

Relazione conclusiva

### 3. **Progetto di ricerca** **“Spinelli forum: German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue”**

Progetto realizzato dall'ISPI insieme al DGAP tedesco e in collaborazione con i Ministeri degli Affari Esteri italiano e tedesco

#### Premessa

La pandemia da Covid-19 ha colpito duramente l'Europa mettendone ulteriormente **alla prova la governance e la capacità di coordinamento tra stati**.

Le decisioni del **Consiglio europeo**, i provvedimenti mirati presi dalla **Banca Centrale Europea** e dalla **Commissione europea** sul *recovery fund* sembrano essere andati nella giusta direzione di una condivisione dei provvedimenti di sostegno al reddito, flusso di liquidità, supporto agli investimenti, attenuazione di vincoli e scadenze regolamentari. Ma nel tempo le distanze tra le posizioni degli stati potrebbero tornare a crescere.

In questo contesto, si è ritenuto necessario **rilanciare i rapporti bilaterali tra diversi paesi europei** e in particolare tra l'**Italia** e la **Germania**, Paesi fondatori che hanno in comune fattori importanti su cui ricostruire una partnership solida. Nel corso dell'emergenza la Germania ha mostrato una solidarietà umanitaria molto concreta nei confronti dell'Italia, ma è **necessario un dialogo costante e aperto fra i due Paesi** per identificare una strategia il più possibile comune.

In questo dialogo il **contributo delle generazioni più giovani** è considerato imprescindibile per avviare una riflessione trasversale rispetto al mondo politico, economico e della cultura, che tocchi questioni cruciali per il futuro dell'Europa e dei singoli Stati membri. Questi gli ambiti tematici in cui si sono concentrati i lavori del presente progetto, attraverso specifici gruppi di lavoro:

- Politiche di Sicurezza e di Difesa Comune;
- Sovranità economica;
- Un'Europa sociale e prospera;
- Green Deal Europeo.

#### Modalità e tappe del progetto

Il progetto ha portato alla selezione di **66 giovani leader tra i 25 e i 37 anni italiani e tedeschi**, impegnati in varie sfere della vita civile ed espressione di uno spaccato rappresentativo della società, per farli discutere e confrontare sui temi sopra menzionati in un'atmosfera aperta e informale che consentisse un ampio scambio di opinioni.

Lo scopo finale è stato quello di elaborare, attraverso un percorso guidato seguendo la metodologia del *design thinking* e partendo da *concept notes* appositamente redatte, alcune raccomandazioni di *policy* nei diversi ambiti di discussione, presentate ai *policy planner* dei due Ministeri degli Esteri in occasione dell'evento conclusivo tenutosi a Berlino a fine settembre.

Le restrizioni dovute alla pandemia hanno imposto un percorso a tappe, con eventi organizzati in formato virtuale come momenti di avvicinamento alla conferenza conclusiva.

Prima tappa sono stati **due Web Talk di avvio** sui temi oggetto dei lavori del Forum, il 13 e il 25 novembre, alla presenza rispettivamente dei Ministri responsabili dei temi europei dei due governi, Vincenzo Amendola e Michael Roth il primo, e dei Segretari Generali della Farnesina e del Federal Foreign Office, Amb. Elisabetta Belloni e SS. Miguel Berger il secondo.

Ulteriore tappa operativa è stato lo **Spinelli Forum Ideation Labs** del 1° luglio 2021, in cui i giovani leader italiani e tedeschi, divisi in gruppi di lavoro e aiutati da "facilitatori" più esperti, hanno iniziato ad approfondire i temi in discussione e a confrontarsi sulle possibili soluzioni.

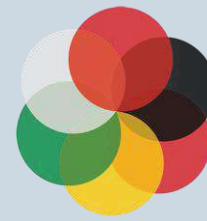
Per facilitare il networking, fondamentale per creare un clima di dialogo e condivisione, il 14 settembre si è tenuto un **"Virtual Aperitivo"** in cui, dopo una prima fase di spunti di riflessione da parte di giornalisti italiani e tedeschi – Tonia Mastrobuoni di "Repubblica", Florian Eder di "Politico Europe" e Tobias Piller corrispondente uscente di "FAZ" – i partecipanti hanno socializzato con l'ausilio di "wonder.me", una particolare piattaforma online finalizzata allo scopo.

L'**evento conclusivo "Our Future in a Sovereign Europe"** si è tenuto a Berlino il 27 e 28 settembre 2021, con un fitto programma di sessioni aperte al pubblico, per un approfondimento sui temi europei e un commento al risultato delle elezioni svoltesi la domenica precedente, e momenti di lavori di gruppo in sessioni parallele per giungere alla elaborazione di **11 policy recommendations**. Durante la cerimonia conclusiva queste proposte sono state presentate pubblicamente e caricate sul portale della "Conferenza sul Futuro dell'Europa".

Alla conferenza è stata associata una fitta campagna di promozione attraverso Twitter che ha visto la realizzazione di "quote cards" dei partecipanti italiani e tedeschi nella settimana precedente l'evento, "quote cards" degli speakers prodotte durante l'evento in tempo reale e una newsletter riepilogativa successiva all'evento.

Di seguito l'elenco degli allegati:

- Agenda del *Web Talk* del 13 novembre
- Agenda del *Web Talk* del 25 novembre
- Agenda dello *Spinelli Forum Ideation Labs* del 1° luglio
- Agenda del "Virtual Aperitivo"
- Agenda della conferenza finale del 27 e 28 settembre
- Promozione dell'evento conclusivo
- Newsletter con gli highlights post evento della campagna social
- Comunicato stampa diffuso prima della conferenza finale
- Articolo pubblicato sul "Sole 24 Ore" successivamente all'evento
- Galleria fotografica dei diversi eventi



GERMAN  
ITALIAN  
YOUNG  
LEADERS  
DIALOGUE  
SPINELLI  
FORUM

*Zoom Web Talk*

## **COVID-19 and the Path towards European Recovery: Views from Italy and Germany**

This Web Talk is part of the first *German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue - Spinelli Forum*, promoted by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

**Friday, November 13, 2020, 9:30-10:30 AM (CET)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the deepest economic recession in the history of the EU, testing the solidarity between member states and their capacity to act jointly. Member states are already experiencing a second wave of infections, but the EU is still grappling with its new budgetary framework and the “Next Generation EU” recovery instrument. Italy and Germany each bear special responsibility for Europe’s economic and social response, turning the immense challenge of economic recovery into an opportunity and putting the EU on a resilient, sustainable, and fair path of modernization.

**9:15-9:30**

*Access to the Zoom platform*

**9:30-10:00**

*Introduction and Chair:*

**Giampiero Massolo**, President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies, Milan

*Dialogue with:*

**Vincenzo Amendola**, Italian Minister of European Affairs, Rome

**Michael Roth**, MP, Minister of State for Europe, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

**10:00-10:30**

Q&A

The **German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum** is a joint initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in partnership with the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI).



Auswärtiges Amt



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

**DGAP**

Advancing foreign policy. Since 1955.

**ISPI**

ITALIAN INSTITUTE  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
POLITICAL STUDIES

## Personal Invitation

The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) invite you to a Web Talk as part of the first *German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum*

### COVID-19 and Europe's Global Role: Views from Italy and Germany

**Wednesday, November 25, 2020, 12.00–1:00 PM (CET)**

Zoom Web Talk

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to highlight both the importance of global cooperation and the fragility of the global system. It has also revealed how the dependencies of the EU can be turned into vulnerabilities. While the EU has long aspired to drive effective multilateralism, it has merely taken a reactive stance toward international crises and the power politics of third countries like the United States, China, or Russia. Italy and Germany are key players in helping the EU become more proactive in influencing regional and global developments and shaping the international order.

Our discussion focuses on how Germany and Italy can help the EU forge a common understanding of existing and upcoming international challenges and how the EU can increase its own resilience and capacity to act in a rapidly changing world.

Speakers:

**Elisabetta Belloni**

*Secretary General, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome*

**Miguel Berger**

*State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin*

Chair:

**Dr. Daniela Schwarzer**

*Director, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin*

Participants will be able to ask the speakers questions and make comments via Zoom's chat function.

Please register [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Web Talk. For any technical questions, please contact Sara Lazzarin ([sara.lazzarin@ispionline.it](mailto:sara.lazzarin@ispionline.it)).

