

European Citizens' Consultations

European Citizens' Agenda

Agenda Setting Event Outcomes

Brussels, October 7/8, 2006



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.

Consultations Européennes des Citoyens

Faites entendre votre voix

Evropské konzultace občanů

Vyslovte svůj názor

Europæiske borgerkonsultationer

Lad din stemme blive hørt

Raadplegingen van de Europese burgers

Laat uw stem horen

Konsultatsioonid Euroopa kodanikele

Tehke oma hääl kuuldavaks

European kansalaisten konsultaatiot

Saada äänensä kuuluville

European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard

Pasitarimas su Europos piliečiais

Tegul jus išgirsta

Eiropas pilsoņu uzklaušīšana

Jūs u viedokļa uzklaušīšana

Consultas ciudadanas europeas

Haga oír su voz

Europäische Bürgerkonferenzen

Bringe Deine Stimme ein

Διαβουλεύσεις των ευρωπαίων πολιτών

Κάντε τη φωνή σας να ακουστεί

Konzultácie európskych občanov

Využi svoj hlas

Posvetovanja z evropskimi državljani

Zagotovite, da boste lahko izrazili svoje mnenje

Európai Polgári Konzultációk

Hallatjuk a hangját

Consultazioni Europee dei Cittadini

Fai sentire la tua voce

Debata europejskich obywateli

Aby twój głos został usłyszany

Il-konsultazzjonijiet taċ-ċittadini Ewropej

Semma leġnek

Consultas aos cidadãos europeus

Fazendo ouvir a sua voz

Rådfrågning för europeiska medborgare

Gör din röst hörd



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard



The European Citizens' Consultations

The European Citizens' Consultations provide the **first-ever opportunity** for members of the public from all Member States to debate the future of the European Union **across the boundaries of geography and language**. Citizens reflecting the diversity of the population are chosen randomly to take part in the deliberations. They identify common ground and make recommendations to policy-makers. The results aim at inspiring European as well as national institutions as they prepare to take decisions on the next phase of Europe's development.

The consultations create a **truly European discussion**, bringing citizens together at European events and linking simultaneous national debates on a shared agenda of broad ideas and visions set by the citizens themselves. The debates ensure that every voice is heard through an **innovative combination of professional facilitation and modern technology**.

The European Citizens' Consultations process is driven by a consortium of independent and non-political European foundations and civil society organisations led by the King Baudouin Foundation and co-financed by the European Commission's Plan D.

The Agenda-Setting Event

The Agenda-Setting Event was the first stage of the ECC process. Participants from all European Member States met in Brussels to present their opinions on their experiences with Europe, and what they think Europe should be about in the future. In identifying common ground on the central question of "what Europe do we want?", they **set the agenda for the following dialogue process** (see also section "What happens next?").

Eight citizens from each of the Member States are selected at random by an opinion research agency to reflect the diversity of the population. Selection criteria include gender, age, and socio-economic background. Further criteria are added as appropriate in each country. A short pre-event survey serves as the basis for the discussions at the event.

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. Then, after exploring and discussing, three topics are selected as being the most relevant for the national consultations. Finally, participants deepened their dialogue on these topics and developed a multitude of ideas for them. The discussions use a combination of innovative dialogue techniques, interim editing and translations and electronic voting to make sure that all the topics are clear, and everyone's point of view is considered.

This report is a short record of the outcomes of the Agenda-Setting Event and was distributed at the end of the event. A long report will be available by October 20th, 2006. Please contact the organizers or visit www.european-citizens-consultations.eu to obtain a copy and find out more.



The European Citizens' Agenda

Note: These topics will be discussed at the National Consultations in all Member States Jan-Mar 2007; the following paragraphs give only a limited insight into topics raised. Please also refer to the detailed documentation of the Agenda Setting Event, which will be published on the project web page shortly.

Topic 1: Environment and Energy

What do we want to be discussed?

Waste management and recycling, nuclear power, renewable energies, energy independence, environmental technologies, influence of lobby groups, coordination of national energy policies, cross-border impact of environmental degradation, joint research, clean production.

