

CITIZEN WORKSHOP FOR THE G20 SUMMIT

Wednesday 24th May 2017

Istituto Luigi Sturzo, Roma

The meeting, promoted by the Young Leaders group of the Istituto Luigi Sturzo in collaboration with *A soul for Europe* and *IFOK*, in view of the forthcoming G20 in Hamburg, took place on Wednesday 24th May 2017 at the Red Room of the Institute Luigi Sturzo, Via delle Coppelle n.35, Roma.

There were about 50 people both adults and youngsters and the roundtable was dedicated to on-the-field strategies in Europe, particularly to cultural, social sustainability and political leadership areas.

A brief video on European Union history has been screened and participants were invited to submit their personal ideas and proposals to the three following questions:

“Which measures need to be taken by the G20-States to foster growth while social and ecological needs are met”?,

“How can international cooperation move the needle while respecting cultural and regional identity and diversity”?,

“How should political leaders act, in order to insure that humans are in the center of the development”?.

1. The meeting was opened by the chairman of the Culture Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, on. Flavia Piccoli Nardelli, who offered a broad overview of the current cultural policies and of what She believes should continue to be pursued.

The main issues that emerged in the **culture panel** are:

- ✓ increasing resources forecasted by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage (+37 percent in the last year);
- ✓ improving cultural fruition and reading implement, such as the Culture Card for the 18-year-old young people and the three-year Fund (€ 400 million) to counter educational poverty (Stability Law of 2016); Promoting a virtuous public-private relationship in cultural heritage management (Art-bonus decree of 2014, 65% of tax deductibility on donations for cultural heritage);
- ✓ including the right of enjoyment of cultural goods among the fundamental rights of the person (“Colosseum” decree);
- ✓ expanding the public audience and enhancing the intangible assets as one of the strongest points of Italian heritage and citizenship legacy linked to beauty, knowledge and traditional trades;
- ✓ promoting cultural and creative businesses starting from the start-up phase, with the aim of encouraging young people's employment (in areas such as apps, design, video games, about 6,000 Italian innovative start-ups, according to MISE data) ;
- ✓ supporting all forms of school-work collaboration (Law 107 of 2015);
- ✓ promoting digital school and innovative school libraries (Law 107 of 2015);

- ✓ supporting school-networks, associations, cultural institutions in order to adopt national cultural heritage (PON heritage).

2. The second session recorded the testimonies of Mariano Feccia -cardio surgeon at San Camillo Hospital in Rome, who shared his experience in Mauritania, Albania and Kuwait, and Michele Gerace - lawyer, founder of "Bar Europa" and of "Constitutionally", which interacted particularly with high school students posing them several questions about community and identity concepts.

The main points that emerged in the **sustainability panel** are:

- ✓ exporting human capital and know-how in disadvantaged contexts, to remove inequalities and to offer development opportunities;
- ✓ increasing employment by twinning and collaboration arrangements;
- ✓ increasing the sense of community, by recalling Italo Calvino's lesson: if you want to do something better, you should not be doing it by yourself.

3. The third session was introduced by the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department for European Policies and Affairs, on. Sandro Gozi, who took into account the commitment of the Italian government and its staff to an European governance solidly based on participation and sustainability.

The main points that emerged in the leadership panel are:

- ✓ recent signing of the 2017 Treaty of Rome among European leaders moves from citizens needs;
- ✓ being united to fight the fear, main enemy of democracies, is necessary;
- ✓ a new global European governance, needing to be built up, through civic commitment, to tackle the open issues of labor, inequality and immigration;

- ✓ being multiplied Erasmus funds on an inclusive basis to increase opportunities for young people;
- ✓ the European Union is often accused of being far from citizens, but unlike other international organizations and unions of states in the world, it is the only one with a parliamentary institution and this essential datum must not be overlooked;
- ✓ developing transnational political movements and parties;
- ✓ proposing that the 73 posts vacated by the British after "Brexit" should be covered by transnationally elected members representing common European ideas and vision;
- ✓ reminding European leaders that oligarchic approaches excluding civil society and non-governmental actors are destined to fail because of nowadays de-territorialized global issues;
- ✓ European leadership today being no longer vertical, not belonging to those who do succeed, but to those who do gain esteem and trust in a relationship that places the Person to the center of Society, caring for qualitative -not just quantitative- development ;
- ✓ national country being complementary and synergistic to the European homeland;
- ✓ a new European economic governance being based on the concept of sustainable society (in this respect, the Italian Government has expressed a clear position on climate and food security with Milan Expo 2016, as well as on transnational dialogue and European social dimension with the Taormina G7);
- ✓ awareness needing to be increased on European identity, this being powered thank to key concepts -democratic principles, rule of law, fundamental rights-; Undersecretary Sandro Gozi asked for this matters being discussed among members of the EU Council of Ministers and being included on the EU agenda.

Adults and young people intervened in the debate: some asked questions to the political-institutional interlocutors, others made personal reflections and proposals and contributed with their own experiences.

In conclusion, the city of Rome meeting, can at last provide the following answers to the questions primarily posed:

- 1) **Which measures need to be taken by the G20-States to foster growth while social and ecological needs are met?**

*The **development of an inclusive dimension**, in order to build a European governance inspired by social participation and sustainability values, must be strongly implemented. To this end, measures should be planned to reduce inequalities and provide opportunities. Therefore, initiatives of the member states must be promoted:*

facing early school leaving, educational poverty, digital divide; improving quality high education and training; creating occupation opportunities for young people all over Europe; encouraging work organization capable of overcoming any form of gender discrimination, managing migratory phenomenons towards full inclusion both in productive and social fields; disseminating a culture based on the rule of law and civic-mindedness; promoting gender culture and regard for differences; reducing energy and food waste; protecting environment and ecosystem.

- 2) **How can international cooperation move the needle while respecting cultural and regional identity and diversity?**

Thanks to young people's cultural exchange and on-the-job training experience, it is possible to export human and technical expertise and scientific excellence throughout the world, with particular regard to less-

*favoured or less-developed areas, in promoting knowledge of democracy. In the encounter and in the dialogue between different realities, it is possible to found a development circuit in which **European "solidarity"** still lies - ethically important and politically necessary value-. Enhancing local cultures as **legacies of citizenship** contributes, in their foreclosing differences, to a common shared vision of Europe, beyond any national frontier.*

3) **How should political leaders act, in order to insure that humans are in the center of the development?**

*Political leaders must abandon any oligarchic approach to power and its exercise, must listen to needs and ferments of civil society, placing public investments in human capital and immaterial factors (education, culture, quality of life) in order to promote qualitative -not just quantitative- development of societies. In this sense, the commons and their enjoyment have particular importance, in a farsighted vision that invests in the communities of citizens and places they live in. The **democracy of knowledge**, thus possible to realize, being the basis of global economy.*

The YL Maria Pia Di Nonno, Daniela Fiore and Diva Ricevuto coordinated the work and wrote the final report.