

EUROCITIES

ENGAGING WITH CITIZENS

Report on results of the 'Cities4Europe
– Europe for citizens' campaign
and the citizens panel pilot project

March 2019

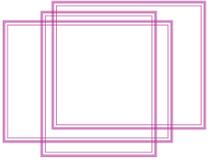


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Table of contents

Introduction	4
Part 1 - The Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens campaign	5
Overarching objectives	5
Supporting partners	5
Official launch	5
Campaign activities	5
Local activities	5
Young ambassadors	6
Postcard initiative	6
Declaration on citizens' engagement	6
Part 2 - Citizens' panels	7
Participating cities	7
Citizen selection	7
Panel organisation	7
Panel agenda	7
Online consultation results	8
Part 3 - Citizens' panel debate results	10
Social rights	10
Education	10
Environment	10
EU governance and communication on Europe	11
Digitalisation	11
Economic development	11
Health	11
Migration	12
Cohesion policy	12
Conclusion	13
Annex A - Citizens' panel titles	14



Introduction

All levels of government in Europe are striving to retain legitimacy and relevance in the face of growing detachment between people and politics. Disillusionment and Euroscepticism are also fuelling the momentum of populist and extremist movements. In 2017, EURO CITIES, under the presidency of Daniël Termont, former mayor of Ghent, decided to act on the need to address these challenges by changing the way politics is done in Europe and acknowledging the important role city authorities can play as 'honest brokers' bridging the divide between the EU and its citizens. The Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens campaign was launched to give Europe better tools for engaging with citizens and a better chance of enabling them to help shape a stronger future for Europe. In this first phase in 2018, more than 300 events were held in over 90 cities across our network to inspire other levels of government on how to work and engage with citizens.

In a second phase of the campaign early 2019, we collaborated with the European Commission, DG Communications, to hold citizens' debates on the future of Europe across our membership, tying in with their online consultation. With groups of citizens in 18 European cities discussing a set of themes to come up with recommendations on future actions to be undertaken by the EU, we contribute to building a new connection between Europe and its citizens while identifying issues close to people's hearts.

The outcomes of the overall campaign and citizens panels are presented in this report.



Part 1 The Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens campaign

Overarching objectives

The three objectives of the Cities4Europe campaign are to:

- involve citizens in a dialogue about Europe's future
- inspire all levels of government to build societies where people come first
- impact the way decisions are taken in Europe

Supporting partners

The campaign was realised with the support of 11 partners: Actors for Urban Change of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Bozar, Codemos, European Cultural Foundation, European Festivals Association, European Youth Capital, Eurotowns, Pakhuis de Zwijger, the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC), URBACT and Young European Federalists.

Official launch

We launched Cities4Europe-Europe for citizens in May 2018 with an online kick-off involving all participating cities plus a European event at Bozar in Brussels. We invited European, national and local political leaders and well known cultural personalities to this event which featured a high-level public debate bringing together 500 people.

Campaign activities

Five very different campaign activities were designed to engage citizens in a dialogue about Europe's future.

- Local activities and events
- Postcard campaign on 'my Europe 2030 will...'
- Young city ambassadors
- EUROCITIES declaration on citizens engagement
- Citizens panel pilot project

Local activities

Over 90 cities in 28 European countries organised local activities to collect citizens' ideas for building a fairer and more sustainable society. Many of these activities were about engaging citizens, presenting ideas for new forms of democracy and mapping out a positive, common future. The whole process was aimed at co-creating societies where people come first and trust between citizens and public authorities is strengthened.

The 300 local events and initiatives included:

- citizens' panels - public debates on issues relevant to the local area such as unemployment and migration
- 'Europe at school' activities - cultural initiatives including art exhibitions, film festivals and guided cycle tours
- online campaigns - social media activity to encourage ideas and interaction
- group activities - enabling people to discuss, cook together, pairing newcomers with locals etc.

Postcard initiative

This initiative gave citizens an easy way to share their ideas about how they would like Europe to look in the future by completing this sentence on a postcard: 'My Europe in 2030 will.....'. We received over 1000 postcards from all over Europe, most of which focused on social and environmental messages.

The 10 most frequently mentioned hopes for the future are that Europe will:

- be more sustainable and green
- be more united
- be proud of its diversity and fight against racism
- strengthen cultural and school exchanges
- welcome refugees
- increase opportunities for exchanges and learning languages to remain a continent of peace
- promote cohesion
- reduce inequalities and poverty
- invest in technologies
- promote the safety of its citizens

Declaration on citizens' engagement

The adoption of this declaration, which has now been signed by over 60 cities, was the focal point of our annual conference in Edinburgh in November 2018. The declaration states the responsibility for all levels of government in the EU to rise to the challenge of retaining trust, legitimacy and relevance for European citizens. It also reaffirms the commitment of mayors to develop a more positive future for Europe and to make a significant contribution to the creation of a more citizen-focused Europe.

