

“WE MUST CHANGE OUR EUROPEAN DREAM- IF WE WANT TO SAVE IT.”

Mrs. Mogherini, **head of our European diplomacy feels the results of recent Polish and Spanish elections are changing the political horizon dramatically and force us to *change our European dream if we are to save it.***

In Spain the political establishment will have soon to cope with the progress of the anti-liberal Podemos in both Barcelona and Madrid. In Poland, EU sceptic Andrzej Duda has been elected at the head of the state which opens the gate for a come back of wright wing Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

"The wind from Greece, the wind from Spain, the wind from Poland, do not blow in the same direction, they blow in the opposite direction," said Italian prime Minister Renzi and he is adding *"But all these winds say that Europe must change".*

REFURBISHING THE EUROPEAN DREAM IS TOP PRIORITY BUT HOW?

In his challenging article called *The European Dream: How Europe's Vision of the Future Is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream*, published in Foreign Affairs, Stanley Hoffmann is questioning “*The new European dream celebrated by Jeremy Rifkin. In his latest book, Rifkin "emphasizes community relationships over individual autonomy, cultural diversity over assimilation, quality of life over the accumulation of wealth, sustainable development over unlimited material growth, deep play over unrelenting toil, universal human rights and the rights of nature over property rights, and global cooperation over the unilateral exercise of power."*

Rifkin is concerned with individual quality of life, not political and military power and so is **Eyes of Europe**.

He is suggesting that the American way of organizing life, liberty, education and the pursuit of happiness is not necessarily the very best one.

Eyes of Europe is basically focusing its attention and ambition on what it regards as an essential point in this respect: a most radical and dramatic re-organization of education European-wide.

REORGANISING EDUCATION

It would of course be absurd to question the excellence and efficiency of the American university albeit privately funded and mainly accessible to the wealthiest contrary to Europe's higher education. Still, American very poor primary and secondary education need challenging and reforming dramatically. As a matter of fact this challenge is being tackled by various Californian parents in the notorious silicon-valley.

More than any other organization in the united States it happens to be the Singularity University's stated aim to "*educate, inspire and empower leaders to apply exponential technologies to address humanity's grand challenges.*"

Globally, the Singularity University is willing to develop a global network of innovation ecosystems alongside a coalition of entrepreneurs, business leaders, universities, government agencies and nonprofits. The institution taps into a large and growing community of scientists, thinkers, engineers, investors, business leaders, and public policy makers who are motivated to explore the potential of rapidly advancing technologies to take on humanity's big challenges, such as water scarcity and energy consumption.

The Singularity University was created in **2009** (to compare with "[Eyes of Europe ESSENTIAL 2006, edition 2014](#)") based on Kurzweil's theory of "*technological singularity*." It is going on the assumption that emerging technologies will massively increase human intelligence over the next two decades and fundamentally reshape the future of humanity. Henceforth, their ambition is "*to change the lives of a billion people*" by innovating through incentivized competitions.

BETTINIG ON THE FUTURE

Yet, more than half of American high school graduates fail to meet the course requirement to apply to University. As a matter of fact, in US public schools, a growing number of students are under-performing, putting in jeopardy personal and professional opportunities for themselves and the country.

The Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) was founded on the belief that a new kind of organization is needed – one with a different philosophy and approach. A nonprofit resource and advocate for students and educators, SVEF is dedicated to putting *all* students on track for college and careers, focusing on the critical areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). SVEF uses the latest research and thought-leadership to introduce students and teachers to tools and techniques they can use now and in the future. It provides the support that school districts, students, and educators need to elevate achievement through innovation.

They work tirelessly to promote policy changes that raise the bar for all students with flagship programs such as Elevate Math, Elevate [Science], Their programs focus on:

- Increasing capabilities for teachers
- Utilizing blended learning – Students gain an enhanced classroom experience by using web-based educational tools.
- Reducing the student-teacher ratio – Each Elevate program classroom has a credentialed teacher and a college-level teaching assistant.

They feel that if they put the right tools in the hands of educators, they will successfully help students take charge of their own learning.

Computers have become essential learning tools, with Internet access being discussed as a fundamental human right in some quarters. So it would seem natural that any innovations around education would arise from the world's technology hub.

They gather that students should be watching lectures at home, and doing homework at school, getting together to collaborate on projects, where time as a group is best spent. We call that inverted school.

No Silicon Valley startup better embodies the promise of technology to transform education than Khan Academy. The Khan Academy began humbly, when founder Salman Khan was asked by a relative to help a nephew with maths and science problems he was having in school. After a few tutoring sessions over the phone, Khan realized it would be more helpful—and shareable—if he made video recordings of his lessons, and posted them to YouTube.

Khan Academy videos have been viewed more than 67 million times since November of 2006, and have attracted serious interest from Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, who appeared onstage with Sal Khan during the 2011 TED Conference this past March.

Something as simple as YouTube has already had a massive impact for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. Even more powerful will be the impact that handheld devices such as tablets, smart phones and feature phones will create on education throughout the world. There are roughly 2.1 billion Internet users, according to Internet World Statistics, while Mobihinking says there were 5.3 billion mobile subscriptions by the end of 2010, meaning 77 percent of the world's population has a mobile phone.

Fair enough. It goes without saying that the challenges of tomorrow are not to be tackled by yesterday's educational philosophy.

Traditional, national and regional educational systems have failed. But those who believe that a massive and unconditional conversion of education to technology will solve the problem are dramatically mistaken. Technology happens to be a means, a terribly efficient one but it may in no way be regarded as an end in itself although many Silicon Valley pundits are very much inclined to think so.

Technology must be regarded as education's slave, by no means as its master.

Basically, **Eyes of Europe**, an auto active educational platform, is also taking great advantage of the finest modern technology but their aim is to strengthen the autonomy, the character and the personality of its participant by educating them into self-reliant learners, autodidacts, who teach each other through permanent interaction in real time and in English. **EoE** uses technology as a most sophisticated and efficient didactic support but sees humanity as its goal, not shaping a "Homo Technologicus" in Frankenstein's lab. **EoE** is bent to shape young citizens across Europe into citizens of the world in order to turn them into something that is badly needed in Europe: European citizens who dream the European dream while and by shaping it together.

The European dream is indeed a dream for progress. The older generation has failed to shape it although they had all the assets in their hands to design it.

Eyes of Europe firmly believes in a new form of education

based on a permanent transcultural, pan - European dialogue in English and in real time and it will eventually induce generation X and Y (those who have acquired technological skills) to reshape Europe as a concept, as a nation, as a program, as a dream to intuit the future by discussing and therefore by challenging the dramatic issues of the close future. It is essential that our teenagers become cosmopolitan Europeans willing to tackle issues such as global warming, soaring demography, mass immigration and help us towards the age of transition that is facing and menacing us.

It is essential that they may internalize the cultural heritage of Europe. This is also an ambitious of **EoE** in stark contrast with a purely utilitarian and pragmatic American-wise education as it is being reshaped by ambitious Silicon valley pundits.

Yes indeed *Europe must change* if it is to survive but that will take at least a generation and will by no means be achieved by national or regional education systems however reformed in the way the Finns reformed their educational system. It will indeed take a far more ambitious turn, including a revitalization of our European ethic values. That is indeed the challenging concept that **Eyes of Europe** is tackling.

When a concept is rife, it is more powerful than all the armies of the world. (Victor Hugo)

Il existe une chose plus puissante que toutes les armées du monde: c'est une idée dont l'heure est venue" (Victor. Hugo)

It is indeed high time **Eyes of Europe** was launched.

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