

Young people and technological autonomy: a new path for Europe

The European Union is now facing one of its most crucial challenges: reducing dependence on other countries in the production of microchips. The production of semiconductors has become a strategic issue, capable of influencing both the economy and the geopolitical security of Europe. However, the difficulties in competing with the United States and China, already far ahead in this sector, demonstrate the limits of current European policies. In this scenario, young people can become the engine of change, contributing new ideas, energy, and perspectives to the construction of a technologically sovereign Europe.

Educating young people for the digital future

The first step to ensure an active role for young people in the decision-making process is to provide them with the tools necessary to understand and act. It is essential to rethink the European education system, introducing a more practical approach oriented towards technological innovation. It is no longer enough to learn theoretical notions; we need programs that integrate robotics, coding and artificial intelligence laboratories in high schools and universities. Creating alliances between schools, universities and businesses could lead to targeted training programmes, capable of preparing a generation of experts ready to work in strategic sectors related to semiconductors.

Furthermore, the active participation of young people in European initiatives should be encouraged. For example, the European Parliament could finance an annual scholarship programme for students who want to develop projects related to technological sovereignty. In this way, education becomes not only a basis of knowledge, but also a springboard for concrete action.

Create platforms for dialogue for youth ideas

To truly involve young people in EU decision-making processes, it is necessary to give them a voice. Initiatives such as the “Youth Dialogue” already exist today, but they are often disconnected from the more complex and technical issues, such as the production of microchips or technological sovereignty. The EU should establish a European Youth Council on Technology, a platform where students, young entrepreneurs and innovators can exchange views with representatives of the European institutions and propose solutions.

For example, this council could suggest ways to accelerate the construction of semiconductor factories in Europe, propose partnerships between private and public companies, or devise tools to attract investment from third countries. Making these forums operational and influential would mean not only listening to young people but actually including them in the decision-making process.

Promoting sustainable innovation

An often-overlooked aspect is the sustainability of the microchip industry. Semiconductor production requires significant amounts of energy and natural resources, raising environmental concerns. Young people, particularly attentive to climate issues, can lead Europe towards a more sustainable production model.

Imagine, for example, the creation of “green tech” startups focused on innovation in the semiconductor sector. These companies could develop technologies to reduce the energy consumed in chip production or to recycle materials used in industrial processes. Europe-wide competitions, similar to hackathons, could incentivize young people to propose innovative green solutions, rewarding the best projects with funding and technical support.

Fostering a culture of innovation and European belonging

Another problem is the fragmentation of the European market, which hinders the development of a common strategy. Young people, with their ability to use digital platforms, can be the vehicle to build a new European identity linked to technology. Through social media, awareness campaigns and digital initiatives, young people can promote a shared message on the importance of technological sovereignty, stimulating collaboration between citizens, institutions, and businesses.

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen young people's sense of belonging to the EU, showing them the concrete benefits of a strong European technology policy. Symbolic projects, such as a digital platform managed by young people to monitor the progress of the Chips Act, could increase transparency and direct citizen involvement in EU policies.

Simplify bureaucracy to drive progress

One of the main obstacles the EU faces is its slow decision-making processes. As highlighted in the article, the Chips Act, while a promising initiative, is held back by bureaucratic barriers that delay the implementation of projects. Young people, through online petitions and advocacy campaigns, can put pressure on European institutions to make procedures faster and more efficient.

Conclusion: a generation that looks to the future

Europe's technological autonomy is not only a question of economic competitiveness, but a symbol of the EU's ability to act united and respond to global challenges. Young people, with their creativity and desire for change, can lead this process, demonstrating that innovation and sustainability can go hand in hand. To achieve this, the EU needs to not only listen to young people but make them active

agents of change. Technology is the future, and that future must be built by those who have the energy, vision, and determination to make it better.

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