may also be aligned with the sustainable development goals set out in Agenda 2030.

It would be beneficial to encourage the creation of new spaces for recognition and association in cities through European calls for proposals. This would facilitate the development of projects by young people, as well as facilitate discussions between young people and professional psychologists on a range of topics, including mental health, job prospects, sustainable nutrition and affective education, to improve interpersonal skills.



Territorial Development Teams Strengthening the EU-Regions Relationship

Despite the existence of well-established regional policies and the provision of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), several significant challenges remain in the relationship between the European Union and the regions. One such challenge is the lack of involvement of young people in rural and less connected areas, which hinders active participation and local development. Moreover, there is a pervasive reluctance among small municipalities to engage in collaborative endeavours and resource sharing, frequently driven by concerns about relinquishing decision-making autonomy. Finally, the effective utilisation of ERDF funds represents a significant challenge, with numerous regions failing to optimise their socio-economic development potential.

In light of these challenges, **the establishment of a dedicated technical support team** is put forth as a potential solution. It is proposed that this team will play **a pivotal role in fostering a constructive dialogue between European institutions and regional realities**, thereby facilitating the effective allocation and monitoring of ERDF funds. Furthermore, it will actively promote collaboration between small municipalities, facilitating the exchange of best practices and optimisation of available resources.

The principal aim is to guarantee that European funds are fully accessible to less connected communities, thereby stimulating local development, reducing socio-economic disparities and encouraging the active participation of young people in the process of building a more inclusive and resilient European citizenship.

In summary, this proposal seeks to reinforce the role of the European Union as a catalyst for regional development through the implementation of a proactive and integrated approach.

Equal opportunities for young students European students: harmonising education

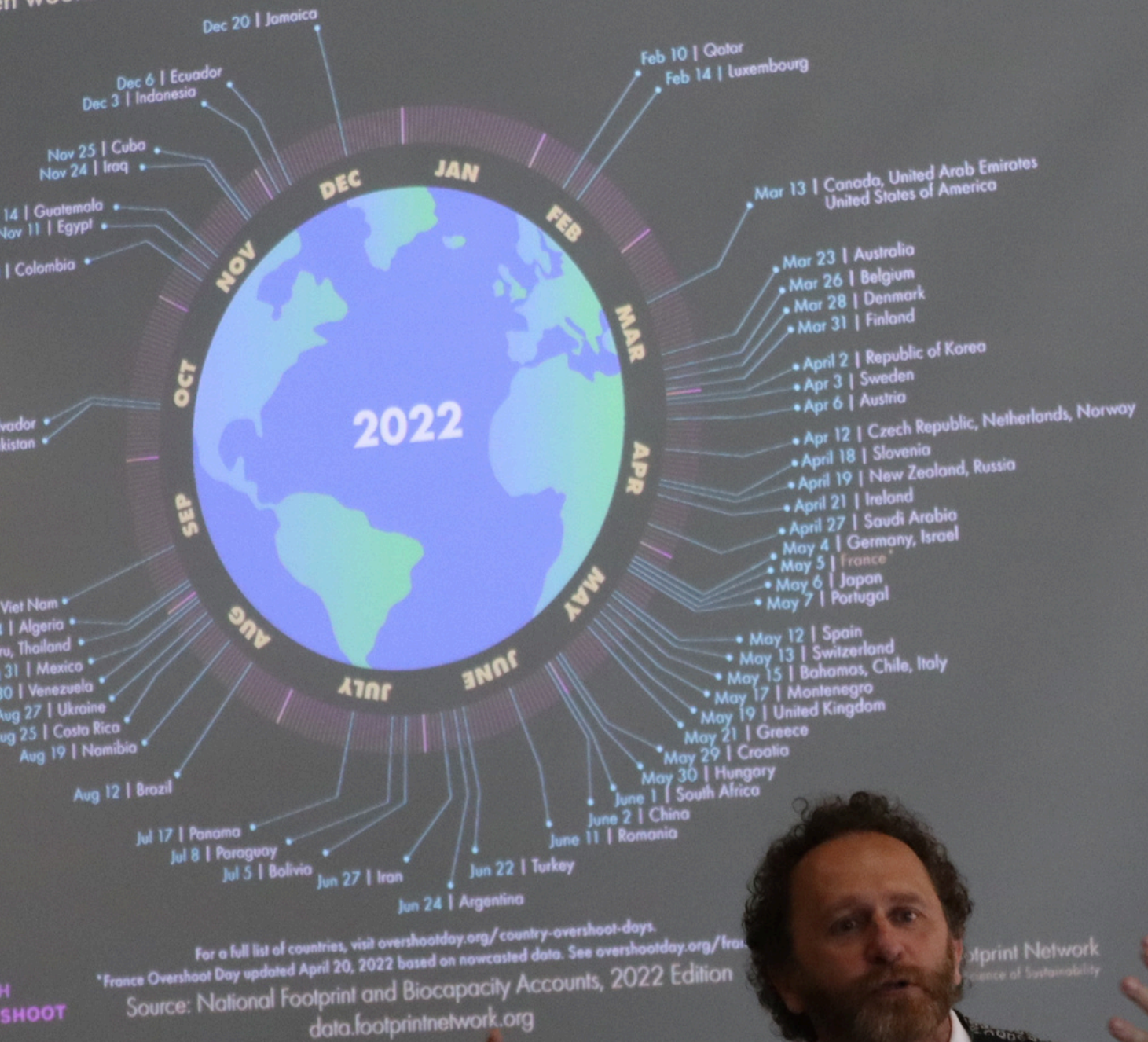
The pedagogical approach currently employed in Italian schools is perceived to be somewhat insufficient in light of contemporary educational standards. Students are discouraged from expressing themselves freely and developing critical thinking, remaining subordinate to a teaching method that does not facilitate an education capable of preparing them for dialogue with their peers from other European countries who have followed different educational paths. The school environment is not particularly inclusive. The system is inflexible and unable to respond to the evolving needs of the younger generation.

