



Event Title: The Future of the European Union: The Citizens' Expectations

Event Type: Citizens' Dialogue

Date: 20 June 2017

Organiser: Region of Central Macedonia

Initiating Member: Apostolos Tzitzikostas (GR/EPP)

Audience: 400+ participants

Themes: decentralisation of power to regional and local authorities; communication with youth; EU enlargement and integration; entrepreneurship; cultural tourism; austerity; terrorism

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

Prokopis Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic

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

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, and Member of the European Committee of the Region (GR/EPP)

Ilias Kouskouvelis, Professor, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Former Rector of the University of Macedonia, Greece

Moderator: **Marianna Pirgioti**, Journalist, Director General of the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy

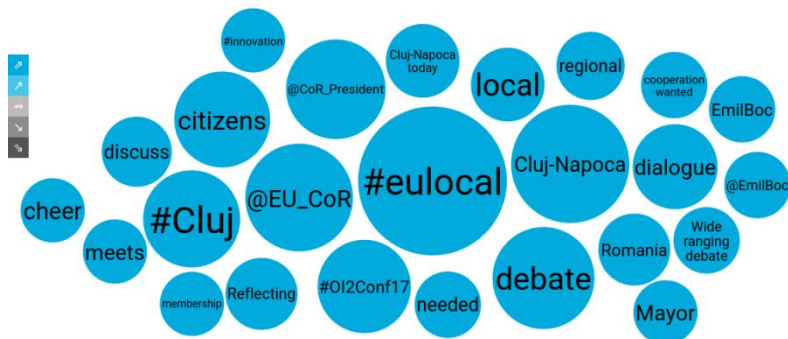
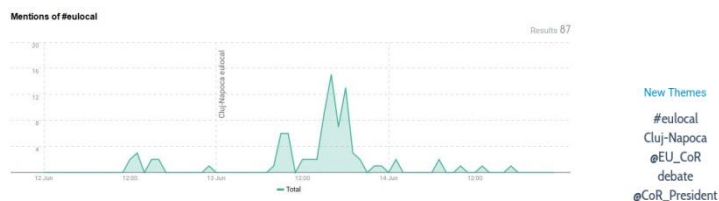
Key Messages

The citizens' debate in Thessaloniki started with welcome addresses from Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Markku Markkula and Ilias Kouskouvelis, followed by a keynote speech from the President of the Hellenic Republic, Prokopis Pavlopoulos.

After this introduction, the debate between more than 400 citizens and the three speakers covered, for more than two hours, a wide range of topics including, amongst others: the need to bring the EU closer to its citizens, notably young people; the decentralisation of power to regional and local authorities; the **absorption of EU funds** by cities and regions; EU enlargement and integration; the role of the EU in the world as a major player (cultural diplomacy, peace, etc.); the importance of **culture and cultural tourism** in Greece and the EU; **austerity** measures and the economic situation of Greece; the prevention of and response to **terrorism**; the deficit of knowledge about the EU among citizens, lack of **communication** and information; the need to better promote EU's success stories; EU support to **entrepreneurs**, SMEs and investors.

The debate was rich in content and enabled a direct and open dialogue between citizens and their political representatives.

Social Media Impact



Press/Social Media Coverage

Media coverage - Broad coverage by regional and web media

[Alpha 965 \(1\)](#)

[Alpha 965 \(2\)](#)

[EMEA.gr](#)

[Thestival.gr \(1\)](#)

[Thestival.gr \(2\)](#)

[Thestival.gr \(3\)](#)

[Thestival.gr \(4\)](#)

[Parapolitika.gr](#)

[Kathimerini.gr](#)

[Palo \(1\)](#)

[Palo \(2\)](#)

[Palo \(3\)](#)

[Palo \(4\)](#)

[To Pontiki](#)

[Voice](#)

[Toxwmi](#)

[Voria.gr](#)

[Voria.gr](#)

[Typosthes.gr](#)

[Liberal](#)

Websites

[CoR Local Event Page](#)

[CoR Press Release](#)

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 in local events, was promoted during the local event and on social media in Greece, and generated over **3,600 engagement** (likes, shares, comments) and **more than 500 responses**. A total of **14,000 persons** were reached. The results collected during the series of events taking place all over the EU in 2017 will contribute to feed the CoR opinion on the future of Europe that will be approved in 2018.

Services Supported by the CoR

Interpretation [EN/GR]

Moderator's Cost

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

Press & Social Media: FB/Twitter promotion, CoR Press release, Flickr gallery, distribution of materials

Contact

European Committee of the Regions

Directorate for Communication – D.2 Events Unit

Michele Cercone, Head of Unit

michele.cercone@cor.europa.eu

Ginevra Del Vecchio, Local Events Manager

ginevra.delvecchio@cor.europa.eu

www.cor.europa.eu/localevents

[#Eulocal](#)

