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 # 4

24 April 2019, JDE 70

12:00 – 13:45

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:

Ari Brodach, head of Participatory Budgeting Department, City of Paris, France, presentation of the project "Participatory Budget in Paris: citizens decide and the City implements";
Cato Léonard, Campaign Leader G1000, Managing Partner Glassroots, Belgium, presenting on deliberative democracy, G1000, W100 and other Belgian examples;
Borja Prieto Ursúa, Head of Promotion and Institutional Extension, DG of Citizen Participation, Madrid City Council, Spain, presentation of the project 'Decide Madrid';
Nicola Vatthauer, Communications Director at EUROCITIES, Belgium, presentation on "Smart talking – lessons from our citizens panels";
Angelika Poth-Mögele, Executive Director European Affairs at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), presentation of the local and regional dialogues on cohesion policy organised by CEMR.

Moderator:

Nora Allavoine, Citizens' Dialogues Unit, European Commission

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?

Participatory Budget in Paris: citizens decide and the City implements

Ari Brodach began his career in 2002, in a consultancy firm specialising in sustainable development policies. He became director for sustainable development for the City of Lille in 2006, where he designed and implemented a number of processes and tools for involving the public in decision-making. In 2011 he was appointed as director of sustainable development for the training centre for local civil servants (CNFPT), and has supervised the introduction of sustainable development into nationwide training programmes. Mr. Brodach has headed the team coordinating the Participatory Budget in Paris since 2015. It is one of the largest participatory budgets in the world, with EUR 100 million allocated to citizens' projects every year. 220 000 people were involved in the budget in 2018.

Participatory Budgeting. The experience of Madrid

Borja Prieto Ursúa is Head of Institutional Extension at Madrid City Council, where he manages cooperation with other public administrations on citizen participation. He is also responsible for relationships with supra-national entities such as the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank and the Iberoamerican Capital Cities Union with regard to citizen participation projects. Mr Ursúa is a career civil servant and has previously held management positions in both public administrations and private companies. He was associate professor at the ICAI School of Engineering in Madrid.

Deliberative democracy: G1000, W100 and other Belgian examples

Cato Léonard is co-founder of Glassroots, a consulting company that helps governments, companies, cities and organisations to implement change successfully through the participation of external stakeholders and citizens. She is also co-founder and campaign leader of G1000, a citizens movement for participatory democracy.

Smart talking – lessons from our citizens panels

Nicola Vatthauer is communications director for EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities. Ms Vatthauer has over 20 years of experience in pan-European communications strategy and delivery, and is an expert in Europe-wide campaigns, events and cross-sector engagement.
Her job is to ensure that the wide variety of sectors covered by EUROCITIES' work is communicated coherently to European institutions, stakeholders and media. She has recently been working on the EUROCITIES democracy campaign "cities4Europe – Europe for citizens" and the citizens' panels pilot project on the future of Europe. Ms. Vatthauer has a master's degree in sociology.

Angelika Poth-Mögele is the Executive Director European Affairs at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). She has a PhD in political science and over 25 years of work experience in representing local and regional governments' interests at European level (for different organisations and different levels of government). Ms. Poth-Mögele joined CEMR in 2004 where she is responsible for the EU policy and research team. The work is structured along two pillars: 1) Lobbying EU policy and legislation and 2) Knowledge sharing, including research and studies. Policy areas covered: governance, democracy and citizenship; economic, social and territorial cohesion; environment, climate and energy; public services, digitalization and employment.