

INTRODUCTION

We **Giovani Europeisti Verdi (GEV)** are born as a youth political project to be the voice of the expectations, hardships, ideals and dreams of the many young people calling loud for a better future for themselves and our planet.

Humanity today finds itself suffering the first effects of an unprecedented crisis: the climate one. Young people proved themselves to be the readiest to mobilise against this menace so far, rallying in the streets en masse to demand concrete action and a paradigm shift. We believe, however, that protest and mobilisation alone are insufficient without an equally strong political action. We GEV set ourselves not only as an instrument to bring young people closer to politics, but also as a means for the emancipation and political fulfilment of a generation that feels the urge to gain an active role in the choices for the future.

The current political and economic system, controlled by few and based on the exploitation of all living beings and natural resources, has led us to an economic, social and climate crisis that is relentlessly driving us to the point of no return.

This model is incompatible with the creation of a participatory, fair, free and ecological society.

DEMOCRACY AND VALUES

We believe that a new society must be based on the concept of community (intended as a place of confrontation and active participation of all individuals, based on their skills and inclinations, in order to achieve the common well-being): therefore, it is necessary to use all possible means, within the framework of a substantial and participatory representative democracy, to guarantee and encourage the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes, ensuring equal opportunities and accessibility for all. For this reason we support every form of non-violent struggle aimed at filling the gaps in the access to democratic participation. We call the institutions for transparency, accountability, openness to confrontation and care to explain clearly their choices.

Substantial participation also requires effective access to quality universal education and transparent, free, independent and accountable media.

Markets globalisation and the concurrent digital revolution have determined, especially in the first world, a shift of increasingly significant investment shares from the production of material goods to the provision of services and the possession and control of information flows. This shift makes the issue of ownership and access to information and data extremely urgent today. We call for the creation of a true sharing economy and of true social networks, such that the advantage of sharing is not subject to the dispossession of personal data but is managed in a public, transparent way and is aimed at the benefit of the whole community.

It is essential to ensure adequate resources and protection for all those in need. The recognition and free enjoyment of rights is necessary and functional to guarantee the security that allows every human being to express themselves by developing their being, free from any social conditioning.

We believe in the need to safeguard the right to health, securing a free and efficient public healthcare, accessible to all without discrimination or territorial inequalities. Italy has important shortcomings in this area, so we need to increase spending on health and research. It is crucial to take action on the shortage of healthcare personnel, both by expanding recruitment and by increasing the number of specialisation grants for new graduates.

We acknowledge the naturalisation of corruption and illegality within the State. We believe it is necessary to improve the quality of controls, ensuring effective traceability of the resources and a general cut to bureaucracy.

Mafia and “ecomafia” are not to be considered as “simple” crimes, but rather as complex phenomena that must be read from an overall point of view, including various aspects as social, structural and environmental ones. We think a strong response to be essential, but not one limited to mere repression. In fact, it is necessary to act also from a cultural point of view, bringing the State back on the ground as a strong and present democratic alternative, in a relationship of solidarity with its citizens. The mafia phenomenon cannot be definitively eradicated if not with widespread and transversal grassroots action. Like all mafias, also “ecomafie” must be fought for the damage they cause not only to citizens and their health, but also to the environment. The fight against environmental crimes cannot stop at legal recognition alone, but must be translated into the effective enforcement of the rules, aiming at the definitive eradication of these practices from the territories and it needs to be harmonised at local, national, European and UN levels.

We embrace the concept of sustainable development as defined in the Rio Declaration (1992) and the principle of intergenerational equity as declared in the Paris Agreement. We firmly believe in solidarity between generations and we want those born today or yet to be born to enjoy the same rights, the same wonders and riches of a healthy, vital and balanced planet as we do today. Therefore, we also want the legitimate demands of future generations to be considered through a long-term political vision.

We believe that in a country where economic, cultural, political and social power is still too often distributed according to seniority rather than skills, young people, as citizens with the same rights and duties as older people, need more space to develop and communicate new, fully autonomous and independent ideas and demands, to make each generation able to contribute fairly to the development of the society.

We believe in the need to bridge the gap still existing between the North and the South of the Country, both in infrastructure, health and employment. If we want to build a single and strong European identity, we cannot ignore the need to improve and unify our national identity.

