

## 3<sup>rd</sup> German Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum 2023

Call for Applications – **Deadline 21 September 2023**

The *German Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum* is a joint initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in partnership with the Institute for European Politics (IEP) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI).

It offers a future generation of Italian and German leaders in the fields of politics, business, academia, civil society, media, and culture the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by the German-Italian partnership as it shapes the future of the European Union (EU).

We are looking for young Italian and German candidates who would like to take part in the third edition of this dialogue format, which will consist of a **virtual kick-off event** (scheduled for 6 October), **two online workshops** (scheduled for 20 October and 10 November) and a **final in-person two-day conference** which will take place in Berlin on 20 and 21 November. Participants will have the unique opportunity to discuss relevant issues concerning the future of the EU and relations between the two countries in a stimulating environment, as well as to become members of a lasting network of German and Italian young leaders.

### Thematic Focus

The EU and its member states face an increasing number of challenges that require close cooperation at the European level, as shown by the Russian aggression against Ukraine and its consequences for Europe and the world.

These challenges include fulfilling and preserving the promise of prosperity to the benefit of all European citizens, securing the global competitiveness of European economies, successfully transforming European economies to adapt to climate change and the digital revolution, and enhancing European security in the context of increasing geopolitical competition. As close partners and founding members of the EU, both Germany and Italy are key to advancing European cooperation to meet them.

In four working groups, participants will discuss important aspects of the EU's internal and external capacity to act from a German and Italian perspective. They will discuss differences in perception in order to reach a better understanding of the respective position and to identify synergies and priorities. Finally, they will develop policy proposals for joint European action.

These four working groups are:

#### ***I. European Foreign and Security Policy***

The withdrawal from Afghanistan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have sparked discussions on how to make the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy more effective and efficient. The EU has been swift in its policy response, relying on, among others, close policy coordination, wide-ranging sanction regimes, energy diversification and the European Peace Facility. Further steps are under discussion, including an overhaul of decision-making procedures, the implementation of the Strategic Compass to enhance EU's capacity to act in the field of security and defence or a broader use of Team Europe Initiatives in Europe's immediate neighbourhood. This workshop aims to critically assess current

procedures and instruments, recommending adaptations to best address current and upcoming policy challenges.

## ***II. European migration policy***

European migration policy has been high on the EU's agenda for years, but major shortcomings persist. Recent debates have focused on adequate policy responses to address the root causes for migration, to deepen fair partnerships with countries of origin and transit ("Mattei plan"), to deal with Europe's labour market challenges, to prevent human trafficking and deaths along major migration routes and to strike a balance between responsibility and solidarity among EU Member States. This workshop aims to explore sustainable policy solutions to make tangible progress in this policy field.

## ***III. European entrepreneurship***

Our companies are a decisive factor in the development and transformation process of our economy and a key driver of innovation and growth. Their innovative ideas strengthen Europe's competitiveness and help to secure our prosperity. Additionally, the job potential of innovative companies is very high. In an increasingly competitive world and with the increasing importance of AI, we need companies that share and live European values and help contribute with their innovative ideas to strengthen Europe's resilience and capacity to act. This workshop aims to explore ways to strengthen the EU's entrepreneurship ecosystem in a highly contested global business environment.

## ***IV. European energy transition***

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and the European reaction to such move have put the spotlight on the EU's dependence on hydrocarbons from unreliable sources and has shown the importance of a swift energy transition. This is needed not only in order to achieve our ambitious climate goals but also to improve energy security by reducing the dependence of the EU economy on the import of fossil energy. However, significant investments are required to accelerate the energy transition, while different national starting points lead to different approaches in how (and how fast) to transform the Member States' economies. This workshop aims to explore the challenges and opportunities of increasing the EU's energy security while safeguarding the green transition.

## **Target Group**

**German and Italian young leaders** and high potentials from the fields of politics, business, academia, civil society, the social sector, media, and culture with a strong interest in European cooperation.

## **Requirements**

- Aged between **25 and 35 years**, applications of strong candidates aged between 25 and 30 years will be given preference
- **First university degree** (BA or MA) or equivalent vocational qualification
- Strong interest/expertise in European cooperation, particularly in the fields of foreign policy, migration policy, economics, or climate and energy policy (see the selection criteria for details)
- Excellent command of English

## How to Apply

Applications will only be accepted via the [application platform](#) and should include the following information:

1. A completed [application form](#);
2. a CV (max. two pages, including information on the applicant's education and relevant work experience);
3. a short video (3 minutes max) to introduce the candidate and his/her motivation to take part in the *German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue – Spinelli Forum*;
4. A short text (max 2.500 characters) outlining what the EU should prioritize and how your country could contribute to this end in the field of the working group the applicant intends to participate (choose one):
  - European Foreign and Security Policy
  - European migration policy
  - European entrepreneurship
  - European energy transition

## N.B.

The participation in the in-person conference in Berlin is compulsory. The participation in the preliminary online workshops is also strongly recommended, being preparatory to the final conference. Travel expenses and accommodation will be covered by the organizers.

Should a Participant be unable to attend the conference at the last moment for health or professional reasons, this must be presented to the organisers with a written justification (e.g. medical certificate).

## Application Deadline

21 September 2023

## Contact

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## Disclaimer

The selection of candidates is carried out at the sole discretion of the Steering Committee consisting of representatives of all partner organizations.