



Marseille, 4 March 2022

Launch of the co-creation process of a EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR YOUTH AND DEMOCRACY

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Democracy can only survive in the European Union if it is well rooted on the ground and practiced every day with and by every person. The legitimisation of democracy depends on the trust and belief of people which is achieved if it delivers results closest to their daily lives. Each person, in particular young people, need to feel they are a full member of society who is able to participate in, contribute to and ready to promote the core values of democracy.

In the context of the 2022 European Year of Youth and the Conference on the Future of Europe, the European Committee of the Regions, the EU's voice of regions and cities together with the European Youth Forum, the voice of young people in Europe, hereby launch the co-creation process of a European Charter for youth and democracy.

The Charter will strive to build and consolidate a youth friendly democratic space to ensure the voices of young people are formally, continuously and permanently represented in the European Union.

For a renewed democracy in the 21st century we need innovative tools and means, to achieve a more inclusive democratic society, where every young person, whatever his or her social background, race, gender, sexual orientation, belief or aspiration, feels they are truly empowered and represented.

The European Committee of the Regions and the European Youth Forum call on all EU institutions, young politicians, young citizens, local and national youth associations to join this bottom-up building process creating the European Charter on Youth and Democracy together. The Charter will put forward concrete recommendations relating to the democratic participation of young people to social, political and civic life at three levels of governance: the local and regional level; the national level; and the European level.

The co-creation process of the Charter is launched during the 9th Summit of Regions and Cities in Marseille, 3-4 March 2022 and will take place until the end of 2022. To fulfil its goal to empower and include young people in decision-making, the proposals for the Charter will be collected through participatory processes, which may include conferences, workshops, online consultations, etc. to allow young people to express their ideas and debate with local and regional representatives and other stakeholders.

A final signing ceremony will be held in December 2022 at the plenary session of the European Committee of the Regions to endorse the Charter.

More information on the Charter and how to contribute will be available on a dedicated [webpage](#).

***Let's join forces to give a fresh impetus to the European democracy
and build together a Europe closer to its young people!***