

European Citizens' Consultations

Agenda-Setting Event

held at the

**Brussels Exhibition Center
(Heyzel) HALL 10**

Belgiëplein 1, B-1020 Brussels

Saturday, **October 7th**, 10:00 until
Sunday, **October 8th**, 13:00

The European Citizens Consultations are organised by a group of independent organisations led by the King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium) in collaboration with European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), the European Policy Centre (EPC) and the Network of European Foundations (NEF). They are supported by Compagnia di San Paolo, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The European network of partners and funders includes organisations from all Member States. The Citizens' Consultations at national level are organised by coordinating partners and co-financed by national funders.



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard



About the Agenda-Setting Event

The Agenda-Setting Event is the first stage of the European Citizens' Consultations process and takes place in Brussels on October 7th and 8th. Citizens from all European Member States are invited to present their opinions on the influence Europe has had on their lives, and what direction they would like to see Europe take in the future. In identifying common ground on the central question of "what Europe do we want?", they set the agenda for the following national consultations.

Participants

Citizens are selected randomly from all walks of life reflecting the diversity of the population. From each Member State, eight different participants are selected by an opinion research agency. Selection criteria include gender, age, and socio-economic background. Further criteria are added as appropriate in each country.

Dialogue

Once in Brussels, the participants are organised into small discussion groups and supported by facilitators, interpreters, and resource persons. Over two days, they discuss their experiences within and between the groups. The first stage is to identify shared topics by sharing perspectives and thinking about the future role of Europe. Then, by discussing these topics with each other, some of the topics are selected as being the most important. The discussions use a combination of techniques and technology to make sure that all the topics are clear, and everyone's point of view is considered.

The voices of participants shape the event and its outcomes in several ways, ranging from electronic simultaneous voting to wireless laptops on each table, from plenary to open space discussions and speakers corners. An editing team works to incorporate the inputs into the ongoing development of the topics. There are also some less formal games and exercises encouraging participants to put their imagination to use through graffiti, role-playing, and other situations. To allow people to develop their own ideas, most of the activities involve mixing with others from all over the EU. A pre-event survey serves as the basis for the discussions at the event.

Outcomes and Outreach

At the end of the first day, the citizens have selected the topics they find most important for a debate on the future of Europe. During the second day, they work on enriching the topics. The report of the Agenda-Setting Event, the "European Citizens' Agenda", will be available for citizens, stakeholders and the media right at the end of the event.

The Agenda-Setting Event is entirely open to the public. A specially designed Observer Programme allows stakeholders and media to discuss with the organisers and get a deeper insight into the event. The event will be filmed.



Event Schedule

	Steps / Time	Activity	Question(s)	Output
Day 1 Topic Generation	Plenary 10:00	Welcome	Demographics questions	Demographics info
	Bi-lingual tables 10:10	Discussion, Electronic voting	How do I feel in general about Europe?	Input into topic list
	Market Place 12:15	Fact sheets on 3 areas of Plan D an Europe in general; speakers' corners with resource persons; graffiti		Input into topic list
Topic Selection	Plenary 14:00	Welcome: Margot Wallström		
	Bi-lingual tables 14:30	Deliberation of preliminary topic list (ca. 10 potential topics, e.g. "job security", generated from pre-event input and comments from tables)	How do you view the topics? What's missing?	List of topics ordered by preference
	Pan-European Conference 15:30	Deliberation of preliminary topic list	What are your views on the preliminary list of topics?	Comments from discussion
	Plenary 16:45	Prioritisation with stickers	Which topics should be on the European Citizens' Agenda?	List of prioritised topics
	Bi-lingual tables 17:00	Deliberation	Why are these topics so important (or not)?	
	Pan-European Conference 17:45	Deliberation	Why are these topics so important (or not)?	
	Plenary 18:30	Electronic voting	Which 3 topics should be on the European Citizens' Agenda?	List of 3 topics
<i>- 20:00 Evening Party at Bellevue -</i>				
Day 2 Topic Editing	Bi-lingual tables 09:00	3 topics; Re-formulation of the topics into "A Europe that..." phrases	Why are these topics important?	Comments on the topics; Re-formulated topics
	Plenary/ Bi-lingual tables 11:45	Reflective Process	Citizens reflect on their intercultural European experience, their results and how their stance towards Europe may have changed.	Feedback
	Plenary 12:45	Closing address		