

**CONFRONTATIONS**



**EUROPE**

# SOLIDARITY TOUR 2019

## MANIFESTO

CONFRONTATIONS EUROPE

SOLIDARITY  
TOUR



Warszawa Praha Budapest Αθήνα Βεογραδ Paris



Co-funded by the  
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## Abstract

With the support of the [“Europe for Citizens” programme of the European Commission](#), Confrontations Europe conducted the *Solidarity Tour* throughout the year 2019.

This project gathered around fifty young German, Belgian, French, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Serbian and Czech participants during seminars taking place in six European cities (Lille, Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, Athens, Belgrade), and a hundred of participants at a final conference organised at the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris.

Through participative and intercultural seminars and workshops, these young participants of diverse profiles – having little awareness of European matters for most of them, and sometimes coming from less favoured backgrounds – exchanged and **issued recommendations** on several European thematic (integration in the labour market, education, asylum and migration, mobility, democratic participation, future of the EU, enlargement...). They also presented these recommendations to local, national and European decision-makers attending the seminars<sup>1</sup>.

These meetings have aimed at giving the possibility for young people to express themselves, especially youngsters having little knowledge on European issues, and less opportunities regarding their educational or professional background. Opening these young people to Europe and giving them a voice has implied allowing them to meet and exchange with young people coming from other European countries, to confront their concrete experiences (e.g. in terms of education, training, mobility or integration in the labour market) and to give them the possibility to make their voice heard in front of decision-makers and stakeholders.

Our project was directed towards young European citizens, whether students, apprentices, young workers or jobseekers. The Solidarity Tour’s goal was to gather a large panel and a diversity of backgrounds<sup>2</sup> – including less favoured profiles – prone to give food for thought and to share experiences. In front of the rise of extremisms and Euroscepticism, the strength that unites us is the awareness of a common destiny and the will to take our rightful place in European civil society and within the construction of the EU.

More broadly, our project targets decision-makers, at all levels. Local, national and European decision-makers, representatives of the institutions and of the European civil society attended the Solidarity Tour’s seminars and were (and will still be) invited to react on the basis of the young people’s work and recommendations.

All the work accomplished by the young participants led to the publication of the present **manifesto**, which gathers their main recommendations on the different thematic debated during the Tour, and which will be disseminated towards decision-makers and civil society organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> The detailed programme of the seminars (cities, workshops’ topics, speakers, cultural visits...) are available on [Confrontations Europe’s website](#).

<sup>2</sup> The participants’ biographies are included the methodology guide published by Confrontations Europe after the project, available on [Confrontations Europe’s website](#).

## Recommendations

The main recommendations expressed by the young participants are gathered in the four following “chapters”:

- Integration in the labour market and social Europe;
- Regional and international mobility;
- Asylum and immigration;
- Democracy, values of the European Union and enlargement.

These recommendations were issued by the young participants themselves, within participative workshops in the different cities of the Tour. Confrontations Europe compiled and published them to valorize their work and bring their messages towards decision-makers.

### 1. Integration in the labour market and social Europe

- o Make **social** (minimum wage, social security, weekly working hours...) and **fiscal** (company tax) **standards converge** in Europe in order to **reduce inequalities between European workers** and **fight against social and fiscal dumping** between the member states.
- o Make **education and training programmes match with the labour market’s realities and the employers’ expectations**, for example with increasing the share of practical traineeships in comparison with theoretical classes.
- o **Promote apprenticeship, vocational and technical education**, especially in sectors suffering from labour shortage, and so where young people have employment and career perspectives.
- o Make the **remuneration of practical traineeships** compulsory, as not paying trainees creates inequalities.
- o **Promote volunteer experience** in schools and towards the recruiters, by developing national and European volunteer programmes and informing better on existing ones (e.g. European Solidarity Corps, European Voluntary Service, national civil service programmes, volunteer work within associations and NGOs...).
- o Develop **awareness campaigns to fight against discriminations** targeting certain minorities or nationalities, especially regarding their access to the labour market.

### 2. Regional and international mobility

- o **Expand Erasmus+** beyond universities, especially to vocational students and apprentices.
- o **Better include rural and periphery areas in** their access to study, training and job opportunities, for example through the organisation of study, career and mobility fairs, and through the development of public transportation in these areas.
- o Developing **foreign language learning** at school.

- Diversify and increase **mobility scholarships**, to allow more young people to benefit from an international exchange, including for traineeships and apprenticeships.

### 3. Asylum and immigration

- Build an **asylum and immigration policy managed at the European level**, with a fair and equal distribution of asylum seekers between the member states.
- Ensure the **respect of human rights** and **decent living and hygiene conditions** in the migrant detention centres.
- Ensure the **safety of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons** (e.g. women, disabled people), especially through decent accommodation and support (e.g. in specialised shelters) and by separating them from the adults within retention centres.
- Develop **integration through education for migrant children and teenagers** within the host country's public schools, **train teachers** to accompany these pupils, and plan adapted **language support**.
- Develop **integration through education, training and employment** for adult asylum seekers, and plan adapted **language support**.
- Provide for meeting centres between migrants and locals, to improve **mutual understanding and dialogue**, and foster the **cultural and social insertion** of newcomers.
- **Fasten and simplify asylum procedures**, to facilitate the integration of asylum seekers, shorten the time spent in retention centres or in the street, and relieve first-entry countries such as Greece.

### 4. Democracy, values of the European Union and enlargement

- Develop, in all EU member states, European **civic education courses**, in both primary and secondary school, to provide the citizens with knowledge on the functioning and the values of the EU, and on the history of European integration.
- Develop an **independent European media**, accessible in all member states and their languages, to inform the citizens on European news and on the other member states' news, explain the EU's functioning, inform on the European elections...

Purpose: Developing a **feeling of European belonging and citizenship**, and thus giving (young) citizens incentives to **vote in the European elections**.

- Impose **democratic standards and respect of the EU's values**, not only for candidate countries but also for the member states, and take concrete sanctions against the member states infringing these rules.
- Promote **regional cooperation**, in particular in the Balkans, in parallel to the process of EU membership (e.g. Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo).

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