



The 3rd Citizen Engagement and Deliberative Democracy Festival

#EUCitizenEngagement

6-12 December 2020

Online <EU Academy >

AGENDA & RATIONALE

November 2020



Introduction

Deliberative democracy and citizen engagement can be effective responses to the erosion of trust in democratic institutions, as well as helping to develop better policies by including all those concerned in more direct ways. A number of recent studies namely the OECD's report "**Catching the Deliberative Wave**"¹ and a European Parliament study on 'practices of democracy'² describes the flourishing of inspiring deliberative democracy initiatives, including many in the EU, where thousands of randomly selected citizens are enrolled into more participatory governance styles in our democratic regimes. This context shows the flourishing interest in these tools and therefore raises expectations of the Commission.

Indeed, in the [Political Guidelines of the new European Commission \(2019-2024\)](#)³, President Ursula von der Leyen has established as political priority "a new push for European democracy" with a commitment to "strengthen the links between people, nations and institutions". Vice Presidents D. Šuica is leading the Commission's work on deliberative democracy and the **Conference on the Future of Europe**, Vice President V. Jourová is developing a **European Democracy Action Plan**.

A number of EU policies are already engaging citizens in their design and implementation. For example, the **Horizon Europe Missions** (R&I), where citizens of different MSs are being engaged to co-design and implement those missions; the engagement of citizens in cohesion policy (REGIO) co-organised with OECD; urban green infrastructure (ENV and JRC) in 13 different cities of the EU; and last but not least, the aforementioned COFE, the Commission led largest scale endeavour of the 3 EU institutions to engage citizens in a wide-ranging debate on Europe's future in the coming decade and beyond.

COVID-19 has made citizen engagement in policy making ever more pertinent at a time when the volatility of evidence, uncertainty of today and tomorrow's facts requires mobilising all citizens to share not only relevant knowledge but also responsibility on the governance of the current crises.

¹ OECD (2020), *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/339306da-en>.

² Sgueo, G. (2020). *Practices of Democracy. A selection of civic engagement initiatives*. EPRS. PE 651.970 Available at: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/651970/EPRS_STU\(2020\)651970_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/651970/EPRS_STU(2020)651970_EN.pdf)

³ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf



3rd Festival Rationale and Objectives

The Festival is in its third edition and this year will be entirely hosted online because of the COVID19 situation. The festival will first and foremost support on-going Commission citizen engagement initiatives.

In light of the COVID-19 emergency and its inherent uncertainties, it is ever more crucial that the Commission keeps on nurturing the establishment of the necessary infrastructure to engage citizens in co-creative and deliberative ways on EU policy making. This festival will address the question, how can we make best use of such processes in the crisis and post-crisis situations, such as the one we are living now? How can we ensure that physical distance does not prevent the publics to engage, co-create or deliberate policies that affect them? How can we make the best use of online tools?

Therefore, this festival is a timely key moment for the Commission to continue advancing the talk (and walk) about mainstreaming citizen engagement and deliberation in policy matters in the Commission in particular, and within public administration in general. It is about catching an existing wave, which the current crises made more urgent and positioning the Commission as a key player in these participatory styles of governance.

Encouraged by the political context and building on the ambition to contribute further to implement these practices across the Commission policy cycle, as well as, the success of the last editions of Festival of Citizen Engagement, the 3rd Festival has the following objectives:

- Showcase current ongoing important files of **citizen engagement run by the Commission by relevant services, notably COFE**, not only as a way to give visibility to the Conference itself and engaging the European deliberative community in COFE, but also make visible the digital infrastructure in COFE;
- Illustrate **why greater engagement of the public is even more needed now than it was before the outbreak of Covid-19 in politics and policy-making**;
- In view of the **Better Regulation package, further strengthen and widen across the Commission the understanding of the role of citizen engagement in all phases of the policy cycle**, especially focusing on co-creation and deliberative practices;
- Showcase other citizen engagement that other services of the Commission are organising such as the co-design of **HE Missions**;
- **In view of the Commission's 6th priority, showcase deliberative democracy practices in Member States and in particular youth engagement projects**;
- Address some **cross-cutting challenges** including methodological issues with practitioners in the field;
- **Contribute to capacity building about online citizen engagement tools**, providing dedicated seminars and hands-on experiences with tools and methodologies of citizen engagement.



Finally, the 3rd Festival will invite discussion with different practitioners not only about possible political and practical futures of citizen engagement and deliberative democracy. It will run over a week and include a set of asynchronous and synchronous events focused on the pressing issues of our current times and the futures they may imply.