It is our contention that the European Union must intervene. On behalf of future generations, we propose a reform of the Treaties with the objective of harmonising the education systems of European countries. It is recommended that all countries adopt a unified education system to eliminate discriminatory practices and ensure a consistent level of knowledge across all students. This would facilitate a constructive competitive environment that encourages excellence and fairness. Ultimately, the European Union should provide financial assistance to international schools and facilitate the establishment of European schools that are accessible to all.



Country Overshoot Days 2022

When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...



#Green

The discussion of ideas on the environment encompasses the pivotal issues that will shape the EU's **#Green** future. These include the circular economy, climate justice, and the protection of ecosystems. The younger participants engaged in a discussion concerning the potential benefits of the circular economy and the necessity for enhanced educational initiatives and awareness-raising to facilitate its effective promotion. The participants engaged in a discussion on the challenges associated with addressing climate injustice and proposed potential solutions to enhance the efficacy of policies designed to bolster the support and protection of ecosystems at the local and global levels.

Circular Economy: Starting with Education

The fight against climate change necessitates the implementation of both individual and collective measures. To achieve the objectives set out in the Green Deal, it is essential to foster the development of a green society, characterised by a heightened awareness of the impact of human activity on the natural environment.

It is therefore vital **to integrate environmental education into the school curriculum**, ensuring that sustainability becomes an integral part of everyday life and that the principles of the circular economy are promoted and implemented, beginning with individual households. It is of the utmost importance to educate young people in the principles of sustainability and respect for the environment from an early age, as this is the most effective way to instill lasting ecological habits. It is of the utmost importance that the significance of reducing waste and reusing resources is instilled in students at an early age, as this will facilitate the adoption of the circular economy model at the household level.

It is essential to encourage and support families to reduce their use of disposable materials, to recycle correctly, and to choose sustainable and environmentally friendly products. It is only through educational action that a future in harmony with the environment can be achieved.

Climate Justice as Global Justice: Request for Recognition of the Intersectionality of the Climate Struggle

The issue of climate change represents one of the most urgent and complex challenges of our time. Nevertheless, addressing the issue exclusively from an environmental perspective is insufficient. The climate crisis has ramifications that extend beyond the environmental domain, exerting a profound influence on the social, economic, and political facets of our societies. **It is therefore vital that the EU acknowledges the interconnectivity of the climate crisis**, recognising that climate justice is inextricably linked to global justice.

Intersectionality is a theoretical, methodological, and policy approach that considers the multiplicity of aspects that constitute an individual's identity and how these intertwine to create particular situations of disadvantage or privilege in a given social context. The various forms of inequality that exist, including those based on racial origin, gender, social class and other identities, are mutually reinforcing and influence each other. An intersectional approach to climate action necessitates the consideration of the multifaceted dimensions of climate change and its ramifications, ensuring that climate policies concurrently address social and economic inequalities.