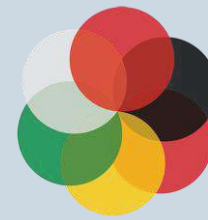
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## Spinelli Forum 2021 Virtual Kick-Off Workshops Our Future in a Sovereign Europe

More than a year has passed since the German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum, initiated to foster dialogue between German and Italian leaders from the fields of politics, business, science, civil society, media, and culture, had to be postponed. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the development of the global system bringing about enormous political, economic, and societal risks. These uncertainties have accelerated many existing trends in the multilateral system with immediate consequences for Germany, Italy, and the EU. Moreover, the increasing great power competition between the United States and China, a confrontational attitude from Russia, technological developments, new security threats, the consequences of climate change, resurgent authoritarianism, and socioeconomic upheavals are just some of the developments that will determine future tasks and require strong European cooperation. The recommitment of the United States to a rules-based international order under President Biden gives hope for a revival of a strong transatlantic alliance and calls for an autonomous and united Europe standing up as strong partner and ally vis-à-vis the United States. Strengthening the dialogue within Europe between partners like Germany and Italy is indispensable to improving mutual understanding in Europe, overcoming differences, and becoming driving forces of a sustainable and just socioeconomic transition as well as a stronger Europe in the world.

Spinelli Forum will establish a permanent network of German and Italian future leaders exchanging ideas with decision-makers to develop innovative strategic solutions to current challenges and make young voices count in political debates. Spinelli Forum 2021 is comprised of two major events that will feature several formats, including four so-called Ideation Labs – working groups built around a major topic: EU foreign and security policy, a social and prosperous Europe, European economic sovereignty, and a European Green Deal. Inspired by Design Thinking, a fast-paced methodology based on five different steps will be used to outline policy problems and create innovative policy recommendations.

In order to give space to identifying the most pressing political problems, the virtual kick-off is dedicated to analyzing the context of the respective policy areas and creating a common understanding of the most pressing challenges. Working in smaller and changing subgroups will enable both a creative and active working atmosphere online and more in-depth discussions. The results of the virtual Ideation Labs will form the starting point for the conference at which further exchange with experts and decision-makers will stimulate the development of concrete policy recommendations. A virtual Aperitivo ahead of the conference will provide an opportunity for networking as well as an additional platform for exchange on current issues in German-Italian relations.



## Detailed Program – Virtual Kick-Off

Thursday, July 1, 2021, 3:00 to 6:00 PM (CEST)

Via Zoom

**3:00–3:15 PM:**

**Welcome and Introduction** – Plenary (*in the following order*)

**Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**, Director & CEO, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

**Viktor Elbling**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Italy

**Armando Varricchio**, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Germany

**Prof. Dr. Franco Bruni**, Vice-President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

**3:15–3:30 PM:**

**Welcome and Housekeeping** – Ideation Labs (Zoom breakout rooms)

*Start of the Ideation Labs in separate Zoom meeting rooms*

**3:30–4:00 PM:**

**Expert Input and Brief Q&A** – Ideation Labs

(1) EU Foreign and Security Policy

**Speakers:** **Dr. Nils Schmid**, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, German Bundestag

**Hon. Marta Grande**, Member, Foreign Affairs Committee, Italian Chamber of Deputies

**Facilitator:** **Sarah Bressan**, Research Fellow, Global Public Policy Institute

(2) European Economic Sovereignty

**Speakers:** **Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer**, Executive Director Europe and Eurasia, Open Society Foundations

**Erik Burckhardt**, Policy Assistant, Cabinet of EU Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni

**Facilitator:** **Fabio Parola**, Analyst, Cattaneo Zanetto & Co.

(3) A Social and Prosperous Europe

**Speakers:** **Bernd Hüttemann**, Secretary General, European Movement Germany

**Prof. Dr. Francesco Saraceno**, Deputy Head of the Research Department, French Economic Observatory, Sciences Po Paris

**Facilitator:** **Dr. Matteo Villa**, Research Fellow, ISPI

(4) A European Green Deal

**Speakers:** **Dr. Kira Vinke**, Project Lead, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

**Federico Brocchieri**, Climate change consultant and researcher

**Facilitator:** **Jule Könneke**, Former President, Polis180





4:00–4:25 PM:	<b>First Working Phase: Identification of Problems</b> – 2 subgroups
4:25–4:35 PM:	Short Coffee Break
4:35–4:55 PM:	<b>Discussion and Decision-Making/Determination of 4 Key Problems</b> – Ideation Labs
4:55–5:20 PM:	<b>Second Working Phase: Further Development of Problems</b> – 4 subgroups
5:20–5:50 PM:	<b>Presentation of Results</b> – Ideation Labs
5:50–6:00 PM:	<b>Outlook</b> – Plenary

#### Ideation Lab Process:

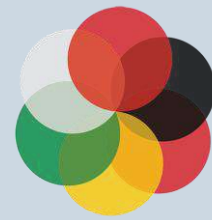
Throughout the whole Spinelli Forum, there will be four Ideation Labs. Each of these will consist of 16 participants and one facilitator and will tackle a specific policy area. Each Ideation Lab will start with an input by one Italian and one German speaker, followed by a brief Q&A session. During the **First Working Phase**, you will be split into two subgroups to provide ample space for sharing research and interpreting what you know about potential policy problems from your professional background and your country-specific perspectives. The subgroups allow for the better facilitation of the process of identifying specific problems within the respective policy field and the creation of a larger pool of ideas. Each subgroup should come up with a total of up to ten policy problems it considers most important. After a short break, you will come back to your Ideation Lab, discuss the collected problems, cluster them with regard to topic or scope, and agree on four key problems to continue working on. During the **Second Working Phase**, you will work in four subgroups of four participants each to further develop one of the four identified problems. This process will be structured by some general guiding questions (see below).

At the end of the Ideation Lab process, each subgroup will present its results to the other participants within their Lab who will then have the chance to briefly discuss and comment on each output. Please note: the goal within each Ideation Lab is to identify and develop four specific policy problems. The goal is not to find solutions at this point. The results are to be summarized on policy landscape sheets that will serve as the starting point of the major conference.

Each Ideation Lab is accompanied by a facilitator who will guide you through the process and help structure the discussion. During subgroup discussions, the facilitator will be moving between the different subgroups. There will also be a staff member of ISPI or DGAP present in each Lab who can provide technical assistance as necessary.

#### **Resources:**

During the discussions, you are strongly encouraged to draw on your own research, professional background, and country-specific perspectives. The expert inputs that will start off each Ideation Lab are meant to further stimulate the discussion. For your individual preparation before the workshop, please also refer to the notes on your respective Ideation Lab below. However, please note that these resources are only meant as thematic suggestions and should not limit your discussion or formulation of policy problems.



### **Tools to Facilitate the Process:**

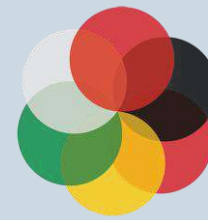
Each Lab will have a separate Zoom meeting room; subgroup discussions will take place in individual breakout rooms.

To facilitate the digital collaboration and visually summarize the policy problems, landscape sheets will be available on *Mural*. Links and further technical information will be provided shortly before the event.

Between the Ideation Lab workshops and the conference in September, you are encouraged to continue monitoring your topic, elaborate on your topic beyond the workshop, and incorporate comments by the other participants on the respective policy landscape sheets. Collaboration via *Mural* will be possible throughout.

### **General Guiding Questions for the Ideation Labs:**

- What are the key policy problems/challenges in the respective policy field?
- Why is the problem relevant for Italy, Germany, and Europe?
- What are hopes and fears connected to the policy problem?
- Do Italy and Germany have the same perception of the policy problem?
- Who are the stakeholders of the problem and what are their interests?
- What aspects might have been overlooked so far?



