



**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:
EXPERIENCES AND FUTURE**



**SCHENGEN AT RISK:
CAN WE KEEP THE FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT?**



**THE FUTURE OF THE ENERGY
UNION**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR WORK



EDITORIAL

Waking up last Friday with the shocking news of the Brexit and a new era for the EU integration, we would like to underline our compromise with the Jean Monnet principles, that is why we will continue working for enhancing awareness of our citizens: More Europe should be the driven force. The uncertainty that the result of the referendum has brought up will need a deep reflection of the European project.

The first semester of 2016 has brought three international conferences around Europe focused on three main challenges: youth employment, Schengen crisis and Energy Union. Furthermore, the Institute of European Democrats launched Research Project on “Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?” addressed to young researchers in order to analyse the Schengen challenges from different perspectives.

All activities have been a success in term of raising awareness of the European project; in particular, I would like to highlight the significant amount of applicants for our “Call for papers” with diverse education backgrounds, which made the selection process quite challenging. Our youth is the future of Europe and their voices have to be spread for the consolidation of the European values and principles. Finally, this newsletter collects some of these nice moments of the past months.

Luca BADER
CEO of IED

Lets' debate!

Youth employment: experiences and future

The Institute of European Democrats co-organised a debate with Sabino Arana Fundazioa and Fundación Novia Salcedo on 9th April 2016 at the Goaz Museum (Bilbao) on *Youth employment: experiences and future*. Opening the event, President of the Sabino Arana Fundazioa, Jose Maria Atutxa, welcomed the discussion on a real obstacle for our society: youth unemployment. Mr Atutxa underlined that this generation is the best educated in terms of professional skills, however it faces a 30 percent of unemployment, therefore, politicians, social agents and the society in general should address this issue in order to ensure the generational shift. Mr Luis Cañada, President of the Fundación Novia Salcedo, stressed the importance of implementing projects related to the inclusion of our young citizens in the professional market. The welcome speeches were closed by Mr Luca Bader, CEO of the IED, who pointed out that the current situation is another indication of the urgency of making progress in the European project to avoid a “lost generation”, the increase of radicalism or the rising of the populism.



Following the opening, Mr Sabino Ayestarán, Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology at the University of the Basque Country moderated the first panel focused on **“Values, Education and Employment”**, where Professor Santiago García Echevarría, University of Alcalá de Henares, stated that youth employment could not be considered as an annex to the economic or social policy, but it should be observed as a component of the society. Ms Begoña Etxebarria, Director of the Fundación Novia Salcedo, supported that argument setting forth that our society is in a changing process and every change starts in the people. At the second panel, moderated by MEP Izaskun Bilbao addressed **“Successful European Experience”** tackling the Norwegian model and the Millennium Project. Mr Johan Vibe, Norwegian Ambassador, unfolded the state of affairs in his country where the youth employment double the general one reaching 8,8 percent. He brought to the fore that the subject is not only a problem in the southern region of Europe but of the entire continent. The selected methodology to solve the panorama is to interconnect the education system, enterprises and trade unions. There should be a link between the education programs and the real necessity of the market. Ms Raquel Serrano, Sociologist in Prospektiker, introduced a very important research:

Millennium Project on the perspectives in 2050. This global think tank works in order to settle a better world because half of the population suffers still a high degree of instability. She announced that there would be a massive unemployment rate due to the use of the technology and the disappearance of traditional jobs.



The last panel centred the attention in the Basque Country **“What can be done here”**, Ms Henar Alcalde, Researcher at the Orkestra Institute of the University of Deusto, chaired the session whose starting point was the statement: what to do before the fourth industrial revolution. Professor Sara de la Rica, Basque Employment Observatory, emphasised that we are facing an unstoppable ageing, which are bad news at the current times, but good ones in the future: more jobs. Those jobs would require better qualifications but non-conventional ones. Mr José Jiménez Brea, Club de Roma, continued this line giving prominence to the flexibility between the education and the employment. Our students have the right to know their professional prospect before selecting their careers. Finally, Ms Virginia Múgica, Confefabak and Mr Adolfo Alustiza, Director of Lanbide, closed the debate appealing to the obligation of upgrading our education system focusing in the social skills.

More Europe:

“Schengen at risk: can we keep the freedom of movement?”

The IED and Mladí Európania –Young Europeans- co-organised the international conference *“Schengen at Risk: Can We Keep the Freedom of Movement?”* on 13th May in Bratislava. The aim of the event was to address the main current challenge of the EU: the migration-humanitarian crisis. Civil servants, politicians, university professors as well as young researchers came together in Slovakia to fill the gap of the lack of awareness and with the aim of finding possible solutions to avoid the abolition of one of the main achievements of the European project.