Central to this contribution is enhancing representative democracy with participative mechanisms. By enabling mutual trust, active participation and constant dialogue, such mechanisms can help Europe respond to pressing public concerns such as climate change, social cohesion, housing and employment.

As signatories of the declaration, EUROCITIES mayors and leaders made a commitment to strengthen citizen engagement by:

- involving citizens in a dialogue about our common future
- inspiring all levels of government to play a part in building societies where people come first
- making a positive difference to the way decisions are taken in Europe

Young ambassadors

Cities across 18 countries selected 60 young people with very different backgrounds to be young ambassadors. Aged between 18 and 30, these young ambassadors accompanied their city delegation to our annual conference in Edinburgh, where they had their own programme of activities. As well as taking part in general sessions and debates and talking with local politicians, they also shared their perspectives and ideas with fellow ambassadors. Several young ambassadors had the opportunity to meet

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and ask her questions about issues they care about, and to take part in debates with local and European political leaders.

Part 2 Citizens' panels

Participating cities

Citizens' panels were organised in 18 cities from 12 member states, with a fair balance of countries from the north, south, east and west of Europe: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania Spain and the United Kingdom.

In terms of population, there was a purposefully wide range, from Amiens and Heraklion with around 130,000-150,000 inhabitants to large municipalities like Lille Metropole, Munich and Hamburg with more than one million.

A total of 1265 citizens took part in the panels, which ranged in size from 14 to 285 people.

Citizen selection

Each city was responsible for recruiting citizens for its panel, representative of the city's diverse population in terms of age, gender, socio-economic background, neighbourhood, long-term citizens/newcomers. Most cities used social media, email and classic communication channels and sites to reach their target audience. Some received help from Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) or other partners, associations and networks. Some cities selected participants from the entire population, others chose to engage particular groups, such as young people or people with disadvantaged backgrounds.

Panel organisation

To prepare for its citizens' panel, each city followed a process which we co-developed with the cities.

Each city

- received an information pack containing 35 factsheets on topics relevant to the future of Europe and a general document on the European Union. Available in all relevant languages, these materials were provided by the European Commission and the European Parliament.
- selected the topic it wanted to focus on from those identified by the European Commission in its online questionnaire on the future of Europe: cohesion policy, migration, environment, education, security, social rights, health, technology, economic development and agriculture.
- added EUROCITIES position papers and reports related to its chosen topic into its main information pack, along with research studies and local expert opinions.
- identified local experts for its panel discussion from academia, civil society, trade unions, business and journalists as well as a moderator. We and the European Commission also provided an expert for each panel.
- informed chosen citizens that they had been selected to take part in the panel at least one month before the event and provided them with the information pack.
- invited selected citizens to complete the European Commission's online questionnaire on the future of Europe.

Panel agenda

Each citizens' consultation followed a similar format

- an opening debate was held on the chosen topic/s involving the selected experts and citizens
- citizens were divided into smaller groups to focus on particular aspects of the chosen topic/s and develop three concrete proposals on how to improve the situation in their city. This included actions to be taken, which had to be transferable to other cities or to Europe
- back together as one group, citizens voted for the panel's top three recommendations from those made by each smaller group. These were sent to us for presentation at the second mayors summit in March 2019, to which citizens participating in the citizens panels were also invited.

Online consultation results

As well as taking part in the citizens' panels, participants were also asked to fill in an online survey we ran with the same questions as the European Commission's online consultation. The main results are given, question by question, below. There were around 200 responses to each question. The number of respondents varied widely between countries however, which makes comparison difficult.

Which of the following¹ would best describe the ideal future for the European Union?

Answers to this question were very different from a country/language perspective. German citizens, for example, selected fair and equal access to education, gender equality, increased use of renewable energies, a real government for the entire EU and a minimum level of guaranteed healthcare across all EU countries. For French citizens the priorities were access to education and environmental issues such as more organic agriculture and renewable energy and less food waste. Dutch speaking people put increased renewable energy use and equal access to education as their top choices. Spain's citizens put these issues in second place below a real government for the entire EU. Polish citizens endorsed equal wages for the same job across the EU as their top choice. Interestingly, security was not mentioned very much by any citizen.

To improve each of the following areas², would you prefer to have more, or less, harmonisation between EU countries? Or would you prefer to keep the current situation?

