

Call for Applications for the Vigoni Students' Forum

Villa Vigoni, 7. – 10. September 2020

What keeps us together - In search of Europe between geography, community of values and law

The COVID 19 pandemic is the most serious health, economic and social emergency Europe has faced since the end of the world wars. Since the beginning, the European Union has probably never faced a bigger challenge.

The task of the EU Commission under President Ursula von der Leyen therefore goes far beyond the mere "administration" of European affairs: it is about defending and reorienting the European Union. The European Community project has actually been in an identity crisis for about ten years now; the EU is struggling to maintain its place in the world. We live (even without Corona!) in a time of great global change, in which the Union would need to show a clearer, more determined presence on humanitarian, environmental, digital or social challenges and on issues of migration - to name but a few keywords. In the past, the European Union has developed a political and institutional system that has guaranteed peace and prosperity in the form of liberal democracy. Today, it no longer seems able to clearly define and communicate the ideas on which the successful model was based.

Particularly in view of the current challenges, this year's Vigoni Students' Forum would like to join the participants in their search for the roots and identity of Europe. Three major themes form the framework: Geography, community of values and law. What interactions exist between the "natural", geographical and "ideal" borders of Europe? What role does European "solidarity" play? What role do "interests" play in the spirit of the European community? What is the significance of the centuries-old European legal tradition, which places the individual in the foreground?

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 2020 to biehl@villavigoni.eu**.

Villa Vigoni is always "up to date" regarding the development of the new coronavirus (Covid-19); and is in constant contact with the competent authorities. On the basis of these developments, Villa Vigoni reserves the right to examine the feasibility of the Vigoni Students' Forum 2020 in the next weeks.