We want a Europe that ...

- ...is a role model for a clean, sustainable and independent world.
- ...provides information and communication to all citizens concerning the environmental impact of all products.
- ...respects itself in order to be energetically independent, cleaner, greener - a Europe that breathes.
- ...reconciles the economy and the environment, to offer a clean, safe and wealthy space for our children and their descendents.

Topic 2: Social Welfare and Family

What do we want to be discussed?

Child care, improvement and harmonization of health care and social welfare systems, mothers and fathers between children and careers, equality of non-traditional family models, pharmaceutical lobbies, anti-smoking campaigns, pricing and availability of drugs in all Member States, abuse of welfare systems, privatization of pensions, transparency and comparability of European welfare systems, role of businesses in supporting families.

We want a Europe that ...

- ... raises social welfare systems in poorer countries, promotes gender equality and stronger child protection laws.
- ... promotes equality and fairness and supports the financial and social needs of the modern family.
- ... gives all children an equal chance.
- ... enables everybody to live together as in a family - with dignity and financial peace of mind, now and in the future.

Topic 3: Global Role, Outside Borders and Immigration

What do we want to be discussed?

EU as a world power, joint global policies, peace making and democratisation, European armed forces, common defence policy, energy imports, legal and illegal immigration, common immigration policy, controls at Europe's external borders, support for counties at EU borders, development aid, positive aspects of immigration, immigration and demographic change.

We want a Europe that ...

- ... is a strong, globally influential Europe with exactly set borders, that everybody can cross, but nobody can break.
- ... is respected and respectful.
- ... acts as a united, strong, independent and proud player on the global level and is open to accept professionally qualified workers from non-member countries.
- ... is safe, secures freedom and plays an important role in the world.



Impressions from the Agenda-Setting Event

"You are the real VIPs. The Commission will listen to you. I hope you will help us to set the agenda and give us your arguments." (M. Wallström)



"This is the best day of my life." (UK)

"When I go home I will now have an image of Estonia. I am more conscious now of your problems." (Maltese)



"We want to be informed about what happens with our money in the EU."

"I think Malta has gained so much through Europe - look at this conference: we are part of it now. Formerly, we didn't even feature in such issues" (Maltese)

"Ireland has a problem with immigrants as well, but then Ireland is a country of immigrants or emigrants as well and we have to learn to accept them and integrate." (IRE)

"Football is the most unimportant of the important things."

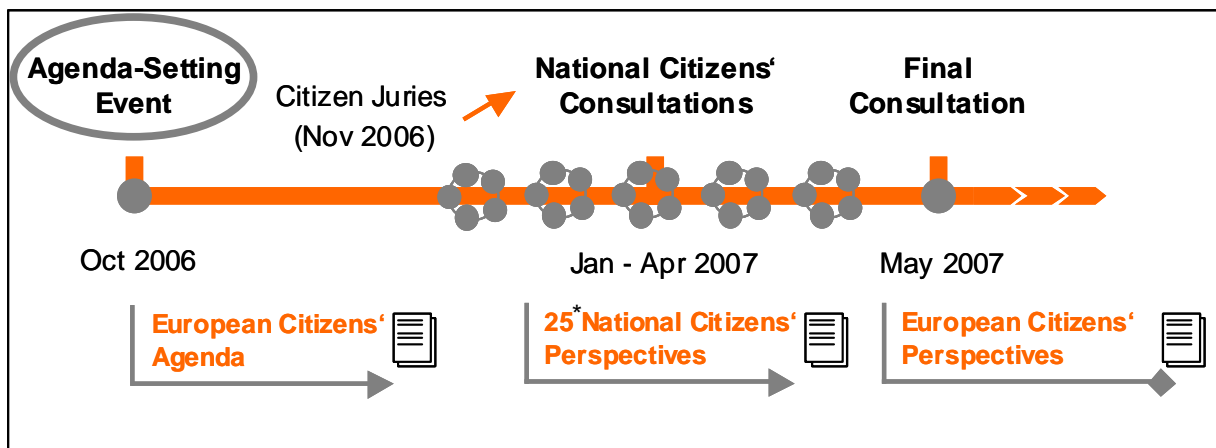
"I am very happy to be here." (Greek)





What happens next?

