

agorà

CIVILISATION IS THE PROGRESS OF MENALIVE

11—13 / 11

Brussels



FONDAZIONE
COSTRUIAMO
IL FUTURO ETS
formazione



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Ricerca, Università, Innovazione

Università
Europea di
Roma

**UER
RESIDENZA**

**FORCELLINI
RESIDENZA
UNIVERSITARIA**

**MURIALDO
RESIDENZA
UNIVERSITARIA**

EDUCatt
Ente per il Diritto alla Scuola Universitaria
dell'Università Cattolica

Agostini semper
Assistenza agli studenti e alle famiglie
dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Villa Nazareth

with the scientific contribution of

UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA di Brescia
POLIDEMOS
Centro per lo studio della democrazia
e del movimento politico



AGORÀ

WHERE THE FUTURE MEETS THE INSTITUTIONS

Agorà marks the culmination of the training programme run by the Fondazione Costruiamo il Futuro ETS, a journey that unfolds in three stages and which, in 2026, will expand from a purely national scope to a European one, with a three-day visit to Brussels, at the heart of the international institutions and organisations representing the Member States of the European Union.

The initiative aims to bring together 100 young participants, coming from across Italy and other European countries, with senior figures from the political and administrative leadership of the European Union's institutions, in order to explore the current challenges facing the Union, its distinctive place on the international stage, and the career paths open to permanent officials. Having already examined the challenges of the contemporary world, explored cultural and technological frontiers, and looked closely at the future dynamics of work, participants will now have the opportunity to engage directly with those who lead the European institutions today, and to discover the places that fostered and shaped the European integration project.



AGORÀ

WHERE THE FUTURE MEETS THE INSTITUTIONS

The visit is designed to deepen understanding of the European institutional architecture and the role of representative democracies, examining the changes currently under way, and invites young participants to rediscover the roots of a shared civilisation and its continuous renewal: an opportunity to understand how the process of integration – political, economic, but above all human – continues to be written today by those who live within it.

WITH US:

- You will have the opportunity to meet MEPs, European Commissioners and senior officials of the EU institutions.
- You will discover the inner workings and operational dynamics of the European Parliament and the European Commission.
- You will take part in exclusive in-depth sessions and debates with leading experts on the future of Europe.



TRAINING GOALS

AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE VISIT AIMS TO:

- Foster understanding of the European institutional architecture.
- Promote discussion on the current challenges facing the European Union.
- Bring young people closer to European career paths.
- Showcase the places that fostered and shaped the European integration project.

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METHODOLOGY

EUROPE IS CALLING. ANSWER IT!

AGORÀ IS BUILT ON FIVE METHODOLOGICAL PILLARS:



Visit to the institutions:

An immersive experience to gain first-hand insight into how the European Parliament and European Commission operate.



Outstanding speakers:

Contributions from leading figures from the institutional, academic and cultural world.



Dialogue:

A unique opportunity to engage in discussion with experts and officials, guided by professionals and academics.



Exceptional content:

An optional policy paper activity is offered, developed through scientific collaboration with **Polidemos – Centre for the Study of Democracy and Political Change at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore**. The best policy papers will be awarded during the event.



Networking:

Opportunities to build and strengthen professional relationships with fellow participants and with key figures from the European institutional landscape.

APPLICATIONS

HERE IS HOW TO TAKE PART

APPLICANTS FROM OUR EDUCATION PARTNER

If you are from one of these education partners:

Camplus, Fondazione RUI, Università Europea di Roma e le sue residenze, Residenza Murialdo, Residenza Forcellini, Collegi dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Collegio Villa Nazareth, Fondazione ONAOSI

Contact your education tutor for further information about application and the selection process.

OTHER APPLICANTS

1. Access the official platform by clicking on the **"Apply"** button and create a personal account. Once registered, complete your personal profile in full and upload an updated curriculum vitae (CV).
2. Once your profile is complete, please locate the **"Eventi"** tab in the upper left corner of the homepage and select the event titled **"Civilisation is the Progress of Manalive"**.
3. Complete the application form in all its sections and submit it **no later than 18 October 2026**.
4. Wait for the notification of the outcome of the selection process.
5. If selected, wait for further instructions and pay the participation fee.