We believe in the equality of every individual, regardless of sex, ethnicity, religion, culture, age, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation. We also believe that formal equality is not enough: the system must guarantee the full enjoyment of rights to all those who are in practice still subject to discrimination and currently do not have equal opportunities in terms of employment, security, education and personal fulfilment. We believe every individual has the freedom to decide about her or his own body and must be able to exercise it. We believe motherhood must be a conscious choice and never an imposition. We recognize dual classifications such as gender to be a social construct and a product of patriarchy: we therefore believe that the current roles and divisions are the result of an unhealthy power relationship that we no longer want to withstand.

We are anti-fascists: we fight any form of prevarication of human beings over one another. We are personally committed to carry the torch of the “Resistenza” that gave rise to the Italian Republic and hand down its memory, aware that antifascism is a concrete, militant and daily commitment, not something abstract to be confined into symbols and anniversaries. We reject the increasingly insistent attempts at historical revision that blacken and belittle anti-fascist values to rehabilitate nationalisms and totalitarianisms of all kinds.

We consider freedom of movement to be a human right and believe that everyone is entitled to search for freedom, peace, happiness and personal fulfilment regardless of their passport. Therefore, the free choice to migrate is a right that must be protected: speaking about migration emergency is a short-sighted attitude. The migration issue should not be treated as a political propaganda tool, but as a structural phenomenon. We believe that immigration must be managed consistently and in solidarity at European level, in order to establish common security and inclusion plans and recognition of rights. The reception of asylum seekers must hence be guaranteed by all Member States as a Community; not only by the landing places but by all States through a true European solidarity mechanism. Thus it is indispensable for our Country to overcome the management of the migratory phenomenon as an emergency, as it is ineffective in guaranteeing a real integration and also fertile ground for the proliferation of the business of organized crime. We believe the right path to follow to be the promotion of widespread reception in the communities, in small groups and coordinated by local authorities.

In accordance with Article 11 of our Constitution, we promote peace and reject all forms of armed conflict. Violence, even verbal violence, must always and only be the last choice and we fight for its elimination both within society and as a means of resolving political disputes. We stand against the maintenance of large contingents and military arsenals, which we consider to be an enormous dispersion of public resources (which could be used to eradicate the roots of conflicts) as well as an encouragement for more potential wars and the ideological reservoir of an aggressive nationalist culture. In this sense, we call for an immediate end to the production of weapons according to the logic of profit.

EUROPEAN UNION

In order to face global challenges it is necessary to rely on a supranational network. That is why we GEV strongly affirm, starting from our name, our Europeanism. The European Union (EU), based on social cohesion among nations, on tight political and economic cooperation between governments and guided by the principle of subsidiarity, plays a fundamental role in the realization of the model of society to which we GEV aspire. Yet cooperation between institutions is not enough when Member States continue to claim full sovereignty, concealing demagogic nationalism, a sheer antithesis of popular sovereignty, behind this demand. We believe that the functionalist method, a cornerstone of EU history, has exhausted its rationale with the realisation of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). For this reason, we want the structural framework of the EU to be re-established and evolve into a pure regional federalism. The problems linked to globalisation, such as the emergence of new inequalities, migration, security, environmental and natural imbalance, can only be tackled by acting locally, on the basis of supranational institutions with a global vision of today's issues, working synergistically for collective well-being.

We cannot, however, accept any European establishment to be built in a dogmatic manner. It is essential that the Union commits itself to shifting its priorities, which today focus too much on finance and the markets, towards a broader protection of the life and dignity of citizens, upholding the environmental and social ecosystem which they inhabit. A deep transformation of the EU cannot be separated from a sweeping reform of the European institutions for a substantial democratisation and definitive elimination of the gap between European policies and citizens. Every citizen must fall within the same sphere of rights and duties, guaranteed by a common European constitutional order, which can be the result of a common work for the development of a new European Constitutional Charter that draws experience from past

failures, focusing more on the development of a common identity for all the citizens of Europe. It is fundamental that the Union can become a totally unified entity, whilst preserving and valuing the diversities of its national cultures.

The European institutions must represent citizens with transparent decision-making processes, adopted in the interests of all those represented. The European Parliament (EP), as an elected institution, has to play a central role, with legislative power in a progressively larger number of areas. It is necessary, in this perspective, to overcome national dynamics within parties, in favour of the development of a new "pan-European" party model, following the example of the European Green Party.

