

We are Europe!

Debate on Youth on Their Home Countries,

the European Elections and

What They Expect from the EU

Wednesday, 7 May 2014

Rue du Commerce 9, B-1000 Brussels

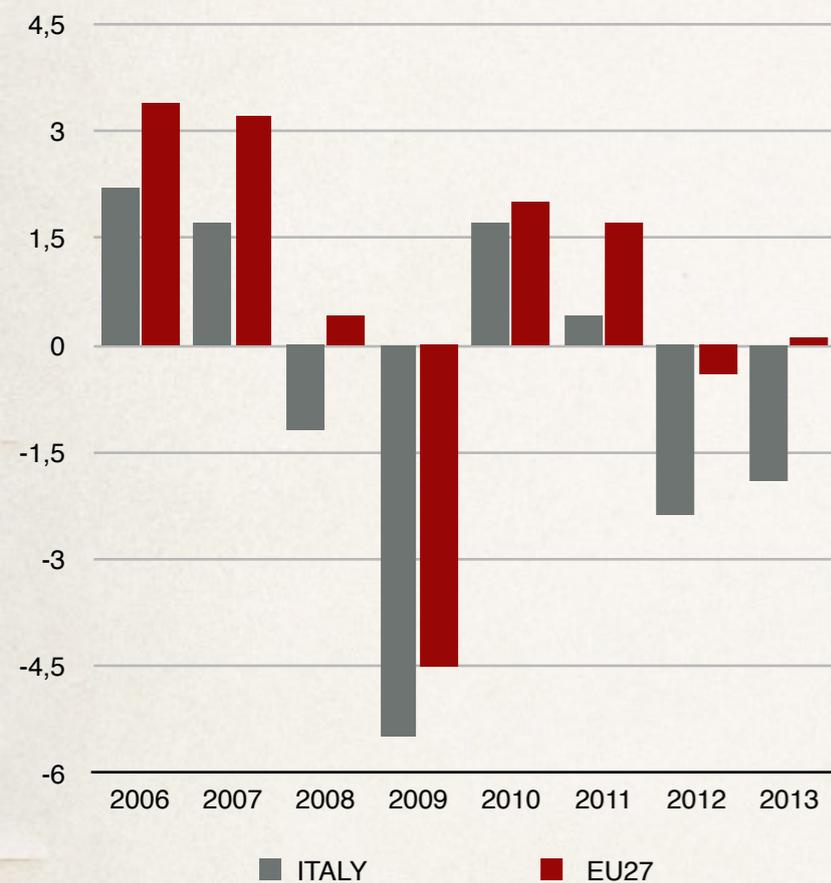
Italy, young people and European Elections.

Armanda Cetrulo

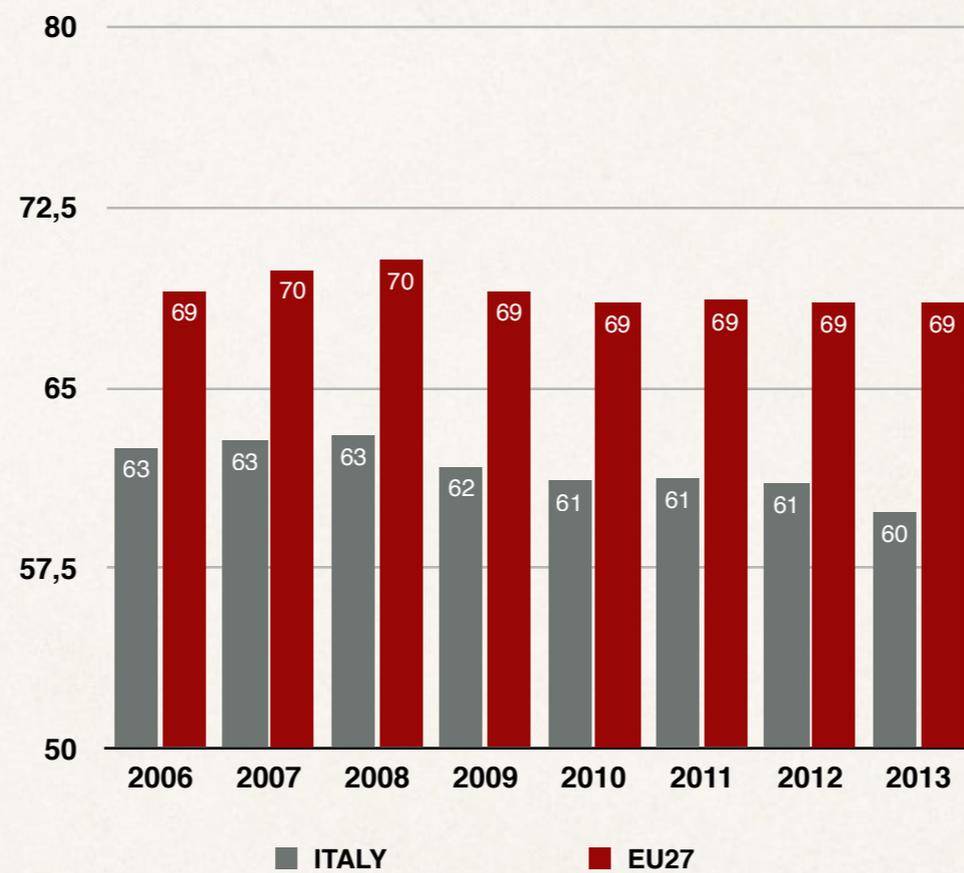
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Italy and the crisis: the weakness of the country

