

## Innovative Deliberative Practices for Youth Engagement ahead of the European Elections 2024

**Date and Venue: European Parliament, Info Hub, Esplanade Solidarność 1980, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium; November 13-14, 2023**

The Intercultural Dialogue Platform, in collaboration with the *Citizen Z Project* partners and in partnership with the European Parliament, is organising a two-day event focused on enhancing youth engagement in civic and democratic life through deliberative practices and fostering dialogue between young people and policymakers.

The primary objective of this event is to share the deliberative practices implemented within the EU-funded *Citizen Z project*. These practices aim to strengthen the civic and democratic participation of young people in EU countries such as Croatia, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Furthermore, the event seeks to facilitate dialogue between youth and policymakers on topics that are of utmost importance to them.

The two-day event will feature panel discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities. It is designed for civil society organizations, practitioners, researchers, academics involved in democratic innovations, young individuals, youth associations and representatives, teachers, youth workers, policymakers, and public authorities' representatives.

This event is part of the two-year EU-funded project entitled *Citizen Z: Strengthening the participation of young citizens in democratic and civic life*. The project applies deliberative methods to stimulate young people's interest in civic and political life and to involve them in the decision-making process.





Citizen Z

## **Day 1: Deliberative Democracy and Youth Engagement: An Overview of local deliberative practices in the framework of the Citizen Z Project**

**Monday, November 13 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels**

### **13:00 – 13:30 Arrivals and registration | Get your badge**

Welcoming and registration of the attendees

### **13:30 – 13:45 Opening Speech | Giulia Busolin, Civil Society Outreach Unit, EP and Ana Valiente, Youth Outreach Unit, EP**

Flagship initiatives: Together.eu, Youth Hub and What Europe does for me

### **13:45 – 15:15 Panel I | Youth deliberative practices in Italy and the Netherlands**

The panel intends to examine the first round of local deliberations involving young people in Italy and the Netherlands, as a component of the *Citizen Z project*. The session will look at the methodology used, the deliberation methods employed by the local partners and the preliminary results and conclusions that have emerged from these deliberations.

#### ***Moderator***

**Ludmila Malai**, Coordinator of the *Citizen Z Project* and EU Project Manager at Intercultural Dialogue Platform

#### **Keynote speakers**

**Dr. Cenap Mustafa Aydin**, Director at Istituto Tevere (Italy)

*A preliminary perspective from the youth deliberative forums in Rome*

**Akerke Azamat**, MA Student in European Studies at Sapienza University

*How can deliberative practices shape student involvement in Italian democratic life?*

**Kamila Boukfouz**, Program Manager at Platform INS (the Netherlands)

*A preliminary perspective from the youth deliberative workshops in Amsterdam*

**Erva Calkin**, Student in Social Sciences and Citizenship Teacher

*Fostering youth active participation in Dutch politics*

### **15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break | Refresh and Network**

Enjoy your coffee!



### **15:45 – 17:15 Panel II | Youth deliberative practices in Croatia and Belgium**

This discussion panel intends to examine the first round of local deliberations involving young people in Croatia and Belgium, as a component of the *Citizen Z project*. The session will look at the methodology used, the deliberation methods employed by the local partners and the preliminary results and conclusions that have emerged from these deliberations.

#### ***Moderator***

**Margareta Beltran Miranda**, Volunteer at Udruga Prizma, Member of Citizens' Jury in Zadar

#### **Keynote speakers**

**Alexandre Thiry**, Program and Communication Manager at Fedactio (Belgium)

*A preliminary perspective from the organisers: Youth Assemblies in Antwerp and Brussels*

**Zeynep Sila Saginc**, Political Science student and Member of the Youth Advocacy Team

*A Testimony from the Youth Assembly on Social justice in Brussels*

**Mira Treursić**, Behaviour Technician, Coordinator of Volunteer engagements (Croatia)

*The use of the Youth Center in Zadar: Preliminary results from the Citizens' Jury with young people*

**Gabriela Vlatka Brčinović**, Student of Applied Arts, Volunteer at Udruga Prizma

*A Testimony from a young participant in the Citizens' Jury in Zadar*

### **17:15 – 17:30 Unpacking Day 1: Essential Takeaways**

What will you remember from today's panels?

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## Day 2: Youth Engagement ahead of the European Elections 2024

Tuesday, November 14 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels

### 9:00 – 9:30 Arrivals | Welcome

Welcoming and registration of the attendees

### 09:30 – 11:00 Panel III | A Youth perspective on the Future of Europe

This panel examines the primary concerns of young Europeans today, their vision for the future of Europe, and the policies they are supporting/following at the local, regional, and European levels ahead of the 2024 European elections. In addition, it aims to stimulate discussions with young people on the opportunities available to them to actively participate in and influence the decision-making processes within their respective communities and beyond.

#### ***Moderator***

**Zeynep Sila Saginc**, Member of the Youth Advocacy Team for the Citizen Z project

#### **Keynote Speakers**

**Radu Toderita**, Student and Trainee at the European Parliament

*Are young people really losing interest in civic and democratic life?*

**Oskar Seuntjens**, President Jongsocialisten

*Why is it important for young people to get involved in politics?*

**Julien Heylen**, Political Scientist and Researcher, Program Assistant at Friends of Europe

*Engaging youth through deliberative practices – Lessons from African deliberative democracy for the EU*

**Kate Lancaster**, CEPS Young Thinkers and Project Manager in Policy at CEN and CENELEC

*Green, Digital and Democracy: Ensuring youth participation in the twin transition*

### 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break | Refresh and network

Enjoy your coffee!



**11:30 – 12:45 Panel IV | Youth in dialogue with policymakers**

This panel seeks to foster dialogue between young activists, civil society representatives, local/regional policymakers, and Members of the European Parliament. They will discuss their respective priorities for the upcoming European elections, focusing on issues such as the underrepresentation of young people in politics, European citizenship, key concerns for youth (e.g., climate change, mental health, unemployment), and the use of deliberative democracy to promote greater youth participation.

***Moderator***

**Olivia Gheyselinck**, EU Project & Event Manager at Intercultural Dialogue Platform

***Keynote Speakers***

**Damian Boeselager**, MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

*Parliamentarism, European Citizenship and Democracy: The issue of underrepresentation of young people in the EP*

**Sana Sadat**, Student and Mental health activist, Member of the Flemish Youth Council

*Transcultural transition care and bottlenecks within the mental health care in Belgium*

**Sebastian Berchesan**, Executive Secretary at Stand Up for Europe

*A civil society perspective on youth engagement*

**Alicia Homs Ginel**, MEP, Group of Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

*The role and impact that young people can have in the upcoming European Elections*

**12:45 – 13:00 Unpacking Day 2: Essential Takeaways**

What will you remember from today's panels?