The EU can no longer play a marginal role in relation to tax policy. The current limited advisory powers of the EP in particular are not acceptable. Harmonising tax policies is not enough: it is necessary to have a common policy for the proper functioning of the Single Market and its completion. What we envision is a governance model with a macroeconomic rebalancing mechanism at European level and especially for the Eurozone. The social costs of maintaining EMU must be of paramount importance in the decision-making processes, so that no burden falls on European citizens. For this to happen, it is crucial to develop effective instruments for maintaining the stability of the economic cycle by protecting the vulnerability of national public accounts, and to adopt a substantial common industrial policy able to protect small and medium-sized European enterprises from the competitiveness of the major economic powers, thus restoring prestige to manufacturing excellence.

We consider the use of GDP as a measure of the economic well-being of the Member States to be an outdated instrument, because of its intrinsic criticalities. We promote the permanent adoption of alternative indices, taking into account the respect for the environment, health, education, the well-being of individuals, the quality of life and not just variables such as production, consumption and national income.

It is essential to relaunch a European policy for social cohesion so that the right to a decent life is respected for every European citizen.

The EU must strengthen the cooperation on security and defence matters. We believe that the time is ripe to revive the project of a common European army, because defence can no longer be an prerogative of individual nations: no Member State can face security threats alone. Building a common defence would mean achieving assured results in terms of rationalization of expenditure, production efficiency and armaments organization, emancipating Europe from its traditional Atlanticist vision.

We believe that the commitments made in Paris in 2015, during the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, play a key role in achieving decarbonisation and climate neutrality. We believe that the European Union, in this context, can and should be a global forerunner. We believe that the European Green Deal and its goals, including making Europe the first zero net emissions continent by 2050, leaving no one behind on this path, represents a political project of historic importance for its ambition. We believe this path should not be abandoned, but rather turned into law as soon as possible, strengthened and made even more inclusive.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM

We want to eradicate the anthropocentric paradigm, based on competition and profit maximization, and replace it with a biocentric model that guarantees the harmonious evolution of all living beings.

It is neither sustainable nor fair to encourage an economic and social system based on extreme consumerism. There is a need to introduce a circular economic system that puts the needs of the community at the centre and addresses social inequalities, giving people the opportunity to express and realize themselves in accordance with the Law and with respect for others. We call for a 'Just Transition', because we believe it is necessary to build up a mechanism that ensures the protection of workers' rights and their communities and addresses the climate challenge. The Just Transition that we envision, must achieve the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the economy, while at the same time, change the current unfair economic system into a different one that respects all sustainable development objectives (SDGs) and human rights. We recognise the limits of our Planets, and therefore, we call for a clear distinction between the concepts of "growth" and "development". The economic growth, measured on the level of production and consumption, cannot be any longer our sole parameter to evaluate the welfare of a State. Differently, we call for a new parameter; a sustainable production and consumption model which is oriented towards value creation and the durability of goods, rather than the quantity of them. As a evaluative parameters, such system must consider both social and economic aspects, combined together in an organic model which is in in harmony with the entire ecosystem, comprehensive of the environment and all living beings. In this regard, it is fundamental to put in place a solid welfare system that guarantee the protection of the most vulnerable of the society, those who are still not sufficiently supported by the State.

All of this implies the need for a real and just ecological transition, which must proceed on a "double track". We consider energy conversion to be a priority and short-term target, but not enough. In fact, the longer term target must be a radical transformation of the idea that characterizes the current economic system: no longer profit and individual selfishness, but the idea that all types of work must be functional to the ecosystem, sustainable and directed and coordinated for social purposes. The cost of this revolution must not, however, be passed on to families, businesses and citizens indiscriminately. Instead, it is necessary to ensure that policy instruments and strategies, such as the polluter pays principle, the progressive taxation, the fight against tax evasion and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities are in place. Strong intervention by the State and the European Union is therefore necessary to ensure that these principles are fully respected. At the same time, the application of more stringent environmental and social measures on our territory must not correspond to a relocation of production abroad with the sole aim of cutting costs and shifting social and environmental externalities out of our borders.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