Overall, responses to this question called for more European harmonisation in all the proposed areas: animal welfare, consumer protection, wages, food safety, taxation, minimum social benefits, pensions,

1. A minimum level of guaranteed healthcare, increased use of renewable energies, reduction in food waste, fair and equal access to education, increase in organic agriculture, equal wages for the same job, a real government for the entire European Union, a high level of security, a guaranteed minimum pension, gender equality established everywhere.

2. Animal welfare, consumer protection, wages, food safety, taxation, minimum social benefits, pensions, education, quality of goods and services, privacy and data protection, environmental standards, quality of agricultural goods.

education, quality of goods and services, privacy and data protection, environmental standards, quality of agricultural goods. Environmental measures gained consistent results across countries/languages but there were some interesting differences on other topics. For example, more harmonisation of minimum social benefits was selected by 67.5% of German citizens, 75% of Dutch speaking, 80% of Polish, 91.7% of Spanish and 100% of French respondents.

On immigration in Europe, what should now be prioritised for the benefit of Europeans in 20 years' time?

Developing a truly common asylum policy, helping to integrate migrants in host countries and improving the situation in countries migrants come from were endorsed by a large majority of citizens, except in Poland and Spain. There was a desire to reinforce collaboration between EU countries to manage migration for 35-50% of German, Dutch speaking and French citizens but only 12-15% of Polish and Spanish respondents.

From the following list³, what should be prioritised in Europe to protect the environment?

The development of renewable energies was the clear first choice here, but with varying percentages: the highest from Poland and the lowest from Spain. Setting stricter environmental norms for industry and investing in more environmentally-friendly forms of transport were also chosen by citizens in all countries. Protection of biodiversity received very different votes, from 2% of Spanish respondents up to 30-32% of French and German citizens.

3. Protect biodiversity, invest in more environmentally-friendly forms of transport, deal with technological and electronic waste, preserve natural resources, increase recycling and waste sorting, reduce food waste, reduce energy consumption, develop renewable energies, set stricter environmental norms.

What should be the priorities for the EU to make life safer for its citizens?

A significant majority of respondents selected combatting terrorism and radicalisation, more cooperation between countries on defence policy and tackling cybercrime. Polish citizens considered tackling cybercrime less of a priority, as did Spanish respondents, who also had less enthusiasm for more defence policy collaboration. It was noticeable that 37.5% of Polish citizens were in favour of better control of external borders.

What do you think should be done to improve access to healthcare for all Europeans?

More affordable medical treatments and more money allocated to healthcare were the first choices of most countries, except Spain whose citizens prioritised more medical staff in rural areas. More health research received very different votes, from Polish citizens' 12.5% to 20.5% in Germany, 30% in France and up to 51% from Dutch speaking people.

In which of the following⁴ areas do you think technology will have the biggest impact in Europe?

The majority of respondents selected employment/work and education as their first and second choices, although French citizens put the latter at the top. The health sector received votes between 37% and 50%, with the exception of Spanish citizens with 19%. The lowest percentages concerned migration and social integration, although 20% of French and 25% of Polish citizens thought technology could have a big impact on these issues. Crime received very different percentages - just 2% from Spanish citizens and 30% from Dutch speaking and German respondents.

What do you think should be done to provide European citizens with economic security?

Citizens from different countries showed marked differences in their answers to this question. Fighting corruption was the top choice of French and German respondents, while a universal basic income came top among Dutch speaking and Polish people. Social guarantees such as harmonising social rights, increasing social benefits and guaranteeing a fair state pension received very disparate percentages, from 0% in France to 34% in Germany. Great differences were also seen in relation to providing jobs for everyone, with percentages ranging from Spanish citizens' 10% to Dutch-speaking 13%, German 25%, Polish 31% and French 40%.

What are the main risks/threats for the European Union in the coming years?

Political extremism and disagreement between member states were seen as the main threats - and as threats which can be connected. The risk of pollution was chosen as the third most significant risk. Spanish respondents, who did not consider possible disagreement among member states or pollution as major threats, were the exception. Poor management of immigration was seen as a risk by 55% of Dutch speaking people, 40% of French and 31% of German and Polish, but only by 8% of Spanish citizens. Conflict with countries outside the EU were considered possible threats by around 31-46% of respondents - although the figure for Spanish citizens was 0%. No Spanish citizens think natural disasters pose a risk, although 13% of German, 25% of Polish and 40% of French and Dutch speaking people believe they do.

4. Social protection, finance, employment/work, social life, crime, migration, health, education.

Part 3

Citizens' panel debate results

Most cities chose one thematic priority for debate in their citizens' panel, with just a few deciding to focus on more than one topic. The three most popular topic choices were clearly endorsed by citizens, showing the desire for a greener Europe with strong social rights and education opportunities for all.

