(Digital) Democracy is a Human Right

Design it, Implement it, Experience It

6th December 2022 - European Economic and Social Committee, Atrium6, Rue

Belliard 99-101, Brussels

9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Logistics:

- Registration to attend one or all the different sessions - *link*

Programme

9.00am - 9.15am Registration

9.15am - 10.30am Session 1- *A rule of law based digital democracy*

10.30am - 10.45am Coffee break

10.45am - 12.00pm Session 2 - *Round table on digital democracy and identification of shared objectives*

12.00pm - 1.00pm LUNCH

1.00pm - 2.15pm Session 3- *P-Cube - Playing Public Policy - showcase and interactive session*

2.15pm - 2.30pm- Coffee Break

2.30pm - 3.00pm Session 4 - *Time for a permanent European Citizens Assembly: a collaborative Blueprint between self-organisation and institutionalisation*

3.00pm - 5.30pm Session 5 - *Transnational European Assembly on Health: End of Life Treatments*

Concept

The event aims at putting together citizens, activists, academics and representatives of the local, national and EU institutions to define a path forward for the strengthening of political rights and protection of the rule of law and democratic values in the European Union.

We will discuss, appraise, and make suggestions on prototypes of how to create protocols of interoperability among different digital platforms and the perspectives on the harmonisation of EU member states policies on regulation of participatory democracy, starting from the European Digital Identity Framework.

Following the innovative practice of cities like Barcelona and Milan on digital participation with the embryonic experiment launched inter-institutionally through the Conference on the Future of Europe and its digital platform, we will co-design a proposal for an European digitally enabled democratic ecosystem and its integration with new forms of deliberative democracy such as Sortition Based Citizens Assemblies.

The event is structured into five sessions, in order for the attendees to engage at different levels and from different angles with the issues related to the protection and advancement of democracy and its connection to the right to science, as it is enshrined by the General Comment on the Right to Science by the UN Economic and Social Committee.

Breakdown of the sessions

Goals and Outputs for each session

Session 1 - 9:15 am-10:30 am - *A Rule of Law based digital democracy*

This session is promoted by Science for Democracy, EUMANS and the Consumers Empowerment Project

The goal of the session is to analyse the existing policy frameworks at EU and National level for the use of digital technologies to empower citizens and leverage their role in deliberative processes, both through the participation in elections and through the activation of 'direct democracy' instruments.

Introductory remarks: Philip von Brockdorff, *EESC rapporteur on Digital Sovereignty and Deputy Dean at Malta University*

Confirmed Speakers:

- Rasmus Øjvind Nielsen, *Postdoctoral Researcher in Politics and Public Administration at Roskilde School of Governance and co-author of the book European E-Democracy in Practice*
- Virginia Fiume, *Co-president of EUMANS*
- Claudio Radaelli, *Professor of Comparative Public Policy at School of Transnational Governance*
- Marco Cappato, *Co-president of EUMANS*
- Gianluca Sgueo, *Professor in Digital Democracy & Public Spaces at SciencesPo Paris*

Session 2 - 10:45am-12:00pm - *Round-table on digital democracy and identification of shared objectives*

The goal of the session is to systematise the legal background offered in the first session and create a dialogue between representatives of the EU institutions, civil society organisations and academics to define a series of proposals of actions and a possible roadmap for strengthening the instruments of democratic participation in the EU and in EU member states.

Moderator: Virginia Fiume, *Co-president of EUMANS*

Confirmed Panellists:

- Dmytro Khutkyy, *Visiting Senior Policy Analyst, European Citizen Action Service, Brussels, Belgium*
- Alexis Gergoulis, *Member of the European Parliament, Shadow Rapporteur on EU Citizenship Report 2020: empowering citizens and protecting their rights*
- Ada-Charlotte Regelmann, *Editor of The Crisis and Future of Democracy*
- Marco Peduca, *Co-founder of Science for Democracy and former Italian Senator*

- Martina Rubino, *Advocacy Officer at European Citizens Rights Involvement and Trust foundation*

Session 3 - 1:00pm-2:15pm - P-Cube - Playing Public Policy - showcase and interactive session

This session is promoted by Science for Democracy in collaboration with P-Cube Playing Public Policy Erasmus+ Project, Presented by Claudio Radaelli

P-Cube is a prototype of an interactive role-play game developed to improve awareness about the importance of developing multi-disciplinary skills in the policy-making field. During the session Professor Claudio Radaelli (Professor of Comparative Public Policy at the European University Institute and member of the Steering Committee of Science for democracy) will introduce the theoretical framework of P-Cube.

