



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

## **A new chapter for participatory democracy: Paving the way for the future**

Date: 15 December 2023  
Venue: JDE52 / Hybrid  
Timing: 10:00 – 13:00  
Languages: EN, FR, DE, IT

Strengthening the democratic foundation of the European Union has always been at the very core of the European Committee of Regions. Local and regional politicians are the closest link to the citizens and it is their duty to bring their voices to the European level in order to ensure policymaking that creates a difference on the ground. Effectively engaging citizens is necessary in order to adequately represent them and to develop tailored solutions that reflect the vast diversity of Europe. This is important now more than ever, against a backdrop of technological leaps and ahead of the European elections in 2024. This conference will tackle these issues and attempt to highlight a path towards the future of citizen participation.

### **Agenda**

**Moderation:** Silke Toenshoff, Head of Unit – Events and local dialogues, CoR

#### **10:00-10:30    Opening session**

- Vasco Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions (*video message*)
- Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission (*tbc*)
- François Decoster, Mayor of Saint-Omer (*tbc*)
- Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Member of the European Parliament, co-rapporteur on the European Elections 2024 (*tbc*)

**10:30-11:15 Democracy in action: Reflecting on the progress made in citizen participation**

- Kieran McCarthy, Lord Mayor of Cork (*tbc*)
- Roberto Ciambetti, President of the Veneto Regional Council (*tbc*)
- Dominik Hierlemann, Senior Advisor, Bertelsmann Foundation
- Ângela Guimarães Pereira, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Kseniia Semenova, Kyiv City Council, Young Elected Politician

**11:15-12:00 Harnessing the regional potential: Subnational authorities as the loudspeakers of citizens**

- Olgierd Geblewicz, President of the West Pomerania Region (*tbc*)
- Muhterem Aras, President of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg (*tbc*)
- Lukas Mandl, Member of the European Parliament (*tbc*)
- Joachim Ott, European Commission, Head of Unit for Representation & Communication in Member States - Citizens' Dialogues (*tbc*)

**12:00-12:45 The impact of technology on the future of democracy**

Key note speaker: Bruce Schneier, Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School (online)

- Karine Perest, Head of AI Policy Observatory, OECD (*tbc*)
- Jacob Birkenhäger, Head of Business Unit for Deliberation, Open Government and Democracy, Ifok (*tbc*)
- Svenja Hahn, Member of the European Parliament, shadow rapporteur on the EU AI Act (*tbc*)

**12:00-12:45 Closing**

- Patrick Molinoz, Chair of the CIVEX commission (*tbc*)