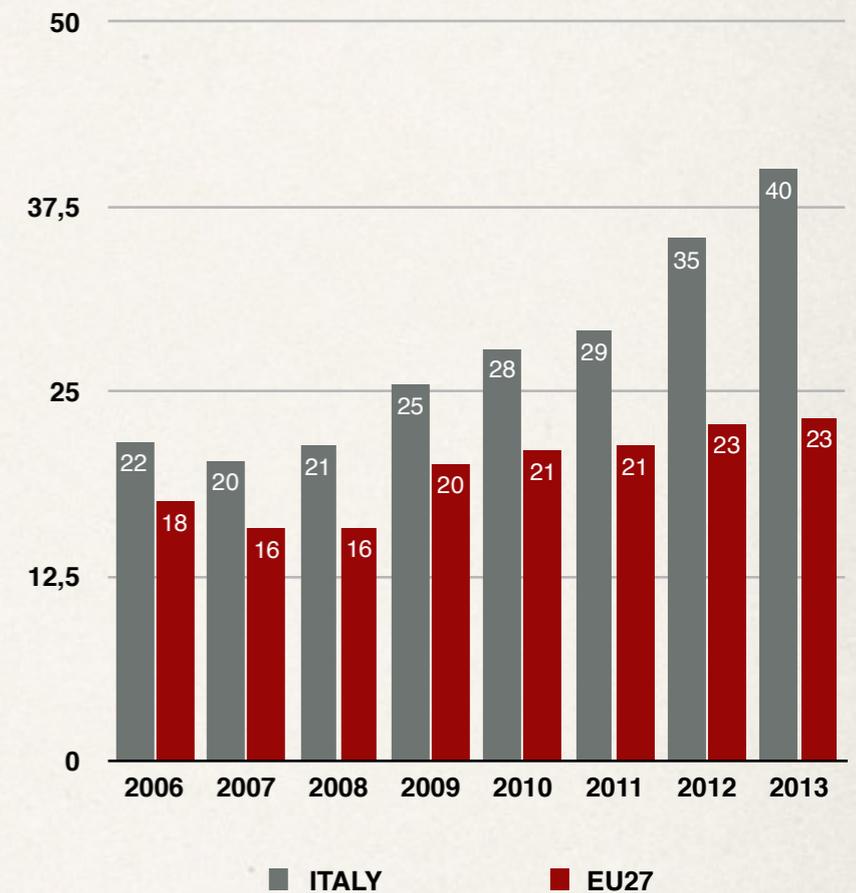
REAL GDP GROWTH RATE (EUROSTAT)



TOTAL EMPLOYMENT RATE (EUROSTAT)