The EU could provide financial support and **promote the production of reports** and studies examining the complex interconnections between climate change and social and economic inequalities. **The establishment of new think tanks** with a specific focus on climate justice, comprising experts from a range of disciplines including environmental, social, economic, and political, could facilitate the development of evidence-based recommendations for equitably addressing the climate crisis. Furthermore, representatives of the most vulnerable communities must be included in these think tanks, in order to ensure that their voices are heard and valued.

In conclusion, it is argued that to effectively address the climate crisis, the adoption of an intersectional approach is imperative and urgent. It is only by considering the multiple dimensions of the crisis and its interconnections with social and economic inequalities that the EU will be able to promote truly equitable and sustainable solutions.

Civic engagement for the protection and restoration of ecosystems

Il The degradation of the environment is a significant concern for young people, who are increasingly questioning the sustainability of their actions and the contributions they can make on an individual level.

Against this backdrop, the imperative to safeguard ecosystems is becoming increasingly evident among institutions and legislators. Indeed, at the European level, one of the tenets of the Green New Deal is the Nature Restoration Act. Furthermore, the protection of ecosystems is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. Concerning Italy, the CAI (Club Alpino Italiano) initiated in 2024 a project designated "Acqua Sorgente" (Water Source), which is aimed at monitoring springs across the Italian territory. Individuals are invited to participate by sending a photograph of the spring in question to the CAI, accompanied by specified parameters about the source.

This opportunity was met with considerable appreciation and was regarded as an exemplar of citizen science, defined as a scientific research activity directly involving citizens. To engage younger demographics, this effective approach could be expanded to the European level by establishing a **digital platform managed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the monitoring of water sources across the continent.**



HUB DEL NETWORKING



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#Job

The ideas on **#Work** revolve around four main topics: equal opportunities, job orientation, new technologies and safety. The young people shared their experiences of traineeships. They discussed the opportunities offered by new technologies and the need for more in-depth training in their use. They discussed the difficulties one normally encounters when looking for a job, and put forward solutions to improve support and guidance services in schools and universities.

All traineeships should be paid

Internships constitute an exceptional opportunity for young people. In addition to introducing them to the world of work, internships permit the concrete application of knowledge acquired during studies, the acquisition of practical experience, the development of new skills, the formation of networks and the attainment of experience in another country. Consequently, internships facilitate access to a plethora of opportunities.

Nevertheless, the financial burden of undertaking an unpaid internship is not affordable for all young people, which results in an unequal distribution of professional opportunities and the perpetuation of inequalities and social injustices. The Erasmus+ Traineeship Programme assists students seeking to engage in a traineeship experience abroad. Nevertheless, the financial support provided is frequently inadequate, as it does not fully cover the costs associated with accommodation and travel.

It is therefore incumbent upon the European Union to ensure that all internship opportunities offered in Europe provide **adequate remuneration that covers all expenses incurred by the intern**, whether the internship takes place in the home country or abroad. Moreover, in instances where these mechanisms prove inadequate, supplementary measures must be introduced to address the financial implications faced by trainees.

To guarantee equal opportunities and safeguard the rights of young people, **it is proposed that all unpaid internships be abolished.**

A European orientation to the world of work

The European Pillar of Social Rights has resulted in the formulation of national strategies to be operationalised by 2030. These strategies are designed to reduce the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and to enhance employment prospects for women.

Nevertheless, these objectives have not been entirely accomplished. For instance, in Italy, the proportion of NEETs is on the rise in the southern regions. To gain insight into the perspectives of young people, some studies have been conducted. These include the 'Ask Me How I Am' initiative, which revealed the necessity to provide support for the most vulnerable individuals through the promotion of apprenticeship contracts that offer enhanced protection for young people.

Furthermore, it is imperative to re-examine the educational paradigm, aligning it more closely with the demands of the contemporary labour market. This necessitates **the introduction of mandatory civic education and vocational training at the European level**. Young people must be allowed to seek guidance and support when entering the world of work. To this end, European programmes could be utilised to fund **the establishment of information and guidance desks at universities and European secondary schools**. Such initiatives would also serve to enhance awareness of the EURES platform among the younger demographic, thereby facilitating their access to international job opportunities.

