

The Institute for European and Global Studies - Alliance Europa

Our priorities in 2020-2023

The results of our work and the evolution of the European and international context lead us to wonder about Europe, in a time of multiple transitions and faced with the major challenges of the contemporary world which impose the questioning of its economic, political, social and cultural model. The challenges to be taken up in this context require us to place citizens and individuals at the heart of the European project and European policies as major factors in these transitions, by looking in particular at local and regional territories, places of expression and places where Europeans live. "Human beings as a force for transitions" is the hypothesis that we put forward.

Citizenship, democracy and governance in Europe: democracy must be reinvented by integrating the changing role assigned to citizens, with citizenship no longer reduced to that of anonymous voters but more embodied or individualised in responsible, committed, participatory and project-oriented citizens. How can we rediscover shared common values without which the European Union cannot unite around a collective project? How can citizens and local and regional actors be involved in European projects and policies to make them more legitimate and democratic? How can European democracy be reinvented by the territories to put the citizen back at the heart of the political project?

Citizens, territories and external policies of the Union, legitimacy and participation: the European Union deploys ambitious and often innovative international policies, but is increasingly faced with a problem of democratic legitimacy, which requires a better involvement of citizens and their networks of influence as actors of a more legitimate and democratic European external policy. Two fields of study will be given priority: Europe's relations with Africa, the involvement of European and African civil societies being one of the key challenges of cooperation between the two continents; and citizens, the use and regulation of maritime spaces, for example on rescue at sea or ocean pollution, where NGOs are particularly active.

The Europeans and EU migration policies, participation, mobilisations, conflicts: the "migrant crisis" has revealed the weaknesses of EU migration policy, the limits of solidarity between Member States, the divisions within our societies over the reception of refugees and migrants. The migration issue is a strong mobilization of civil societies. The forms of these mobilisations and commitments deserve study and comparison. Emotions and passions are at the heart of these citizen commitments, and provoke rejection and opposition to Europe. The involvement of local actors in the process of drawing up national and European migration policies is necessary but problematic, while the reception of migrants is above all managed locally.

Ecological transitions and citizens' commitments in Europe: environmental protection and the fight against climate change have become a key concern at local, national, European and global level, questioning our capacity to anticipate necessary economic and social transitions. What are the forms of mobilisation and action of citizens, youth and their networks of influence? How can we move from awareness raising and education to action and political participation? How can the Europeans become real actors in the EU-led Green Deal ?

Communities, cultures and heritage in Europe. Historical perspectives and new values in the digital age: individuals, citizens and the communities that bring them together are the primary transmitters and receivers of European identities, revealing Europe's diversity but also its complexity. To be successful, European and national projects and policies must take better account of communities of action. In what ways have the cultural identities of these communities been historically constructed? How can they be associated with the definition of shared values? How are educational and artistic transmissions taking place at a time when digital technology is erasing the boundaries between European and other cultural and educational practices ?