

Democracy beyond elections - Deliberations with young people on common issues for European citizens

Date and Venue: European Parliament, Info Hub, Esplanade Solidarność 1980, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium; October 14-15, 2024

The Intercultural Dialogue Platform, in collaboration with Citizen Z project partners, Stand Up for Europe and in partnership with the European Parliament, is organising a two-day event aimed at strengthening young people's participation in democratic life through participatory and deliberative practices. The two-day event is set to explore the theme of "Democracy beyond Elections - Deliberations with Young People on Common Issues for European Citizens."

With the aim of making democracy an everyday exercise, we envision fostering meaningful discussions and engagement beyond the electoral cycle. Using participatory and deliberative methods, we aspire to create an inclusive space for interaction. By focusing on common issues affecting European citizens, we aim to bridge the gap between governance and everyday life, emphasising the significance of continuous civic participation. Through interactive sessions and collaborative initiatives, our objective is to empower young voices and contribute to the cultivation of a more participatory and engaged democratic society while also sharing the results from the 2-year EU-funded Citizen Z project and the recommendations that resulted from the multiple deliberations exercises organised in Belgium, Italy, Croatia and the Netherlands. Finally, we aspire to create a conducive environment for dialogue, ultimately empowering the youth to play a more active and informed role in democratic life.

The comprehensive two-day program will feature a diverse range of activities, including panel discussions, presentations, workshops, quizzes and networking opportunities. This event is tailored for civil society organisations, practitioners, researchers, academics engaged in democratic innovations, young individuals, youth associations and representatives, policy experts, policymakers, and public authorities representatives.

The event is part of the two-year EU-funded project entitled *Citizen Z: Strengthening the Participation of Young Citizens in Democratic and Civic Life*, where deliberative methods are applied to stimulate young people's interest in civic and political affairs, actively involving them in the decision-making process.



Day 1: Democracy in Action: Youth Policy Recommendations

Monday, October 14 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels

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

Welcome and registration of the attendees.

13:30 – 13:45 Opening Speech, EP, Partnership Teams, Civil Society Outreach Unit

Presentation of the flagship initiatives of the EP

13:45 – 15:15 Workshop: Amplifying Ideas: Co-Creating the Future of Youth Centres

This workshop invites participants to actively engage in a collaborative, non-formal, and participatory session aimed at shaping the future of youth centers across Europe. Through interactive activities and discussions, each participant will have the opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns, ensuring that diverse perspectives are heard. The goal is to collectively develop concrete recommendations for the creation of inclusive, accessible, and empowering youth centers that will be presented to European policymakers, including members of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Facilitated by Silvestar Petrov, President at Udruga Prizma, Croatia

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

Enjoy your coffee and meet new people!

15:45 – 17:00 Panel Discussion: From Crisis to Right - A Youth Approach to the Housing Shortage in Europe – Recommendations from Dutch Youth

This panel discussion will address the housing crisis, focusing on how to tackle this problem collectively. Highlighting the voices and recommendations of young people in the Netherlands, the aim is to find solutions that ensure access to affordable housing for all. Furthermore, the panel will examine the increasing influence of European measures on the housing market from 2021 onwards and explore how everyone can contribute to securing the fundamental right to housing.

Speakers:

Teun Otte, Youth Activist, Chairperson at ASVA Student Union, Amsterdam

Emiliano Rocchetti, Policy Officer at the International Union of Tenants (IUT), EU Liaison Office

Suzana Carp, European Policy Specialist, European expert in industrial strategy, decarbonization of heavy industry, energy, climate and nature protection.

Moderated by Kamila Boukfouz, Program Manager at Platform INS (Netherlands)

Day 2: Everyday Democracy: Youth Participation beyond Elections

Tuesday, October 15 | European Parliament, InfoHub, Brussels

9:00 – 9:30 Arrivals | Welcome

Welcoming and registration of the attendees

09:30 – 11:00 Panel and Workshop | A European Citizens Initiative : A Unique Public Transport Pass – Stakeholder Perspectives and Communication Campaign

In the first part, this session will provide an opportunity to discuss with young elected Members of the European Parliament the idea of a unique pass for public transport in the EU, building on the insights from proposals generated during previous Deliberative Democracy Days. In the second part, the participants will have the chance to develop a communication campaign to promote the proposal elaborated earlier for a potential submission to the European Citizens' Initiative instrument.

Speakers:

Vasiliki Mustakis, Participatory Democracy Manager at ECAS

Tony Venables, ECIT Foundation on European Citizens' Rights, ECI Campaign on Voters without Borders

Moderated by Sebastian Berchesan, Executive Secretary at Stand Up for Europe

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break | Refresh and Network

Enjoy your coffee!

11:30 – 12:45 Panel discussion: The role of diversity and inclusion in empowering young people

This panel aims to converge theoretical paradigms, empirical research, and pragmatic insights to elucidate the integral role of diversity and inclusion in the socio-political and economic empowerment of youth across Europe. By synthesizing



recent fieldwork studies and the substantive findings of the Citizen-Z project, the panel will present a nuanced understanding of how inclusive practices can foster resilience, innovation, and societal cohesion among young populations.

Speakers:

Prof. Luigi di Santo, Professor of Philosophy and Law at the University of Cassino and Lazio Meridionale

Prof. Katuscia Carnà, Head of education, Director of national and international training courses on the topics of Active and Global Citizenship

Marco Tarquinio, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

Domenico De Carlo, Youth Representative, Youth Forum of Potenza

Ludmila Malai, EU Project Manager and Coordinator of the Citizen Z Project

Moderated by Dr. Cenap Mustafa Aydin, Director at Istituto Tevere, Italy

12:45 – 13:30 Test your knowledge – European Parliament Quiz

In this final session, all attendees are invited to participate in an engaging quiz covering a wide range of questions related to one of the main legislative bodies of the EU – the European Parliament. Let's enhance our knowledge about the EP and have fun together!

Moderated by Nisa Yildirim and Esra Tekinkaya, Members of the Youth Advocacy Team for the Citizen Z Project



Citizen Z