It is similarly vital **to facilitate the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and digital literacy among young people** through the implementation of suitable training programmes. One potential risk is the possibility of excessive regulation, which could impede the ability of young entrepreneurs to effectively navigate the various European calls for proposals. There is a clear necessity for a greater focus on funding channels, and the EU should prioritise the provision of support in this domain.

The European Artificial Intelligence License

In view of the ongoing transformation of the European labour market, shaped by the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), **the introduction of a European Artificial Intelligence Licence is put forth**. The objective of this initiative is to regulate and promote the adequate training and competence in the use of AI, in parallel with the European Computer Driving Licence. This is done in order to ensure that technological adoption is accompanied by adequate professional training and responsibility.

The licence will be obtained through the completion of a course on artificial intelligence, followed by a **standardised examination** assessing the technical and ethical skills required **for the responsible use of AI**. Those who successfully pass the examination will receive an official, European-recognised certificate of qualification in the use of AI.

This initiative addresses the need to explore and understand the impact of AI on the European labour market, ensuring that the integration of digital technologies takes place sustainably and inclusively, without compromising the central role of human labour. Furthermore, it addresses the challenge of misinformation regarding policies and institutions regulating the labour market, intending to promote greater awareness among European citizens about the changes taking place and the skills needed to adapt to an increasingly technological working environment.

The European Artificial Intelligence License is designed to serve as a pivotal instrument for fostering training and skills adaptation in the context of AI, thereby facilitating the advancement of a resilient, innovative, and future-oriented European labour market. Additionally, it seeks to safeguard the well-being of individuals and to uphold fundamental rights in the digital domain.



#World and Migration

#World and Migration

The ideas on **#World and Migration** cover a rather broad set of issues ranging from areas concerning journalism, the protection of minorities and languages, to topics related to the European Union's external relations with African countries. Once the different issues related to these issues were discussed, participants shared their ideas and proposed solutions.

The EU and the world: a look at Africa

The European Union and the African Union must engage in constructive dialogue to foster a future trade relationship that is environmentally sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial. This partnership must be reinforced through the provision of project funding and the exchange of skills and knowledge. Additionally, diplomatic actions and an enhanced awareness of the shared history between Europe and Africa are essential for strengthening this partnership.

To achieve economic interdependence based on mutual benefits, it is essential to pursue inclusive and social development, as well as sustainable resource management. In light of the above, priority must be accorded to the promotion of peace in trade agreements and respect for international law. Peace must be the foundation of economic development, as external actors can often impede its maintenance. Furthermore, economic activity is inherently incompatible with the context of conflict. Ultimately, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of peace can only be achieved through dialogue and mediation between the parties involved, in which the EU can play a pivotal role.

It is therefore imperative that the EU establish a day of remembrance and reflection in order to build a strong and sustainable partnership with the AU. The establishment of a **Colonisation Remembrance Day** would be an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the past and promote a deeper understanding of the historical dynamics that influence the present and future of EU-AU relations. Secondly, to facilitate learning and cultural exchange, the **EU could establish a European-level forum dedicated to exchanging experiences and knowledge with African countries**, promoting innovative solutions to common challenges and strengthening ties between the two continents. In this regard, academic exchanges between young people may prove an efficacious instrument for comparison and comprehension.

Theatre of languages: Celebrating European multilingual identity

Multilingualism constitutes a fundamental aspect of European cultural identity. Languages serve not only as instruments of communication but also as guardians of systems of thought and cultural heritage, which must be actively preserved.

The proposal is to organise performances of **theatre in multiple languages**. It is an expression of the rich linguistic and musical diversity that characterises Europe, uniting artists from a multitude of countries and linguistic backgrounds. The objectives are manifold. Primarily, the objective is to promote multilingualism and reinforce its importance as a fundamental element of European identity. Secondly, the initiative aims to enhance cultural heritage by preserving and promoting the linguistic and cultural traditions of different European countries. Moreover, the initiative strives to cultivate social integration and cohesion, **fostering a sense of community and belonging through the celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity**. In addition, the event seeks to educate and raise awareness of the significance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. The event's structure incorporates a variety of multilingual theatrical performances, encompassing diverse forms such as recitations, musicals, dramas, and comedies. Each performance is meticulously crafted to exemplify the aesthetic and cultural nuances inherent to the European linguistic landscape. The artists involved, from various countries, will collaborate to create unique productions that blend their different cultural and linguistic traditions. Each performance will be accompanied by translations and subtitles to ensure audience understanding and inclusion, regardless of the audience's mother tongue.

