



10TH ITALY-LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

PEOPLE • PLANET • PROSPERITY

The future of an age-old partnership.

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PEOPLE

“Starting anew from social cohesion: people at the heart of the recovery.”

Context

Latin America and the Caribbean are one of the regions that have been most badly affected by the pandemic. The public health emergency represented a disruptive factor in a pre-existing, complex socio-economic situation (and in some cases also a political situation) **characterised by numerous, often chronic vulnerabilities** throughout the whole region. The main ones include the **high level of inequality** (one of the highest Gini coefficients in the world for individual countries and for the region as a whole) that has exacerbated the pandemic’s devastating effects in societies and heightened the pre-existing **gender inequality**, with a dramatic increase in the incidence of domestic violence. **There have also been a large number of demonstrations of social unrest** across Europe where many countries are sadly witnessing the **worsening of gender violence, including in the domestic environment**.

Recovery can only take place with **an increase in focus on the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and the related goals, specifically: 1. No Poverty; 2. Zero Hunger; 3. Good Health and Well-being; 4. Quality Education; 5. Gender Equality; 10. Reduced Inequalities; 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Europe’s traditional redistributive policies to protect employment and promote social cohesion, that have helped, at least in part, to mitigate the pandemic’s effects, represent a

useful point of reference that can, most certainly, be improved on. The European Union has also succeeded in consolidating the European solidarity model with its “Next Generation EU”.

Content

Is there a positive correlation between policies to reduce inequality and protect employment, a society’s cohesion level and its ability to tackle and overcome crises? Is social innovation (in other words those processes of innovative change in the most diverse sectors – education, training, recycling, social housing, etc. – that promote the economic and social development of a specific community from the bottom up, at the initiative of civil society) an area of growing public interest for the more direct involvement of civil society in a complementary manner with public social services? What are the policies to improve job market access of the female workforce in order to strengthen society’s resilience and reduce the gender gap? Which are the sustainable social security and assistance models to ensure access for all people to medical treatment, including in the event of a pandemic, and to prevention such as vaccines? The importance of educational systems and access to an education as multipliers of opportunities for young people. The primacy of the rule of law as a premise for social cohesion. Can good governance and the fight against corruption boost social cohesion?

