

The project «Debating Europe» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

**Applicable to the Strand 2
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"**

26 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 72.203 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, Romania, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Czechia and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 02/09/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate "Can a European identity exist without a common language?" was to provoke a discussion about Europe's linguistic diversity and the European demos. It looked at the meaning of European citizenship, national identity and European values. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert -

- Kalypso Nicolaïdis, Professor of International Relations and director of the Center for International Studies at the University of Oxford

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 25.122 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Belgium, Croatia, Portugal, Greece, Spain, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Romania, Ireland, Austria, Poland and Sweden.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 21/09/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate "Are young Europeans doomed to a life of internships?" was to provoke a discussion on youth unemployment rates in Europe, and looked at measures that have been implemented to tackle this issue. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Nicolas Schmit, Minister of Labour, Employment and Immigration, Luxembourg
- Ankica Paun Jarallah, Director General of the Croatian Employment Service

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 10.668 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Romania, Finland, Spain, Ireland, Denmark, Czechia, Italy, Portugal, Austria and Greece.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 01/10/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate "Can big companies be trusted to be environmentally friendly?" was to provoke a discussion on sustainable job creation in the EU. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers –

- Ida Auken, a Danish MP, former Minister for the Environment of Denmark from 2011-14, and European Young Leader (2012)

- Jos Dings, director of Transport & Environment, the European Federation for Transport and Environment

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 31.113 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Ireland, Austria, Italy, Czechia, Bulgaria, Denmark and Lithuania.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 14/10/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Have the TTIP negotiations been too secretive?” was to provoke a discussion on TTIP. It looked at European citizen’s sentiments with regards to the transparency of the negotiations and the implications of the trade agreement on European standards. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers –

- Bernd Lange, a Social Democrat MEP and Chair of the Committee on International Trade
- Tiziana Beghin, an Italian MEP with the Five Star Movement member of the Committee on International Trade

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 63.447 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Estonia, Belgium, Czechia, Latvia, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Spain and Ireland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 18/11/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Are Western sanctions against Russia working?” was to provoke a discussion on the consequences of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia for EU-Russia relations. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Toomas Hendrik Ilves, then President of Estonia
- Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, former NATO Secretary General (2004-2009)

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 61.909 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Sweden, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Spain, Greece, Romania, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Poland, Czechia, Ireland and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 03/12/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Is EU enlargement the best way to curb Russian influence?” was to provoke a discussion on the speed of EU enlargement versus more EU integration. It looked at the concerns of the Unions’ citizens and EU influence in Europe’s Eastern neighbourhood. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following policymaker -

- Štefan Füle, former EU Commissioner for Enlargement (2010-2014)

Event 7

Participation: The event involved 16.327 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Spain, France, Denmark, Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria and Finland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 15/12/2015 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What would your ideal European Union look like?” was to provoke a discussion on EU reform. Following the announcement of a UK referendum on EU membership, the debate looked at EU public opinion on the EU’s competences and on the Single Market. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Charles Grant, Director of the Centre for European Reform (CER)
- Tom Casier, Academic Director of the Brussels School of International Studies of the University of Kent

Event 8

Participation: The event involved 14.929 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Romania, France, Italy, Lithuania, Sweden, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany and Finland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 04/01/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What’s stopping you from setting up your own business?” was to provoke a discussion on entrepreneurship in the EU. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Liolios Nektarios, an entrepreneur and co-founder of Startupbootcamp
- Mathieu Carenzo, Lecturer of Entrepreneurship at the University of Navarra

Event 9

Participation: The event involved 46.290 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Spain, Netherlands, Poland, Lithuania, Portugal, Austria, Romania and Denmark.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 11/01/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What does the future hold for the euro?” was to provoke a discussion on the single currency and fiscal integration. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert –

- Stefano Micossi, Director General of Italy’s ASSONIME

Event 10

Participation: The event involved 48.840 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, France, Poland, Spain, Lithuania, Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Greece and Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 25/01/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What’s the best way to improve energy security in Europe?” was to provoke a discussion on energy security and sustainability in Europe. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts -

- Sergio Matalucci, energy journalist
- Claudia Kemfert, energy economist

Event 11

Participation: The event involved 113.377 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, France, Ireland, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Hungary.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 15/02/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Why is populism seen as such a bad thing?” was to provoke a discussion on the rise of populist political movements. It specifically looked at issues like immigration, social inequality and popular trust in mainstream parties. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts -

- Cas Mudde, Associate Professor at the University of Georgia’s School of Public and International Affairs
- Paul Taggart, Professor of Politics at the University of Sussex and Director of the Sussex European Institute

Event 12

Participation: The event involved 5.046 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Belgium, United Kingdom, Croatia, Netherlands, France, Poland, Spain, Italy, Romania, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Greece, Lithuania and Sweden.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 29/02/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Is Europe ready to deal with cyber terrorism?” was to provoke a discussion on new security threats and Europe’s reliance on technology. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert -

- Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Cyber Security Policy Advisor for the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Event 13

Participation: The event involved 37.287 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, France, Poland, Romania, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 14/04/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Has the EU’s policy towards its neighbours been a failure?” was to provoke a discussion on the successes of the EU’s neighbourhood policy. It looks at the EU’s influence in the Ukrainian conflict in the East and Syrian conflict in the South. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts -

- David Cadier, Visiting Senior Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs
- Susi Dennison, Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations

Event 14

Participation: The event involved 37.082 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Poland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 02/05/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “How can Europe reverse its demographic decline?” was to provoke a discussion on solutions to an ageing Europe. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert -

- Alejandro Macarrón, Managing Director of Demographic Renaissance, a think tank based in Madrid, Spain

Event 15

Participation: The event involved 40.015 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain, Greece, Malta, Romania and Croatia.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 17/05/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Would the EU collapse without the borderless Schengen area?” was to provoke a discussion on the advantages of the EU’s freedom of movement. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following policymaker -

- Klen Jäärats, Director for European Union Affairs at the Office of the Estonian Prime Minister

Event 16

Participation: The event involved 34.431 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Ireland, France, Hungary, Luxembourg.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 25/05/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Can renewables compete with cheap oil?” was to provoke a discussion on sustainable energy in the EU. It looked at how member states can encourage renewable energy while securing supply of energy and keeping prices low for consumers and businesses. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Clare Wenner, Head of Renewable Transport at the Renewable Energy Association
- Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Hans Bruyninckx, Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA)

Event 17

Participation: The event involved 100 citizens from all over the Czech Republic.

Location / Dates: The event took place at in Prague in the Czech Republic, on 25/05/2016

Short description: This event was a public discussion on refugee integration. The panel discussion was moderated by Martin Režný on behalf of the Czech Debate Society. Taking part in the panel discussion, and answering questions from the public, were Josef Kraus from the Department of Security and Strategy

Studies (BSS) at the Masaryk University in Brno and Zora Hesova and Petr Novak, two deputies from the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy at the Czech Ministry of the Interior.

Event 18

Participation: The event involved 52.037 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Romania, France, Portugal, Greece, Hungary, Germany, Croatia, Finland, Denmark and Ireland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 23/06/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Does Europe need a common immigration policy?” was to provoke a discussion on effective ways to secure the EU’s borders and meeting responsibilities to protect refugees. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Kristof Tamas, Director, Head of Secretariat of Delmi, the Swedish-based Migration Studies Delegation
- Benjamin Ward, Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch’s Europe and Central Asia Division.

Event 19

Participation: The event involved 64 students from the Kuldiga Centre Secondary School in Latvia.

Location / Dates: The event took place at the Kuldiga Centre Secondary School in Latvia, on 29/07/2016

Short description: The aim of the event “Europe today and in future” was to allow students to ask questions about the refugees crisis, Brexit, economic development and education in the EU. The discussion was led by an 11th grade student. Taking part in the discussion and answering the questions from students were Lolita Cigane, Latvian MP, and Ruta Karlovica, deputy of Kuldiga city council.

Event 20

Participation: The event involved 41.355 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Romania and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 13/06/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “How should European governments deal with returning foreign fighters?” was to provoke a discussion on the EU’s response to home grown jihadist fighters who went to Iraq and Syria. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers –

- Tore Hamming, an analyst on militant Islamism and CEO of MENA Analysis
- Eva Entenmann, a Programme Manager at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)

Event 21

Participation: The event involved 35.912 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, France, Portugal, United Kingdom, Spain, Latvia, Czechia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 07/06/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Should data protection be a global human right?” was to provoke a discussion on the value of personal data. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers –

- Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of the Directorate for Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL) at the Council of Europe
- Marc Langheinrich, Associate Professor for Computer Science at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Lugano, Switzerland
- Paul MacDonnell, the former Head of European Policy at the Center for Data Innovation

Event 22

Participation: The event involved 201.406 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, France, Hungary, Ireland, Romania, Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 11/07/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What is the best alternative to EU membership?” was to provoke a discussion on the value of the European Union. It looked at public disgruntlement, alternatives to EU membership and the importance of the Single Market. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert –

- Thomas Cottier, Emeritus Professor of European and International Economic Law at the University of Bern, Switzerland, former Managing Director of the World Trade Institute and the Institute of European and International Economic Law

Event 23

Participation: The event involved 18.388 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, Poland, France, Lithuania, Czechia, Hungary, Austria, Finland and Slovakia.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 18/07/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “What would make the EU more globally competitive?” was to provoke a discussion on ways to boost European competitiveness in a globalizing world. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Marju Lauristin, Estonian Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Vice-Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Professor of International Political Economy at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Switzerland

Event 24

Participation: The event involved 82.415 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Portugal, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Hungary, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechia, Latvia, Romania and Austria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 01/08/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “How can European education systems be improved?” was to provoke a discussion on ways to reform education systems in order to reduce youth unemployment levels. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers –

- Andreas Schleicher, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills at the OECD
- Prof. Dr. Ludger Wößmann, Director of the Ifo Center for the Economics of Education.

Event 25

Participation: The event involved 14.397 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including Belgium, United Kingdom, Portugal, France, Italy, Czechia, Spain, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland and Lithuania.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 18/08/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Can the EU continue to play a leading role tackling climate change?” was to provoke a discussion on the EU’s role in the international climate change debate amid rising right-wing populism. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following experts and policymakers -

- Wendel Trio, Director of Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Sebastian Mang, EU Energy and Climate Policy Assistant at Greenpeace

Event 26

Participation: The event involved 124.680 citizens, involving participants from at least 15 EU countries including United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, Greece, Ireland, Romania, Hungary, Czechia, Latvia and Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, from 26/08/2016 to 31/08/2016

Short description: The aim of the online debate “Is it time for a joint European army?” was to provoke a discussion on European defence cooperation. It looked at ways European member states can work together to tackle Russian influence and Islamist terrorism. We put questions from our community of citizens to the following expert –

- Marcin Terlikowski, Head of the European Security and Defence Economics Project at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)