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FINAL REPORT

FIESOLE 8 MAY

#SOU4YOU- Bringing
The State of the Union
Closer to Citizens







Organised by







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 edition of **The State of the Union** concluded on the afternoon and evening of Saturday 8 May with a special in-person event #SOU4YOU - Bringing the State of the Union Closer to Citizens dedicated to youth and civil society engagement. Organised by the European University Institute and co-funded by the European Union, the initiative aimed to inspire young people and European citizens to act as protagonists within the European democratic process.



#SOU4YOU took place outside on the ancient steps and stage of the Roman Theatre in the charming setting of the Archaeological Area of Fiesole in full compliance with COVID-19 security protocol after 14 months of COVID-19 restrictions. The initiative engaged participants on pertinent political topics through a variety of formats which facilitated dialogue and audience interaction. Almost 500 students, young people, representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and minority groups attended the event in person while The State of the Union homepage where the event was live streamed received over 2,900 views.



#SOU4YOU's objective was to broaden the outreach of The State of the Union, whose usual audience is composed of academics and policymakers, to young people aged 15-29 and civil society actors. This was achieved by bringing the public into conversation with 95 personalities including representatives from local, national and European institutions, influencers, activists, musicians and actors, all of whom took to the stage to share their expertise and experiences.



Climate, Gender Equality, Artificial Intelligence, Public Health and Integration,



several of the main topics of SOU2021 "Europe in a Changing World", were debated on stage and with the audience. Other sessions celebrated inclusion and diversity through music, talks, interviews, quizzes, and award ceremonies. In the final session of the day "Time to retreat?" a company of young EUI actors explored the role of the EU and its values through a tragicomedy on Europe and its role in the world. The play incorporated audience engagement via the use of Mentimeter - a web tool for live polls. The play was performed in English with the aim of delivering a key message on the importance of civic participation to an audience of European citizens. The rest of the programme was delivered in Italian.



The success of #SOU4YOU was achieved thanks to the collaboration and the support of the European Parliament Liaison Office and Representative Office of the European Commission in Italy, Municipalities of Fiesole and Florence and PRG, responsible for the production of the event.







PROGRAMME

The **programme**, running from **15:00 to 21:00**, engaged civil society, youth and minorities through an array of dynamic formats. Until **19:00** the show was delivered in Italian while the last session – **"Time to Retreat?"** – was performed in English.





Photo Gallery

Rewatch all sessions

DEBATES





AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT



MUSIC



PRESENTATIONS



THEATRE PLAY "TIME TO RETREAT?"



PARTICIPATION

In-person participation was a central feature of **#SOU4YOU** given the importance of bringing CSOs, youth and minorities together in one place. The location of the Roman Theatre was chosen given its symbolism as a historic site of exchange and civic participation. The event was also live streamed in order to outreach citizens across Italy and Europe. Participants from **40 different countries** attended the event due to the international background of the EUI.

IN PERSON PARTICIPATION - ROMAN THEATRE







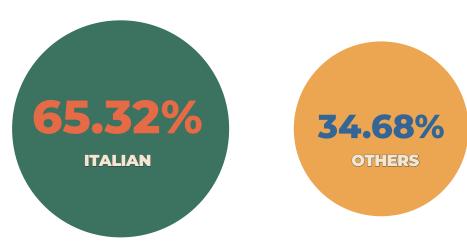


GENDER OF PARTICIPANTS



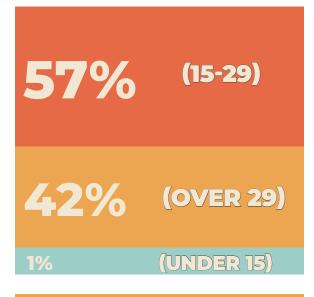
FEMALE MALE PREFER NOT TO SAY OTHER

NATIONALITIES



AGE GROUP

AFFILIATION



275
STUDENTS

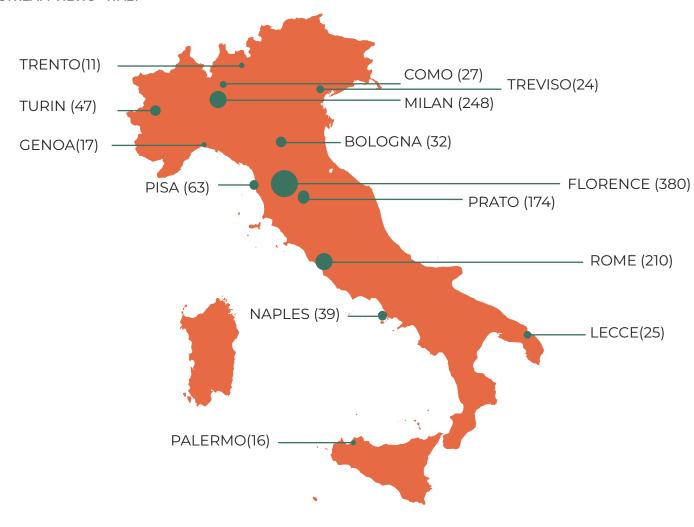
12
PRESS

186
OTHER

CSO

2,911
LIVESTREAM VIEWS

LIVESTREAM VIEWS - ITALY



SECTORS

REPRESENTATIVES

PERSONALITIES

95
PERSONALITIES

2

CSO REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENTATIVES OF ROPEAN AND LOCAL

29MUSICIANS

54 % FEMALE

46%MALE



ACTIVISTS AND INFLUENCERS

15
ACTORS

Claudia Fusani, Journalist #SOU4YOU Presenter



Carlo Nicoletti, Radio DJ #SOU4YOU Presenter



Carlotta Vagnoli Influencer and Activist



Lorenzo BaglioniSongwriter, Author and
Presenter



Piero Pelù Songwriter, Rocker and Activist



Simona BonaféMEP



Brando BenifeiMEP



Jennifer GuerraJournalist and Writer



Emma Nolde Songwriter



Norma's Teaching Influencer and Teacher

COMMUNICATION

The **#SOU4YOU** communication campaign was launched two weeks before the event once national regulations allowed for in-person cultural events after a long period of lockdown.

