



THE EU AND THE WORLD: NEW CHALLENGES AND TRENDS

Twenty-seven ideas from the Erasmus generation

University of Florence, Faculty of Political Science Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence,
University of Florence 31 May – 1 June 2012

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 'Erasmus' programme, the Faculty of Political Science 'Cesare Alfieri' and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Florence are organizing a conference aimed at involving a group of Erasmus students coming from EU Member countries and European Parliamentary Members. The event is supported by the parliamentary groups of the European People's Party and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament. The European Documentation Centre of the University of Florence and the national Agency of the Lifelong Learning Programma-Indire have also provided their collaboration.

The purpose of the conference is to allow a group of students coming from all over Europe to present specific proposals and discuss their views on the European integration process with representatives of EU institutions. The event is a follow up of the series of nine conferences on "The Costs of Non Europe" that the Faculty of Political Science organized last year. The results of the conferences were officially presented and discussed with Giuliano Amato during the first Festival of Europe jointly promoted in May 2011 by the European University Institute, the city of Florence, the University and other local Institutions. As a result, the University of Florence has committed to a transnational initiative on the future of the European Union aimed at involving European universities and particularly Erasmus students.

Participant selection

The University of Florence has chosen a university partner for each of the EU Member States on the basis of current exchange programs. The partner Universities are responsible

for selecting two students (a male and a female) currently attending a European Studies program. As a further requirement, the two students should have spent a period of study in another European country, preferably as Erasmus students, and should be in good academic standing in order to contribute effectively to the success of the project. The selection process has been completed by the first week in April.

The 27 teams are asked to write a short paper on the issues that are a priority for the revitalization of the European integration process. In order to encourage the exchange of views among the participants and to stimulate a joint exercise, the local organizers have set up a virtual platform for the group. The platform has been active since the 10th of April. The documents prepared by the students will be submitted to the local organizers by the 10th of May, in order to be forwarded to MEPs taking part in the event at least two weeks before the forum.

The local organization will cover travel and accommodation expenses for all the students. Participants will stay in Florence for four days, arriving on the 30th of May and leaving on June 3 2012.

Institutional participants

The students will present their proposals and discuss them with some Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected in Italy, and possibly with representatives of the European Commission in Rome. The following MEPs have already confirmed their participation:

Luigi Berlinguer (S&D)
Paolo Bartolozzi (EPP)
Carlo Casini (EPP)
Leonardo Domenici (S&D)
Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)
Deborah Serracchiani (S&D).

Further contacts are under way with other MEPs (Mario Mauro; Guy Verhofstadt; Daniel Cohn-Bendit; Tanja Fajon; Jerzy Buzek; Doris Pack; Silvia Costa)

Outline of the event

Considering that several events have already been scheduled for May 9, Day of Europe, and also taking into consideration the European Parliament's calendar of activities, the conference has been planned for the last week in May. Students should arrive in Florence on Wednesday, May 30. The forum will start on Thursday, May 31 with an entire day dedicated to students interacting with each other and finalizing themes and proposals to be discussed the following day with the European Institutions' representatives. In detail, students will gather in thematic working groups during the morning; a presenter will be chosen for each thematic group. In the afternoon, students will gather in a plenary session, in order to learn about the work being carried out in each thematic area. The presenter will be in charge of illustrating his/her working group's dossier to the students of other working groups, and exploring the possibility for wider agreements. Students will receive technical support from the local scientific committee and additional experts, so that every group will have a tutor. There should be approximately six different thematic groups. Friday, June 1 will be dedicated to the dialogue between students and the MEPs and representatives of

the European Commission. Presentations will be organized into six thematic sessions, three in the morning and three in the afternoon. For each of them, the presenter chosen by the students will open the discussion. All working documents will be made available online. Saturday will be left for the students to visit the city of Florence. Return to their country of origin is scheduled for Sunday, June 3.

