Dialogue with citizens ahead of the European elections

In 2012, the Commission started organising town hall meetings, known as ‘Citizens’ Dialogues’, around Europe. These events bring together members of the European Commission and representatives of national, local and regional authorities to discuss European policies with citizens. Under the Juncker Commission, over 88,000 people of all backgrounds have taken part in these question and answer sessions.

Citizens’ Dialogues are instrumental in bringing new voices into the debate on the future of the Union. With the European elections approaching in 2019, the European Commission is encouraging Member States to spread similar initiatives to inform citizens on the Union’s achievements, challenges and future options before they go to vote.

**OUTREACH**

- **195 million people**
  Potential media outreach

- **31.4 million people**
  Social media impressions

- **750,000 viewers**
  Live webstreaming

- **Over 88,000**
  Participants
The Future of Europe: A Discussion with Citizens

In March 2017, the Commission launched a new debate on the future of the EU at 27, through the publication of a ‘White Paper on the Future of Europe’. Members of the Commission have been travelling across Europe and listening to citizens’ views on the different scenarios put forward, giving everyone a chance to contribute to shaping the Union.

225 dialogues attended by almost 36,000 citizens and Facebook live dialogues followed by 140,000 viewers. Total potential outreach: 34 million Europeans through media and social media

151,000 tweets related to the Future of Europe, from 52,000 different accounts

Working with Member States

The 2019 European elections should allow citizens to decide on what sort of Europe they want for the future, and a well-informed debate is one key condition for a high turn-out and a further enhanced legitimacy and accountability of European institutions.

The European Commission is planning to host or help organise around 500 more Citizens’ Dialogues before May 2019. The European Commission will share the benefits of this experience with Member States planning their own events and is ready to offer its support wherever it can.
The Irish Government launched a national campaign to promote public debate on the future of Europe in November 2017. Citizens’ Dialogues are central to this, with the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, and the Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee speaking at the first campaign event in Dublin. A series of Citizens’ Dialogues, organised by the Government, are now taking place around the country.

The Swedish Government is working to strengthen participation and engagement in EU-related issues in Sweden. Thematic consultation forums on EU affairs aim at increasing knowledge about the EU and improving stakeholders’ consultation on European issues: a forum was organised for each Reflection Paper linked to the European Commission’s White Paper on the future of Europe. This initiative was extended to civil society organisations, social partners, regions and municipalities, which are now joining in a symbolic EU handshake and discussing EU challenges together.

The Bulgarian government is planning a series of Citizens’ Dialogues in the framework of the Presidency of the Council of the EU during the first semester of 2018. These will touch on the future of Europe and Bulgaria’s role in shaping European politics. Several ministries will organise public debates and foster engagement with EU-related issues. The topics will include the contribution of European funding and financial engineering to the innovation ecosystem in Bulgaria.

Have your say on the future of Europe: europa.eu/W37Th
Citizens’ Dialogues website: europa.eu/ICM89Vn