



Event Title: Without panels: Discussion about Europe
Event Type: Citizens' Debate
Date: 19 June 2017
Organiser: Municipality of Athens
Partners: Europe Direct City of Athens
Initiating Member: Georgios Kaminis (GR/PES)
Audience: 100 participants
Themes: immigration and refugee crisis; EU engagement at local level; intergovernmental cooperation; democratic deficit and trust in EU

Reflecting on Europe is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions, providing a platform for citizens to present their concerns, ideas and proposals on the future of Europe. We take the commitment to make the citizens' voices heard!



Speakers

Markku Markkula (FI/EPP), President of the European Committee of the Regions

Georgios Kaminis (GR/PES), Mayor of Athens

Moderators: **Maria Scordialos**, co-founder of the Living Wholeness Institute; **Natasja van den Berg**, owner director of Tertium, improving public engagement

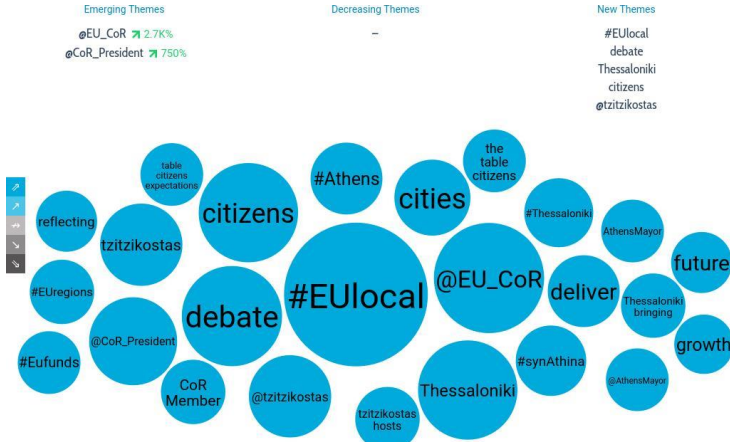
Key Messages

The Athens Citizens' Debate main objective was to capture the key obstacles and barriers that citizens experience, as well as ideas and proposals that will lead to a better future for Europe. This was achieved through open dialogue where the range of perceptions of what is occurring now was exchanged by diverse stakeholders from public authorities, civic society actors and citizens. The topics discussed include the **multi-level structure of the EU**, EU engagement at local level, intergovernmental cooperation & connection between the EU and its citizens. A further issue was **education and the promotion of community values** as well as **funding for social and regional activities**. Thirdly, current political discussions were picked up by the participants, debating about **immigration** and the **refugee crisis** or the issue of trust in the EU.

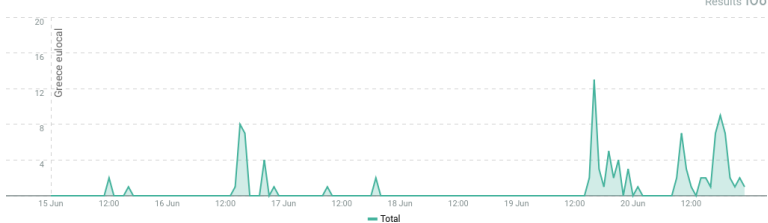


Social Media Impact

Top Themes around #EUlocal



Mentions of #eulocal



Press/Social Media Coverage

Media coverage

[Athina 9.84 \(1\)](#)

[Athina 9.84 \(2\)](#)

[Liberal](#)

[Sofokleous In](#)

[Demokratiki](#)

[Palo](#)

Websites

[CoR Local Event Page](#)

[CoR Press Release](#)

Social media

[Flickr Gallery](#)



Reflecting on Europe: Follow-Up

The **Reflecting on Europe** online survey, the CoR's feedback mechanism to report the main concerns and ideas of citizens participating in local events, was promoted on social media in Greece during 4 days. This promotion, alongside the citizens' debates in Athens and Thessaloniki (20 June 2017) led to **more than 500 completed surveys** from Greece.

Services Supported by the CoR

Interpretation [EN/EL]

Moderator's Cost

Co-Creation of the Event Programme, preparation with moderator and speakers, venue setting support

Press & Social Media, Facebook/Twitter promotion, CoR Press Release, Flickr gallery, distribution of promotional materials

Contact

European Committee of the Regions

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