

# EuroPCom

Brussels - 2017



## THE IMPACT OF THE EUROSCEPTICISM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE

GIJÓN CITY COUNCIL



European Committee  
of the Regions

gijón  
Europa



Europe for Citizens  
Programme



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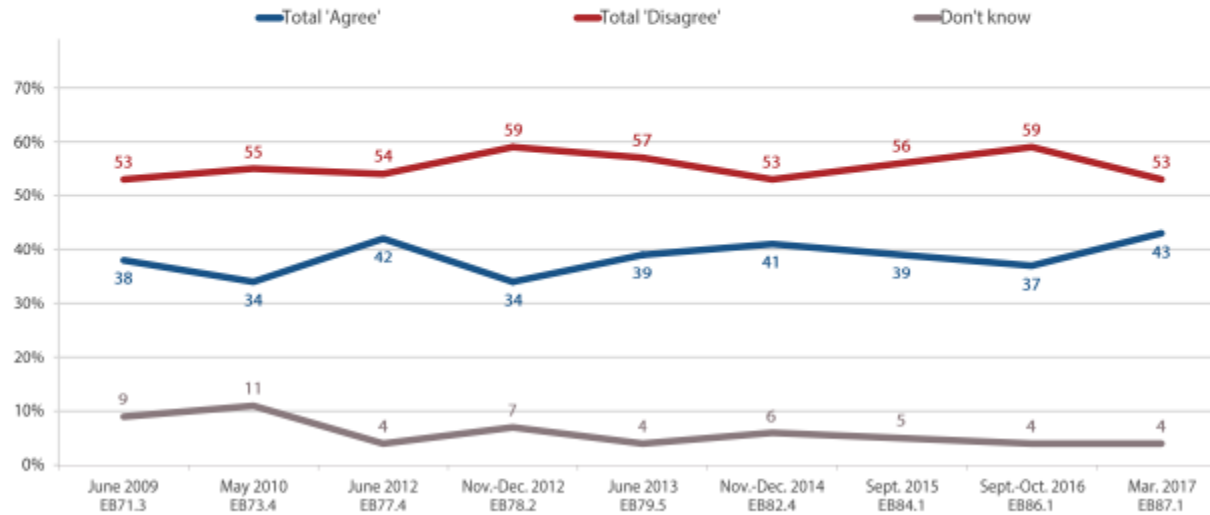
*The majority of the Eurosceptics don't know what is the EU, because if they know what it does and what it represent, it's impossible to be against it.*

- Andy Stalman (2017)  
Branding Expert

# The Future of the EU

Q12.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

*My voice counts in the EU (%)*



**Source:** Special Eurobarometer of the European Parliament “Two years until the 2019 European elections”

# How to make **close Europe** to the citizens? 1/3



## **What is the problem?**

The majority of ours citizens haven't got a good knowledge about Europe, so that situation, promotes the disinterest about the European affairs and the lack of an European awareness as citizens from the EU.

## **How can a city or region fight against the current euroscepticism?**

From the Gijón City Council, we organize the encourage of the “European citizenship” concept by a triple way action:

1. European campaigns.
2. European networks.
3. European projects.

# How to make **close Europe** to the citizens? 2/3

## European campaigns

- Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens.
- European Week.
- Europe Coffee.
- European year of citizens.
- European Mobility Week.
- Let's talk about Europe!  
(2016) CoR.

## European networks

- EUROCITIES.
- Atlantic Arc Cities.



# How to make **close Europe** to the citizens? 3/3



## European Projects

- **TONETA / Europe for Citizens (2011 – 2013):** promote the celebration of European events to share knowledge among the citizens.
- **The Migrants Encyclopedia / Erasmus + (2014 – 2017):** creation of an encyclopedia that gather 400 testimonies of migrants around 8 Atlantic cities to share the experiences among citizens.
- **PREVENT (2012-2014) and 2nd Chance (2016-2018) / URBACT:** projects from the URBACT programme where the partners have to create a Local Group involving different actors from the cities to participate in the elaboration of a Local Action Plan connected with the topic of the project.
- **The impact of the Euroscepticism on the construction of Europe / Europe for Citizens (2017 – 2019).**

# Example of citizen Events

## Europe Coffee

A round table in a local cafe to talk with the citizens about Europe.

The topic of the 2017 Edition was de Future of Europe



## Let's talk about Europe

An event celebrated in collaboration with the CoR and the Principado of Asturias government.

The event consist in the celebration of two citizens dialogues about youth and European citizenship.



# The Impact of the Euroscepticism on the construction of Europe



- **PROGRAMME:** Europe for Citizens
- **TIMEFRAME:** November 2017 – May 2019
- **PARTNERS:**
  - Gijón (Lead Partner) – Spain 
  - Nuremberg - Germany 
  - Genoa – Italy 
  - Alba Iulia – Romania 
  - AEKS (NGO) Vääksy – Finland 
  - CEPS (Think Tank) Brussels – Belgium 
  - University of Oviedo – Spain 



# What does **the project** consist? 1/3



On the one hand, the project aims to **engage citizens of six EU cities to understand the European Union**, in order to acquire a basic knowledge of its institutions, history, achievements and its multilevel governance approach.