After the introduction it will be possible for participants to take part in one (or more) interactive sessions of the Game - with a focus on EU Policies.

The session will be open, but it is highly recommended as a showcase opportunity for potential communities of interests (Schools, Universities, Organisations in the field of education and training)

Session 4 - 2:30pm-3:00pm - Time for a permanent European Citizens Assembly: a collaborative Blueprint between self-organisation and institutionalisation

This session is presented by the coalition Citizens Take Over Europe.

Representatives of the Working Groups ``Constitutional Question" and "Self Organised" process will present the first draft of the Blueprint for a European Citizens Assembly prepared after a critical review of the citizens panels of the Conference on the Future of Europe. During the presentation, information will be shared on the Crowdsourcing phase launched by Citizens Take Over Europe aiming to involve citizens and civil society organisations to contribute to the design of a permanent mechanism of European Citizens Assemblies based on sortition to be institutionalised at the EU Level.

Session 5 - 3:00pm-5:30pm - **Transnational European Assembly on End of life decisions and palliative care.**

This session is part of the TEA Project funded by the European Commission

70 residents of Brussels will be part of a sample of a deliberative civic assembly aiming to develop a set of proposals on the topic of end-of-life decisions and palliative care.

The Assembly will be facilitated by a professional facilitator and will be based on the methodology developed by the coalition Citizens Take Over Europe to draft the Blueprint for the European Citizens Assembly.

The proposals developed by the Citizens Assembly will be addressed to the EU institutions, to the candidates to the elections of the European Parliament and presented in two Transnational Assemblies organised by European Alternatives and the other partners of the TEA Project.

At the conclusion of the Assembly the participants will be requested to share feedback on their experience with the coalition Citizens Take Over Europe to integrate the Blueprint for a European Citizens Assembly.

Organisers

This event is organised by [Science for Democracy](). Science for Democracy is a platform that connects academics, policy makers and civil society organisations for the promotion of the "Right to Science".

[EUMANS](), a pan-European Movement of popular and nonviolent initiatives. EUMANS promotes the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the affirmation of the rule of law and democracy, the protection, conversation and restoration of the ecosystem and sustainable development as well as the promotion of science-based debates and institutional decisions.

The event is part of the [Consumer Empowerment Project](), funded by Euroconsumers and Google, which aims to improve the digital ecosystem for consumers and help consumers understand their rights so that they can make better informed decisions.

The event will showcase the [P-Cube project](#), which aims to help people learn how decisions are taken in the public sphere by covering the individual elements of the policy-making process, placing special emphasis on non-incremental policy change.

Further in collaboration with [Citizens Take Over Europe](#), a civil society organisation that emerged in the spring 2020 amidst the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Citizens Take over Europe is a group of civil society organisations, citizens and residents from across Europe, joined in a common effort to promote a forward-looking and citizens-centred European democracy.

Key references

- United Nations: Staderini/DeLucia Vs Italy: the digital signature for referendum and bill of popular initiatives to overcome the "irreasonable obstacles" to access democracy ([legal reference](#))

- The European Digital Identity Framework and the Italian case of the List Referendum e Democrazia which got rejected from the Italian Elections ([The European Digital Identity Framework](#)) ([Revision of EIDAS Regulation](#))

- The State of Democratic Participation in EU Member States (studies by the European Parliament Reserch Service to be collected)

- Towards a permanent citizens participatory mechanism in the EU (study by the European Parliament) ([link](#))

- Potential and challenges of e-voting in the European Union (Study by Afco) ([Link](#))

- Committee of Ministers Guidelines on the use of ICT in Electoral Processes (approved 9/2/2022) ([legal reference](#))

- Committeee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2017) on standards for e-voting and the related explanatory memorandum and guidelines ([legal reference](#))

- European Commission Report on Citizenship Rights

- Voting Rights and EU Citizens in Mobility - Presentation of the outputs of the Annual Conference on European Citizenship organised by ECIT Foundation (documents to be added)

- Digital Participation in the European Union: upgrading the European Citizens Initiative, the future of the Digital Platform developed for the Conference on the Future of Europe and the need of protocols of interoperability

- The Diffusion of Electronic Voting for Participatory Budgeting Projects: Evidence from Ukraine (Academic research)