The proposal is an extraordinary opportunity to experience and **celebrate Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity innovatively and engagingly**.

A stronger voice for minorities

It would be erroneous to assume that the territorial border is the sole barrier that migrants encounter.

The causes of migration are complex and varied. Conflicts, conditions of underdevelopment and misery, demographic pressure, poverty and hunger are among the factors that drive people to leave their country of origin in search of a better life. Nevertheless, crossing the border into another state does not necessarily signify the conclusion of existential challenges and the pursuit of rights. Upon arrival in their destination country, migrants frequently encounter a multitude of social and legal impediments, which can impede their full integration into both society and the labour market, as well as the complete realisation of their fundamental rights.

The voices of minorities are frequently absent from the discourse of European institutions, leading to a perception that the act of voting within citizenship is a representative tool of minimal value and importance. It is therefore important to raise awareness of the importance of voting among young people belonging to minorities so that representation at the level of the European institutions is as inclusive as possible. Furthermore, it is imperative to sensitise the European institutions to implement new instruments that would guarantee the rights of minorities. The European Parliament may facilitate the advancement of **multicultural citizenship**, thereby reinforcing and safeguarding the union in diversity while upholding the rights of minorities.

It is also crucial to foster a **more inclusive European society**. Frequently, the inclusion of minorities is impeded by the dissemination of misinformation that propagates erroneous data on the subject of migration, thereby inciting EU citizens to adopt an adversarial stance towards the phenomenon. It is our contention that the most efficacious and appropriate instrument for combating misinformation is education. It is therefore recommended that **investment be made in educational initiatives that foster greater awareness and sensitivity among citizens with regard to the multifaceted nature of the migration phenomenon.**

Principles for clear, transparent and transparent and truthful

The contemporary journalism landscape in Italy and Europe is confronted with a multitude of challenges about time management, redundancy, and reliability. Furthermore, more complex issues, such as those related to the European Union, are often treated superficially. Additionally, the proliferation of misinformation on the internet and in the media contributes to the challenge of accurate information dissemination. In discussing the European Union, three fundamental criteria should be adhered to: (i) the selection of facts, given the impracticality of reporting on the minutiae of 27 disparate countries daily; (ii) constancy, whereby the focus should not be on chasing the latest sensationalist headlines, but rather on maintaining a consistent level of awareness; and (iii) context, which necessitates an understanding of the broader context and the rationale behind the reporting of a particular news item.

In light of the plethora of media outlets available to the public, it is imperative to devise strategies that will capture and retain attention. Furthermore, it is imperative to safeguard journalists from the potential dangers of social media hype, particularly in the context of armed conflicts.

It would be beneficial for the EU **to provide financial support for journalism courses or internships**, to train young people to efficiently comprehend news and to be able to locate it from official sources. Furthermore, **the EU could establish a dedicated line for media outlets interested in discussing European issues**, akin to the "Konrad" column in "Il Post" or the "Euporn" podcast in "Il Foglio". One potential solution is to cross-reference information with the time typically allocated to entertainment. There is a need for information that is both informative and engaging, utilising a combination of images and videos. It is also necessary to develop a **new proposal for an information diet**, as the relationship with readers will be instrumental in the survival of journalism. Newspapers must also establish connections with additional paid services and other forms of media. Some initiatives that could **be promoted and supported include the establishment of a journalism support fund or a best practice support programme**.

Forlì

Manifesto



Forlì Manifesto

For a free and united Europe: from Ventotene to Forlì

Italy is one of the six founding countries of the European Community, now the European Union. During the Second World War, a group of men and women confined to the island of Ventotene wrote a Manifesto for a free and united Europe. In the unification of Europe, these Italians had found the answer to the problems of their present.

In view of the historical period we are living through today, characterised by the revival of nationalism and the strengthening of national sovereignty, Punto Europa wanted to organise a workshop entitled "Back to Ventotene" to revive such a significant moment in the history of Italy and Europe. Starting from a rereading of the Ventotene Manifesto, the young people who took part in the workshop discussed the challenges of the present and thought together about solutions to face them.