The implementation of each communication action was challenged by the uncertain scenario and the impossibility to confirm the forecasted date of **8 May** until the last week of April.

This impacted the organisation of the advertising campaign as budget commitments were delayed until the last minute. In light of this short timeframe the quality of outreach was impressive and aided by partners, high profile speakers and influencers who promoted the event on their social media channels, website and newsletters.

WEBSITE

The first deliverable of the communication campaign was the creation of dedicated **#SOU4YOU** webpages on the **SOU2021** website.



124

Average number of the daily unique views

46,332Webpage views

3/3/2021

Date of launch of the website

7Webpages published

ADVERTISING

The advertising and promotion of the event was implemented with the support of **#SOU4YOU** Partners.

Adverts in the city centre: **one digital tower**, **12 billboards (6x3m), 150 posters (70x100cm) and 30 A3 Posters** were visible in tourist hot-spots, institutional venues, universities, schools, libraries and shops.

Digital advertising banners were inserted in partners' newsletters and webpages.

An advertising campaign was organised in partnership with Controladio – independent local Radio - consisting of social media posts, banners on their webpages, promotion in their newsletter and a dedicated news article.

2,000

People reached by Controradio campaign









PRESS

The first edition of **#SOU4YOU** produced a successful amount of media coverage in the local and national press as well as in a number of international outlets.

Coverage included online and print articles and radio and video reports. A total of **40 articles** including interviews and radio broadcasts were published from renowned outlets such as **La Repubblica – Firenze, TGCOM24, La Nazione** and **ANSA** in both English and Italian.

La Nazione celebrated the central themes of **#SOU4YOU** highlighting the importance of 'youth engagement,' 'democratic dialogue,' 'citizens' participation' and promoting the presence of speakers such as Piero Pelù, Iacopo Melio, Lorenzo Baglioni and Norma's Teaching.

Circulation 15,000

La Repubblica - Firenze

Circulation 68,000

La Nazione

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

A promotional video was released one week after the event to publicise the highlights and extend the time span and impact of the initiative.





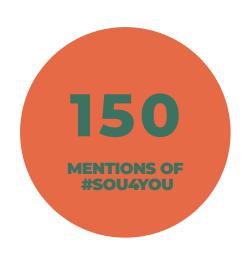




SOCIAL MEDIA

The social media campaign - run through the EUI's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts - was structured in a series of posts that focused on the link with The State of the Union, the setting of the Roman Theatre and the speaker line up. A final post releasing the promotional video was published following the event.





The Social Media Campaign was implemented with the support of **#SOU4YOU** Partners and Speakers.



SOCIAL MEDIA | TWITTER

@EUISoU and @EUI_EU to live tweet





Top Mentions















SOCIAL MEDIA | FACEBOOK

EUI FB Channel

204,750 215

IMPRESSIONS

LIKES

REACTIONS

#SOU4YOU

4.23 % AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RATE

Top Mentions



Parlamento europeo in Italia si trova presso Teatro Romano Fiesole.

8 maggio alle ore 22:52 · Fiesole · §

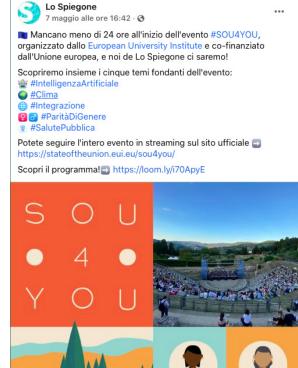
☆ ■ L'emozione di tornare dal vivo, la bellezza di discutere temi importanti per i cittadini con i parlamentari europei, attivisti, musicisti, influencer, YouTuber... oggi @parlamento europeo in italia a @europeanuniversityinstitute per #SOU4YOU, con tanti giovani per iniziare insieme a riflettere sul Futuro dell'UE, alla vigilia dell'inaugurazione al Parlamento europeo di Strasburgo della Conferenza sul futuro dell'Europa 🖿 💫

➡Il momento è adesso...

Fai sentire la tua voce!

#IlFuturoèTuo #CoFoE #9maggio #insiemeper #parlamentoeuropeo #lamEuropean







SOCIAL MEDIA | INSTAGRAM

EUI Instagram channel

0,208 59

6.77 % AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RATE

IMPRESSIONS

LIKES

POSTS

REACH







PARTNERS

#SOU4YOU was co-funded by the European Union through a European Parliament DG COMM engagement grant. The organisation of the event would not have been possible without the contribution of the **14 Partners** that contributed to the initiative.



Waiting for

Organised by





together.eu







In collaboration with



















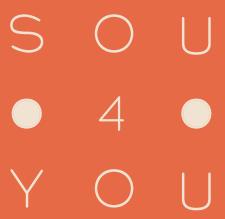












#SOU4YOU

