

Detailed Program

Day 1: Exploring Deliberative Democracy and its Methods

Monday, March 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 | Presentation of the EP flagship initiatives

Discovering together.eu and [What Europe Does For Me](https://www.what-europe-does-for-me.eu)

13:45 – 15:00 Roundtable | Understanding Deliberative Democracy and the different methods at hand

This roundtable discussion aims to familiarize participants with the concept of deliberative democracy and its methodologies. The session will explore the definition of deliberative democracy, the difference between deliberative and participatory democracy, the general principles of deliberative processes, and the different deliberative methods and forms of deliberative engagement.

Keynote speakers

- **Massimo Ronco**, Researcher and Policy Analyst at Intercultural Dialogue Platform
The possible meanings of deliberative democracy at the local level
- **Ieva Cesnulaityte**, Founding Head of Research and Learning at DemocracyNext
Elements of a successful deliberative process
- **Prof. Jean-Benoît Pilet**, Professor in political science at The Free University of Brussels (ULB)
Exploring different deliberative methods
- **Irene Alonso Toucido**, Project Manager at Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe
Citizens' Assemblies in action: case studies and lesson learned

15:00 – 15:20 Coffee Break | Refresh and Network

Enjoy your coffee!

15:20 – 16:30 Discussion Panel | The potential of the Deliberative Democracy methods and Participatory tools for enhancing civic and political engagement among youth

This panel aims to explore youth participation in politics and to navigate the potential of using deliberative democracy and participatory tools to strengthen youth participation in democratic and civic life.

Keynote Speakers

- **Dr. Rys Farthing, Research Associate at the Information Law & Policy Center (University of London)**
Young people and political engagement: Is it worth it?
- **Prof. Jean-Benoît Pilet, Professor in political science at The Free University of Brussels (ULB)**
How do citizens and youth, in particular, perceive deliberative democracy?
- **Andrea Grus, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb**
The "Unconventional" youth participation leading the way towards greater institutionalized participation?
- **Dr. David Talukder, Center for the Future of Democracy (University of Cambridge)**
How can deliberative democracy be useful (or not) for youth political participation?
- **Dr. Mateusz Tokarski, European Commission, DG Joint Research Center**
Learning with and from youth

16:30 – 17:45 Workshop sessions | Have fun and interact

Workshop 1 | Democracy Fitness: Let's train our democracy muscles

Facilitator: Kathrine Krone

Democracy Fitness is a training concept that challenges the traditional understanding of democracy. Democracy is something one needs to train - and that should be fun, challenging, and meaningful all at the same time. Democracy Fitness is based on the idea that we are all a part of democracy every day of our lives. Naming ten important skills, aka 'democracy muscles', that we use in everyday democracy and offering 30-minutes training programs for each one of them, is the core of the method. Awareness of the strength or weaknesses of the "democracy muscles" in our own bodies, will enable us to understand our role and potential in everyday democracy, hence empowering us to participate formally or informally. Democracy Fitness is always physical, social and fun. This session will be an excellent exercise in training the mobilization muscle. In a democracy, a sense of community is needed. Making room for other peoples' ideas strengthens the collective.

Workshop 2 | Deliberative democracy, diversity, and inclusion

Facilitator: Dr. Mustafa Cenap Aydin

This workshop will present the basic concepts and frameworks of the current literature on diversity and inclusion. It will then analyze their relevance to deliberative democracy, not only through theoretical comparisons, but also through concrete examples and good practices where the diversity and inclusion framework will impact the implementation of deliberative democracy. In addition, workshop participants will provide contributions based on their own experiences, context, cultural and social background, so that it will

be possible to compare and contrast different examples and experiences of diversity and inclusion in the context of deliberative democracy.

Workshop 3 | Online deliberation and digital technology

Facilitator: Olivia Lanselle

This workshop aims to experiment with online deliberation by simulating a group discussion and decision on a chosen topic. The simulation will be conducted in three phases: Activity 1 - A digital survey (Mentimeter) will collect and visualize information about the participants before they discuss the chosen topic. Activity 2 - Participants will unanimously co-define the rules they agree upon to ensure quality deliberation (in a google drive document). Activity 3 - Participants will be divided into three groups to imagine, select and improve initiatives that support a fictitious EU call for proposals (on diversity and inclusion). In the end, participants will be invited to vote for their two favorite initiatives (on jamboard). The workshop will end with a moment of reflection to allow participants to share their views and "lessons learned" from the experience. NB: For this workshop, you will need a cell phone or a laptop.