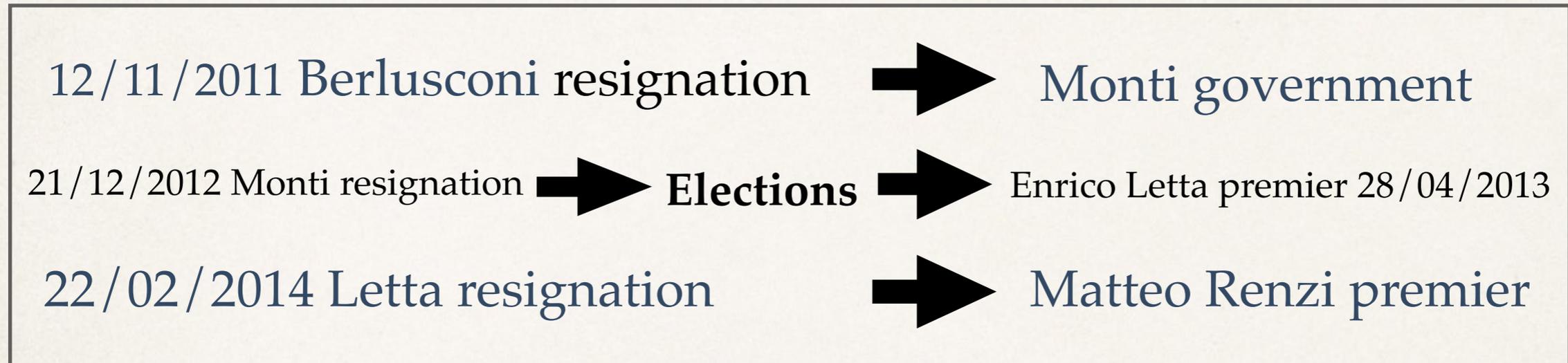


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 15-24 (EUROSTAT)



The economic decline has immediately affected the labor market, as shown by the comparison of the employment rate with EU17 average. Behind this, **young people**, as in the other southern countries, has seen their future vanishing, their jobs perspectives getting worse and precariousness become their everyday feeling.

In this desolating outlook, the political instability of the country is persistent



It reflects the **economic weakness** of the country and its **deep stagnation**.

It is one of the main reason of the wide disillusion and disaffection of people towards politics and, thus, of the increasing influence of movements able to bring out the anger and desperation of people.

What about Europe?

The perception of Europe has dramatically changed.

Before the crisis:

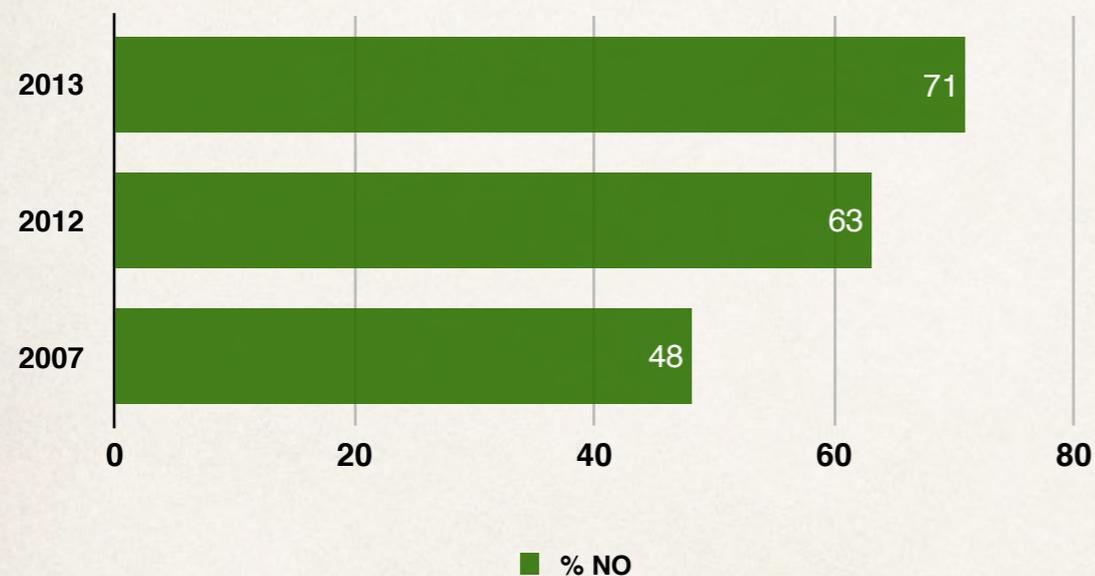
an efficient institution, stringent but at the same time, deserving more trust than Italian institutions.