## (1) EU Foreign and Security Policy

Today's international politics pose a myriad of challenges to the Western-made, rules-based liberal global order and may give way to the harsh reality of power politics. "Corona politics" are a stark testament to that, with media wars (who is better at containing infections, or at recovering economically even as the pandemic keeps raging) making way today to vaccine races. New powers are rising, just as Europe's traditional allies are proving less and less reliable – a trend that has also been accelerated, or aggravated, by the pandemic and its effects. Recent developments in the Middle East and the larger Mediterranean put to the test the effectiveness of soft power and multilateral diplomacy. They also highlight two fundamental shortcomings of the EU's foreign policy: the difficulty of reaching consensus on foreign policy decisions and the lack of integrated military capabilities. Both obstacles will need to be overcome if the Von der Leyen Commission truly wishes to become a **"geopolitical Commission"** and, more generally, if "a stronger Europe in the world" is to be achieved.

On the first issue, reaching a common foreign policy position at the EU level still means overcoming Member States' resistances and vetoes. This is especially the case because decisions on common foreign and security policy matters require unanimity. The EU **decision-making procedures** in foreign and security policy therefore pose a challenge to a common position and have provoked discussions. As the EU grapples with internal divisions, potential geopolitical challenges continue to rise: among them, a more assertive China, a revisionist Russia, and a United States that is asking its allies to take sides between Beijing and Washington. In this context, are EU rules-based solutions and consensus-building procedures still fit for purpose, or should Brussels ditch its moral high ground to pursue *Realpolitik* and deterrence? To this aim, it is key to recall that the Council of the EU has recently called for strengthening resilience and countering hybrid threats, including disinformation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, few would heed Brussels' call for a more geopolitical Commission if the EU and its Member States lack the military power to back it up. Although the bloc has taken some steps toward more coordinated actions, including investments in the defense sector (e.g. PESCO and EU Defense Fund), a fully integrated **military-industrial complex** at the EU level is still far from reality. The EU's defense sector is still so little integrated that EU Member States have 178 different weapon systems, compared to 30 used by the United States.

**A stronger Europe in the world.** How to scale-up the EU role in the world and, particularly, vis-à-vis the US and China? From MENA to Eastern European to Africa and beyond, how to tackle current crises? How to enhance the EU conflict management/prevention and stabilization policies? How to link them to the EU humanitarian and development policies? Which new tools are required to face non-traditional security challenges (e.g. terrorism and disinformation)?

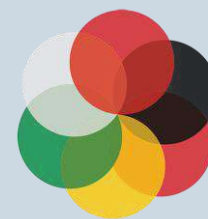
**Effective decision-making.** Should the 27 work together to overcome the unanimity procedure, and agree to a different mechanism such as qualified majority voting? And if the latter, to what extent should individual national interests be sacrificed for the sake of a more cohesive common foreign and security policy at the EU level? How to evaluate the Franco-German proposal to create a "European Security Council"?

**Enhancing defense co-operation.** How can European countries join forces and further coordinate actions in the defense field? How to boost research and development in the military sector and leverage on economies of scale? How to attract and engage the private sector? How to evaluate the French proposal to set up a European Agency (similar to the US Darpa) in these fields? Should EU projects for common defense capabilities proceed hand in hand with NATO structures and procedures, or depart from them? And if the latter, how to lower the risk of decoupling from existing NATO standards?

**EU and migration:** Which initiatives and policies at the EU level are needed to face migration challenges? How to evaluate the European Commission's recent proposal on the New Pact on Asylum and Migration? How to strengthen the link between development and migration policies?

## (2) European Economic Sovereignty

On the international stage, global players are increasingly using their economic power as well as international and economic interdependence to gain a geopolitical advantage and to promote and defend national interests. The increasing rivalry between China and the United States is reflected simultaneously in an economic, technological and security competition increasingly forcing the EU to take sides and constraining its capacity to act autonomously. The EU's economic sovereignty as well as its ability to preserve economic independence remain severely challenged. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced this challenge as the EU's vulnerability in a world with global supply chains has been exposed and potential capacities to retaliate are far from reality. The effectiveness of vaccination campaigns as well as the pace of economic recovery compared



to the US and China are equally worrying. Building economic sovereignty cannot imply to become increasingly protectionist or refrain from taking an active part in global collective action. The EU needs a strategy which effectively combines internal and external policies allowing the EU to respond or even retaliate to global power politics of China and the US while at the same time revitalizing the framework of a strong transatlantic partnership and the values and solidarity of the NATO alliance.

Any action for strengthened resilience to economic coercion from other powers starts at home: the EU must consolidate its internal policies and strengthen the competitiveness of European economies, the international role of the euro and most importantly the internal market. This includes a comprehensive strategy for the EU's economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic fostering EU global competitiveness. Enhancing European digital sovereignty is referring to the EU's need to foster investment and innovation in key technologies while defending its role as a standard setter within a digital world increasingly shaped by major US tech companies and Chinese digital authoritarianism. Recent major EU initiatives such as the „Digital Services Act“, the „Digital Markets Act“ or the new AI regulation are the most recent indicators for the so called „Brussels Effect“ underlining EU ambition as a global regulatory power.

**Global governance:** How are great power competition and systemic rivalry affecting EU trade policy and which other sectors are affected most? How are current transatlantic relations and the US-China rivalry playing out in an institutional context e.g. G7, G20, WTO, IMF? How can the EU promote effective collective action on a global scale and make effective use of its voice in these organizations? Could COVID-19 serve as antidote to disintegration or as beginning of the end of globalisation?

**Digital sovereignty:** How can the EU invest more in research and innovation? How can the EU protect critical digital infrastructure vital for national security and the resilience of its economic system? How can the EU champion European tech industries able to compete with foreign companies in the digital Great Game? To what extent will the EU's regulatory power be pushing others to follow EU standards in the digital world? How could the EU overcome its overdependencies on foreign-owned technology providers in key technologies such as cloud computing or artificial intelligence?

**Finance:** What is needed for the Euro to play a stronger role as an investment and trade currency? How would a German return to the debt break impact European fiscal policy and its economic recovery? How is EU fiscal policy impacting the transatlantic relationship and the global recovery?

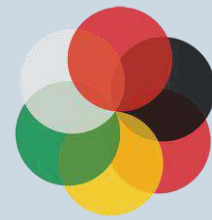
**Competition policy and investment:** How can EU competition policy take into account the new geo-economic environment while avoiding a politicisation of competition enforcement? What instruments would the EU need to defend itself against geo-economic pressure from the USA and China? Is there a need for the EU to build up "capacities to retaliate" and how should these be operationalised? Should the EU take security concerns even more into account given an increasingly assertive China? How can the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) contribute to a more level playing field?

### (3) A Social and Prosperous Europe

As the COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the world in the worst global economic recession in more than a century, the debate revolves around how to support the recovery while making it more sustainable, while saving lives and livelihoods. Moreover, the pandemic's economic effects have worsened previous trends, as inequalities were already on the rise and the OECD forecasts that they have grown by more than 10% in 2020 alone.

Meanwhile, the EU has taken unprecedented steps to face the crisis. On the one hand, the Commission has suspended the Stability and Growth Pact and derogated to a number of state aid rules, so that countries had the legal possibility and the fiscal room to support their own industries and the overall domestic recoveries. On the other hand, the European Commission and the Member States have launched the Next Generation EU fund, with a financial envelope of 750 billion euros to be financed through common EU debt. This financial support, which comes with conditionalities attached (for instance on sustainable, greener and more digital growth), has required tireless negotiations and is still drawing criticism from some quarters, especially from the so-called "frugal four" countries.

Meanwhile, work is ongoing to deepening the existing European welfare state systems and enhancing the **EU social dimension** by addressing sensitive issues such as: basic income, EU unemployment benefits, workers' rights protection, and lifelong learning and professional training. All the more so as the EU is requested to transition to a **green, sustainable and tech-savvy economy**.



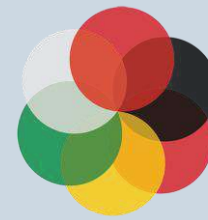
To this aim, it is also key to make further steps towards higher **economic and monetary integration with a view to scaling-up the EU economic prospects and avoiding divergence among member states**. However, while the pandemic has brought support to advocates of a more proactive fiscal stance (to support growth and social cohesion), macroeconomic stabilization mechanisms and risk-sharing (i.e. by gradually mutualizing public debt and completing the banking union), others continue to argue that fiscal discipline and further risk reduction are a precondition to greater integration and solidarity. In fact, the large increase in public debt spurred by the current crisis is evidence that a number of EU countries are still on an unsustainable fiscal path over the longer term. In the debate between risk sharing and risk reduction, Italy and Germany often appear to be on opposing sides.