The current climate crisis is our greatest threat. If we want to limit its impact, we need to rethink our vision of society and follow the measures indicated by the scientists, however drastic they may be. The whole biosphere is at risk, not only plants and animals, but also ourselves, our society, our economy and our culture, which we too often think are outside the equation. We believe that the right approach to tackle the climate crisis is a true ecologicalism, which takes into account not only the necessary protection of the environment, but also the interactions between the environment and the human sphere. Too little has been done in the past to tackle climate change, and now it has become an emergency. Yet, most of the scientists agree that the next decade will be crucial and that our action could really make a

difference. Nevertheless, we do believe that the climate crisis should not be treated only as an emergency but rather we should see it as a complex phenomenon, that must be addressed with a systemic approach. We want to create the conditions to limit the impact we will have in the next future and implement adaptation measures to prevent the possible consequences.

To achieve this, we must overcome the constant state of emergency in which we live. We are convinced that this can only be achieved developing policies that look past the short-term intervention and the temporary solution. To address our challenges it necessary to have a long-term vision that recognizes climate issues not as episodic, but structural and thus, revealing the politicians short-sightedness, caused by the search for immediate electoral consensus.

The scale of any environmental problem has become much more extreme in recent decades. Ice melting, desertification, deforestation, hydrogeological instability (of particular interest for our Italian territory), groundwater and soil pollution, smog: these are all issues of great interest to individuals and small communities who often experience them. It is very important that all the above issues are addressed by experts, but also that we are able to lead everything back to the overall picture, as a cause or as a consequence, of a crisis that as a whole is not only climatic, but also environmental and ecological.

Our impact on the ecosystem cannot be zero. Life on our planet is interconnected, and all the species lives in relation to the others. Each of them finds its balance with its ecosystem, a balance that humanity has long lost. We need to rediscover this balance again, abandoning the anthropocentric paradigm based on consumerism and acquire the awareness that we humans, like all other species, are only one component of the ecosystem. We must no longer seek to dominate the ecosystems, but rather to preserve their biodiversity and learn how to be part of them, otherwise we will be the first to be affected, together with the other living species.

Humanity must take on the mistakes done in the past and tackle the ecological and climate crisis decisively, leaving aside any doubts as to whether the problem transcends our possibilities. The reduction of the ozone hole and the continuous improvement of air quality in many urban areas show us that if we want it, we are really capable to implement our countermeasures and that these can be truly effective. The transition towards renewable energy sources is an emblematic example that these results can be achieved more concretely within the framework of the European Union rather than at national level, being one of the most urgent issues in the European agenda and essential for a strategic plan towards a carbon free system. We believe that the European institutions must disregard initiatives that hinder and contradict the objective of the European Green Deal, which aims to achieve zero emissions by 2050.

EDUCATION

As Young Greens still being in or having just gone through the educational path, we think necessary to change the educational system, in order to put it back in a central position within the society.

We deem necessary avoiding any barrier to the spreading and free movement of knowledge, while guaranteeing the ownership and full protection of citizens' personal data.

We believe the educational system's renovation is instrumental for dealing with an highly fragmented job market and society in general. It is essential to overcome the actual system,

heavily based on theoretical aspects and frontal classes, in order to guarantee open discussion and debate and let people “contaminate” with each other’s ideas.

School should become a place where students are encouraged to freely express themselves, think, cooperate and understand themselves and the surrounding context. The lectures should be coupled with teamwork, in order to teach pupils how to mediate among different needs, skills and abilities, thus valuing diversity and forcing students to think in terms of varied capabilities, all different and all equally useful. School should promote deep investigation and problematization of every topic, in order to look for innovative strategies and solutions and should foster doubt and curiosity in the pupils.

Such an institution would not only deliver better workers: more flexible, proactive and ready to deal with tough challenges, but also and above all would shape more supportive and respectful citizens.

We believe any educational path shall provide a more direct experience of the surrounding context, especially through establishing a deeper connection with the environment. This will for sure will make citizens aware both of the beauty and balance ruling life and of their own role within such system.

In order to strengthen a civic responsibility it is fundamental to give more space to subjects such as civic and environmental education. These shall be part of the regular education programme, together with IT systems, necessary for entering the current job market.

Job market and education cannot be separate entities. Schools and universities shall provide career fairs, confrontations with HR professionals and information activities on new jobs, yet without indulging in the logic of commodification of knowledge and research.