The festival is open to anyone that is interested to attend it. **Registration is required to attend the festival.**

AGENDA

7th December 2020

10.00 -10.30	<p>Overture</p> <p>Comm. M. Gabriel</p>	
11.00 -12.30	<p>Special Session: On COFE. <i>tbc</i></p> <p> Organised by EC-COMM. </p>	
14.00 -15.00	<p>Ferramenta: the COFE platform. <i>Tbc</i></p> <p>Presenter: <i>tbc</i></p> <p> Organised by EC-COMM. </p>	
15.30 -16.30	<p>Conversatorio: On partnerships and institutionalisation: Is citizen engagement an end or a means for a more deliberative culture and democracy?</p> <p>With Arantxa Mendiharat [Deliberativa]; Graham Smith [Univ. of Westminster]; Jane Suiter [Dublin City University]; Pernille Brandt [EC-COMM]. Moderator: Bjørn Bedsted [DBT]</p> <p> Organised by Danish Board of Technology and EC-COMM. </p>	
17.00 -18.00	<p>Conversatorio: You said 'public'? What does the re-shaping of public life in pandemic times look like?</p> <p>With Michael Gorman [BIOTOPIA], Jeffrey Hou [Univ. Washington], Ilona Kish [PL2030], Tiago Rodrigues [TNMS] <i>tbc</i>. Moderator: Anna Paola Quaglia [JRC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-JRC. </p>	



8th December 2020

09.30 -10.30	<p>In Conversation with: What's next with Deliberative Democracy in the EU?</p> <p>With V.P. V. Jourová, Clément Beaune [FR Secretary of State], Karoline Edtstadler [AT Minister for the EU and Constitution], Graham Smith [Univ. Westminster] <i>tbc</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dominik Hierlemann [BS]</p> <p> Organised by Bertelsmann Stiftung. </p>	
11.00 -12.30	<p>Special Session: Designing HE Missions. Where do we go from here?</p> <p>With ? [DG RTD], + <i>tbc</i></p> <p> Organised by EC-RTD. </p>	
14.00 -15.00	<p>Conversatorio: The citizens on citizen engagement. What can we reasonably demand?</p> <p>With Monica Carvajal (Spain); + <i>tbc</i>. Moderator Ângela Guimarães Pereira [JRC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-JRC. </p>	
16.00 -17.00	<p>Conversatorio: What citizen engagement can we practice during COVID-19 times?</p> <p>With Signe Ratso [DDG RTD], Eva Maydell [MEP], Dimitri Lemaire [PARTICIZ] <i>tbc</i>. Moderator: Nora Allavoine [JRC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-JRC. </p>	

9th December 2020

09.30 -10.30	<p>In Conversation with: Beyond the Conference on the Future of Europe: scaling up participatory design of EU policy?</p> <p>With V.P. D. Šuica</p> <p>Moderator: <i>tbc</i></p>	
--------------	--	--



	Organised by EC-SG.	
--	---------------------	--

11.00 -12.30	<p>Special Session: How does social economy contribute to mobilising citizens and stakeholders towards better territorial resilience?</p> <p>With Ulla Engelmann, [HoU GROW], Sinead O'Higgins [Central Library & Waterford Europe, Waterford City], Alexandra Debaisieux, [DGD Railcoop], Matthias Wieckmann [Senate Chancellery, City of Hamburg]</p> <p> Organised by EC-GROW. </p>	
--------------	---	--

14.00 -15.00	<p>Conversatorio: Values, EU values, and value diversity: how to deliberate about them?</p> <p>With Matthias Kayser [Univ. of Bergen], Barbara Prainsack [UCL] + 2 MEPs tbc. Moderator Mario Scharfbillig [JRC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-JRC. </p>	
--------------	---	--

15.30 -17.00	<p>Special Session: Factories of Imagination: in what ways do they encourage citizen engagement on creativity?</p> <p>With Catherine Magnant [HoU EAC], Mieke Renders [TEH], Francesco Campagnari [TEH and University of Venice], David Boyd [Beat Carnival], Sofia de Juan [hablarenarte], Gabriella Riccio [L'ASILO], Gerard Lohuis [P60].</p> <p>Moderator: Jose Rodriguez [CCSC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-EAC. </p>	
--------------	---	--

10th December 2020

09.30 -11.00	<p>Special Session: Citizen engagement strategies: how to put participation in Cohesion Policy into practice?</p> <p>With Claudia Chwalisz [OECD], Sandor Lederer [K-MONITOR], Francesco Amodeo [REGIO] Moderator: Ramses Grande [REGIO]</p> <p> Organised by EC-REGIO. </p>	
--------------	---	--

11.30 -12.30	<p>Conversatorio: Experts and expertise in citizen engagement and deliberative democracy. What is good practice?</p>	
--------------	--	--



	<p>With Johan Bouma [WUR]; Mathieu Saujot [Iddri], Teresa Pinto Correia (Univ. Évora) + <i>tbc</i>.</p> <p>Moderator: Elisa Vecchione [JRC]</p> <p> Organised by EC-JRC. </p>
--	---