**Heading to a sustainable growth:** Will Next Generation EU be able to relaunch EU growth, and enhance its competitiveness at the global level? To this aim, how to foster investment in both material and immaterial infrastructure? Which structural reforms are required to prompt sustainable growth? How to scale-up the EU's role in today's global value chains?

**Towards a digital EU economy:** Which policies and tools are required to catch up with the US and China in key technological sectors? Which reforms in training and education can help transition towards a tech-savvy economy?

**An economy that works for people:** Which policies and tools are required at the EU level to head toward a more 'social Europe', also in view of the EU's Social Summit to be held in Porto this May? Are an EU-wide minimum wage, basic income and unemployment benefit desirable tools? How to reform EU cohesion policies to further reduce inequalities and regional disparities?

**Towards higher economic (and monetary) integration:** As Next Generation EU has been launched and the EU has taken unprecedented steps to support the post-pandemic recovery, how to reconcile risk sharing and risk reduction? How to reform current EU fiscal rules? How to strengthen the common currency and protect it from the next global financial crisis?



#### (4) A European Green Deal

With the European Green Deal, the European Commission created a plan to decouple economic growth from resource use and to ensure the EU's climate neutrality by 2050. The EU is now trying to use this ambitious plan as a means to turn Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic into a green and sustainable modernization of European economies. Underlining this ambition, 30% of the EU's long-term budget including the Next Generation EU recovery fund will be devoted to climate action amounting to around €600 billion of 'fresh' EU resources available for the green transition.

Now it is up to the Commission and the member states to ensure that National Recovery and Resilience Plans adequately feature green investment and that intended effects are not diluted – particularly as the focus of national governments might shift to fostering a quick economic rebound. The aspect of burden sharing is fundamental in this context - not only between member states, but also within European economies and societies. An important element of the Green Deal is the decision to increase the Union's greenhouse gas reduction target to at least 55 per cent by 2030, from a prior official target of a 40 per cent cut – a major step towards climate neutrality by 2050. This, however, requires credible implementation and concrete measures in order to guarantee a just socio-economic transition. The recent ruling by Germany's Constitutional Court stating that German climate law is unconstitutional as it will not sufficiently limit climate change, can be seen as a milestone and could trigger big changes in German climate policy.

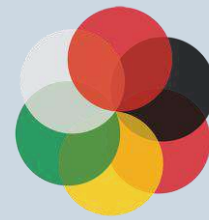
The EU has to reaffirm its ambitions as a global leader for climate protection with action. With the Joint Presidency Italy-UK of COP26 of the UNFCCC at the end of this year there is a window of opportunity for the EU to set international standards and build close coalitions with other global powers. By rejoining the Paris Agreement the US paved the ground for powerful transatlantic cooperation on climate change, while the recent leaders summit on climate gave hope that joint global action on climate change can be spared from geopolitical turmoil.

**A just socio-economic recovery:** Will Next Generation EU be able to shoulder a green and sustainable economic recovery while maintaining competitiveness? How can the green transition foster social equality in Europe? How can investment in vocational training opportunities contribute to this aim?

**Sustainable transport:** Which technological subsidies need to be removed in order to facilitate sustainable individual transport? Which alternative fuels should be promoted and subsidized? How should carbon-intensive transport be priced? How to reform tax systems and emission trading systems for air transport? How can investments in research on alternative fuels be incentivized? How will global competition be shaped if internationally operating companies compete under different climate regulation standards and how can European policy take this aspect into account?

**Decarbonizing the energy system:** How to ensure secure and affordable energy supply while at the same time promoting renewable energy sources? How could an EU designed funding system boost public and private investments in infrastructure and renewable energies, in particular in strongly affected regions? How could carbon leakage be tackled most effectively? What role will hydrogen play in order to reach climate neutrality?

**EU as global leader:** How can the EU use its leverage to urge other global actors to intensify their actions towards a global green transition and to better cooperate among each other? Will the transatlantic axis become the co-driver in the fight against climate change and how to incorporate China? Which international policies and standards are needed to design a joint global action towards climate neutrality? Will the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism become a suitable tool to maintain competitiveness, or will international frictions prevail?



## Spinelli Forum 2021 – Virtual Aperitivo

### “Germany and Italy in the newsroom”

September 14, 2021

#### September 14, 2021

18.00 – 18.05: Welcome & Introduction

Moderator: **Dr. Roderick Parkes**, Research Director, DGAP

18.05 – 18.35: Moderated Conversation

**Florian Eder**, Co-Founder, Politico Europe

**Tonia Mastrobuoni**, Germany Correspondent, La Repubblica

**Tobias Pillar**, Former Italy Correspondent, FAZ

Moderator: **Dr. Roderick Parkes**, Research Director, DGAP

18.35 – 19.00: Q&A and Discussion – Participants

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://dgap-org.zoom.us/j/89515414854?pwd=bm5SZTFiL0lQRzVZSTByMDF1MXk3QT09>

Meeting ID: 895 1541 4854

Passcode: 932048

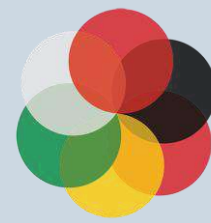
19.00 – Open End: Networking

*In different networking rooms on the online platform “wonder.me”*

#### **Join Wonder**

<https://www.wonder.me/r?id=b34546c9-f3b3-4cb6-9f7e-d64a38c0e5cd>

Password: **spinelli**



**Spinelli Forum 2021 – Agenda**  
**“Our Future in a Sovereign Europe”**  
September 27 and September 28, 2021  
Event Venue: German Federal Foreign Office

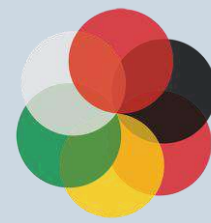
**September 26, 2021**

- 18.45 & 19.45: Shuttle to DGAP (optional)  
*Departure: MotelOne Berlin-Spittelmarkt, Leipziger Str. 50, 10117 Berlin*
- 19.00: Informal get-together at DGAP  
*DGAP, Rauchstr. 17, 10787 Berlin*
- 21.00 & 22.00: Shuttle back to the hotel (optional)

**September 27, 2021**

- 9.00 – 10.00: Registration  
*Federal Foreign Office, Unterwasserstr. 10, 10117 Berlin*
- 10.00 – 10.20: Welcome & Key Notes  
**Miguel Berger**, State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office  
**Ettore Francesco Sequi**, Secretary General, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (*virtual*)  
Video Welcome:  
**Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**, Director, DGAP (*virtual*)
- 10.20 – 11.00: Hot Seat – **Italy and Germany in a Sovereign Europe**  
*Statements and questions by experts (virtual) – among others:*  
**Virgilio Dastoli**, President of the European Movement Italy  
*Questions by participants*  
Moderator: **Dr. Cornelius Adebahr**, Senior Associate Fellow, DGAP  
Moderator: **Isabella Bufacchi**, Correspondent of “Il Sole 24 Ore” in Berlin
- 11.00 – 11.30: Coffee Break





11.30 – 12.30: Expert Discussion – What Europe can expect from future German Foreign Policy

**Dr. Christian Mölling**, Research Director, DGAP

**Dr. Kira Vinke**, Head Climate and Global Affairs Program, DGAP

**Dr. Claudia Schmucker**, Head Geo-Economics Program, DGAP

Moderator: **Isabella Bufacchi**, Correspondent of "Il Sole 24 Ore" in Berlin

12.30 – 13.30: Networking Lunch

13.30 – 13.45: Get together in workshop groups

*Networking activities*

13.45 – 14.00: Recap of digital workshops (in subgroups)

14.00 – 15.00: Working Phase (in subgroups)