Today:

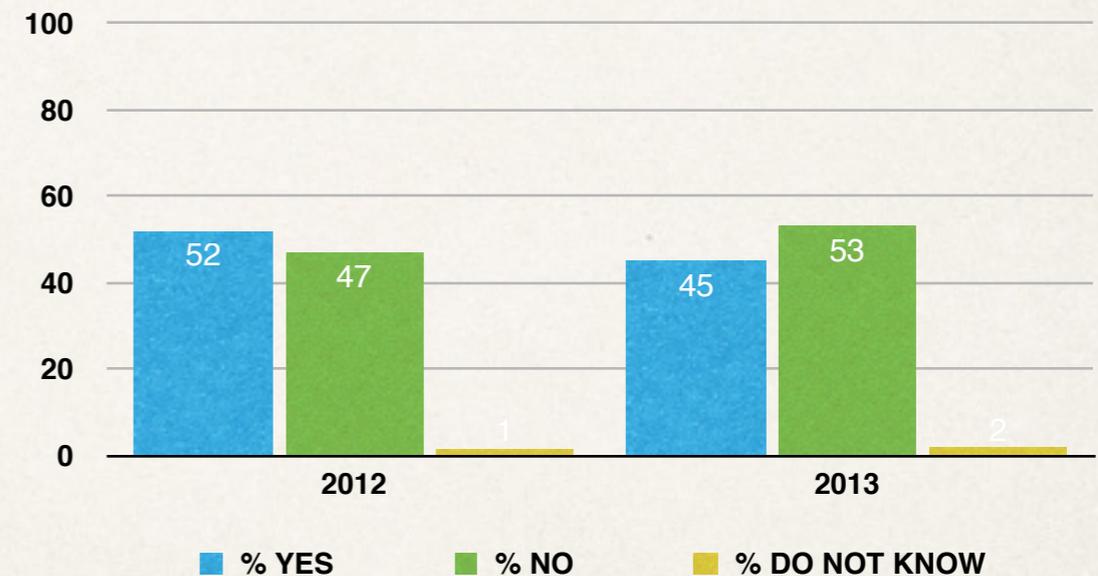
symbol of austerity, bureaucracy and technocratic power (the letter of Draghi and Trichet during the summer of 2011)

Evolution of italian opinion on EU (Eurobarometer 2013)

ARE ITALIAN ISSUES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN EUROPE?



DO YOU FEEL AN EUROPEAN CITIZEN?



Skepticism on Europe is growing..

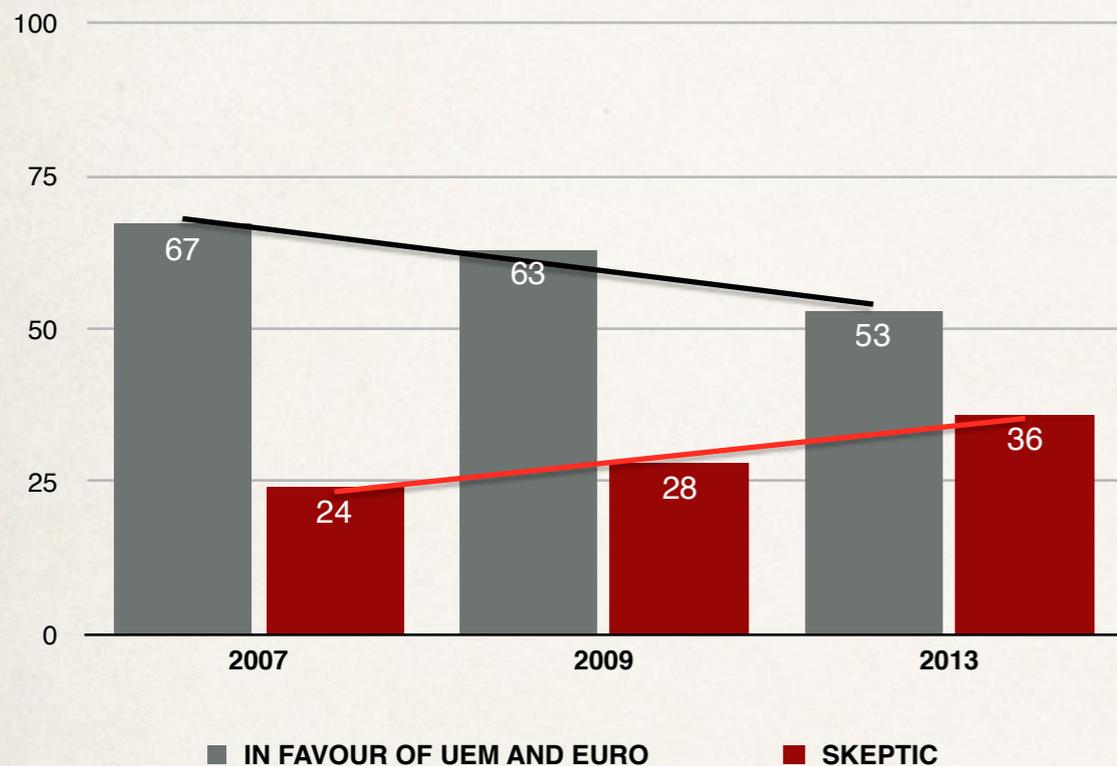
What Europe should do?