Social rights

Social rights were directly or indirectly referred to in 10 citizens' panels: Cluj-Napoca, Ghent, Glasgow, Hamburg, Heraklion, Munich, Riga, Terrassa, Turin and Utrecht.

The focus of the proposals made by these cities' panels was on creating more inclusive societies and providing for a decent life with decent work and a better work-life/study-life balance as well as access to public services and equal opportunities.

Individual proposals included setting up an EU-wide unemployment insurance and placement scheme and strengthening European employability. The idea of developing an ambitious European Fundamental Social Rights plan was put forward, as was another for creating a 'social rights EU year'. There were also recommendations for local social rights initiatives as well as sectoral initiatives - such as transparent and appropriate pricing for clothes.

The idea put forward by a number of panels to establish a European minimum wage is one that could be addressed at EU level.

Education

Education matters were addressed by nine panels, in Amiens, Amsterdam, Glasgow, Lublin, Mannheim, Munich, Nantes, Riga and Terrassa.

The promotion of inclusive education and lifelong learning to provide equal opportunities for all regardless of background or ability was a common theme among the cities' proposals. Citizens also expressed their support for reducing school segregation, developing European civic education for youngsters and fostering European exchanges for all types of school.

The establishment of a 'European Week of Taste' as part of a plan to make food a priority educational focus is an idea that could be taken up by the EU.

Environment

Environmental themes, including energy and transport issues, were covered during six panel debates, in Ghent, Hamburg, Lille Metropole, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Utrecht.

In the main, these cities' citizens' panels endorsed the importance of preserving the planet's ecosystem, including biodiversity. The need to reduce air and soil pollution prompted a proposal to encourage stricter EU standards. The need to preserve limited water and energy resources prompted some to suggest use of sustainable energy management systems should be encouraged. Transport issues were considered important too, with a wish to foster sustainable modes of transport by, for example, instituting fairer pricing for public transport. Some panels came up with the idea of establishing a legal framework for sustainable, green procurement. Others were keen to support EU ecology start-ups, with one idea being to create a European start-up ecosystem.

The harmonisation of freight transport policies across Europe, establishing a binding legal framework for green procurement and the adoption of a new approach to agriculture that makes CAP subsidies conditional on compliance with environmental and sustainability criteria are three ideas that the EU could choose to reinforce.

EU governance and communication on Europe

These issues were tackled in five panel debates, in Amiens, Heraklion, Riga, Terrassa and Turin.

These cities' panels backed the need for greater cooperation between the different policy levels in Europe - EU, national, regional and local - and for better engagement with residents. The importance of getting city leaders and decision-makers to value citizens' contributions was also mentioned. To this end, proposals called for better, and better-funded, communication to build and sustain connections between all players. Some pointed out the need to raise the standing and improve the image of European Parliament members and to create specific communications and roles for young people, through Youth City Councils (YCC).

The idea of setting up simple Europe-wide rules for e-participation and citizen involvement through direct democracy is one that the EU could champion as a way of ensuring Europe and its citizens continue to work together for a stronger future, into the future.

Digitalisation

The impact of digitalisation was discussed by citizens' panels in Amsterdam, Mannheim, Munich, Oulu and Turin.

These five groups of citizens concentrated on three issues: data protection, digital investment and users' access to digital services. They pointed out that data security at all levels should be reinforced to prohibit data trade and that there should be more regulation and control of large platforms and general conditions of operation for all platforms - of which citizens should be made more aware. In terms of specific proposals, one involved using digital technology to create user-oriented maps of services, activities and events by residential area.

Out of these debates came an idea that addresses one of today's biggest technology challenges: data sovereignty. The establishment of a regulated, standardised online platform with one single login for securing, managing and sharing personal data would put users in control of their own data. This could be a task the EU takes on to protect both citizens' rights in the digital world and the digital world's potential.

Economic development

Economic development issues were the focus of attention in four panels - Glasgow, Hamburg, Mannheim and Munich.

Interestingly, for these citizen groups improving economic development was mainly connected to social and education expectations and aiming for a fair balance between the two domains. Some citizens highlighted the need for better distribution and taxation of capital power and for taxation of European activities carried out by transnational companies. Others called for a European government with its own finance minister and for greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

EU-wide harmonisation of tax rates was discussed positively during these panels and is a concept the EU could choose to take forward.

Health

Health issues were specifically referred to in four citizens' panels, in Ghent, Glasgow, Nantes and Utrecht.

Proposals from these citizen groups concentrated on health protection, including more support for healthcare systems. Some groups called for stricter EU standards for issues that impact citizens' health and for financial incentives to, for example, reduce unhealthy food consumption and enable investment in healthy food production.

The idea of promoting healthy and sustainable food through smarter, user-friendly information systems is one that could come to fruition in the form of an app developed by the EU.

