



European Committee
of the Regions



Future of Europe

What the next generation expects



#EUlocal



Event type

Online local event

Date

8 July 2021

Audience

Citizens, youth organisations, employers, labour associations

Organisers

Metropolitan City of Bologna, Emilia Romagna Region and Europe Direct Emilia Romagna

Themes

Job market, youth, Next Generation EU, digitalisation



Speakers

- **Virginio Merola**, Mayor of Bologna and Member of the European Committee of the Regions;
- **Emma Petitti**, President of the Emilia-Romagna region legislative assembly;
- **Daniela Freddi** - Researcher IRES Emilia Romagna;
- **Giacomo Di Federico**, University of Bologna;
- **Riccardo Mancuso**, Member of Riders Union Bologna;
- **Jessica Abbuonandi**, Founder of Wise Mind Place and administrator at start-up Jab Srl;
- **Antonio Rossa**, CGIL Bologna;
- **Francesca Cortimiglia**, H&R, GELLIFY;
- **Fausto Tinti**, Città Metropolitana di Bologna;
- **Adelaide Mozzi**, Representation of the European Commission in Italy.



Key messages

1. Virginio Merola, Mayor of Bologna and CoR Member: *“Work is a fundamental topic for young people and women. Those groups have to be at the center of the Next Generation EU!”*
1. *Labour exploitation has a long history but still exists! When speaking about the job market, there is the need to pay attention not only to the quantitative aspect but also to the qualitative aspect of the job. Social and civil rights have to go hand in hand.*
1. *The NEET category, the youth and female unemployment are issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic crisis.*
1. *The Green Deal and European demography are extremely relevant themes for the future of Europe that need to be addressed by the new European generation.*
1. *Brain drain is a common issue for many European countries that the European Union is trying to tackle and continue to address.*



Press/Social media coverage

Media coverage

[InformaGiovani.fe](https://informagiovani.fe.it)

Website

[CoR event page](#)

Social Media

[@Emilia Romagna Facebook page](#)



1. Context

Transform the European economy, create opportunities and jobs, especially for those categories of the society who have been severely affected by the pandemic: these are the main targets of the European Union with the Next Generation EU. A huge investment plan is to emerge from the last (and current) crisis and that Member States have to administer in an efficient way to develop a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe for the youth and the next generations. Italy, as highlighted by several speakers during the debate, has lost several jobs in the last years despite the protection measures put in place by the central government especially for the most vulnerable sections of the society. In order to fight against social exclusion, poverty and in-work poverty, the cooperation between the local/regional and European level is essential.

2. Digitalisation is key

We are facing a deep transformation of the job market. Digitalisation is boosting productivity and competitiveness and making the job market smarter. However, it exacerbates labour polarization: those with high competencies are able to face the change; those with fewer competencies are stuck in their position and become at risk of in-work poverty. The Italian Plan on Recovery and Resilience has to address this issue. Digitalisation and resilience means literacy, problem solving and the acquisition of new skills. Lifelong learning plays a central role in this regard.

3. The European Union works to ensure social justice

The EU works to coordinate the Member States on a common approach to overcome employment issues. The proposal about the minimum wage is a remedy for inequality and in-work poverty and it guides the Member States in the path towards social justice at national level. Equal labour conditions and a better work-life balance need to be ensured for all job categories. It is central that the youth is involved in the debate on the job market transformation and it is key to make them understand the multidisciplinary nature of the new job market.

5. The dialogue between the local, regional and European level is key

The dialogue between the different social partners in the job market at local and regional level is essential to improve the legislation about certain categories that are least protected than others (for examples the « riders ») and to provide the European legislators with best practices to be taken into account. The Emilia Romagna Region is a pioneer for the cooperation between different stakeholders and for the establishment of networks. [Invest in Bologna for Talent](#) is just one of several initiatives that boost the collaboration between highly skilled workers or researchers and provide them with useful information to live and work in the Bologna metropolitan area.

5. A new era for the job market

The green and digital transition should not leave anyone behind. [The Porto Social Summit](#) reinforced the European Pillar of Social Rights strengthening the European Union's commitment to build a social Europe. The Next Generation EU puts employment and youth at the centre of the recovery plan: the new policies speak about lifelong learning, active labour market policies, women and STEM. The future of European integration will depend on the results of this ambitious programme!