The Agenda-Setting Event is merely the first step in a dialogue process that will create debates on the future of Europe across the Union. Until the end of the “period of reflection” in May 2007, and in time for the June Summit of the European Council, the European Citizens' Consultations will produce a unique input for policy-makers as they chart a course for the European project.



After the Agenda-Setting Event, two preparatory *Citizen Juries* in November 2006 with 80 citizens assess which kind of information citizens require to lead a fruitful discussion on the topics.

At the heart of the project are the **National Citizens' Consultations** – simultaneous, interlinked debates in all 25^{*} Member States. From January to April 2007, they debate the topics and identify common ground to recommend broad policy directions in “National Citizens' Perspectives on the Future of Europe”. Each consultation has four other consultations in other Member States happening at the same time. They exchange their results and enable the integration of different perspectives across locations. The consultations bring together between 30 and 250 participants and adhere to a common timing. They are organised by national partners and supported by the European partners. In many countries, additional projects are planned around the national consultations in order to facilitate a broader dialogue.

All national outcomes serve as the basis for a European-level synthesis during the **Final Consultation** in May 2007, highlighting the common ground and the areas of divergence between the national outcomes. The final event also kicks off a comprehensive follow-up process, which actively communicates the outcomes to policy-makers on national and European level and provides feedback to the participating citizens and the broader public.

* The European Citizens' Consultations consortium is currently seeking to expand the National Consultations to fund and organise dialogue events in **Bulgaria and Romania**, giving citizens from these two new Member States the first opportunity to join their fellow Europeans in shaping “their” Europe.



How to get involved

The European Citizens' Consultations are more than a one-time exercise in citizen involvement. They are designed as a model for dialogue across the boundaries of geography and language and thereby aim at establishing a template for future European citizens' participation projects that create dialogue in a multilingual and decentralised setting, empower randomly chosen citizens to set the agenda and lead informed debates, use innovative facilitation methods and modern technology to make every voice heard.

There are many ways to get involved in the European Citizens' Consultations:

As a citizen

- § contact the national partner in your country and ask about ways to get involved.
- § use the results of this initiative to talk to your family and friends about the future of Europe.
- § contact your regional, national, and European representatives and let them know about your experience.

As a policy maker

- § contact the European lead partner or the national partner in your country to discuss how to contribute to the project (e.g. with venues, contacts, information, or funding) and how to get involved personally.
- § reference the European Citizens' Consultations in your statements.
- § talk to other policy makers about the value of new forms of dialogue with citizens.
- § inspire and initiate more projects like this. The partners will assist in every way.

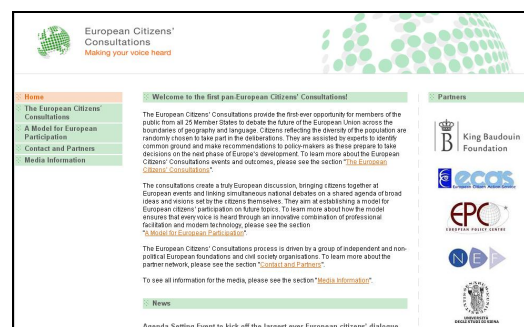
As a journalist

- § contact the European media coordinator or the national partner in your country to request images, quotes, interview partners and other material.
- § consider the ECC's potential for feature articles, TV documentaries, news stories, interviews, personal stories of participants and many other forms of reporting. The partners will be happy to assist you with material and ideas.

As a researcher or practitioner

- § contact the European lead partner to obtain more detailed information on the methodology and raw results from the events.
- § contact the European lead partner or the national partner in your country to discuss opportunities for knowledge-building and research as well as to establish contacts with like-minded researchers and practitioners.

Also, please look at www.european-citizens-consultations.eu for updated information, and provide the webmaster with feedback on your information requirements.





The ECC all over Europe

European Consortium

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