14.00 -15.30	<p>Conversatorio: How can the European Research Area help create a market for innovation “by citizens for citizens”?</p> <p>With Signe Ratso [DDG RTD], Joe O’Brien [EI Minister of State], Olivier de Schutter [Univ. C. of Louvain], Antonius Schröder [ERA], Heidi Solba, [Lets Do It World], Anna Panagopoulou [RTD] <i>tbc</i>. Moderator: Philippe Martin [RTD]</p> <p> Organised by EC-RTD. </p>
--------------	--

16.30 -17.30	<p>Ferramenta: Welcome to our rural! Citizen engagement in developing a long term vision for rural areas.</p> <p>Presenter: Zélie Peppiette [AGRI]</p> <p> Organised by EC-AGRI. </p>
--------------	--

11th December 2020

09.30 -11.00	<p>Special Session: Biodiversity <i>tbc</i></p> <p>With (<i>tbc</i>). Moderator: Vujadin Kovacevic [ENV]</p> <p> Organised by EC-ENV. </p>
--------------	---

11.30 -12.30	<p>Conversatorio: Food systems in Covid-19 time: why is citizen engagement so crucial now?</p> <p>With Muki Haklay, [DITO H2020] Carlo Mango [Cariplo Factory], Jacqueline Broerse [Fit4Food 2030 H2020], Helen Miller (<i>tbc</i>) [BIG PICNIC], Christian Bugge Henriksen [FoodShift2030 H2020]. Moderator: [RTD.C2 <i>tbc</i>]</p> <p> Organised by EC-RTD. </p>
--------------	--

16.00 -16.30	<p>Closing</p> <p>DG JRC. S. Quest</p>
--------------	--



Updates and registration will be available from: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/3rd-annual-citizen-engagement-and-deliberative-democracy-festival>

Social, Arts Events & Asynchronous Initiatives

Arts - Performance

Monday [7 th December]	Asynchronous	Launch of a live artistic creation
Tuesday [8 th December]	18.30 -19.30	Performance by the artist
Thursday [10 th December]	18:30-19:30	Isabel Prade [isabelprade.com]
Friday [11 th December]	16:30-17:30	

Social Events with documentaries

Sunday [6 th December]	18.00 -19.30	Documentary 1: <i>tbc</i>
Wednesday [10 th December]	18:00-19:30	Documentary 2: <i>tbc</i>
Friday [11 th December]	18:00-18:30	Documentary 3: <i>tbc</i>

Exhibition

CE & DD Projects – **gallery of videos** – Available throughout the week and Saturday 12th December.

Social Innovation Prize – Announcement of winner, Saturday 12th December

Training

Tbc [JRC Academy]



Annex

Background

The JRC has been following closely for several years new forms of public participation and civic engagement and has contributed to interest inside the Commission. It has also *de facto* contributed to the advancement of citizen engagement practices for policy over the last 2 decades, in several policy fields. It has been collecting different practices, developing guidance, networking and building capacity, as well as implementation of physical spaces (makerspace) and virtual spaces for carrying out citizen engagement. In 2018, the JRC has created a Community of Practice on Citizen Engagement, which has brought together the community of practitioners inside and outside the Commission. More recently, the JRC has been thoroughly involved in the design of both COFE and HE Missions processes, together respectively with COMM and RTD.

When

The festival is planned to span with a rich programme over a week. The proposed dates are 6 - 12 December 2020. Starting on Sunday 6th with an informal gathering, it will close on Saturday 12th with an online social event. The synchronous events will be distributed along the 5 working days in different times of the day. Asynchronous materials and interactive interfaces will be available at any time.

Where

The festival space will make use of the WEBEX Training platform.

Who and for whom

Similarly to last year's event, the 3rd Festival will invite different services to both take active part on the proposed activities, to showcase and also and differently from the last editions to organise activities, about relevant citizen engagement work that is taking place in the Commission now (e.g. the HE missions could consider holding their online events during the festival). Furthermore, the festival will invite key players of different MSs to present cases especially focused on engagement of youth, and through these cases, different aspects of citizen engagement can be addressed, e.g. challenges (current and previous) across different spaces of engagement; citizen engagement futures; evaluation of citizen engagement success, etc. hence, **a number of invitations need to be sent** to different services but also to kindred organisations, such as OECD.

It is our intention to open this festival to anyone that is interested to attend it and make available all materials produced, this being videos of the conversations or written material or visits to a virtual exhibition. **Registration is required to attend the festival.**



Agenda – remarks

Legend

- Event with political relevance.** (Red)
- Special Session: conversations led by Commission services, addressing a pressing question. (Dark Green)
- Ferramenta: a hands-on or demonstration session. (Gold)
- Conversatorio: A conversation on current CE/DD hot topics that needs to end with a recommendation. (Blue)
- Performance: Artistic performance. (Purple)
- Documentaries on CE&DD with commentaries (Yellow)

Platform

Webex Training

Testing sessions: tba

Registration

tba