

EUROPE, FOR A CITIZENS-LED POLICY

Venue: Flagey, Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Brussels

Date: 22nd of June

Deliberative democracy is popularizing. What started as a few pioneering examples at the beginning of the century has now exploded into all levels of government, including the European Union. The term is no longer unfamiliar to policy-makers, and now the challenge is to implement citizens' assemblies effectively. In 2020, FIDE was established with a mission to guide and advise on how to bring quality to this promising approach that can strengthen our democratic system.

As deliberative democracy continues to conquer European capitals, we want to ensure that its true potential is accomplished and prevent the risk of tokenistic use. In that pursuit, we need to equip civil society, policymakers and public administration with skills and resources for this new way of doing democracy. That's why we're calling everyone to join us on June 22nd for an exciting event that explores the essence of **citizens-led decision-making** and emphasizes the importance of putting citizens at the heart of it all.

We extend a warm invitation to NGOs, civil servants, politicians and all relevant stakeholders for a half-day of captivating discussions on the art of deliberation. Together we'll delve into the ins and outs of citizens-centred politics.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, June 22

13.00 – 14.00

Networking Lunch

Welcome words

14.00 – 14.30

Reflections on the state of European Democracy and pathways for action,
with Dubravka Šuica,
Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission (TBC)

14.30 – 15.00

Unravelling deliberation, Yves Dejaeghere

15.00 – 15.45

How to bring citizens into the heart of European Climate Policy?
A conversation between David Van Reybrouck and Frans Timmermans,
Executive Vice-President, European Commission (TBC)

15.45 – 16:15

Coffee break

16:15 – 17:30

Workshops

17.30 – 20.00

Informal drinks

Workshops

- **Deliberation in 'challenged democracies'**. Implementing deliberative democracy in Eastern Europe faces several challenges. These are largely the result of weak, subverted or contested democratic processes and institutions. This workshop will delve into: the legacy of low political trust and political elites with authoritarian tendencies, both of which can threaten the very foundation of inclusive decision-making processes. It will explore strategies for empowering local citizens' assemblies as well as the challenges that organising assemblies in autocratizing and post-conflict contexts entails.
 - **Eva Bordos**, Director of DemNet – Co-organiser of Citizens' Assemblies in Budapest, Miskolc and Érd (Hungary)
 - **Damir Kapidžić**, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Involved in the Citizens' Assembly of Mostar and national citizens' assembly of Bosnia
- **Deliberative Democracy in the European Union**. As a first concrete follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe the European Commission has implemented three European citizens' Panels as an additional consultation tool to improve the quality of legislative proposals. What are the lessons learned? Will the European Citizens' Panels be embedded in the EU's decision-making process? And if so, how?
 - **Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG communication, Citizens' Dialogues Unit, European Commission - Former member of the Common Secretariat of the Conference on the Future of Europe and co-organiser of the current European Citizen Panels
 - **Daniela Vancic**, European Project Manager at Democracy International
- **Deliberation and the Climate crisis**. The recommendations emanating from Climate Citizen Assemblies are often very transformative, sometimes even surpassing the ambition of the current international targets and stakeholders. This workshop aims to explore the potential connections between civil society organisations and climate assemblies, with the objective of establishing synergies that can help citizens drive policy-making.
 - **Graham Smith**, Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster and Chair of the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA)
 - **Namita Kambli**, Senior Researcher on the EU's social agenda at E3G
- **Deliberation for all**. The principle of political equality lies at the heart of deliberative democracy, upheld by the use of random selection. However, not all individuals have equal opportunities to participate. Underrepresented groups continue to encounter various inequalities that hinder their voices from being effectively heard and their needs addressed. If deliberation truly aims to be inclusive, it must embrace both political equality and political equity. This workshop will explore the existing efforts within the deliberative field to embrace equity and also identify the remaining work that needs to be done.
 - **Magalie Plovie**, President of the French Parliament of Brussels.
 - **Irene Alonso Toucido**, Project Manager at FIDE, Moderator