*First brainstorming of policy recommendations*

*Preparation to present preliminary output to the speakers*

15.00 – 15.30: Coffee Break

15.30 – 17.00: Workshop Input & Working Phase

*Short expert input on selected policy problems*

*Subgroups present their policy problems and first ideas on solutions*

*Feedback and discussion with experts*

1. EU Foreign and Security Policy

**Speakers:** **Anna-Lena Kirch**, Research Fellow, DGAP

**Antonio Zotti**, Research Fellow, ISPI

**Facilitator:** **Florence Schimmel**, Research Fellow, DGAP

2. European Economic Sovereignty

**Speakers:** **Dr. Katharina Gnath**, Senior Project Manager,

Bertelsmann Stiftung

**Prof. Lucia Tajoli**, Professor of International Economics,  
Milan Polytechnic (*virtual*)

**Facilitator:** **Fabio Parola**, Analyst, Cattaneo Zanetto & Co.

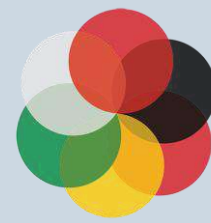
3. A Social and Prosperous Europe

**Speakers:** **Matthias Genchi**, Head of Office, Chairman - German  
Trade Union Confederation (DGB)

**Chiara Rosselli**, Senior Program Officer, German  
Marshall Fund (*virtual*)

**Facilitator:** **Dr. Matteo Villa**, Research Fellow, ISPI





4. A European Green Deal

**Speakers:** Dr. Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute  
Dr. Maria Grazia Midulla, Head of Climate and Energy, WWF Italy (virtual)  
**Facilitator:** Jule Könneke, Climate Diplomacy Researcher, E3G

- 17.00 – 18.00: Working Phase (in subgroups)  
*Incorporate feedback from the speakers*  
*Continue brainstorming of policy recommendations*
- 18.00 – 18.30: Resting Time
- 18.30: Shuttle to the Italian Embassy  
*Departure: MotelOne Berlin-Spittelmarkt, Leipziger Str. 50, 10117 Berlin*
- 19.00 – 20.30: Reception at the Italian Embassy  
*Hiroshimastr. 1, 10785 Berlin*  
**Armando Varricchio**, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Germany
- 20.30: Shuttle back to the hotel (optional)

## September 28, 2021

- 8.15 – 9.00: Registration  
*Federal Foreign Office, Unterwasserstr. 10, 10117 Berlin*
- 9.00 – 9.15: Welcome & Introduction to Day 2
- 9.15 – 10.15: Continuation of Workshops (in subgroups)  
*Develop policy recommendations*
- 10.15 – 10.30: Coffee Break
- 10.30 – 11.15: Continuation of Workshops (in subgroups)  
*Further develop policy recommendations*  
*Preparation for the Gallery Walk*
- 11.15 – 11.30: Gallery Walk I: Short Pitches and Feedback (within workshop groups)
- 11.30 – 12.00: Gallery Walk II: Opening up the rooms for external feedback
- 12.00 – 13.00: Lunch
- 13.00 – 14.00: Continuation of Workshops  
*Incorporate feedback from the Gallery Walk*  
*Preparation for the final presentation of policy recommendations*
- 14.00 – 14.15: Group photo
- 14.15 – 15.00: Presentation of policy recommendations  
**Sebastian Groth**, Director for Policy Planning, German Federal Foreign Office  
**Lucio Demichele**, Director for Policy Planning, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
Moderator: **Dr. Cornelius Adebahr**, Senior Associate Fellow, DGAP
- 15.00 – 15.30: Closing Ceremony  
**Michael Roth**, Minister of State for Europe, German Federal Foreign Office  
**Laura Garavini**, Vice President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Italian Senate  
**Armando Varricchio**, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Germany  
Moderator: **Dr. Cornelius Adebahr**, Senior Associate Fellow, DGAP
- 16.00: Shuttle to Berlin Brandenburg Airport (optional)  
*Departure: Federal Foreign Office*

**27-28 September**

Online Conference

## OUR FUTURE IN A SOVEREIGN EUROPE

How can Germany and Italy strengthen Europe's ability to act both internally and externally? This is what **60 young leaders from Germany and Italy** will be discussing at the "Spinelli Forum" in Berlin on the 27th and 28th of September 2021. The discussion will focus on the major European policy challenges in **foreign and security policy**, for **Europe's economic sovereignty** in international competition, for a **social and prosperous Europe** as well as for the "**European Green Deal**". Participants from both countries from the fields of politics, administration, business, academia, and the media will develop concrete proposals over the two-day event. The event will be opened by **Ettore Francesco Sequi**, Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and **Miguel Berger**, State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign Office.

For information on the programme and to follow the events online click here:

**Visit the website and register**

Follow us on Twitter [@ispionline](https://twitter.com/ispionline) [#SpinelliForum](https://twitter.com/SpinelliForum) [#GIYLD](https://twitter.com/GIYLD)

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ITALY 2021T20 NATIONAL  
COORDINATOR  
AND CHAIR

ISPI

## Spinelli Forum 2021 – “Our Future in a Sovereign Europe” Policy Recommendations

September 27<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

As founding members of the European Union, Germany and Italy are not just close partners with strong cultural, societal, and economic ties but also powerhouses within the EU. Common European challenges such as economic competitiveness, new security threats, climate change, and the technological revolution are impossible to overcome without close cooperation between both countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these challenges and has greatly impacted the development of the global system, bringing about enormous political, economic, and societal risks with immediate consequences for Germany, Italy, and the EU. Moreover, the increasing great power competition between the United States and China, Russia’s confrontational attitude, technological developments, the consequences of climate change, and resurgent authoritarianism are just some of the developments that will determine future tasks and require strong European cooperation in order to maintain the EU’s capacity to act. Strengthening the dialogue within Europe between partners like Germany and Italy is indispensable to improving mutual understanding in Europe, overcoming differences, and becoming driving forces of a sustainable and just socioeconomic transition as well as a stronger Europe in the world.

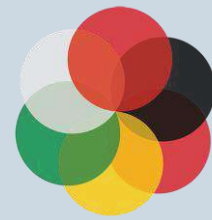
How can Germany and Italy strengthen Europe’s capability to act both internally and in the international arena? This is the question 60 young leaders from Germany and Italy discussed in the context of the 2021 German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum.

The Spinelli Forum is organized by the German Council on Foreign Relations in cooperation with the Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) at the initiative of the Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Foreign Ministry. The Forum fosters exchanges between the decision-makers of tomorrow in both countries, thereby providing fresh impetus for German-Italian cooperation on the questions defining the future of Europe.

For a period of 3 months, the participants from the fields of politics, administration, business, science, and the media in the two countries worked together in four workshop groups to find potential solutions for current challenges in European politics: European foreign and security policy, Europe’s economic sovereignty in international competition, a social and prosperous Europe, and the European Green Deal. During two virtual events leading up to the conference, the participants first identified the most pressing problems in their respective policy fields. During a two-day hybrid conference in Berlin, the participants then worked on developing concrete policy proposals as potential solutions to these problems. This process was facilitated by selected experts and included several rounds of “reality checks” with policymakers from the different policy areas.

The working process was framed with several panel discussions – in person as well as virtual. This included a hot seat discussion on Italy and Germany in a sovereign Europe with State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign Office Miguel Berger and Secretary General Ettore Francesco Sequi of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a panel discussion on the future of German foreign policy after the federal elections, and an online discussion with news correspondents from the two countries.

In the end, each workshop group came up with two to three concrete policy recommendations that were presented to the policy planning units of both countries and serve as a joint German-Italian contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.



## **WORKSHOP 1: European Foreign and Security Policy**

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 1: Foreign Policy Erasmus**

*To forge a more adherent Foreign Policy we need to introduce a Diplomats Erasmus. A 9-months exchange will allow to see the world.*

#### **Problem addressed**

The EU currently faces a lack of coherence among member states and institutions, which is affecting the EU's capacity to act, especially in Common Foreign and Security Policy. Member states often have a different assessment of a policy problem or face a lack of trust among each other. Existing processes and mechanisms that could bridge this gap are not adequate.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Diplomats exchange programme among EU member states in order to enhance coherence.

A structured 9-month exchange can help foster a common EU strategic outlook and culture as well as a more coherent policy, allowing diplomats and other foreign policy officials to spend time in other member states' foreign ministries (incl. Embassies, PermRep) and defence ministries - financed by the EU budget. This exchange could help avoid unilateral policies, it would open up new communication channels and could be complementary to similar existing programmes.

#### **The role of Germany and Italy**

As founding members of the EU, Italy and Germany should have a leading role and encourage other member states. Both countries should map pre-existing exchanges and obtain political buy-in options.

