



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 # 3

11 April 2019, JDE 60

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:

Costanza Gaeta, Director for Institutional, European and International Affairs at the Italian Conference of Regional Parliaments

Tremeur Denigot, CIVICO Europa, Director of Communications, WeEuropeans Project Manager

Alessandro Giordani, Head of Unit "Networks in the Member States", Directorate-General for Communication, European Commission

Alexander Miesen, President of the Parliament of the German-Speaking Community of Belgium

Moderator:

Pierluigi Brombo, Head of Unit, Relations with Organised Civil Society and Forward Studies Unit, European Economic and Social Committee

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?

The special role of the EU Regional Parliaments implementing Active Subsidiarity and Structured Dialogue: a new way of working, a new way of thinking



Constanza Gaeta is the Director for Institutional and EU Affairs at the Italian Conference of the Regional Parliaments, Italy. She is a public affairs expert with hands-on experience in European Union public policy,

policy advocacy and decision-making processes. She has a track record of building and strengthening successful dialogue with Italian political stakeholders, both nationally and regionally, in a demanding work environment requiring a high degree of insight, tact, negotiation skills and optimism. She has extensive experience in advocating and ensuring that the interests of the Italian regional parliaments are represented on EU issues. She assists the Italian members of regional parliaments at the Committee of the Regions and cultivates and manages a wide professional network, encouraging collaboration and synergies between stakeholders.

Series of Transnational Citizens' Dialogues organised by the European Commission



Alessandro Giordani is a head of unit in the Directorate-General for Communication at the European Commission. His unit is implementing the Europe Direct concept, through several hundred

Europe Direct Information Centres and European Documentation Centres in all the Member States, in order to develop coordination across the whole outreach network of the European Commission. Prior to this, Alessandro was deputy head of the Citizens Dialogues Unit. Until 2015 he was responsible for the European Commission's communication activities in Italy. He worked as diplomatic advisor on EU issues in the Italian Prime Minister's private office until 2012. Earlier in his career he worked in various departments and Directorates-General of the European Commission, including the private office of the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection.

WeEuropeans: reinventing Europe with its citizens



Tremeur Denigot is Director of Communications at CIVICO Europa, a non-profit, independent and transnational association whose goal is to allow EU citizens to take back control of the European project by

helping to transform the EU into a democratic power founded on continuous civic participation. Together with the civic tech platform Make.org, last December CIVICO launched the WeEuropeans initiative: a civic and non-partisan campaign with the aim of mobilising citizens of all European countries to reinvent the European project. Its purpose is to put citizens back at the centre of that project by inviting all all of them, irrespective of their opinions, to participate in the largest public consultation ever carried out in Europe. Mr Denigot will present the details of the initiative and share with the audience the results of the consultation and its aftermath.

Permanent citizens' assembly in the German-speaking Community of Belgium



Alexander Miesen is President of the Parliament of the German-Speaking Community in Belgium. He is also member of the municipal council of Büllingen since 2006. Previously Mr Miesen was President of JFF (2009-2013) and Senator of the

German-speaking Community and member of the Presidency of Parliament: 3rd Vice President (2014-2016).

Mr Miesen has also been political advisor to Senator Berni Collas (2006-2010), political advisor to Minister Bernd Gentges (2008-2009) and PFF Group staff in the Parliament of the German-speaking Community (2010-2013). He holds a Bachelor of Laws.