



## Active in Europe: Advocacy prospects in the aftermath of the European elections

### Panelist Biographies

	<p><b>Sara Beltrami</b>          Activist and volunteer, Beltrami volunteers at Active Citizenship Network (ACN) and for the NGO Associazione Progetto Endometriosi (A.P.E.) Onlus, an evidence-based Italian organization that promotes news and information about endometriosis. As an activist, she promotes improvements in clinical practices, organizes teaching and training activities, meeting, conferences, and congresses, and takes part in studies, investigating the pattern(s) of pain, and the associated personal/social impact. Beltrami is engaged in projects and activities of active citizenship in her city, Reggio Emilia, too.</p>
	<p><b>Virgilio Dastoli</b>          Dastoli's career includes being the Personal Assistant of Altiero Spinelli in the Italian Parliament (1977-1979) and in the EP (1977-1986), being the Secretary General of the European Movement International (1995-2002), being the Head of the EC Representation in Italy (2003-2009), and being the President of the Italian Council of European Movement (from 2010) and member of the Board of the European Movement International. Currently he is the President of the Associazione Italiana della Comunicazione Pubblica e Istituzionale (2018 - current) and a Professor of renown in International Law at the University for Foreign Students "Dante Alighieri" (2016-2020). Dastoli also holds membership positions in the UEF Federal Committee, the International board of CIFE, and the Steering Committee of the European Civic Forum, as well as being the Honorary President of the Centre for the Rights of Citizens and People (University of Sassari) and the Commendatore al Merito della Repubblica.</p>
	<p><b>Anna Lisa Mandorino</b>          As the Deputy Secretary-General of Cittadinanzattiva since January 2009, Mandorino is responsible for the Participation and Civic Activism area, directing the national headquarters of Cittadinanzattiva and coordinating the interaction with hundreds of territories of the organization present throughout Italy. Graduating with a degree in Classical Literature, she earned a Master in European Public Relations and one in Corporate Citizenship, too. From 1997 to 2008, Mandorino worked for Cittadinanzattiva on external relations, first as part of the Press Office and then as Head of the Communication Office.</p>



**Gianluca Giansante**

Giansante is a Communication and Advocacy consultant, and a partner at Comin & Partners, a leading Italian Public Affairs and Strategic Communication agency. He teaches Communication at the Department of Political Science at LUISS “Guido Carli” University and in the masters programs at the School of Government and the Luiss Business School. Previously, he worked as a communication and Digital Relations Manager for the Lazio Region and served as the consultant to the Italian Government (Information and Publishing Department) and to the national Superior Judiciary Council. Giansante received a PhD in Political Language and Communication at La Sapienza University in Rome and carried out post graduate research activities in Strategic Communication at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. He is the author of Online Political Communication (Springer 2015), which is also published in Spanish (La comunicación política online, Editorial UOC 2015) and Italian (Carocci 2014), and he has also published Le parole sono importanti (Carocci 2011) and various essays on political language.






**Daniela Quaggia**

Quaggia is a Senior project coordinator at Active Citizenship Network, and graduated in Communication Science and with a 2nd level University Master degree in Public and Institutional Communication. She has been working in Cittadinanzattiva for 4 years in the Institutional relations office, and since January 2010, she has member of the Active Citizenship Network staff and project manager of EU projects related on health and citizens involvement. Quaggia is also responsible of the networking activities and internal communication among the almost 100 EU partners of ACN, working for the exchange of information, experiences and good practices, and in the involvement in project and political activities.



**Diva Ricevuto**

Ricevuto’s education includes graduating with a degree in Industrial Design from ISIA Rome, nearly completing a degree in Sociology-Communication Sciences from La Sapienza University Rome, graduating Master Cum Laude in Alternative Dispute Resolution from eCampus University Novedarte (2012), and receiving a Certificate of Educational Merit from Tata Giovanni Centre of Rome (2018) among many other educational accomplishments. She has been a Civil Mediator since 2011, a rapporteur and trainer for the Association Sulleregole of Milan since 2013, a tutor and senior member of the think tank Yong Leaders for the Luigi Sturzo Institute in Rome since 2014, as well as a spokeswoman for both the Association Sulleregole of Milan and the Luigi Sturzo Institute since 2015. Ricevuto dreams of a greater Europe and believes that conflict transformation can build a strong community of people walking together in their various cultural heritages and backgrounds.

	<p><b>Claudia Salvi</b>  Graduating with a degree in political science in 1987, Salvi currently works at the Formez PA as Coordinator of the Citizen Information Center "Europe Direct Roma Innovazione". Previously, she worked at the International Activities Office at the same company as an expert of communication activities in the context of European Union, twinning projects funded by EU in Third Countries. Salvi also deals with direct funding from the European Union.</p>
	<p><b>Arturo Salerni</b>  Salerni is a lawyer and works in various areas of law (criminal, administrative, international, immigration and asylum and for the protection of human rights). He was president of the associations Progetto Diritti, which provides advice to the most vulnerable social groups, and Europa Levante, committed to the rights of the Kurdish people. Salerni is the President of the Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights and is one of the founders of the Antigone Association, which deals with criminal and prison law. He was the President of the Azienda Farnasociosanitaria di Roma Capitale- Farmacap.</p>
	<p><b>Mariano Votta</b>  Votta is a Public affairs professional and journalist, and is the Director of Active Citizenship Network (ACN), the international branch of the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, where he is responsible for European Affairs. Since 2013, he has been actively involved as ACN stepped up its advocacy activities at the European Institutions, which in 2015 led to the opening of a representative office in Brussels and - above all - to the launch of the MEP Interest Group "European Patients' Rights &amp; Cross-Border Healthcare", promoted with the endorsement of almost 100 organizations across Europe. Furthermore, in 2016, Votta won the Efhre International University Excellence Awards on patients' rights. Passionate about healthcare and consumer issues, he has more than 17 years of experience in the field of advocacy, stakeholder engagement, European projects, communication and civic information.</p>

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