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 2: TRIVIA – Transparency for Relevant Infrastructure Via Investment Assessment**

*In an ever-changing world where interdependencies on major infrastructures are currently affecting everybody's life, the EU has to set clear standards and defend its own strategic interests. #FIDES*

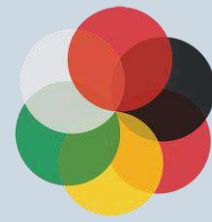
#### **Problem addressed**

Large infrastructure projects can create potential economic dependencies with authoritarian regimes. Major (critical) infrastructure investments require screening of security implications, which are currently not sufficiently in place.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Improve the existing “European framework for investment screening” mechanism

Establish a fact-based, transparent assessment whether the investments and the broader economic relationship between the EU and authoritarian regimes are benign and malign. An annual review of critical infrastructure projects could offer guidelines for member states. The review will offer benchmarks that can be used by national

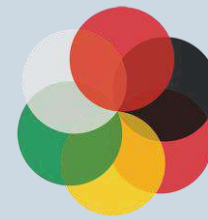


and subnational governments and can then be incorporated in other EU infrastructure plans. An expert group, selected by the European Commission would be authorized on the screening of FDI's into the EU and to publish an annual report. This mechanism would help the EU protect its strategic interests while further reinforcing the EU's role as an international standard setter and becoming a model for third countries.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Share the experience gained through national cases of strategic interests' vulnerabilities to increase awareness. Employ the acquired skills to sustain Member States to anticipate in advance the scrutiny of investment projects. Be the initiative-drivers of common investment standards.





## **WORKSHOP 2: European Economic Sovereignty**

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 3: #Pathfinders**

*We need nextgen representation to achieve EU #TechSovereignty. Our gender-balanced Board of 18-35 year olds #Pathfinders selected from all 27 MS advises the @EU\_Commission to set the most important priorities on its path to reach the #2030DigitalCompass goals*

#### **Problem addressed**

In the global race to tech supremacy, the EU relies too much on foreign competitors. Within the debates on EU tech sovereignty, regulation, and fragmentation, too little attention is paid to young voices. As such, young people are underrepresented in the process to achieve European tech sovereignty.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Establish a next generation representation on the “Path to the Digital Decade (PDD)” Framework (2030 Digital Compass)

The young generation should be represented within the “Path to the Digital Decade” Framework. A young advisory board should be set up within the 2030 Digital Compass to make young voices heard and to give them a channel to provide their distinct perspective. This board should consist of 27 members from all EU member states, aged 18-35, selected on a gender-balanced basis by the EU liaison offices. An annual report on recent achievements and future priorities should be presented to the European Commission, followed by an official response. A constant monitoring of KPIs, milestones and risks will be necessary to set relevant key priorities in the short term and monitor and keep priorities updated and implemented in the long term.

#### **The role of Germany and Italy**

The German and Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs could carry this idea to the European level and jointly present the policy proposal to the European Commission.

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 4: Reduction of components through technological innovation (RCTTI)**

*#Strengthen the European value chain resilience in critical industrial sectors based on a new EU system*

#### **Problem addressed**

There is need for improvement of the European value chain’s resilience in the single market. Without strengthening the resilience of its value chains, the EU risks growing external dependencies.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Reduction of components through technological innovation (RCTTI)

An EU-aid based loans system should be created to enable companies in critical industrial sectors to reduce the components and dependency on external suppliers through technological innovation (i.e., through modular platforms which share certain component parts). To be eligible to receive financial support, companies would

have to belong to one of the critical sectors as identified by the EU, present a clear business plan, and be in at least three member states. Through this system, on the business side, dependency on external suppliers can be mitigated through incentives to reduce the number of critical parts. On a larger scale, the single market as well as its resilience from external shocks can be improved.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Based on their economic structure, Germany and Italy must assume a leading role with a joint effort to implement the initiative and to foster both national and European markets.

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 5: German-Italian Trade and Technology Platform (GITTP)**

*A GER-ITA TTP can help strengthen the EU's position in the US-CHN competition*

### **Problem addressed**

The US-China systemic competition forces third parties to politically align themselves with Washington or Beijing. The EU's stance in relation to this global competition — and particularly public debates in Germany and Italy — are to be addressed.

### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Create a German-Italian Trade and Technology Platform (GITTP)

A German-Italian Trade and Technology Platform should be created. This platform could raise public awareness about the US-China competition and its policy implications for the EU by fostering strategic dialogue between Germany and Italy, educating national policymakers on the strategic challenge of the US-China competition, and strengthening exchange between policymakers on the one side and trade and technology representatives on the other. This stronger bilateral coordination can provide orientation to other EU member states to formulate the EU's stance on the US-China competition in a better and quicker way.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Germany and Italy should start a bilateral dialogue on how GITTP could be designed. Relevant stakeholders should be identified, and concrete bilateral joint projects should be brought forward, following a clear agenda for what the TTP should accomplish. In the long term, the two economies could create a foundation of closer cooperation based on shared evidence.

### WORKSHOP 3: A Social and Prosperous Europe

#### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 6: e-Ustartup**

*#e-u Startup: A unified, simple, digital, and fast track to incorporate your #business*

##### **Problem addressed**

In comparison to other regions of the world, the EU is lacking in innovation and a strong start-up culture. Incorporating a company able to operate in all EU countries implies going through a highly complicated administrative process. There is a need to simplify said process and a chance to turn a problem into an opportunity.

##### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Creating a unified, simple, digital, and fast track to incorporate a start-up in the EU with a European legal personality.

Establish a single, digital, and easy pathway to incorporate a start-up in the EU with a European Legal Personality. Following an online registration, the legal procedure should be limited up to five days. The start-ups would only need to pay a flat tax during the first five years in order to foster growth. Labor contracts would remain on the national level and based upon respective national laws. This fast and unified system would allow for a flourishing start-up environment in the EU, fostering innovation while reducing bureaucracy.

##### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Germany and Italy share a similar economic structure and they both have many SMEs. Therefore, the pilot project should ideally start there. On the basis of a bilateral agreement, both countries could be best practice examples of fostering innovation and a stronger start-up culture.

#### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 7: LENS – European Social Progress Tracker**

*Lost hope to find the region of your life? Don't despair - LENS will guide you!*  
*#dataissexy #EUregions #socialprogress*

##### **Problem addressed**

**In short:** Poor social cohesion and regional disparities in Europe.

The EU continues to suffer from low social convergence, both between and within member states. This happens even though EU-level regional and cohesion policies have existed for decades. What is more is that the pandemic appears to have widened — and worsened — social inequalities. Policy options are limited, apart from the launch of the Next Generation EU package, which includes a number of social elements and novel sources of funding.

##### **Policy recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Implement a European social progress tracker (based on SDG-indicators) with data down to NUTS 2 +3 level to use for European Semester and facilitate matchmaking of regions for cooperation.

The recommendation aims to provide more specific and substantial evidence for targeted policy recommendations within the European Semester. The envisaged open access platform increases efficiency of EU funding allocation as it encourages regional cooperation and best practice exchanges while providing readily available and yearly updated information. By providing more granular data, LENS enhances transparency, more accurate tracking of social policy progress and increases accountability.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

The addressed policy problem is highly relevant for Germany and Italy as both suffer from stark and persistent regional divides (North-South in Italy; East-West in Germany). They could therefore have a higher interest using the platform and in becoming pioneers in data recording through transnational partnerships. The platform's matchmaking effectively addresses regional disparities between regions in Italy and Germany.

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 8: ESI-HUB – The European Social Innovation Hub**

*The future is #social! Italy and Germany join forces to create the first #EuropeanSocialInnovationHub #ESI-HUB*

### **Problem addressed**

European social systems face many challenges, which can be addressed through social innovation. Limited visibility and funding for social innovations in the EU hampers this. Social innovations can be understood as social practices to address societal challenges.

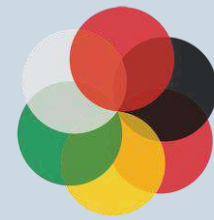
### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Creation of the European Social Innovation Hub to better address societal challenges through social innovations.

The creation of the ESI-HUB – The European Social Innovation Hub aims to connect social innovation stakeholders in order to exchange best practices for social innovation. Through promoting the development, transfer and scaling-up of social innovations across EU member states, the hub would allow to better tackle societal challenges. Furthermore, it could make existing funding instruments better accessible and organize joint events, such as innovation challenges, hackathons, and public dialogue. The Social innovation hub could become a community of social innovators, funders and policy-makers who would boost the transfer of social innovations on the short-term, having the potential of becoming an established mainstream policy tool on the long-term.