Through the Forlì Manifesto, the young Europeans of EYE-Forlì presented their vision of Europe and addressed some of the central issues of European politics. The hope is that Europe will offer more space and opportunities to young people, allowing them to actively contribute to building the future of the continent.



Forlì Manifesto

The process of European integration has gradually shifted the continent away from a position of total destruction. The advancement of these principles through incremental, tangible actions has resulted in the establishment of freedom and democracy as the bedrock of life in Europe.

In the last twenty years, however, this unique project has been subjected to significant challenges from a range of sources, resulting in a questioning of the foundations that the founding fathers had so wisely laid in the aftermath of the Second World War. The European continent is currently experiencing a crisis of values, which is manifesting in many different ways. These include the rise of individualism and the decline of civic engagement. The democratic process is being undermined. The resurgence of nationalism has given rise to the re-emergence of the 'old aporias' of the past. The erosion of civil liberties, the curtailment of individual freedoms, the marginalisation of women, racial discrimination, xenophobia, the fortification of national frontiers, the resort to state violence, and the outbreak of war. The resolution of this crisis necessitates a collective commitment. The process of European integration, which commenced in 1950 intending to establish a "de facto solidarity", should now be reinitiated with this very principle as its foundation.

The current generation has been socialised to believe that there is no future to be built. On the one hand, the advent of new challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, and the potential self-destruction of humanity, has introduced an element of uncertainty into the future. Conversely, this is due to the pervasive notion that our words hold no significance and are not heeded.

In actuality, the future is constructed. It is not a right that is automatically conferred or a responsibility that is simply assumed. It is therefore evident that the future can only be built if democracy is upheld. The freedom to express oneself is contingent upon the existence of a democratic system, which has been painstakingly constructed and realised by others before us. Similarly, as Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi demonstrated in the context of the Ventotene confinement, it is possible to construct a superior future, one that is tailored to our own needs and aspirations, by addressing the challenges of the present.



"Mensa" European Citizenship and Identities

We young Europeans, members of "Mensa" European Citizenship and Identities, believe in the realisation of multicultural citizenship at the European level, based on a deep and broad reflection on cultural diversity and minority rights.

For us, European citizenship represents a citizenship of rights, shared values, and opportunities. However, we note that not all EU citizens are fully aware of their rights, many take shared values for granted and exploit opportunities without recognising their scope and importance.

We believe that new information and participation tools have to be designed and implemented so that European citizenship is experienced more consciously. To this end, we call for the promotion of new supranational information channels, able to counteract the phenomenon of disinformation and to disseminate official information on the European Union, its policies, and institutions. Furthermore, we call for the introduction of a single document recognised at the European level, so that European citizenship is not merely a complement to national citizenship, but a true uniform legal status. We call for the alignment of school curricula, so that the students of the European Union feel part of a single education system, and can therefore make the most of the cultural confrontation that the European project offers them without any discrimination. We call for the creation of a single European electoral system, and for European citizens to vote for supranational European parties.

"Mensa" Democracy and Citizen Involvement

As members of the European organisation "Mensa" and of the Democracy and Citizens Involvement group, we believe that democracy represents the pinnacle of personal freedom of expression. It allows for the full realisation of individual potential and the flourishing of communities.

The significant decline in voter turnout observed in recent years, the accelerated resurgence of nationalistic sentiment, and the gradual curtailment of individual liberties in certain European nations pose a grave threat to the fundamental principles upon which the European Union was established, including freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

The crisis of democracy manifests as a growing disillusionment among EU citizens with the political process at the European level. This has led to a decline in voter turnout and a perception that the European vote is of lesser importance.

The impetus that prompted the founding fathers to embark upon the inaugural steps towards a novel social and political configuration of the European continent on a supranational scale appears to have been eroded.

It is our contention that greater European political unity can be achieved in the near future. It is our hope that Europe will become a unified entity in which the political, economic, and social interests of its member states converge, thereby restoring the sense of solidarity between states and the political will to drive the European integration process forward.

We believe that democracy is strengthened through the process of European integration and therefore call for a greater strengthening of democratic institutions and the initiation of a new reflection on the European project, with the aim of overcoming this crisis.

