



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY FESTIVAL

The European Commission is holding its 3rd annual Citizen Engagement & Deliberative Democracy Festival from 6-12 December, 2020.

What is the festival?

The 3rd annual Citizen Engagement & Deliberative Democracy Festival is an open online event that brings together people of diverse backgrounds that are interested in, and working on, citizen engagement and deliberative democracy in Europe (and beyond). These include representatives from EU Member States, EU institutions, the European Commission, the OECD, civil society organisations, academia, as well as youth and the arts. Notable attendees this year include European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and JRC Director-General Stephen Quest. The programme features a variety of events including open discussions, interactive sessions, an exhibition of citizen engagement projects and artwork. Core topics of citizen engagement will be explored including youth engagement, citizen engagement futures, and challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is citizen engagement and deliberative democracy?

Citizen Engagement is about connecting with citizens through meaningful two-way communication. It is where citizens are more directly involved to co-create policies that are fit-for-purpose: designed with citizens, for citizens. Deliberative democracy is a political commitment to collective decision-making where citizens participate actively in policy discussions and reach an agreement through deliberation.

Why now?

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has prioritized a “new push for European democracy” to “strengthen the links between people, nations and institutions in Europe”. The European Commission will soon launch the two-year [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) that calls on all citizens to make proposals for future EU policy. The global COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted societal and policy challenges amid uncertainty– necessitating solutions that go beyond business-as-usual policy. Events such as this Festival are more critical than ever in contributing to public and policy discussions on the future of democracy and how to implement more participatory practices in EU policymaking.

About the JRC

The [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service. The JRC has a dedicated team working to strengthen the understanding of citizen engagement across the policy cycle and contribute to the Commission goals to foster closer connections between citizens, Member States and EU institutions.

