



European Committee
of the Regions



EU Citizens' Consultations: What's next?

Grassroots examples - European prospects

European Committee of the Regions

April – May 2019

More info: www.cor.europa.eu/future.eu

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Lunchtime seminar # 5

7 May 2019, JDE 70

12:00 – 13:30

Since March 2016, the European Committee of the Regions has been active in the "Reflecting on Europe/Future of Europe" campaign, providing a platform for regions, cities and their citizens to engage in the debate on the future of Europe. In December 2018, a new concept of permanent structured dialogue mechanism was proposed for discussion by the presidents of the CoR and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The call for a reinforced link between the EU and its citizens was reaffirmed by the Declaration of the 8th European Summit of Regions and Cities in March this year. The CoR is thus in the process of designing its "European Citizens' Consultations" model; a more permanent and structured format, combined with a feedback mechanism aiming to better include the local level in the EU decision-making process. To prepare for this new model, a **series of lunchtime seminars** are held in the CoR with local experts, aiming at collecting insights on citizen engagement from the local/regional point of view.

Speakers:

Claudia Chwalisz, Policy Analyst, Open Government Unit, OECD, presenting on redesigning democratic institutions.

Corina Stratulat, Senior Policy Analyst, Head of Programme, European Policy Centre, presenting on the future of democracy and institutional reform in the EU.

Dominik Hierlemann, Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh/Brussels, Belgium, presenting on new forms of public participation.

Moderator:

Federico Rossetto, Head of Unit, Strategic Support Unit for Liaison Offices, European Parliament

The last session will discuss what research says about local and European experiments with citizens' participation and explore an EU-wide scheme for citizens' consultations/dialogue from an academic point of view.

The following questions will be addressed to speakers:

Who? How are citizens selected for structured consultations/citizen assemblies and how could citizens be selected for an EU Citizens' Consultation?

What? Should the consultations cover one topic for all or should the European citizen assemblies select from a list of topics determined at EU level? Is there a meaningful way to choose your own topic?

So what? How should the results of EU Citizens' Consultation feed into the European decision-making process?

Re-designing democratic institutions



Claudia Chwalisz is an expert on populism, deliberation and democratic innovations. She is currently leading the OECD's work on innovative citizen participation, which is focused on analysing deliberative processes and institutions, new ways of thinking about public goods, and promoting democratic fitness. Prior to the OECD, Claudia was a strategy consultant at Populus, and a senior researcher at Policy Network, where she led work on populism, democracy and political economy. She is the author of *The People's Verdict: Adding Informed Citizen Voices to Public Decision-making* (2017) and *The Populist Signal: Why Politics and Democracy Need to Change* (2015).

Making politics great again: lessons from the European Citizens' Consultations process



Corina Stratulat is the Head of the European Politics and Institutions Programme at the EPC, working on the future of democracy and institutional reform in the EU, as well as on issues related to the EU's enlargement policy towards the Balkans. Corina holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Integrated Social Sciences from Jacobs University (Bremen, Germany), a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Contemporary European Studies from Cambridge University (Cambridge, UK) and a Doctorate (PhD) in Political and Social Sciences from European University Institute (Florence, Italy). Her main research interests include comparative Central and East European politics, parties and party systems, elections, democracy, EU institutions, integration and enlargement."

Citizens' participation: From new talk in town to a game changer for European democracy



Dominik Hierlemann is an expert in European and deliberative democracy. He has been with the Bertelsmann Stiftung since 2004 where he is currently Senior Expert and Head of the Democracy and Participation in Europe project. In his current role, Dominik is involved in developing new participatory formats for citizens in cooperation with the European Commission. Prior to that, he was in charge of the creation and management of the Citizens' Forum, the biggest project in the field of citizen engagement in Germany to date, initiated by the Federal President. The Citizens' Forum involved 25 cities, 100 online-facilitators and 10.000 randomly selected participants. Since then Dominik conceived and implemented several civic engagement projects and facilitated large-scale events with the Federal President, the Chancellor of Germany as well as European Commissioners. Dominik studied in Konstanz, Germany, and the Institut d'Études Politiques of Aix-en-Provence, France. His doctoral thesis is about the "Lobbying of the Catholic Church in Poland". Dominik teaches at the University of Konstanz on new forms of public participation. Previously, he taught at the University of Sydney and the International College of Management, Sydney. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Konstanz.