Schedule

- Project promotion with the selected Universities by February 15.
- Opening of the selection from 25 February
- Selection of participants by March 30.
- Launch of the virtual platform by April 10.
- Participants' interaction through the virtual platform, definition of the proposals and distribution of responsibilities among the teams, plus lay out of the documents during the whole month of April.
- May 14: Deadline for sending the proposals to the local organizing Committee.
- Wednesday, May 30: Students arrival in Florence and accommodation at the hotel.
- Thursday, May 31: Beginning of the conference at the Polo delle Scienze Sociali (Campus of Social Sciences) of the University of Florence.
- Friday, June 1: Students meet the representatives of the European Institutions at the Auditorium of the Polo delle Scienze Sociali.
- Saturday, June 2: Free day for students to visit the city of Florence.
- Sunday, June 3: Students return to their country of origin.

Conference draft program

May 31, 2012

Polo delle Scienze Sociali -Auditorium

9.30: Welcome & Opening Session

Prof.ssa Franca Alacevich- Dean of the Faculty of Political Science

Prof.ssa Valeria Fargion – Jean Monnet Chair

10.00-10.30

Philippe Schmitter – Emeritus Professor Stanford University and European University Institute

"The Euro-Crisis: Will it be a good one or a bad one?"

10.30-11.00

Coffee break

Ore 11.00 – 13.00

Parallel sessions . Discussion of the position papers presented by the different national teams and identification of the relevant Rapporteurs

13-14.30

Lunch Break

14.30-16.30

Plenary Session - Presentations by the Rapporteurs and general debate

16.30-17.00

Coffee break

17.00-17.30

Prof. Marcello Verga – University of Florence

“Public discourse on the European Identity”

June 1, 2012

Polo delle Scienze Sociali -Auditorium

9.30: Welcome & Opening Session - Prof. Alberto Tesi, Rector of the University of Florence
Pasquale Baldocci, Former Italian Ambassador, Institute of Forecasting Studies and
International Research (ISPRI)

“A new approach to the European Union”

10.00-11.00

First session

MEP Carlo Casini

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-13.00

Second session

MEP Niccolò Rinaldi, MEP Paolo Bartolozzi

13.00-13.30

Prof. Urban Strandberg- Centre of European Studies (CES) University of Gothenburg
“Universities’ role and responsibilities in the European Integration Process

13.30-14.30

Lunch break

14.30-15.30

Third session

MEP Luigi Berlinguer

13.30-16.30

Fourth session

16.30-17.00

MEP Leonardo Domenici

Coffee break

17.00-18.00

Closing session

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Austria: University of Vienna Law School

Belgium: Université Libre de Bruxelles

Bulgaria: Sofia University

Czech Republic: Masaryk University – Faculty of Social Studies – Brno

Cyprus : University of Cyprus, Nicosia

Denmark: University of Copenhagen – Centre for Modern European Studies

Estonia: Tallinn University of Technology – Tallinn School of Economics and Business
Administration

Finland: University of Helsinki – Network for European Studies

France: Sciences Politiques – Paris

Germany: Freie Universität Berlin – Center for European Integration

Greece: Athens University of Economics and Business

Hungary: Corvinus University - Budapest

Ireland: Trinity College Dublin – Centre for European Studies

Latvia: University of Latvia - Faculty of Social Sciences

Lithuania: Kaunas University of Technology – Institute of Europe

Luxembourg: Université du Luxembourg - Campus Limpertsberg

Malta: University of Malta - Institute for European Studies

Netherlands: Leiden University

Poland: University of Warsaw

Portugal: Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Católica Global School of Law – Lisboa

United Kingdom: University College London (UCL) – School of European Languages, Culture and Society

Romania: University of Bucharest

Slovakia: Comenius University in Bratislava – Faculty of Social and Economic Science

Slovenia: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences and Economic Science

Spain: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona – Institut Universitari d'Estudis Europeos (IUEE)

Sweeden: University of Gothenburg - Centre of European Studies (CES)

Local organizer

Valeria Fargion, Jean Monnet Chair “Politics of European Integration” (University of Florence) valeria.fargion@unifi.it

Scientific committee

Pasquale Baldocci, Former Italian Ambassador

Roberto Castaldi, Centre for Studies Research and Education on the European Union (CESUE), Sant'Anna School of Pisa

Valeria Fargion, Jean Monnet Chair, Politics of European Integration – Florence University

Laura Leonardi, Jean Monnet Chair, Social Dimension and European Integration-
Florence University
Annick Magnier, Jean Monnet Chair, Cities in the European Integration Process - Florence
University
Giorgio Natalicchi, Faculty of Political Science - Florence University

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