

# 2021 Online

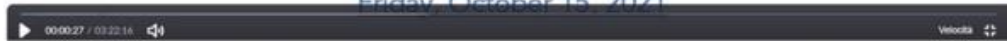


58<sup>th</sup> EJ International Congress

October 15-16, 2021  
Meetings ONLINE

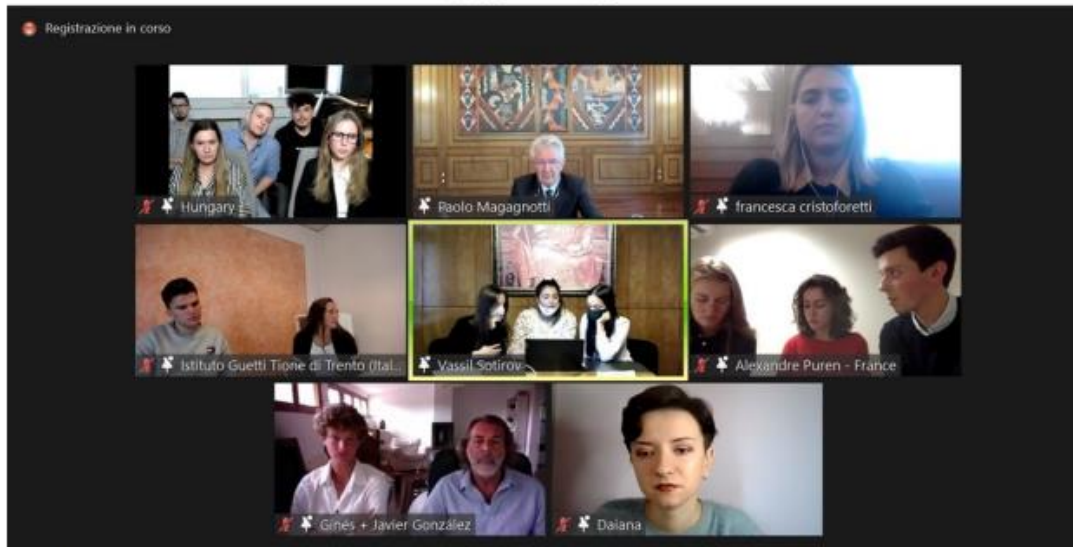
Our Future in Our Homeland Europe  
Views and Expectations for the Future of Europe  
Digging out the Sleepwalkers

Friday, October 15, 2021



**2021** : Due to the Covid pandemic, again, the planned congress in Timisoara on October 15-16, 2021, with the partnership of “Universitatea de Vest Din Timișoara”, needed to be held online on the same days. Once again the uncertainties regarding the future of the European Union, despite the “Conference on the Future of Europe”, our concerns focused on what could be the future of our dear Europe. We wanted to deal with views and expectations, mainly for the new generations needing to face difficult times. We were in the context of the implementation of the “Next generation EU, and many obstacles were hindering the European integration process. A survey conducted among university students of different countries highlighted the disorientation of many young people regarding their future in this European Union; they were asking for more participation and institutions to be in a more concrete position in order to take decisions without the “trap” of unanimity. An highlight of the congress was represented by the networking online between six groups of young students on different countries (Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Spain – see slide below), an exciting experience recommended to become normal in the future. Messages from descendants of EJ founding fathers very close to our association gave motivation to be motivated for our future with their spirit and visions. Maria Romana De Gasperi, daughter of Alcide De Gasperi, gave us the last speech of her life, encouraging journalists and young people to keep the dream of the European unity alive, without giving up in facing all the difficulties. Encouraging was also the message of Konrad Adenauer’s grandson, Sven-Georg Adenauer. Those were the weeks when the threat of Putin’s Russia to attack Ukraine was very worrying, and worrying was the presentation of the director of the new geopolitics resource network of Kiev, Mykhailo Samus, which dealt with the instability risks in the European continent in light of the aggressive attitude of the Russian Federation and the Caucasus’ tension. Very thoughtful and inspiring was the presentation of former high-ranking civil servant of the Council of Europe, Ivan Koedjikov, on the “sleepwalkers”; yes, the many sleepwalkers that don’t understand or pretend not to understand what is going on in the world and just concentrate on their personal or electoral interest, risk to bring forth tragic scenarios. This is a point that must be seriously considered also by media people, who should commit themselves in a serious way to learn and try to understand the reality and inform people so that they can do everything to wake up sleepwalkers before it will be too late.

# Youth Networking among young students



On the occasion of the first day of the online EJ congress 2021 (October 15), a networking between young students of six Western and Central-eastern European countries took place. Before the video connection, students met with their teachers to discuss topics about the European Union, regarding especially their expectations for their future lives in Europe. It was an exciting experience with students of one school exchanging thoughts, reflections and views. All of them expressed the desire to keep such experience in the future. EJ considers this kind of networking very important to allow young people to get to know each other and to realize that "my problem is your problem", they can better cooperate not just for their personal interest but for the benefit of the entire society. It is a right way to build European unity and keeping diversities. It is also an opportunity to overcome misunderstandings, suspicions and preconceptions which are often "poisoning" relations between peoples and being obstacles to a fruitful European growth.