



SCHUMAN 2.0 DECLARATION - BILBAO

This Declaration is the result of a co-creation event held at the University of Deusto (Bilbao) on March 6, 2020. This event gathered over 80 actors of 10 different nationalities belonging to very diverse fields (students, professors, professionals, policy makers), specialisation (social sciences, education, engineering, law, communication, etc.), age groups (from 13 to 81 year old) and socioeconomic backgrounds, who together shared their dreams about the EU of the future, addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead in the short, medium and long term.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the guiding principles to tackle the debate in a transversal, coherent way and address the closely interlinked challenges -among others: health, education, gender equality, climate action, reduction of inequalities- the EU is facing in an increasingly interconnected world. The SDGs provide the basis for making the EU and Global Agendas part of the same consistent and mutually-reinforcing framework.

70 years ago, the political courage of a handful of visionaries set the basis for peace and prosperity in our Continent. On the basis of economic, political and social cooperation, we have reached a level of integration that few would have expected at the Union's inception. However, as time has passed by, the world has changed and so have we. Our dreams, aspirations, fears and concerns are no longer the same. As a result, the European project must be rewritten by **taking a bottom-up approach, where the collective participation and creativity from our citizens is taken into account.**

Even if the nature of the actual challenges is different from the ones that gave birth to the first Schuman Declaration, the vision and determination in the actions taken must remain the same.

Therefore, we, citizens of Europe, make an urgent call for:

A Europe founded on equal education for all: Bearing in mind that the EU of the future will be constructed by today's young generation, we need to ensure that every citizen in the EU -regardless to her or his origin, gender or geographical location (city centres, rural areas) - is granted quality and evidence-based education that sets precedent for good practices in the long term. A strong public EU education will lead us to a EU citizenship well aware of the common identity we all share.

The educational system must be inclusive, innovative and adaptive, so that it empowers creativity and entrepreneurial mindset. Also, it must grant equal access to education to people with learning disabilities or newcomers, thus improving the educational experience as a whole both in urban and rural areas. All in all, we need educational dynamics that encourage intercultural dialogue and inclusion, and where there is no room for any forms of discrimination.

A Europe that respects the environment: We want a EU which tackles effectively the conservation of our planet and ensures a balanced, integral approach to environmental, economic and social sustainability. We want the EU to set the basis -through a combination of ambitious policies and the necessary mobilisation of investments- for a radical change of our economic model to a new one based on circular economy, energy efficiency and the widespread of renewable energy sources.



While we are aware that the needed change for a new economic model starts from the individual behaviour, other stakeholders at various levels (industry, academia and public institutions at all levels) have as well a shared responsibility. Therefore, we want the EU to set the foundations for a fundamental behavioural change by promoting climate education, coordinating community-based initiatives, the alliance between diverse actors -both at Member State, Regional and City levels- and ensuring adequate investment on R&D for fighting climate change.

A Europe with no room for inequalities: We want to build a community that ensures and promotes equal opportunities and social rights for all its citizens, irrespective of their origin, culture or socioeconomic level. In order to foster integration and the inclusive nature of our community, we need a stronger EU budget, harmonization of EU tax legislation and the creation of a robust European Fiscal Union. Fighting tax avoidance, in addition to a fair redistribution of wealth and social programmes, will be the main pillars of the inclusive, egalitarian community we are building.

A stronger, more resilient European welfare system: Recent crisis have shown the vulnerability of Europe's health and economic welfare systems. In order to learn from this, we need an EU able to adopt an ambitious European agenda, especially addressed for those who need it the most -elderly, migrants and other vulnerable communities. This necessity is embedded in the fact that the scope of wellbeing has been broadened to issues like strong public health systems, economic stability and social integration at every level.

A firm Europe against gender inequality: Alarmed by the fact that gender inequality and violence against women is a problem affecting every realm of society -regardless of age, nationality or economic class- we want an EU able to promote change through the combination of top-down and bottom-up measures. Top-down, a gender-related regulation is necessary (among others, measures to increase protection for violence against women and measures in the private sector so as to eliminate the "glass ceiling"). Bottom-up, achieving an egalitarian society on the basis of mutual respect and appreciation would require *a truly educational revolution* that engages every stakeholder and citizen from an early stage, thus, fostering a preventive approach towards gender inequality.

The answer to these challenges, however, still relies on the joint efforts at all levels (EU, national, regional and local) through concrete, collective and measurable actions. We therefore are making an urgent call for a EU that is close to its citizens, that promotes intercultural dialogue through education, that reduces inequalities between and within its Member States, that fights climate change and promotes a clean, safe environment for future generations while ensuring gender equality and universal quality health protection leaving no one behind.

The success of the European project in the coming decades will depend on our ability as Europeans to provide creative efforts proportionate to the challenges we face. It's our duty as Europeans to give our best to achieve these goals and build the future for a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient Europe, together and within the global arena.