17:45 – 18:00 Takeaways for the day

What will you remember from today's sessions?

Day 2: Navigating Deliberative Democracy

Tuesday, March 14 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels

9:00 – 9:30 Arrivals | Welcome

Welcoming and registration of the attendees

09:30 – 10:45 Testimonies | Success stories of projects having applied Deliberative Democracy and Participatory tools

This panel aims to explore and discuss projects that have used deliberative democracy and participatory tools. The testimonies will cover the initial ideas of the project, the challenges encountered, the results and achievements, trying to capture the main challenges as well as the potential of deliberative methods to improve citizens' participation in democratic and civic life.

Keynote Speakers

- **Nóra Katona, Metropolitan Research Institute, *UPLIFT Project***
UPLIFT is a project exploring how young people's voices can be put at the centre of youth policy in areas of housing, education and employment. *UPLIFT* aims to understand patterns and trends of inequality across Europe; understand how individuals experience and adapt to inequality through

participatory research; together with communities in four locations, co-design a policy tool aimed at addressing and reducing inequality and socio-economic divisions.

- **Prof. Dr. Hans Blokland, Social Science Works, *Europe for All Project***

The overall goal of *Europe for All* project is to address the lack of discussion and insight regarding the European Union while creating a space for people to make their voices heard and engage with decision-makers. It aims to encourage people from Berlin and Brandenburg to think about the European Union, democracy and their role and responsibility as citizens and to promote political participation through deliberative exchange with others as well as EU decision-makers.

- **Ben Eersels, Coordinator of G1000**

G1000 is the Belgian platform for democratic innovation. They develop and support new forms of citizen participation, and aim to make Belgium the most credible, effective and inclusive democracy of Europe. How? By making democratic innovations such as sortition and deliberation the new norm in policy-making. Innovative methods, such as citizens' panels with random selection and deliberation, must be part of policy-making. They are working to ensure that municipalities and cities, regions and the federal state use them and that they are institutionalised.

- **Charlotte Cams, President of Debat Squad**

Debate Squad is an NPO made up of higher education students. Their mission is to bring social debate closer to the younger generation and to teach secondary school students from an early age the necessary skills and knowledge to debate. Critical thinking and learning to speak in public are central to this. Debat Squad offers debate classes in high schools and organizes a debate competition between participating schools in Leuven in order to raise the interest of high school students in social policy. Debat Squad consists, on the one hand, of a board of directors whose members each hold a position. On the other hand, Debat Squad is composed of a group of mentors who run interactive debating sessions in schools.

- **Mina Bare, English Teacher at College des Etoiles**

Mina Bare will present the ways in which students at Collège des Etoiles are involved in school decisions through student councils and class councils.

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break | Refresh and network

Enjoy your coffee!

11:15 – 12:45 A Youth Panel | Priority topics and policies for young people

This panel looks at what young people feel are the priority issues to be addressed today and what policies they are following at the local, regional, and European level.

Keynote Speakers

- **Marita Grubišić-Čabo, Research assistant at Institute for social research in Zagreb and Youth Wiki National Correspondent for Croatia**
From national to local - where is Croatia's youth policy?
- **Laura Nicolas, Youth Thinkers Community, CEPS**
Climate, inequalities, unemployment: challenges of a generation living in uncertainty.
- **Kate Lancaster Ryan, Young Thinker in the 2021-22 cohort**
Green, Digital and Democracy: Ensuring youth participation in the twin transition
- **Adélaïde Charlier, Climate activist**
Why is climate a fundamental issue for young people and what are their expectations from policymakers in this regard?

12:45 – 14:45 Networking Lunch | Enjoy your meal and make friends!

The Quartier Leopold Restaurant will delight you with local and international dishes.

14:45 – 16:30 Workshop sessions | Interact and learn

Workshop 1 | Deliberative democracy and arts: How can creativity and the arts be used as tools for enabling the expression of youth voices?