According to Italian people, the most important problems that Europe should face now are:

- 1) Unemployment (49%)
- 2) Economic situation (44%)
- 3) Tax and fiscal system (21%)
- 4) Inflation (17%)
- 5) Immigration (16%)
- 6) Public resources (14%)
- 7) Criminalities (6%)
- 8) Terrorism (4%)
- 9) Climatic change (1%)
- 10) Energy (1%)

However, more than 64% of Italian think that Europe is not doing enough to create new jobs.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EURO?



and embraces different dimensions, which are cultural, social and economic. Obviously, the single currency and the monetary union is one of them.

And young people?

Young people in Italy are facing today:

- the worsening of labor market conditions (youth unemployment rate is above 40%);
- increasing cost of studying at university because of huge cuts at public resources;
- deterioration of family conditions;
- massive fall in the amount and quality of public services offered.

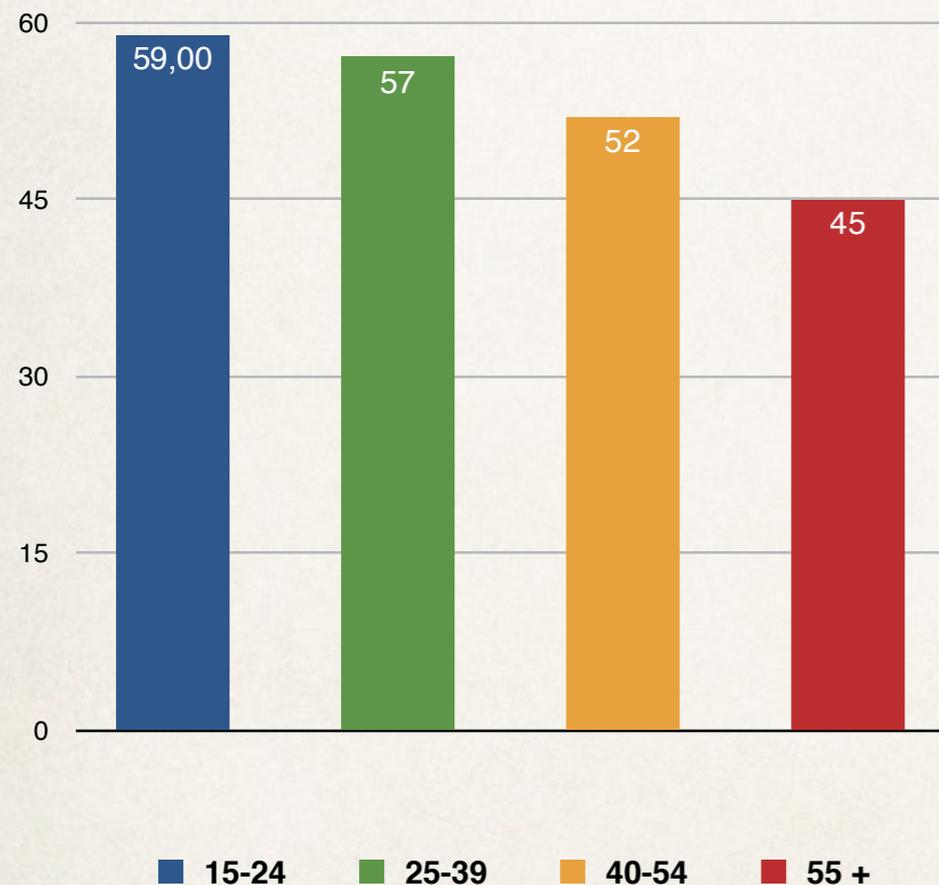
Thus, it is not surprising to observe:

- ❖ high number of NEET;
- ❖ high risk of poverty and social exclusion.

