

Sarajevo Summer School 2018
EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS: 60 YEARS OF THE ROME TREATY
University of Sarajevo – Monday 9/7/2018

Dear colleagues and attendees of the Sarajevo Summer School, I am delighted to be here today to convey the warmest greetings from the Project Coordinator of the University of Florence, Prof. Chiara Favilli. The University of Florence is firmly committed to the ROSAE Project and to the vision it promotes. This project is not only an example of successful partnerships among European Institutions, Universities and Municipalities, but also a very topical model for the development of education-based bridges among European peoples.

It has at its very core the European values, which constitute the most powerful engine of the European integration. It is based upon the acknowledgement of our common past as peoples who struggled to rebuild their houses and identities in the aftermath of the war. It is grounded in the belief that the only long-lasting peace we can imagine is to be built upon democracy, the rule of law, the respect for human dignity and minority rights, which shall go hand in hand with the preservation of our cultural and historical heritage.

That is why the ROSAE Project aims to renew our commitment to preserve and strengthen peace and liberty in these troubled times. Today Europe is threatened mostly from inside by an upsurge of racism, discrimination, intolerance and fear, which is a risky mix that often in history led to the “scourge of war”, as defined in the Preamble of the UN Charter.

Today we cannot repeat past mistakes and take our freedom for granted. We need to remind ourselves that the second world war was eventually over on 9 May 1945 and five years later, on the very same day, the Schuman Declaration outlined the only possible solution for a stable peace in Europe. We also have to bear in mind that there is a fil rouge connecting May 1945 and May 1950 with May 1995, when the Tuzla massacre took place before the eyes of a powerless European Union.

In light of our past, we hold responsibility for relaunching the project of an “ever-closer Union” to be gradually established by the consolidation of a de facto solidarity among European countries. Getting back to that project is key to shield our communities from the “sorrows of war”; engaging in its realisation as European people is the only possible pathway towards a better future.

It is our turn to stand for the joint pursuit of our joint interests, values and goals, first and foremost, for the completion of the enlargement to finally acknowledge Bosnia and Herzegovina as a full member of the European Union.

It must be our common commitment and shared responsibility to fight against discrimination, racism and fear to keep our Europe as the wealthiest and strongest borderless “open society” of the world.

That is why it is so important that you, as attendees of this Summer School and representatives of the youth of Europe, commit to keep the project of European integration alive and kicking and take full advantage of the outstanding programme for the week ahead.

Thanks for your kind attention and enjoy the School.

Daniela Vitiello, Postdoc Research Fellow, University of Florence.