



Centro Italo-Tedesco per l'Eccellenza Europea
Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für Europäische Exzellenz

Call for applications for the Vigoni Students' Forum

Villa Vigoni, 8 – 11 September 2019

United States of Europe - wish, nightmare or utopia?

The idea of creating a “United States” of Europe is centuries old. In 1776, George Washington used these words to express his vision for the future. He was followed by politicians such as Konrad Adenauer, Winston Churchill and, more recently, Emma Bonino, who have all referred – in different contexts – to a “United States of Europe” as a worthwhile objective to pursue. In the *Ventotene Manifesto*, written in 1941 by a group of anti-fascist intellectuals centred around Altiero Spinelli, the idea of a supranational confederation of states represented the guiding star of a pacified Europe. Even the German Social-Democratic Party had accepted a motion for the development of a United States of Europe project in its “Heidelberger Programm”, in effect from 1925 to 1959.

More recently, this expression has been considered as more illusory than visionary. What exactly is meant by the “United States” formula when it comes to Europe? What relationship does it have with the idea of a federal state? What opportunities, but also what risks would the creation of a United States of Europe – to whatever degree – entail?

Students of any subject, who meet the following criteria, are required to address these issues with experts:

- Command of Italian and German (at least passive) and active command of English.
- Interest in cultural and social initiatives and experiences abroad.
- Aged between 20 and 27

Villa Vigoni will cover the costs of the seminar and the three-day stay in the German - Italian Centre on Lake Como for selected participants.

Applications accompanied by a curriculum vitae, motivation letter and references must be submitted by **30 June 2019** to segreteria@villavigoni.eu.