### **The Role of Germany and Italy**

Both Italy and Germany have strong existing social innovation activities and advanced welfare, health, and education systems in need of social innovation. Therefore, both countries are ideal to bring together their strong existing social innovation ecosystems and become pioneers of the re-design of their social systems.



## WORKSHOP 4: A European Green Deal

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 9: #GreenFastTrack - The Green EU Company Booster**

*Do you want to found a #green #EU #company? → Join the #Green Fast Track Program piloting in 2022! #EUGFT  
→ [greenfasttrack.eu](https://greenfasttrack.eu)*

#### **Problem addressed**

The European Green Deal currently faces implementation hurdles. Particularly, creating and operating a green company in the EU is too burdensome.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Facilitate the creation of EU green companies to speed up the green transition

The idea is to establish a Web Portal including a de-bureaucratized and fast-track procedure for setting up companies. Furthermore, hands-on counseling for entrepreneurs should be provided. This will facilitate and speed up the Green transition for businesses. In the short term, this initiative will lead to an increase of green entrepreneurs using digitalization for a green transition. In the long term, the initiative might increase employment and innovative competitiveness while contributing to CO2 reduction.

#### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Germany and Italy should serve as pilot member states as the EU's green powertrain within a bilateral task force. They might function as the EU's green engine when it comes to facilitating the creation of green companies.

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 10: Matching small investors with small entrepreneurs: a new EU green investment framework**

*Matching small investors with small entrepreneurs: a new EU investment framework to support green development and secure future pensions #NextGenerationEU #FundingTheFuture #Crowdfunding #Entrepreneurship #PeerToPeer #GrassrootInvestment #StrengtheningTheBackbone*

#### **Problem addressed**

SMEs cannot access the potential of the green finance market. Green investment options for small investors are limited to big companies, making it difficult to match available funds with green finance options. On the one hand, it is difficult for small investors to evaluate the sustainability of companies. On the other hand, it is difficult for small companies to participate in the ESG rating.

#### **Policy Recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Develop a EU investment framework to support the green development and secure future pensions by matching small investors and small entrepreneurs

The idea is to develop a clear, simple, and future-proof standard for green financial products and services, enabling enhanced accessibility for small players (SMEs & small investors) in order to match funds with financing

needs. This way, more clarity will be created regarding which activities are in line with the EU's climate ambitions, and incentives are provided for long-term green investments. In the short term, a market for green financing for SMEs will be created. In the long term, sustainable options for pension fund investments will be created.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Germany and Italy could tap into the huge SME and private investors potential by unlocking market-based green funding options and long-term climate-friendly investment opportunities and creating a sustainable and future-proof integration option for pension schemes (public-private pension funds) in both countries. The governments of both countries could serve as “seed investors” and add an institutional contribution to these funds.

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION 11: GLOBAL CLIMATE COMPACT (GCC)**

*Investments, technology, and nature at the core of a #GlobalGreenDeal. #EU invites all countries to partner on a #GlobalClimateCompact to work together towards net zero while promoting trade and economic growth*

#### **Problem addressed**

Climate change is a global challenge that therefore requires a global solution, going beyond the European level. This raises the question of how Europe can “export” the European Green Deal internationally.

#### **Policy recommendation – Idea and Goal**

**In short:** Promote global coalitions for climate change mitigation and adaptation

A Global Climate Compact (GCC) should promote global solutions and coalitions for climate change mitigation and adaption by internationalizing the European Green Deal. The goal is to focus on international cooperation in order to facilitate and promote buy-in at the global level, shifting the narrative from enforcement to incentive. Specifically, a tool should be implemented that combines carbon price on imports and investments in other countries to support their decarbonization efforts. This way, the GCC will provide a political incentive to partner with the EU and make joint investments in research, innovation, and on projects for technology- and nature-based solutions.

### **The role of Germany and Italy**

Both Italy and Germany have a domestic interest in promoting international cooperation as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. They should therefore take on a leadership role and invite other countries to join the Global Climate Compact (GCC).



GERMAN  
ITALIAN  
YOUNG  
LEADERS  
DIALOGUE  
SPINELLI  
FORUM

## Press release

### Launch of the Spinelli Forum: the first dialogue forum for young German and Italian leaders at the Federal Foreign Office

How can Germany and Italy strengthen Europe's capability to act both internally and in the international arena? That is the question 60 young leaders from Germany and Italy will be discussing on 27 and 28 September 2021 in the context of the Spinelli Forum in Berlin. Discussions will centre on the major challenges in European politics in the areas of foreign, security and economic policy. During the two-day hybrid conference, participants from the fields of politics, administration, business, science and the media in the two countries will work on drafting concrete proposals – in person and virtually.

The Forum will be opened by State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office Miguel Berger and Secretary General Ettore Francesco Sequi of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and closed by interventions of Minister of State Michael Roth, Senator Laura Garavini and Ambassador Varricchio. The participants will be assisted in the workshops by selected experts.

Following the Spinelli Forum, the policy recommendations drafted by the participants will be uploaded onto the organisers' websites and onto the Conference on the Future of Europe platform.

The Spinelli Forum is organised by the German Council on Foreign Relations in cooperation with the Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) at the initiative of the Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Foreign Ministry. After the Forum had to be cancelled at short notice last year due to the pandemic, the conference is now to take place for the first time in a hybrid format in Berlin.

The conference fosters exchange between the decision-makers of tomorrow in both countries, thereby providing fresh impetus for German-Italian cooperation on the questions defining the future of Europe. Participants work together to find potential solutions for current challenges in European politics in the areas of foreign and security policy, for Europe's economic sovereignty in international competition, for a social and prosperous Europe and for the European Green Deal. Please use the hashtag #GIYLD in order to follow the conference on Twitter.

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# I leader di domani alla prova dell'Europa

## Forum Spinelli

**Una iniziativa italo-tedesca mette i giovani a confronto chiedendo loro soluzioni**

**Isabella Bufacchi**

*Dal nostro inviato*  
BERLINO

Un Erasmus mirato alla politica estera. TRIVIA per maggiore Trasparenza degli Investimenti nelle Infrastrutture. #Pathfinders squadra di giovani talenti per controllare sul campo europeo l'avanzamento dell'innovazione tecnologica. RCTTI dedicato a risolvere i problemi dei colli di bottiglia sulle catene di approvvigionamento nella componentistica tecnologica. GI-TTP piattaforma per il commercio e la tecnologia tra Italia e Germania. La e-Ustart-up "semplice, digitale" per velocizzare il lancio delle start-up europee con flat tax. LENS per il progresso della coesione sociale. ESI-HUB tra Italia e Germania per promuovere l'innovazione nel sociale. #Green Fast Track, un Match-finder per collegare piccoli investitori e piccoli imprenditori verdi, un Global Climate Compact per internazionalizzare il Green Deal europeo.

Sono queste le 11 raccomandazioni presentate da una sessantina di giovani leader, di età compresa tra 25 e 37 anni, provenienti da Italia e Germania e partecipanti al primo Forum Spinelli che si è tenuto il 27-28 settembre a Berlino. Non a caso Italia e Germania hanno imba-

stito questi progetti all'indomani delle elezioni in Germania e dell'avvio del processo di formazione del nuovo governo tedesco che dovrà affrontare sfide epocali proprio in politica estera. I rapporti internazionali sono infatti uno snodo obbligato della digitalizzazione, dell'innovazione tecnologica, della ripresa economica e della trasformazione verde, temi al centro della campagna elettorale.

I giovani leader sono stati chiamati a presentare proposte d'azione su quattro temi di attualità: la politica estera e di sicurezza europea, la sovranità economica dell'Europa nella competizione globale, un'Europa inclusiva e prospera, il Green Deal.

German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue (GIYLD) - Forum Spinelli è una nuova iniziativa congiunta del ministero tedesco degli Affari Esteri e del ministero italiano degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, in collaborazione con la Società tedesca per la politica estera (DGAP) e l'Istituto italiano per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI). GIYLD ha lo scopo di creare un network tra i futuri leader di Italia e Germania. Come? Radunandoli attorno allo stesso tavolo e dandogli l'opportunità di dialogare con le classi dirigenti e mettendoli subito al lavoro per presentare progetti innovativi e soluzioni strategiche. Il tutto dentro la cornice della politica estera italiana e tedesca.