Migration

Migration was at the heart of three panel events, in Lublin, Mannheim and Terrassa.

While these three citizen groups shared the view that support is needed to provide social integration and educational activities for migrants, mainly at city level, their discussions revealed differences of opinion on other issues. Lublin's panel believed there is a need to seal the EU's external borders and increase the efficacy of identity verification of people entering the EU to protect European citizens. Terrassa's group was in favour of promoting welcoming and inclusive societies in fields from migration to education.

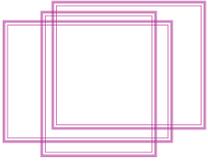
The calls by Mannheim citizens for direct EU funding for cities to enable them to address city-specific migration issues and for European harmonisation of asylum and immigration laws could be heard and acted on by the EU.

Cohesion policy

Cohesion policy was dealt with, directly and indirectly, in two panel discussions, in Cluj-Napoca and Heraklion.

For citizens in these two cities, cohesion policy was clearly connected to EU governance and improved cooperation. Cluj-Napoca's group was keen to promote the engagement of local communities through greater use of participative tools as a way of bringing the benefits of EU cohesion policy closer to beneficiaries and simplifying its rules. In Heraklion there was consensus about the need for a special focus on the role of young citizens, notably through the involvement of Youth City Councils (YCC).

The need for greater cooperation between the different policy levels - EU, national, regional and local - to increase the impact of cohesion policy was articulated by both these panels. It is a need the EU could explore to reinforce. As is the need, noted in Cluj-Napoca, to reduce the gap between urban and rural development for metropolitan areas.

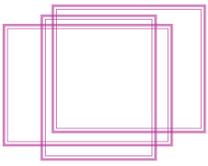


Conclusion

The Cities4Europe campaign has not only engaged citizens in generating a raft of tangible proposals across a very broad range of issues, for the EU to take careful note of and consider adopting. It has also taught participating cities some important lessons about how best to engage citizens.

These cities have three main recommendations. The first is to focus citizens' attention sharply on specific, concrete issues rather than more abstract concepts such as 'the future of Europe'. The second is to make part of the EU budget available for citizen-lead initiatives, using a participatory budgeting approach to allow residents to identify, discuss and prioritise how EU public money is spent. The third is to use an e-participation digital platform to directly involve citizens in EU related decision making.

We need our cities to make the most of these recommendations and succeed in engaging their citizens on European issues - a much-needed process for EU politics to reconnect and regain their trust. Cities4Europe has brought home that cities have a vital, natural role at the forefront of citizen engagement - and show the path that can be taken at national and European levels too.



Annex A - Citizen panel recommendations

City: Amiens (France)

Event title: **2019 EU elections: this time, I vote!**

1. A better communication towards the European citizens
2. Give the European members of Parliament a better place, better role, a better image
3. Give a European civic education to the youngest

City: Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Event title: **Is Google your best friend?**

1. Prohibit data trade, data sovereignty is a human right. People are not a business case. We need a community based approach to (personal) data and tech and we need to create and support value-driven technology.
2. Everybody has the right to their own firewall.
3. Promote, guarantee and support freedom of choice through education and media literacy.

City: Cluj Napoca (Romania)

Event Title: **Citizen consultation on the European Union's Cohesion Policy - YOU are Europe. Together we imagine the future of Europe.**

1. Reducing the gap between Urban and Rural local development, for metropolitan areas. Cities are extending their influence and typology of living toward the metropolitan areas, that most includes villages and rural areas with access to different type of financing programmes. There is a need of identifying specific types of development programmes that allows this local communities to better absorb the changes and social shock of technically becoming urban places, while striving with rural needs in terms of development. Extending the practice of combined support from ERDF/ESF for urban regeneration projects beyond the 10% threshold. Extending the intervention mechanism through local action groups in rural areas to neighbourhoods of cities and metropolitan areas.
2. A real and functional policy of merging regulation of the Operational Programmes, so that cities can experience a relevant change in the level of effort needed today to implement European funded programmes (e.g. even if it is already being announced as a change, the simplification of procedures did not get to the local level the way it was designed. To actually achieve this objective for different Operational Programmes is easier said than done at this point, so therefore there is need for a lot of improvement to actually get to cities-oriented simplification procedure policies).
3. Use more the participative tools available to bring the benefits of cohesion policy closer to the beneficiaries in the member states (e.g: local level participative processes to encourage projects and ideas by organising calls and once selected, the most relevant projects, local administration should have access to European financing to implement them). It is about exporting from the city level the participatory programmes that were already tested, and work to get them access to financing from other sources than the local one, which is now being used. This will create a general context of enhancing the participation of citizens, an increase in the quality and relevance of the projects and also an opportunity to exchange good practices between cities in a more applied and citizen-oriented way. Linking responsible research and innovation RRI/EUROCITIES programmes like 'Science in the city' to enhance creating networks that can both share and exchange experiences and optimise the impact of funding in a more cohesive way.