"Mensa" New European Welfare

We, the young Europeans, members of the "Mensa" New European Welfare, believe that the disparities in welfare systems between the various EU member states are responsible for territorial inequalities, thus hindering cohesion policy and the concerted development of the Union itself. It is our firm belief that the principle of solidarity must be at the heart of European cohesion policy. Based on this principle, we call on the European institutions to actively engage in implementing a new European welfare model. In the design and implementation of this new welfare model, it is of the utmost importance that the European Union respects and values the diversity among its member states. Furthermore, it is imperative to place greater emphasis on individual rights, particularly in the health sector. European intervention is necessary to ensure the full exercise of fundamental rights that can no longer be neglected, such as the right to abortion and euthanasia. Similarly, we endorse the right to a minimum wage as a fundamental aspect of labour rights. There is a pressing need for decisive European action to address the gender gap by implementing social policies to eliminate gender inequalities. In this context, we advocate for active policies that promote equality and support women in achieving economic and social equality.

"Mensa" Borders and Migration Crisis

We young Europeans, members of the "Mensa" Borders and Migration Crisis, believe in overcoming national borders and developing a fluid European space, where our freedom of movement is fully guaranteed.

The concept of fluid borders has been a pivotal aspect of the European political project since its inception. The founding fathers anticipated a gradual diminution of national borders through a series of successive and progressively larger transfers of national sovereignty to European institutions. This integration dynamic has the objective of creating an increasingly fluid European space, in which the control of states over their national borders is diminished, thus enabling the European Union to guarantee the free movement of people and the development of a European society. This principle is applicable both within the Schengen area and beyond, in the context of enlargement.

As Jean Monnet observed, the objective is not the unification of states, but rather the unification of citizens.

Forlì Manifesto

The permeability of European borders is at risk of being compromised. Member states persist in violating the fluidity of the Schengen area by reinforcing national border controls. With regard to external borders, the European Union is still grappling with the consequences of enlargement fatigue. It is therefore incumbent upon the EU institutions to defend the principle of fluid borders in a resolute manner. Moreover, by the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the borders of the European Union must remain fluid for migrants fleeing adverse living conditions that endanger their existence. A European migration policy must be established, with the competence for this policy exclusively vested in the European Union. In conclusion, the migration issue must be addressed through an approach that prioritises the well-being of migrants, as outlined in the Migration Agenda of May 2015. This approach should foster collaboration between the European Union, Member States and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"Mensa" Environmental Policy

It is the conviction of the younger generation of Europeans, members of the "Mensa" Environmental Policy, that the preservation of the planet's health necessitates the implementation of innovative measures that are commensurate with the magnitude of the threats that it faces. The European Union considers climate change to be an existential threat to Europe and the wider world. The objectives set out in the Green Deal are ambitious and will establish new global standards. Nevertheless, it is perceived that the EU is progressing at a relatively slow rate in comparison to the accelerated pace set by the natural environment. Nation states are unable to address this threat in isolation. The EU, however, is uniquely positioned to facilitate a collective response, disseminate best practices to regions facing challenges in maintaining pace, and drive the adoption of innovative tools for environmental disaster prevention.

Thus far, urban areas have not yet adopted sufficient measures to discourage the use of private vehicles. Instead, there is a need to promote car-sharing, the use of electric vehicles and public transport, as well as the redevelopment of cities, with the creation of green areas and cycle and pedestrian paths. The promotion of separate waste collection, the reduction of plastic and the reduction of food waste must be continued. The circular economy must become the foundation of the domestic economy. The Union is in a position to impose more rigorous regulations and oversight of intensive livestock farming operations while simultaneously encouraging the purchase of organic food from zero-mile farms.

It is of equal importance to debate European energy policy. The transition to renewable energy sources must be accelerated, with the promotion of the large-scale adoption of solar, wind and hydroelectric power. The EU must encourage research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of renewable energy sources and make them more accessible and affordable for all Member States. It is essential to invest in infrastructure for the production and distribution of green energy, ensuring a stable and secure energy supply.

Energy efficiency represents another fundamental pillar for environmental sustainability. Both public and private buildings must be renovated according to energy efficiency criteria, utilizing sustainable materials and innovative technologies. Promoting thermal insulation, the installation of solar panels, and efficient heating and cooling systems are critical steps to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Green hydrogen emerges as a promising solution for a low-carbon future. The European Union must support the production of green hydrogen through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy. This clean fuel can be utilized across various sectors, including transportation, industry, and power generation, significantly contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, it is crucial to promote the adoption of innovative technologies such as smart grids, which enable intelligent and flexible management of energy demand and supply. Smart grids can optimize the use of energy resources, reduce waste, and effectively integrate renewable energy into the electrical grid. The European Union must also continue to invest in research and development of new sustainable technologies and foster collaboration among member states, universities, research institutes, and the private sector. Only through innovation can we address environmental and climate challenges with effective and lasting solutions.

