



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](http://www.cor.europa.eu/future.eu)

#FutureOfEurope

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### Lunchtime seminar # 2

9 April 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. In order to prepare for this new model, a **series of lunchtime seminars** are held in the European Committee of the Regions with local experts, aiming at collecting insights on citizen engagement from the local/regional point of view.

#### **Speakers:**

**Noelle O'Connell**, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland, presenting Ireland's Citizens Dialogues on the future of Europe

**Wietse Van Ransbeeck**, CEO Citizen Lab, Belgium, presenting on tools for a more democratic, transparent and collaborative decision-making

#### **Moderator:**

**Martin Gosset**, campaign manager, Unit Events, European Committee of the Regions

*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?

## Ireland's Citizens' Dialogues on the future of Europe



**Noelle O'Connell** was appointed Executive Director of European Movement Ireland in April 2011. Founded in 1954, European Movement Ireland is the country's longest established not-for-profit membership organisation dedicated to developing the connection between Ireland and Europe. As the organisation's Executive Director, Noelle is the public spokesperson for the organisation. She regularly appears on national and international media to comment on the ongoing Brexit negotiations, as well as the latest developments

across the EU and in Ireland.

Prior to leading European Movement Ireland, Noelle provided advice on business development training, education and public affairs to a wide variety of both private and public sector clients. Noelle is a voluntary Director of the board of Alliance Française Irlande, and was awarded the French Ordre National du Mérite in 2017. She is also a member of the Institute of Directors and Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), and is a Fellow of the Irish Institute of Training and Development (IITD). She holds a BA Hons in European Studies, French and Spanish from University College Cork, Ireland, a Diploma of French University Studies from Jean Moulin University, Lyon III, France, and an MSc in International Relations from the University of Edinburgh.

## How to create a stimulating environment for encouraging public participation?



**Wietse Van Ransbeeck** is the co-founder and CEO of CitizenLab, an e-democracy platform that allows governments to give their citizens a direct say on topics that matter to them. Today, the platform is used by more than 100 local governments around the world, including big cities such as Vancouver, the Hague and Brussels, but also by much smaller municipalities.

Wietse recently featured in the Law & Policy category of the *Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe* list for his work on bringing local democracies into the digital age. He holds

a Masters' Degree in Business Engineering from Solvay Brussels School, and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Waseda University.