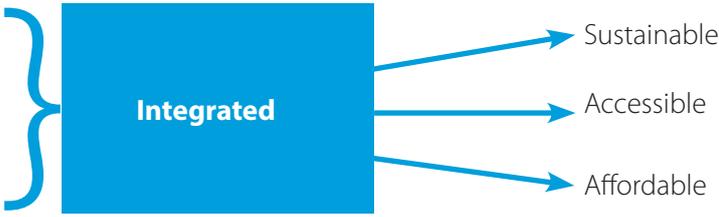
City: Ghent (Belgium)

Event title: European citizen panel on social and green Europe

1. A legal framework for sustainable procurement and purchases: Europe should issue guidelines with sustainability criteria, where both the contracting authority (at all levels, i.e. local, national and European) as well as the companies that acquire the contracts must adhere to.
2. An ambitious 'European Fundamental Social Rights Plan': In analogy with the European Convention on Human Rights Europe should draw up a Fundamental Social Rights Plan. This guarantees the basic quality of life for every European. Attention is paid to work, but also to the right to housing, education and learning, health care, ... The implementation of this plan can be financed through a redistribution of resources (for example other forms of taxation).
3. Encourage energy management systems at all levels: Europe should get rid of fossil fuels. Instead, they must enable changes to the energy grid, so that decentralized production, consumption, distribution and storage of energy become possible. Such management systems can be used at neighbourhood level, but also between companies, in a city, nationally or at European level. The EU is responsible for stimulating innovation and opening up good practices. It is also their task to draw up the legislative framework. This can be financed through a kerosene tax.

City: Glasgow (United Kingdom)

Event title: Improving economic development in the future of Europe

1. Education - Lifelong learning to provide equal opportunities for everyone regardless of background; with emphasis on:
 - Funding for economically demanding skills (e.g. STEM: Science Technology Engineering and Maths)
 - Improve support packages for students (e.g. transport and childcare)
 - Take education out of classrooms (community courses)
 - Keep EU education initiatives beyond Brexit
2. Increased investment in public led transportation systems:
 - Train lines
 - Bus
 - River
 - Underground

The diagram consists of a blue box labeled 'Integrated' in the center. To its left, a blue curly bracket groups the list of transportation modes: Train lines, Bus, River, and Underground. Three blue arrows point from the right side of the 'Integrated' box to the words 'Sustainable', 'Accessible', and 'Affordable' respectively.
3. Health - Shift to preventing poor health while protecting vital parts of our services that support health

City: Hamburg (Germany)

Event title: Sustainable consumption and responsibility

1. Transparent and appropriate pricing for garments and clothes. In the future, real prices will be charged for all garments: The real prices include not only production costs but also external costs, meaning ecological and social costs.
2. Fair pricing for public transport. We want to establish a cheap unit price for every citizen (like Wien 365 €/year). With a GO-Card everybody who paid the unit price for a year is able to get through installed turnstiles into the train, subway or bus.
3. New approach to EU agricultural subsidies. Only farms with ecological and sustainable practices should be entitled to EU subsidies. Especially the principle of calculating the subsidies depending on the acreage has to be replaced by the principle of supporting small and middle-sized as well as local farms.

City: Heraklion (Greece)

Event title: Citizens' dialogue on the future of Europe on cohesion policy, social policy and education

4. Youth City Councils (YCC) – under the guidance of the EUROCIITIES Young Ambassadors, and in any case under the institutional supervision of Municipal Authorities, Youth City Councils should be established with a view to support and counsel and advise institutional City Councils. YCC should meet regularly, at least 4 times a year, and should be guaranteed presence at City Council sessions and consultative powers concerning both issues discussed at City Council level and YCC own initiatives. It would be advisable to coordinate YCCs within EUROCIITIES, with the support of the EU: EUROCIITIES would be responsible for the organisation of an annual YCC plenary meeting. YCC are meant to have a concrete impact and play a tangible role in addressing young citizens' related issues and in making them heard at institutional level.
5. A greater cooperation between different policy levels (EU, national, regional and local level).
6. An increase in EU budget for communication, enhancing the link between Brussels, the national EP and EC representations, and the regions and the municipalities (local authorities being naturally closer to both citizens and the youth), dedicating a special measure to Youth City Councils information and communication initiatives.