An institution built in this way needs to adapt its staff, whose specialisation, motivation and remuneration deserve to be brought into line with the importance of the task at hand. Therefore, we deem necessary an increase in fundings for public education, in order to allow these improvements and also guarantee an actual free access to education, up to graduate level. Investments shall be also addressed to buildings and equipment, deemed to be extremely inadequate especially in more remote areas. Such improvements will eventually allow the school to be a safe hub for the local community.

It should also be stressed that while school in the formation of future generations often plays a complementary role to that of the family, at other times it is unfortunately the only player in this process and can therefore have a strong impact on the future and the protection of children.

All these improvements must have as their focus the elimination of any difference between centre and suburbs, north and south, for both access to education and its quality.

University also needs to be improved and modernised. In a globalised world, Italian university is not attractive to local and international talents. It is necessary to build a more dynamic university through encouraging a generational turnover and more exchanges with peer foreign organisations as well as the local economic fabric. An attractive university needs enough resources to ensure secure and well-paid jobs for researcher and, therefore, enjoy of a flourishing academic community.

For this reason, we want more investments in the research field, in order to stop the migration of talents abroad or towards other more secure fields. Research and studies funded, although just partially, by public money shall be freely accessible to everyone with no limitations.

WORK

Workers shall be back again at the centre of the political debate and constitute the foundation of our Republic and of the EU. Work is instrumental not only for creating economic value, but also for enhancing social cohesion, dignity and a sense of community.

We deem necessary to find a different way to describe and build the job market in an economic system that is highly globalised and financially driven. The worker shall not have a fragile and isolated role, or be completely overwhelmed by frenetic rhythms and decreasing social security. We fight to stop the undercutting competition in the job market, both between employed and unemployed, and between who can count on its own resources and contacts and who cannot.

We believe work shall be the real basis of our society, as defined in our Constitution. For this to become true, all education shall be free and accessible to everyone, in order to guarantee equal opportunities for entering the job market and avoid any inequality that might lead to class immobility.

A job act shall start from helping the most disadvantaged groups: people living in poorer areas, migrants, women and young people.

In order to entail a system change, we believe two main aspect must be developed: solidarity and sustainability.

Solidarity among workers and professional relationships shall be completely rebuilt to fight isolation and implement a system that helps social security and avoidance of black work. Equal access opportunities to adequate salaries shall be ensured: favored positions, gender, ethnicity, as well as sexual, political and religious orientation shall never be detrimental for entering the job market. We want to recognise dignity and social security to those who provides essential community services. These, although not adequately recognised on an economic level, are deemed necessary for maintaining and enriching social relationship and shall be a central asset for building a dynamic, ethic and fair society. Legal instruments need to be developed to prevent employers from dumping their social responsibility onto workers and female workers.

Work shall be functional to the community and individual development: it must be sustainable. This means work shall not constraint the personal development of citizens and shall allow them some time for family, hobbies, civil society. Indeed, work to be sustainable shall allow the worker to “sustain” the workload on a physical and mental level. However, this also means anyone shall be allowed to provide its contribution based on its skills and attitudes, so that everyone might be enriched by its job and not alienated. Sustainability within the job market, shall also ensure a good balance between professional and private life, between duties and inspirations. The increasing use of technologies on the workplace (robots, artificial intelligence, etc.) might provide a great opportunity for this purpose, making humans free from heavy, dangerous and alienating tasks and giving them more free space to develop their talents. It is necessary to monitor that this automation does not become belittling of human resources.

We deem necessary a reduction of working hours whenever possible, ensuring a switch-off right, incentives to smart working benefiting companies, employees and the environment. Workers’ dignity must always be respected, and a European minimum salary shall be introduced, in a way it does not negatively impacts employment. It is not acceptable to have poorer and poorer workers and to record a very high salary gap among Member States.

CONCLUSIONS

This document describes the foundation of our political action, defining our goals and fundamental requests. This will allow us to elaborate policies, activities and campaigns according to these principles and within a certain pre-established framework.

This mission statement is the product of the collaboration, exchange of ideas and debate among the members of GEV in different discussion moments. It is an alive and dynamic document, open to new inputs and evolution based on democratic and participative processes. Aiming to achieve the necessary change towards an environmental and social justice, as GEV we are open to potential alliances and partnerships with different political organisation, whose mission and principles are related to what stated in this document.