A crucial aspect of the green transition is ensuring its social justice. The transformation of the economy towards sustainable models will inevitably lead to significant changes in the labor market, with potential job losses in traditional sectors such as the fossil fuel industry. It is essential that the European Union develops policies and support programs for those affected by these transformations. This includes professional retraining programs, support for job relocation, and incentives for the creation of new jobs in green sectors. The energy transition must be inclusive, ensuring that no one is left behind. We believe that the Union must find tools to strengthen the collective commitment to the climate fight, triggering a radical change in our production methods, social dynamics, and lifestyles, so that our presence in the world is in complete harmony with nature.

Finally, we call on the European Union to consider and promote new development models, such as the concept of "happy degrowth." This approach emphasizes the voluntary reduction of production and consumption, promoting a simpler and more sustainable lifestyle. Happy degrowth focuses on the quality of life and the well-being of people, rather than on endless economic growth, with a perspective of respect and harmony with the natural environment.

In conclusion, the European Union has the potential to lead the world towards a sustainable and resilient future. It is essential that all of us, as citizens of the European Union, actively commit to supporting and promoting these initiatives, contributing to building a healthier and more livable planet for future generations.



Conclusion

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The EYE Forlì 2024 initiative engaged with over 3,775 young people, leaving a notable impact not only on the city of Forlì but also on the participants themselves.

The EYE Forlì initiative demonstrated a reinvigorated sense of European optimism, accompanied by a renewed appreciation for the significance of solidarity and collaboration. The event left a lasting impression on all participants, who gained invaluable insights from sharing experiences and ideas and forged connections that transcended national boundaries. The ideas collected were classified according to themes, including rights and inclusion, society, the environment, labour and migration. These represent an intellectual heritage that we hope will inspire future actions.

The legacy of EYE Forlì is also evidenced by the two artistic works created during the event, which have been installed in the locations where the event took place to serve as a testament to its impact and significance. Indeed, the European bench, which symbolises unity and inclusion, and the collective artwork "paintEU", which reflects creativity and collaboration among young people, celebrating the diversity of ideas, are both worthy of admiration.

In conclusion, EYE Forlì represented an opportunity for young people to express themselves and make their voices heard, while at the same time offering citizens the chance to listen to their original proposals, demonstrating that when allowed to express themselves and act, young people become active and competent protagonists.

EYE Forlì 2024 was therefore a catalyst for ideas, a moment of socialising and sharing, which will remain impressed in the memory of the city and its participants.



EYE STAFF



Coordinatori di progetto di EYE-Forlì 2024

- Prof.ssa Giuliana Laschi
- Prof. Fabio Casini
- Prof. Alessandro Martelli
- Prof.ssa Raffaella Baccolini
- Prof. Francesco Privitera

EYE-FORLÌ Idea boosters

- Gaia Ariaudo , EYE-Forlì Communication Team
- Camilla Bartoli , EYE-Forlì Communication Team
- Jacopo Cima Vivarelli , EYE-Forlì Event Team
- Barbara Matta , EYE-Forlì Event Team
- Scandura Luca, Eye-Forlì Communication Team

EYE-FORLÌ COMMUNICATION TEAM

- Gaia Ariaudo
- Camilla Bartoli
- Tommaso Biagioli
- Valeria Campari
- Caterina Martello
- Maria Antonietta Montenegro
- Chiara Puzo
- Federico Righi
- Sophia Temgoua Tsafack

TEAM EYE-FORLÌ

- Paolo Cantore
- Margherita Capannoli
- Eleonora Cappa
- Ambrogio Carugo
- Beatrice Costa
- Rosa Maria Genovese
- Giuliana Villari

EYE-FORLÌ EVENT TEAM

- Altea Noemi Agostinis
- Filippo Ceccotti
- Jacopo Cima Vivarelli
- Erica Fermanelli
- Simona Lusuardi
- Livia Maccaroni
- Barbara Matta
- Riccardo Nedal Rouzzak
- Azzurra Pedante
- Enrico Pellizer