City: Lille Metropole (France)

Event title: Citizen panel on air quality

1. Align pollutant emission ceilings with WHO recommendations and develop indicators on the link between pollution and health.
2. Develop systems and norms to decode pollution standards on everyday consumer products that emit pollutants into homes and establishing a European label, a simplified standard (similar to organic labels) & encourage or establish app development, type Yuka (online tool: <https://yuka.io/>), allowing the consumer to know the issuer nature of consumer products.
3. Support rail and river transport by encouraging these modes of transport rather than the road. How to harmonise freight transport policies at European level with more constraints?

City: Lublin (Poland)

Event title: **What will the future migration policy of the European Union be like?**

1. Educational activities among children and adult citizens of Europe as well as migrants in order to build consciousness on migration.
2. Sealing the external borders of the European Union and increasing the efficiency of identity verification of persons entering the EU in order to provide safety for residents of the EU.
3. Support from the European Union towards member states in order to provide complex, free of charge language lessons, social integration, finding a job and apartment among residents of a city (without creating 'ghettos') as well as free of charge and easily accessible legal services on local and regional level.

City: Mannheim (Germany)

Event title: **Cities for Europe - Mannheim for Europe**

1. Education: 'Neutral' educational campus with mensa, free homework help, library, cafeteria, etc. This should be detached from the schools and in a place of its own where the pupils can go after school in order to be able to take advantage of further non-formal educational offers which are not (or do not want to be) offered at the schools. Neutral in this sense means that opportunities arise here which the schools cannot make possible through their tight curricula, etc. The EU flag is to be hoisted in front of the building, in order to make it clear that the campus was co-financed by the EU.
2. Migration: EU funding directly to EU cities. This refers to situations in which state policy deviates from local policy, when for example national policies do not match the reality in the cities. A direct funding to cities should enable them to receive refugees and offer adequate services (integration but also asylum procedures). A direct financial support to cities would allow more flexibility and ability to act rather than funding programmes of the federal state or state.
3. Economic development: Tax justice EU-wide, harmonise competitive conditions. The citizens proposed that the tax rates between the countries should be adjusted and harmonised, in order to prevent the undercutting of tax rates within the EU. Hence, transnational companies benefiting from the European market should also benefit the EU.

City: Munich (Germany)

Event title: **Citizen panel on the future of Europe**

1. Economic development: Justice (Corporations/small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), better distribution/taxation of capital power, social balance within the economy, EU-wide unemployment insurance and placement; minimum wage, ensuring basics (work, housing, education). European government with own finance ministers & own budget & uniform tax rates. Social market economy at EU level, EU minimum wage & social aspects.
2. Education: More Europe in school and university, as a subject area as such. Strengthening European employability: 'Uniform' dual training in Europe, (financial) promotion of continuing vocational training. Strengthening and promoting European exchange for all types of schools (not only grammar school pupils but also middle/Real/vocational school pupils/leaders) + social EU year.
3. Security: Setting up a uniform European law on asylum and immigration. Developing binding cross-border cooperation to fight crime at local level. Reinforcing data security (protection of the IT infrastructure - physical and software, software product safety standards and controls, algorithm control, rules relating to the general conditions of platforms, more regulation and control of large platforms)

City: Nantes (France)

Event title: **Should Europe take better care of our health?**

1. To strengthen consumer information on food products. E.g. to develop Foodwatch or to create a European 'Nutri-score' multicolour nutritional system
2. To develop similar and transparent medical care throughout Europe (medical analyses, medicines etc.)
3. To promote food as a priority educational matters: To organize a European week of Taste, breakfast tests in schools etc.

City: Oulu (Finland)

Event title: **Digitalisation in the service of citizens**

1. Digital, user-oriented service map by residential area. The proposal is based on the idea of producing a map-based service that provides selective offerings for public, private, and third sector services, hobby activities and events in the residential area based on given user requirements and preferences, such as age group, life situation, free-time interests etc. The digital service map could also provide detailed information about the physical accessibility of buildings, facilities and service points in them.
2. Digital I: Investments in developing a regulated standardised on-line platform with one single login for securing, managing and sharing your personal data. Based on the discussions, the users are ready to deliver their own information to ensure user-oriented digital and other services, provided that sharing is perceived as secure and that the management and sharing of their own data remains in the user's own hands. In the solution to be developed, it is essential to collect now dispersed user-specific information in one on-line platform, where their personal data may be combined and shared according to their own needs and choices.
3. Enabling digital one-stop access to one-stop-shop approach to customer services. Digitalisation and ICT-mediated service is expected to bring new ways to improve the efficiency of customer processes and improve customer experience so that, from the customer's point of view, the 'one-stop-shop principle' is realized. Customer launches their service at one point of contact or service. Integration according to service needs takes place in the delivery process by the service providers and there is no need to direct the customer from the service and/or system to another. The success of the delivery requires transparency and opportunities for feedback and dialogue.

