

FINAL OUTREACH EVENT OF EU24-ENGAGE FOR THE PLANET PROJECT

Democracy and Inclusivity in Times of Climate Crisis

21st June 2024

14:00h - 17:30h CEST

Location: European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels

Background

The event is organised in the context of the **EU24- Engage for the Planet project**, which is funded under the **CERV Programme of the European Commission**.

The project aims at **narrowing the democratic participation gap** among young citizens, citizens from diverse backgrounds, and mobile union citizens, in a gender-balanced way. This initiative **empowers these groups** by emphasising the importance of their voices in shaping the future. Despite the recent surge in voters' turnout for the EU election, it remains a noticeable **underrepresentation** of citizens of diverse backgrounds and mobile union citizens in **active EU politics and democratic processes**.

Central to engaging citizens of diverse backgrounds is the recognition that **climate change** poses one of the greatest threats to humanity today. Addressing this challenge demands solutions that transcend borders and necessitate collaboration on both transnational and multinational scales and of all citizens. Hence, the importance of cultivating **inclusive dialogue and engagement** to collectively confront and decide on this urgent global issue.

Over 20 months, the project has implemented gender-balanced blended **exchange events** between domestic and mobile union citizens in the fields of climate justice, climate change and sustainability – in **5 European countries** (Poland, Germany, Netherlands, France and Sweden), while also developing tools to make democratic decisions as more inclusive as possible.

Presentation of the event

The final outreach event of the project aims to present the results achieved during the implementation to a wider audience, and create an impact in terms of policy acknowledgement. It seeks to **promote inclusive democracy** as a crucial component in **addressing the pressing climate crisis**, particularly in the context of the **2024 European Elections**. The best practices, tools and recommendations developed during the project will be highlighted to promote the **participation** of underrepresented groups in democratic processes. After the election results, special attention will be given to **policymakers and key stakeholders** working on inclusion to explore the challenges and opportunities for inclusive democracy in addressing the climate crisis from various perspectives. Space will be given to the involvement

of participants to discuss directly with policymakers, through a fishbowl conversation to encourage participation in the conversation.

The event will be an opportunity to **explore and debate** alternative methods for inclusion.

Room will be given to a small ceremony to present the **poster competition** and the country winners.

Agenda

14:00 - 14:15 Opening Session

Moderator: ALDA

- Welcome remarks by the moderator
- Overview of the Event Agenda
- Opening by ALDA

14:15 - 15:45 Round Table Discussion and Interactive Session

Moderator: Magdalena Klarenbach, Otwarty Plan

Title: Exploring Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusive Democracy in Addressing Climate Crisis from various perspectives

Speakers:

- Joanna Jakubowska - Bankwatch
- Martin Barthel - Comparative Research Network
- Stephanny Olivieri - Youth Environment Europe
- Monika Dubiel - Doctorate in Cultural and Religious Studies from the University of Warsaw

QUESTIONS FOR ALL SPEAKERS:

- What are the main challenges for democracy in addressing the climate crisis?
- How are different sectors of society, including marginalized groups, affected by the climate crisis, as well as by actions taken to address it?
- What are the best practices for involving local communities and marginalized groups in decision-making on environmental action?
- How can democratic mechanisms be used to foster innovative solutions and actions for sustainable development in addressing the climate crisis?
- What are the potential challenges for democracy arising from the implementation of climate crisis policies, especially in the context of conflicting interests and political pressures?

Audience Engagement and Interaction (Online)

15:45 - 16:00 Poster Competition International Award ceremony

- Presentation of the competition idea by CRN
- Presentation of the country winners: France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden

16:00 - 16:30 Presentation session

Moderator: ALDA

Title: Tools and good practices for inclusive democracy - EU24 Engage for the Planet project achievements and reflections

1. **Inclusive Public events - Francesca Olivier, Almost There**
Blended format debates on food production, energy, climate justice and mobility
2. **Inclusive online tools - Kamila Franz & Maxine Cottreau, Comparative Research Network**
E-democracy platform
3. **Inclusive social media - Lizeth Lopez, ALDA**
Un(heard) voices campaign
4. **Final conclusions on inclusiveness and diversity**

16:30 - 16:40 Conclusions

16:40 - 17:30 Refreshments