# What does **the project** consist? 2/3



On the other hand, the project wants to promote an **understanding and discussion of the reasons behind the current raise of euroscepticism** and its impact on the future of the European project. The project wants to go in depth about the **origins and consequences of the Euroscepticism** in the actual European stage.



# What does **the project** consist? 3/3



Moreover, this project has a goal to **contribute to improve** the understanding of EU, image, promotion of citizen participation, European Citizenship, identity, as well as tolerance and understanding of the different European countries.



# Activities **of the** project



MOOC  
Courses  
(2).

Participa.gijon.es  
Platform

Citizen Dialogues  
(5).

# MOOC Courses

## **First MOOC - focused on:**

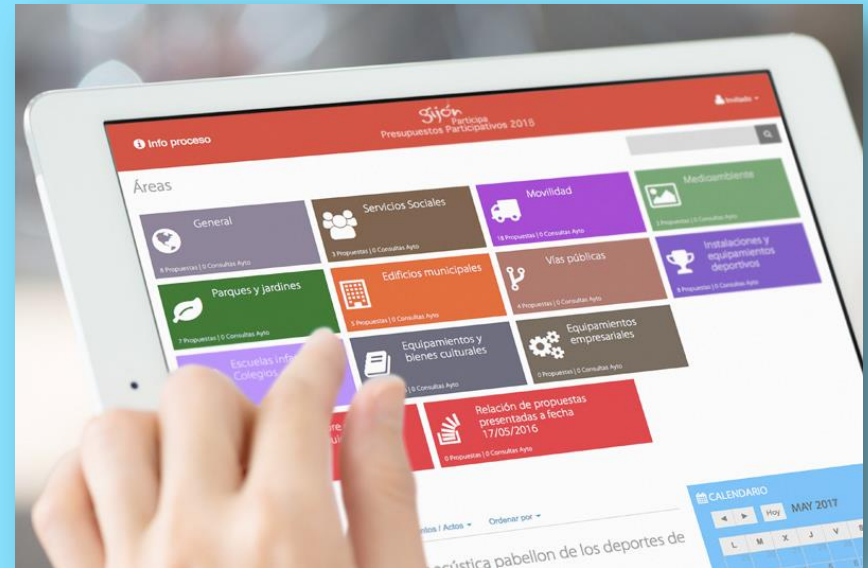
- European History;
- European values;
- Human Rights;
- European Citizen Rights;
- European Institutions and their activities and the main achievements of the EU.
- Euroscepticism (origin and consequences).
- Future of Europe in the global world.

## **Second MOOC - First MOOC - focused on:**

- Debate about the topics treated in the national and transnational events.
- Globalization.
- Immigration.
- Euroscepticism (origins and consequences);
- Future of Europe in the current framework.
- National elections and their impact in European Affairs, European policies and European Affairs.
- 2019 European elections.

# Participa.gijon.es Platform

The opening of an online platform about participation that allows the citizenship to participate in the project (debates about the MOOC course or any other European affair that be relevant for the population).



# Citizen Dialogues

Citizen dialogue among the participants of the debate and representatives of the local, regional, national and European institutions invited.

The **achievements** of the events are: Improve the global knowledge about Europe; Promote the citizen debate among citizens from different cities and countries; Boost the intercultural dialogue and perspectives about European issues; Promote the participation of citizens with disadvantaged circumstances (discrimination on grounds of sex, racial, or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, etc).

- **Dates:**

- Genoa ( May 2018)
- Vääksy ( August 2018)
- Nuremberg (November 2018)
- Alba Iulia (February 2019)
- Gijón (May 2019)

# Expected **mid/long-term** effects

## Mid – term

**Improve citizens' knowledge** and understanding about the EU affairs.

Engage them to become involved and active with **citizen participation** in local and European issues.

**Raise awareness** of the increase of euroscepticism and its impact in the future of the European Union and their lives.

**Disseminate** what they have learnt and motivate more citizens about **the importance of citizen participation** and the European affairs for every citizen.

## Long – term

Continuation of the collaboration of the partnership with the same topic **developing and deepening more on these topics** (with or without EU Funds), or on the other hand with other relevant topics (for example sectoral topics such as environment, mobility, social services, youth, sustainable development, etc).





*“ The choice before us is not whether we want Europe or not, but rather the scale of the contribution we make to the future of the EU*

*..... let us do much more to place citizens at the heart of all political action. The European Union is not a project for elites; quite the contrary. It was born and grew to ensure the well-being of all citizens.*

Antonio Tajani  
President of the European Parliament  
Princess of Asturias Award for Concord 2017

# Thanks for *your* attention!



*Gijón*  
**Europa**



# Contact



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