



FINAL DOCUMENT OF PROPOSAL AND ACTION – SYNTHESIS

of the Italian Alliance of the European Year of Citizens 2013

1. European and National context: European Year of Citizens 2013

Following the European Commission decision of celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty which introduced the European citizenship, by declaring 2013 as the European Year of Citizens, the most important European networks created the **European Year of Citizens Alliance**. Also in Italy, thanks to the actions of major associations and networks of the Italian civil society, it has been possible to establish an alliance. Over 2013, the Italian Alliance has worked to elaborate a series of recommendations, which will be submitted to the **European Commission, the European Parliament and the Italian Government considering the upcoming semester that will see Italy chairing the European Union's Council in the second half of 2014.**

The Alliance began some actions to support the dialogue within civil society, proposing itself as a privileged interlocutor to concentrate the discussion on citizenship in the European decision making process scope, while carrying forward a series of initiatives at national and local level. These initiatives had not only the goal of making citizens aware of the European citizenship, but also of making more understandable their rights and the direct democracy tools, as envisaged in the Lisbon Treaty, in order to ensure their participation in the communitarian decision making process.

2. Recommendations: actions and goals of the Italian Alliance

The formulations prepared by the Italian Alliance, that contributed to the finalization of the proposals formulated by the European Alliance, require the implementation of a series of measures of different nature and sectors, in order to ensure the actual fruition of the European citizenship, in its more authentic and democratic form, by every individual living in Italy and in Europe.

IN THE SHORT TERM

- ❖ In the short period, it is intended to remove all those economic and social obstacles, which prevent a full realization of the individual within the Italian and European society. It corresponds to this goal, the request to activate fiscals, micro financial measures and the creation of a Guarantee Fund, to support private and company income. This will ensure the achievement of the economic emancipation for young citizens; an indispensable pre condition for the enjoyment of their social rights.
- ❖ According to the article 3 of the Italian Constitution, which impose equality between all citizens, the Alliance asks to eliminate any form of discrimination that persists in the occupational, revenue and educational scope. A particular attention must be posed to gender equality, especially regarding its inclusion in the Europe 2020 Strategy, to disability, to migration policies and to the elaboration of a concept of citizenship linked to the territory (*ius solis vs ius sanguinis*). Thanks to these measures it will be possible to ensure the participation of citizens, also through the adoption of norms of European and international rights, as well as of conventions and charts.

- ❖ It is demanded a **full recognition of the role-played by the world of associations - with particular attention to volunteers and cultural associations – in contributing to the elaboration of a common consciousness regarding the enjoyment of the European citizenship right.** This must include an adequate support plan and adequate measures that could give the proper value – also an economic one – to volunteering time.

IN THE MEDIUM TERM

- ❖ **All those best practices developed in different aspects of society are to be promoted, also reaching the elaboration of common European statutes, which regulates the activities promoted by nonprofit sector.**
- ❖ Moreover the Alliance want to promote **together with the civil society, local authorities and institutions, regulated practices for those subjects and decisions that directly affect local citizens.** The development of forms of democracy and participation pushed the Alliance to work for the recognition of the political rights of the active and passive electorate to all the residents in the occasion of the local and regional elections. Eventually the Alliance suggests starting training measures with the final goal of developing and strengthening a new common sense of European belonging between new generations.

IN THE LONG TERM

- ❖ The Alliance wants to ensure **the pro-active action of the citizens themselves, to define European policies, according to the dispositions regarding direct active participation tools included in the Lisbon Treaty.** In this frame, the concept of multilevel citizenship is to be intended, in order to develop different forms of democratic citizenship that will have to include different actors and individuals of the society. Particularly, it is requested to open the current Italian legislation that regulates the participation to European decision processes to every stakeholder.
- ❖ Furthermore, as the European Union Chart on fundamental rights states, the linguistic barrier in the Union must be demolished. This would allow every individual of every member State to run for every invitation to tender, programs and communal initiatives on an equalitarian base: this will imply that within the Union of 28 Members, every citizen must have the rights to have access to every institutional document, to run for invitations and make proposals in its own mother tongue.

3. The Alliance, its institutional role and the federalist perspective revival

- ❖ The Alliance, at a more close political level, **asks that the next European Parliament have a clear constituent function,** in order to start a **federalist** process. This will have to replace the current functionalist and intergovernmental approach, reaching in this way the United States of Europe.
- ❖ **The Italian Alliance, eventually, decided to continue its commitment as a platform, also after 2013 deadline. This will allow the Alliance to be a privileged interlocutor with European and national institutions in the decision making process regarding any argument on citizenship.** In fact, the Alliance wants to promote the recommendations and the instances prepared during 2013, ensuring itself a monitoring and stimulus role for the new European Parliament, the new European Commission and the Italian government, in order to guarantee the implementation of the recommendations presented.

For the full version of the document and to access all the positions of the Alliance, please visit:

<http://www.ey2013-italia.eu>