Una più stretta collaborazione e un'intesa più profonda tra Italia e Germania sono considerate in-

dispensabili per progredire verso un'Europa più unita e far parlare l'Europa con un'unica voce forte nel mondo.

I lavori del Forum Spinelli sono stati introdotti dal segretario generale del ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, ambasciatore Ettore Francesco Sequi, e dal sottosegretario di Stato al ministero federale tedesco degli Affari Esteri, ambasciatore Miguel Berger. Sequi e Berger, rispondendo alle domande dei partecipanti al Forum, hanno sottolineato l'importanza della solidarietà europea durante la pandemia e il fatto che l'Europa è diventata "la farmacia del mondo", e che ora tutti nel mondo dovranno essere velocemente vaccinati per vincere la pandemia.

Si sono imposte nel dibattito anche le tensioni tra Cina e Usa, i rapporti con Russia, Turchia e Afghanistan, la difesa dei diritti umani e della libertà di stampa su scala globale, le catene di approvvigionamento. La conferenza è stata chiusa dal ministro di Stato per l'Europa, Michael Roth, dall'ambasciatore d'Italia a Berlino, Armando Varricchio e dalla senatrice Laura Garavini, vicepresidente della Commissione Affari Esteri. Varricchio ha sottolineato l'importanza delle relazioni speciali tra Italia e Germania, due Paesi fondatori della Ue che hanno la responsabilità di portare avanti insieme l'agenda Europa in un periodo in cui si passa da una crisi all'altra e «nulla può essere dato per scontato».

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**Una collaborazione più stretta tra Berlino e Roma è indispensabile per dare all'Unione una voce più forte**



# SPINELLI FORUM 2021

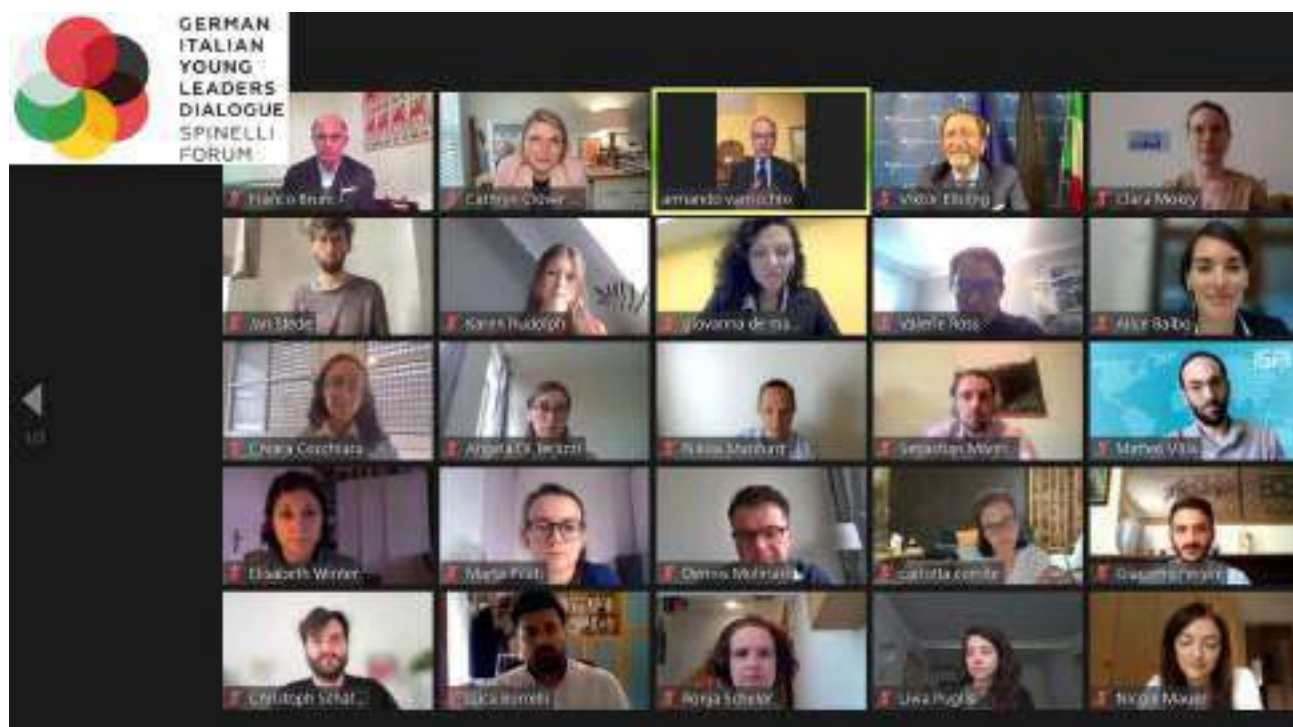
First WEB TALK – 13 November 2020



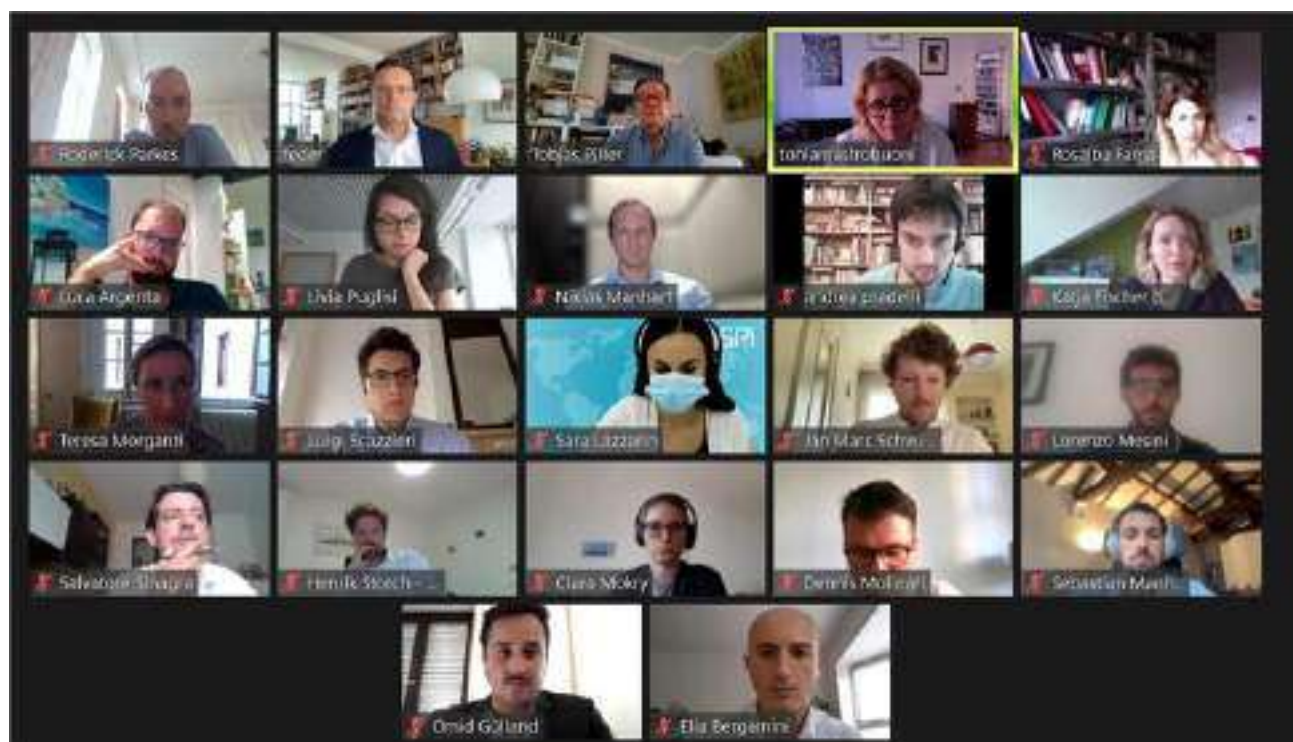
Second WEB TALK – 25 November 2020



## Ideation Lab – 1 July 2021



## Virtual Aperitivo – September 2021



## SPINELLI FORUM – 27-28 September 2021

























