



Taormina/Messina conference

Working Group 3:

Europe as a Laboratory for transnational policies and ideas to save liberal democracies

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Report of the meeting

1. Political legitimacy the Union and crisis of liberal democracy: multifaceted issue
2. EU democracy exists. Formally. Partially in practice too. But we need to put flesh on the bones: we need to work on substantial political legitimacy.
3. National politics is no longer capable enough to address global issues. And this is one of the reasons of the crisis of liberal democracy at national level. European democracy is not legitimate enough to do so either. And this is one of the obstacle to a new comprehensive action of the EU. And we need to save both, National democracies and EU from populism and from globalization.
4. This is why we need to build up a new transnational political space, to create a substantial legitimacy.

HOW?

1. Political way: Europeanize national political movements - promote transnational political movements.
 - a. New use of digital technologies to regenerate and widen participation and political processes within political movements. To this end:
 - b. Promote a new transitional dimension of politics: “transnational quotas” in National lists to the European elections (ex: Renaissance/EnMarche! list in France in EP 2019 elections: 7 nationalities represented, elected MEP of 3 nationalities)
 - c. Introduce transnational lists in a single/more European constituency/ies in EP 2024 elections

- d. Make the most of the innovative potential in terms of citizen participation of the Conference on the Future of Europe
- e. "In parallel": Improve relation and decision-making process within the key institution: European Council.

2. Policies Way:

- a. Sustainable and Innovative policies:
- b. Digital and ecological transition and education as factors of economic developments and of new "citizens participation".
- c. Organize deliberative budget assemblies on the different territories to define the specific projects to implement the recovery Plan priorities
- d. "Quality of life" policy approach: well Beyond GDP, towards new "welfare European policies"

It will be important to use a "multi-channel", experimental approach to some of these innovations.

For instance e-voting would be introduced in some areas so that it can be tested (leveraging on ESTONIA's experience); it may then scaled up to electronic petition (for referenda, for instance) and to allow members of elected assemblies to express themselves; and it should be paralleled by physical means to vote for whoever prefers to stick to traditional modes