



YOUNG SPARKS SYMPOSIUM FINAL STATEMENT

The common thread that connected all the stories we had the privilege to hear over the past few days is the theme of relationships among people and love. We delved into love in its various facets: love for a cause, for culture, for our ancestors, and for our loved ones. Love does not adhere to a single form; rather, it reveals itself in as many ways as there are shades in the human soul.

This love has always led to great scientific discoveries, literary and artistic works, even to fight to stop wars. As "Young Sparks," we bear the responsibility of rekindling the flame of love that has not yet completed its journey, and it falls upon us to carry it forward.

The relationship between scientific field and the humanities has been the main theme of the discussions and exchanges during these days. These two approaches, born from a division stemming from the Copernican revolution, must reunite. The Scientific field, based on an empirical and rational approach, aims to understand the natural world through observation, experimentation, and verification. It leads to the discovery of universal laws and promotes human innovation.

On the other hand, the humanities delves into the human condition through literature, art, philosophy, and history, fostering critical reflection and analysis of the social and cultural context.

Despite their differences, these two cultures are complementary and together they offer a comprehensive view of the world and human beings. Their integration contributes to shaping



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well-rounded and aware individuals, capable of addressing complex challenges and enriching society.

When we speak about humanities as a scientific approach we must, first of all, put the human element at the center of everything. We need to understand that all our actions have an effect on other people's lives. Economics should only be the means to allow the technology to spread and make the human basic ethics available to everyone. Europe should use its power, conquered during the last two centuries thanks to a fossil fuel based economy, to help all the other countries to grow on their own beliefs. What are those the basic ethics? Each country has or will find their own way forward and we should only be open to discuss it with them, not to impose our ideas.

We, the youth from all over the world, want to share the experiences, hopes, and challenges that have arisen during this symposium. After carefully listening to the speakers, we believe that building a better world, necessitates finding a balance between people, science, humanities, sustainability, economy, and communication.

Today, the ability to connect and communicate in real-time with large and diverse groups has opened new frontiers. New technologies are reshaping the boundaries of our societies, influencing our perception of the world and our place in it. This evolution raises significant ethical and philosophical questions, emphasizing the need for a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to knowledge.



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Recommendations for the future include:

- Advocate for an engaging and active approach in shaping policies concerning science, technology, and territory, ensuring that local communities have an active voice in decisions affecting them directly.
- Strengthen and implement monitoring and control mechanisms to prevent science and technology from violating human rights or causing irreversible damage to our environment.
- Revise policies that govern the education system, making it less focused on rote memorization and more on practices that build better relationships and broaden ideas.
- Building bridges between academia, business sectors and political organizations, so that the youth can learn about the issues directly – through inclusivity - giving the possible support for the younger generations to be included in building the future by guaranteeing everyone has the same opportunities.
- Involve the community in the academic sector to bridge the future with the past through the present.
- Recognize the intrinsic value of both human beings and the environment, promoting projects centered on sustainability, equity, and inclusion.
- Seeing as biodiversity is the strength of ecosystems, we should nurture the diversity that enriches our society to make it thrive.
- Consider sustainability models (for example, Planetary Boundaries) in law-drafting and decision-making processes.





- The European Union should keep implementing the green transition through direct intervention (certifications, LCAs, Life cycle thinking).
- European Countries should include environmental, social and economic sustainability among their fundamental principles.
- Social sustainability: tradition should not be instrumentalized to reduce civil rights and human progress.
- Society should provide a basic income that covers the basic living costs (housing, health care, food, mobility, communication etc.,) this would allow people to work on topics with their intrinsic (inner) motivation and not the extrinsic motivation of earning money.
- Technological equity: exporting technological innovation to developing countries. So as to equalize the level of technology with benefits on climate change.
- Sharing scientific discoveries: greater inclusion and collaboration among research groups.
- Implementation of sustainable materials, also drawing inspiration from ancient techniques.
- Promotion of technologies to minimize the environmental impact of man-made works.

With the intent to:

- Ensure a future where humans, science, technology, and territory coexist harmoniously, preserving and enriching our shared heritage.
- Ensure that every individual can enjoy the benefits of scientific and technological progress without compromising fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Build a society where technology serves humans and not the other way around, thus respecting the fundamental principles of dignity, freedom, equality, and solidarity.





We trust that, through dialogue and collaboration, we can shape a better future for all. We appeal to legislators to consider these reflections when defining future policies.



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