City: Riga (Latvia)

Event title: **Citizens participation for city growth**

1. Use of infrastructure in public transportation to inform inhabitants and city guests about interesting facts, events and other information, that would foster participation, sense of belonging and social inclusion. For example, participants suggested, that information monitors available in public transports in city of Riga should be used to project interesting facts about the city of Riga, that would increase the knowledge of inhabitants and city guests about Riga and foster the sense of belonging to the city or neighbourhoods.
2. To engage inhabitants and foster social and civic inclusion through support and development of local initiatives for communities, such as neighbourhoods communities and activities that promote cooperation and communication on individual level as well as integrational solidarity; or use local spaces to develop urban gardening that would increase local cooperation, communication and involvement.
3. Actively promote voluntary work in schools. To foster youth inclusion and civic participation. As an example, dedicate specific time during the learning process to promote voluntary work in local communities in different fields.

City: **Strasbourg (France)**

Event title: **European consultation on environment and adaptation to climate change**

1. To impose in all development projects a net enrichment of the on-the-spot biodiversity, and of the biodiversity around the development zone, while preserving the functions and the continuity between the ecosystems.
2. To reduce water consumption by developing education and training to eco-gestures.
3. To preserve land in order to maintain a viable and productive agriculture, respectful of soils, water, air, biodiversity and people.

City: **Terrassa (Spain)**

Event title: **Human and social rights in Europe**

1. Guarantee the right to decent housing and work for all: Laws must be adapted to people to promote a decent life in issues such as housing and basic social rights that are violated. There is a need to tackle the current repetition of the real estate bubble and the speculation that led to a crisis that still has consequences. Legislate to guarantee the right to decent housing through social rental and limited sale price. Social policies and sanction the owner's banks, promote decent and social rents before eviction (2 every day in Terrassa) and curb the presence of vultures that speculate on lives. In eviction other rights are infringed (life, childhood, families, ...). In a social context that causes a new marginalization, due to energy poverty, it is necessary to limit business interests in basic service rates such as water and electricity. Right to decent work, a topic that causes inequalities in other rights. Guarantee everyone who does not have the necessary resources (whatever their origin). More protection for the figure of the autonomous professional, with tax improvements, greater equality with other workers and boost their ability to create jobs.
2. Promote welcoming and inclusive societies in areas from migration to education: Do not close Europe to immigration and fight against mobs that deal with people (as in the case of prostitution). Migrants and refugees have the basic right to survive, as they must leave their countries due to warlike, economic or persecution reasons. To demand less self-protectionism of the states and to consider cooperation strategies with the South to put an end to situations that end up entailing the need to migrate or request asylum. Promote an inclusive education and reduce school segregation. Value and guarantee rights to people with diverse abilities.
3. Enhance the participation of people and cities in decision making at all levels: We ask for the role of cities in Europe, as actors present in the decision boards and as direct managers of policies and funds. We must value the contributions of citizens and impregnate all policies with social rights. In the city there is the first administration in the day to day, and we have to guarantee transversal rights, not divisible; rights are not resources, they are needs. Promote more citizen participation and promote the role of citizen thinkers. European economic policies must prioritise social behaviour, rather than based on economic interests. There is a real defence of individual freedom and thinking of European citizenship as fundamental pillars of the rule of law; it is a question of social justice. We need to train and inform citizens more, with open policies, better channels from the European Union and without party sense.

City: **Turin (Italy)**

Event title: **Technology in the socio-economic and cultural development of Europe**

1. To promote use of standards in developing a simple and effective user experience in digital services in public administration fields
2. To set up common, European-wide, simple rules in e-participation and citizen involvement in direct democracy through online tools
3. Data privacy and security as a primary concern, spreading knowledge on these issues among European citizens

City: Utrecht (The Netherlands)

Event title: Europe panel city of Utrecht on health, inclusivity, urban living

1. Healthier air quality with stricter EU legislation on CO2 emissions for a zero emissions future: Make urban air healthier through stricter EU norms for CO2 binding targets, and increase knowledge in cities & innovative urban initiatives for electric public transport, car sharing & charging stations and decrease subsidies on aviation and bio industry.
2. Healthier minds with an EU-wide policy on stress in work and education: Make EU policy and a vision on mental health, for less stress and better work-life and study-life balance, to improve health for all citizens in the future of the education, study and labour environment in Europe.
3. Healthier food with EU financial solutions: Make EU financial solutions for unhealthy food to make it less attractive and increase prices of unhealthy food and invest in cheaper healthy food and innovative urban pilots on sustainable and healthy food production.





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