APPLY

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Participation fee:

310 €

(of which € 39 of administrative fees)

INCLUDED:

- Round-trip flight from Rome or Milan to Brussels
- Hotel accommodation (twin room)
- Breakfasts and dinners, from Wednesday dinner to Friday breakfast
- Access to the teaching materials provided by the Foundation
- Participation in the activities organised by the Foundation

NOT INCLUDED:

- Local tourist tax
- Lunches
- Anything not expressly listed in the **"Included"** section

**CIVILISATION IS THE
PROGRESS OF MENALIVE**

THE MANIFESTO

The world is in turmoil, and Europe finds itself in the midst of the storm. Repeatedly shaken by the course of history, the European Union has proved ill-prepared to face the winds that have begun to blow once more, after decades of development, peace and prosperity. The crises that have struck the Old Continent, too, stubbornly resist the all-too-simple lenses through which we have tried to explain them.

The European Commission currently in office commissioned two reports on the future of the Union: the first focusing on the Single Market, the second on competitiveness. Together, they constitute an invaluable body of work for identifying the steps Europe must take if it is to fulfil the promise of development made over recent decades. Yet the advance of populist and authoritarian forces should persuade us that identifying the next steps towards integration is not enough when we remain divided — or unaware — as to why those steps should be taken and which values we seek to preserve. Alongside “pragmatic

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federalism”, we must therefore decide what reasons compel us to change; otherwise, democratic change itself will prove impossible. What is needed is a vision nourished by deeper social and political convictions.

Who is European? What task does Europe set itself? Is there still a common good for which it is worth striving and making sacrifices? What is the destination of what was once called a “community of destiny”?

Over the past twenty years, the reasons of Europe’s “heart” — its sentiments and values — have drifted ever further from those of its “mind”: budgets, markets and security. There is something deeply jarring in returning to the beginnings of European integration and discovering how clearly its founders understood the meaning of sharing coal and steel among peoples who had repeatedly slaughtered one another for some two hundred years. Their reasons and their purposes were not abstractions: they became the real “flesh” of politics.

**CIVILISATION IS THE
PROGRESS OF MEN ALIVE**

THE MANIFESTO

Today, in the judgement of its most perceptive observers, Europe remains the only great democratic space still capable of defending the freedoms won in the aftermath of the Second World War. This is not the case in Russia, still less in China, and perhaps no longer in the United States, where the political evolution of recent decades has continued to carve deep divisions into the civic conscience and to sharpen inequalities further.

Yet the Old Continent has not been immune to its own forms of emotional radicalisation: from ideological environmentalism to racism against foreigners, and to an increasingly extreme laicism that seeks to blur every distinction. Above all, we must ask ourselves whether the individualist illusion — the belief that solitary achievement could fully satisfy the aspirations of citizens — has not produced precisely the opposite effect. The weakening of society and the retreat from human relationships have fostered a kind of “singularism” that erodes not so much democracy itself as something more fundamental: the vitality of human beings.

WE CAN HELP BUILD THE FUTURE
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union therefore stands at a crossroads: either it finds once more the strength to believe in the culture that made it great, and to renew that culture, or it succumbs to the forces of technocracy and authoritarianism.

We do not need to recreate the forms of the past. We need instead to breathe new life into those communities that still cherish the desire to build a future together — a future that places the dignity of the person and freedom of conscience at its heart.

The task of European politics must therefore be to take a stand: to promote and concretely defend a space between State and market that is not neutral or empty, but entrusted to those who genuinely foster experiences through which the person can flourish — not merely the individual.

By encouraging those social bodies and communities that seek to live fully, and to live together, we can help build the future of the European Union and of its citizens.

**CIVILISATION IS THE
PROGRESS OF MANKIND**

"[...] European citizens are asking their leaders to raise their eyes towards our common European destiny and to understand the scale of the challenge before us. Only unity of purpose and urgency of response will show that they are ready to meet extraordinary times with extraordinary action."

Mario Draghi

"The civilization of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture, but from the sum total of small and steadfast acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanization. For this reason, it is worthwhile pausing to reflect on some aspects of how we, each in our own way, can cooperate in building the civilization of love."

Pope Leo XIV

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DIALOGUES WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Dialogue with **Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto** and European Commissioners at the European Commission
- Meeting with **Members of the European Parliament**

GROUP DINNER

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VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- **Visit to the European Parliament**, including the Hemicycle and the House of European History

LUNCH

DIALOGUES ON EUROPE'S KEY CHALLENGES

- Dialogue on the future of Europe with **Chantal Delsol** and **Adrian Pabst**
- Meeting with **senior officials** from the **European institutions**

APERITIF AND LIGHT DINNER IN PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG

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MEETING WITH SENIOR DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS AND POLICY PAPER AWARDS CEREMONY

- Dialogue with **senior diplomatic officials** from the **Permanent Representations**
- Award ceremony for the winning policy papers