Facilitator: Silvestar Petrov

Youth should be free to speak as youth, with creativity at the core of their voices. Youth express their emotions, attitudes, opinions, aspirations, and needs in different ways not just by speaking but also through visual articulation, sound, movement, and dance. Through this creative workshop in a form of an open art studio, we will examine how art could be used to kick off deliberation, conversation, and debate on topics important to youth that should be relevant to decision-makers to hear when shaping policies that are of high importance for young people.

Workshop 2 | Deliberative democracy and cultural awareness – Mindful diversities – How can we deliberate while being culturally aware and emotionally literate?

Facilitator: Shanti Tuinstra

More and more cities in Europe become familiar with the reality of super-diversity. Instead of one majority group to which newcomers have to adjust, we see cities of many minority groups living in the same space. What new ways of thinking and possibilities could spring from that new reality? Can we overcome our fear and get surprised by what these new ways of connecting sub-cultures might bring us? By raising our awareness of every person as a kaleidoscope of multiple identities, we learn to look at ourselves and perceive the so-called “stranger or “other” from a new angle. During this session, we will dive into the concept of multiple identities and how it can help us overcome falling into habits of clinging to old stereotypes and prejudices.

Workshop 3 | The role of intercultural and interfaith dialogue in deliberative democracy

Facilitator: Isuf Alla

This workshop will focus on the potential of interfaith dialogue, i.e., how interaction and collaboration between different faith groups could facilitate deliberative democracy, especially at the grassroots level, but also how interfaith or intercultural activities could create the means and channel the process, needs and debates within the community to a more visible level and how interfaith interaction could open up spaces in the public sphere in which the principles of deliberative democracy could be realized.

16:30 – 17:00 Takeaways for the day

What will you remember from today's sessions?

Day 3: Moving Forward Deliberative Democracy

Wednesday, March 15 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels

9:00 – 9:15 Arrivals | Welcome

Welcoming and registration of the attendees

9:15 – 10:30 Discussion Panel: Gender equality, inclusion, and deliberative democracy: In what ways does deliberative democracy serve gender equality and inclusion?

The panel aims to address gender equality and inclusion in relation to deliberative democracy and its processes. It will explore whether and how deliberative democracy can serve or facilitate gender equality and inclusion.

Keynote Speakers

- **Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu**, Gender Equality, Democracy and Inclusion Expert at IDEA
Gender equality and Inclusion as prerequisites for Democracy
- **Sana Afouaiz**, Founder & CEO Womenpreneur Initiative
Women's engagement in civic and democratic life
- **Joana Maycock**, CSO representative, Feminist Leadership, Co-Founder of Women100
How can deliberative democracy be strengthened by feminist practice?

10:30 – 11:30 Discussion Panel | Youth in Croatia, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands - Similarities, particularities, and cultural differences in political and democratic participation

The panel aims to address similarities, particularities and cultural differences in the political and democratic participation of young people in four EU countries: Croatia, Belgium, Italy and the

Netherlands. The discussion is also intended to gain an understanding of cultural codes and perceptions. The panellists will elaborate on the characteristics of youth participation in their respective countries, exploring whether the differences are vital and call for region-specific approaches to improving youth participation in civic and political life. The presenters will each draw a picture of youth civic and political participation in their country (which may vary significantly due to socio-economic, historical, and political factors) and reflect on whether these characteristics call for tailored approaches to improving youth participation.

Keynote Speakers

- **Nikola Baketa, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (Croatia)**
Improving youth participation through education innovation
- **Dr. Domenico Melidoro, LUISS University (Italy)**
Civic and political participation of young people in Italy
- **Ahmet Kaya, Researcher and PR Manager at Platform INS (the Netherlands)**
Civic and political participation of young people in the Netherlands

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break | Refresh and network

Enjoy your coffee!

12:00 – 12:45 Closing Conference | Follow-up on the Conference on the Future of Europe

The Closing Conference aims to explore the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe while trying to assess how the upcoming elections can serve as a catalyst to advance deliberative democracy.

Keynote speaker

- **Toma Sutic, Member of the Cabinet of Vice President Dubravka Šuica**
Follow up on the Conference of the Future of Europe

12:45 – 13:00 – Closing Speech

- **Christina Altides, Member of the Secretariat for the 2024 European Elections campaign coordination**

Priorities for the European elections 2024 – Milestones and timeline