The first table **“Visegrad Group and the migration impasse: Schengen at stake?”** gathered together representatives from the 4 countries: Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland. This political conception was created in 1991 to enhance mutual cooperation in the Central Eastern European region. Mr Slavomir Rudenko, Director for International Affairs of the Pan-European University, moderated the session that approached the migration scenario in those countries. Ms Jana Vnuková, Head of European Union Law Unit of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in Slovakia, recalled the problematic of losing Schengen. In the same line, Ms Zsuzsanna Szelényi, Member of the Hungarian Parliament -Együtt Pártja- in Hungary underlined that the freedom of movement is the core symbol of the EU and we should stay away from populism and propaganda. She



concluded that media has a big impact in the development of the situation. Mr Václav Nekvapil, CEC Government Relations' Managing Director in Czech Republic, focused on the role of the Visegrad Group in the crisis he revealed that they have not acted as a single voice, meaning that a more consistent engagement should drive their decisions. Mr Andrzej Potocki, Vice President of Stronnictwo Demokratyczne in Poland closed the debate alarming about the increasing populism around Europe in general and in his country in particular.

The second table **“The Migration challenges: Human Rights, International Cooperation and Migration Management”** opened with Ms Zuzana Vatrál'ová, Head of Office of the International Organization for Migration in Slovakia, who insisted that migration is natural to human beings and not a problem, thus that reality has to be respected. Ms Berta Fernández, Visiting Senior Lecturer, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta, explained the reluctant of the island to the migration and its goals for the upcoming EU Presidency in 2017. Malta faces the double approach to migration: they do the jobs that we do not want and they are the source of instability. Ms Monika Begovic, Vice-President of the Centre for International Studies, International and Officer in Croatian Parliament Political Party 'NS-Reformisti', explained the experience of the Western Balkans from being a refugee sender area to a transit one. Europe has shown its worse version building fences in Hungary, Poland claiming only Christian refugees and Austria introducing anti-migrant measures. Finally, Mr Martin Klus, Member of the National Council of Slovakia, Professor at the Department of Political Science of the



Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University, focused on Slovakia and what it is happening at the national politics.

The third table **“Research Project “Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?”: the Youth Perception of the Schengen crisis”** was devoted to the introduction of the IED Research Project. Researchers granted with the fellowship debated their views on the so-called crisis. Ms Katarina Kosmina, Researcher, European Policy Centre, Belgrade, underlined the use of the language and the negative perspective of the word “crisis”. Then Mr Mihai Sebe, Expert in Romanian and European Politics, European Institute of Romania, broke in the perspective of a non-Schengen country. Mr Antonios Nestoras, PhD candidate, Institute for European Studies, Belgium, argued that Greece needs the solidarity of the EU Member States. Mr Tommaso Emiliani, Academic Assistant, College of Europe, focused on the critical analysis of the EU discourse and policies in the wake of the Arab Spring, in particular, the case study of Lampedusa. Finally, Mr Joaquín Ferro, Policy Assistant, European Parliament, related terrorism in Europe and the rising of populism.



The aim of the last table was to give **“The voice of the Young Europeans: a look to the Future”**, Young Europeans together with members of Young Democrats for Europe presented the ideas and perspective on Schengen from the youth’s point of view. Young Europeans decided to create a survey, with aim to understand and discover the various youth’s opinions on the subjects with the topic connected. The survey consisted of 8 questions, focusing mainly on the attitude towards Schengen and youth’s perception of Schengen, covering issues of security, protection of its external borders, or the impact of the Refugee Crisis on Schengen, to name a few. Check the result in this [link](#).



*Do not forget the special intervention of **Gérard Deprez**, Member of the European Union Parliament, Member of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee, ALDE Group.*

Check the video of the event!

EU priority: “The Future of the Energy Union”



The IED and Centro per un Futuro Sostenibile co-organised the international conference *“The future of the Energy Union - European integration, Italian opportunities and Regions contribution”* on 27th May in Cagliari, Italy. The high level of speakers analysed thoroughly one of the top priorities of the Juncker’s Commission with a special focus on the Mediterranean and the next COP22.

THE ROLE OF REGIONS IN THE ENERGY UNION

Eloy Álvarez Pelegrí

Director of the Energy Chair of Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness

It may be said that the Energy Union concept was launched with the Communication from the Commission “Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy” on February 2015. The Energy Union itself can be seen from different angles and various approaches. In fact in accordance with the different documents from European Union it goes from dimensions to lines of action. Furthermore, there is also a Road Map and a list of indicators to monitor and follow the progress. All in all, one can assume that the main issues of the European Union are focused on the internal energy market, decarbonization (energy efficiency and renewable), and energy security, solidarity and trust. Last but not least, the Energy Union stresses the importance of research and innovation and competitiveness. Within this ample framework, which may be the role of the regions in the Energy Union? One way to look at this is by examining the evolution of the Interreg programs. In this respect, there has been a continuous enlargement of the eligible areas in the successive Interreg programs. In order to assess the role of regions in the Energy Union, from my point of view, we could also consider the Regional Specialization Strategies which are currently one of the core policies of the European Commission.