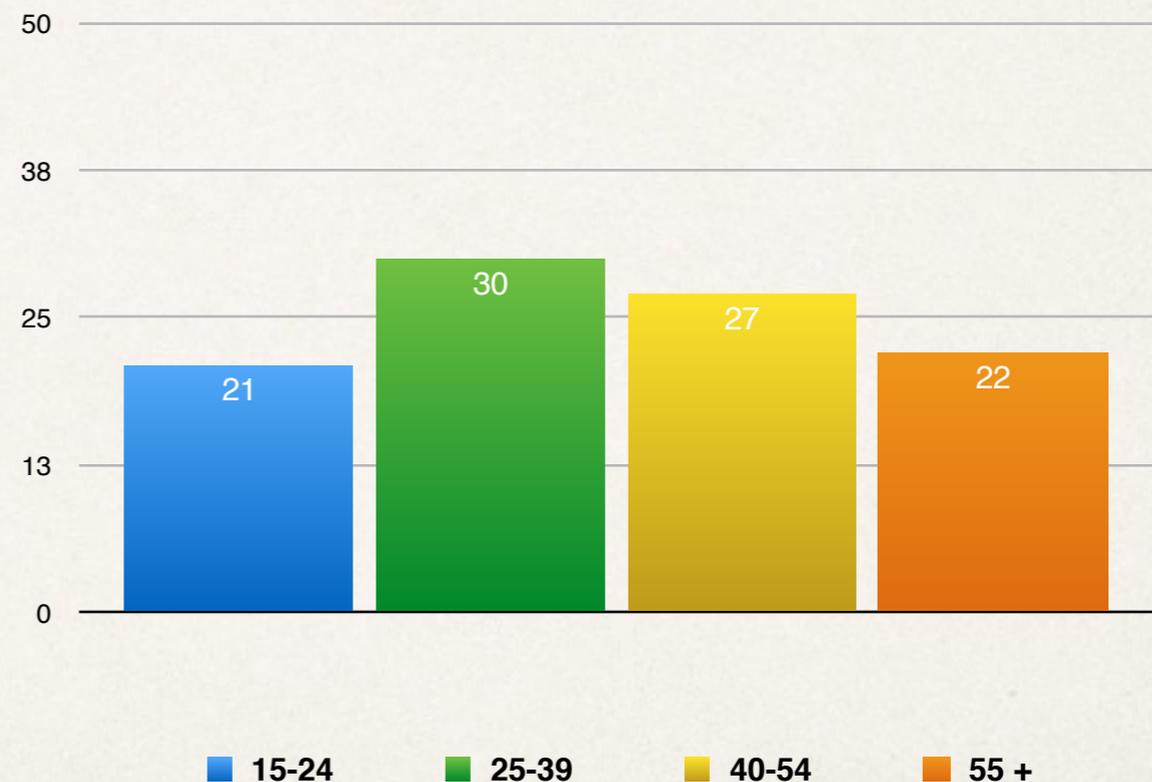


It results that young people are at the same time the ones which mostly feel to be European citizens and trust less in the Europe of today:

% PEOPLE WHO FEEL TO BE CITIZEN OF THE EU, DIVIDED BY CLASS AGE IN ITALY



% PEOPLE WHO TEND TO TRUST TO EUROPEAN UNION, DIVIDED BY CLASS AGE IN ITALY



But..More Europe is asked!

Italians ask more Europe:

40% ask for a Federalist Europe,
61% wants a common foreign policy

60% of Italians are in favor of the appointment of a Minister of Finance of the EU,
which is one of the highest rates in the EU.

!! CAUTION !! A DIFFERENT EUROPE IS WANTED

Young people ask for more public resources devoted to school, university and research,
the end of austerity and
a massive plan of employment and for the substitution of job insecurity with job stability.

Only a political party/ coalition aware of all the **structural limits** of EU
and able to offer a **constructive proposal**
with an **authentic european**
perspective instead of national,
could foster
optimism and trust
towards an idea which is
becoming increasingly
difficult to
believe in.
