

**SECOND TAORMINA/ MESSINA CONFERENCE
(ORGANIZED BY TAOBUK FESTIVAL AND VISION)**

LA METAMORFOSI DI EUROPA¹



**EUROPE IN A POST PANDEMIC WORLD – ONE YEAR ONWARDS
LOOKING FOR THE IDEAS TO CONTINUE THE DEBATE ON THE
FUTURE OF EUROPE IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

18th – 21th JUNE 2021

¹ Europa is the mythological Phoenician princess whose seduction from JOVIS gave birth to the kingdom of CRETE and to the idea of the WEST as civilization.

POSITIVE ACTIONS FOR BUILDING EUROPE FROM THE BOTTOM²

“We (half) made Europe; we now need to make Europeans”. What the Italian patriot Massimo D’AZEGLIO said about the project of “making ITALY” in 1861, may well apply to Europe. Without a European Demos and a Euro wide debate which cannot be split along national lines, further integrations will be politically weak and could even backfire.

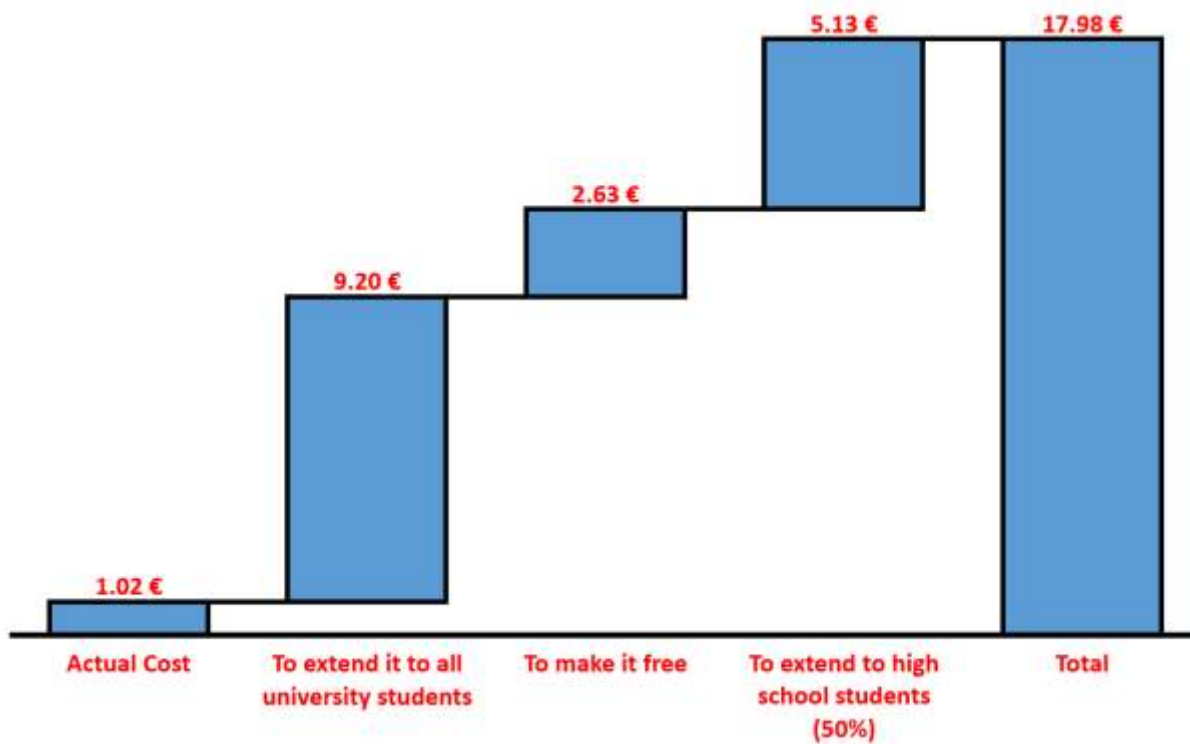
Italy and other states became (at least partially) “united” through the public schools, as well as the nation-wide television and military conscription. The Conference will consider actions specifically targeted to encourage the creation of a European demos, or at least a European public opinion without which the entire construction is fragile.

Vision position paper will, therefore, introduce to the WG three options upon which further promotion through European civil society and institutions will be called upon:

1. the possibility of a much bigger, free for all one of the most successful EU projects which has been the Erasmus program; and of a European civic service program, based on the Swiss model, would integrate academic life with professional education and internship experiences across several countries;

² The background is completed by the VISION paper on “ERASMUS and Community Service: the way forward” <https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/publications/erasmus-and-civil-service-as-the-way-forward-to-a-european-demos-rationale-and-feasibility>

ESTIMATE OF AN ERASMUS REACHING ALL EUROPEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS AND HALF OF THOSE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL (COMPARED TO 2018 VALUES, IN BILLIONS, PER YEAR)



Source: Elaboration by vision from Eurostat, QS and DG Education

2. the possibility of having the EUROPEAN UNION as a lab of new mechanisms of democratic participation: more specifically we will consider the options for all citizens to electronically join and voting a Euro – wide constituency for next European elections.