Then, to respond to the question which is the role of regions in the Energy Union, we should take into account the dimensions, lines of action and the road map of the Energy Union, and assess the role for regions taking also into account, the Regional Specialization Strategies and the Competitiveness of the territories. So if we take into consideration this framework, we may identify some topics for regional cooperation related to energy. Taking into account the lines of action of the Energy Union and the Road Map, I believe that the issues in which there are more ground for cooperation are those related to decarbonization (in particular, through energy efficiency and renewable technologies), research and innovation related to energy and the key issue of territorial and energy competitiveness. In my opinion, competitiveness integrates the energy industry and the regional specialization strategies with the final aim for regions to be competitive territories. Perhaps, one way to progress in these ideas is to begin a formal and constructive dialogue. For that, I understand that there are three main “blocks” to cover, namely: the political, the technical and the instrumental aspects. In the first “block”, we should identify and confirm political interest. For the technical point of view, the aim should be to propose projects focusing mainly on the topics of decarbonization, research and innovation and energy competitiveness. Following the focus of the Seminar Organized by Centro Per un Future Sostenibile and the Institute of European Democrats, I would propose to continue exploring more in depth these relevant issues in a workshop or seminar that could take place in Bilbao with a program to be agreed upon. This may be the instrument to try to progress in assessing the role of regions in the Energy Union.



IED Research Project:

“Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?”

The outcome of the Call for Papers was overwhelming with a high quality of applications covering a broad range of issues within the topic. Our Researchers have different education background: law, political sciences, economics, and communication. Furthermore, they have dissected from the meaning of the word “crisis” to the EU-Turkey agreement and the role of non-Schengen members. Among other subjects: European identity, violation of human rights and gender violence, EU law transposition, rise of populism, Eurozone crisis lessons for Schengen or Arab Spring implications.

We would like to invite you to check the result of our Research Project by clicking in the papers:

- Serena BRUGNOLA - *Are refugees the real threat to European identity?*
- Kyriacos CHRISTOFIDES - *The Schengen Agreement is on the move*
- Kaiana Coralina DO MONTE VILAR - *The closing borders and refugees violations of human rights: vulnerable groups, rape and gender violence into the territory of European Union*
- Tommaso EMILIANI - *Fortress Europe no more? Migration, border control and solidarity: a critical analysis of the EU discourse and policies in the wake of the Arab Spring – With a case study from Lampedusa*
- Joaquin FERRO RODRÍGUEZ - *Paris, Berlin, Ankara: a deal driven by populism*
- Begoña GARTEIZAURRECOA AZUA - *The refugee crisis in Europe: a political approach towards the implementation of solutions*
- Francesco Luigi GATTA - *The EU facing migration challenges: the principle of solidarity as the necessary guiding light to manage the crisis*
- Yassen GEORGIEV - *Schengen in times of pressure: a view from a non-Schengen EU Member State*
- Patrick HARRIS - *Carrots and sticks in a perfect storm: Can Schengen survive the crisis?*
- Dario INTINI - *No migrants, no Schengen: how right-wing political parties are increasing their popularity in Europe*
- Katarina KOSMINA - *Mapping the language of 'crisis': how discourse mismanagement impeded solidarity in the European Union?*
- Jean LAUSSUCQ DHIRIART - *To what extent the current difficulties of Europe in managing the migratory crisis reveal the limits of the 'spirit of Schengen' in the advancement of the European construction?*
- Pálma POLYAK - *What Schengen can learn from the Euro crisis*
- Déborah PRESTA NOVELLO - *The EU response to migratory pressures: the challenge of getting back to Schengen, the future management of the EU's external borders and Turkey's role*
- Andrea ROMANO - *Schengen at the crossroads between Dublin's failure and the rising populism in the EU. Constitutional and political scenarios in the context of the current refugee crisis*
- Mykolas ŠAVELSKIS - *Ensuring the principle of the best interests of the child: the case of transposition and implementation of the Directives 2013/32/EU and 2013/33/EU in Lithuania*
- Mihai SEBE - *Romania: migrants. Managing migrants and border control. How temporary is the temporary reestablishment of border controls?*
- Mariya SHISHEVA - *Schengen, security and solidarity: sending the right message to EU citizens*
- Romain SU - *You can't have your cake and eat it: migration, borders control and solidarity*
- Geneviève ZINGG - *The consequences of Schengen's collapse: populist shortsightedness and the future of European security*

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This Newsletter received financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the authors of the texts and the European Parliament or the Institute of European Democrats are not responsible for any use that may be made