

## FINAL OUTREACH EVENT OF EU24-ENGAGE FOR THE PLANET PROJECT

### Democracy and Inclusivity in Times of Climate Crisis

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

14:00h - 17:30h CEST

Location: VMA22, VMA building: Rue Van Maerlant/Van Maerlantstraat 2.  
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

### 13:30 - 13:45 Registration

### 14:00 - 14:15 Opening Session

**Moderator:** Adrien Licha, ALDA

- Welcome remarks by the moderator
- Overview of the Event Agenda by Moderator
- Opening by Lidija Pavić-Rogošić from EESC
- E24 - Engage for the Planet project from moderator

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

**Moderator:** Magdalena Klarenbach - Otwarty Plan and Alexandre Meterau - ALDA

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

Speakers:

- **Anna Troëng** - Advisor to the Director General for *Communication and Spokesperson of the European Parliament*
- **Lidija Pavić-Rogošić** - *EESC* expert on rural areas and local communities
- **Saha Balaganesh** - Policy Manager at **The Democratic Society**
- **Stephanny Uliviery** - Project Lead at *YEE*
- **Gordon Rattray** - Programme Coordinator at the *European Disability Forum*
- **Monika Dubiel** - Consultant of accessibility solutions for visually impaired people

### QUESTIONS FOR ALL SPEAKERS:

- What are the main challenges for democracy and inclusion in addressing the climate crisis after the last European Elections?
- How can democratic institutions more effectively incorporate a diversity of social and cultural perspectives in decision-making on the climate crisis?

- What are best practices for involving local communities and marginalized groups in decision-making on environmental action?
- What are the most important opportunities for democracy in the context of creating climate policies that are both equitable and effective?
- How can greater public involvement in environmental and climate change efforts be promoted?
- How can a more inclusive and sustainable approach to democratic decision-making processes on environmental and climate issues be promoted?

Audience Engagement and Interaction (Online)

### **15:45 - 16:15 Presentation session**

**Moderator:** Adrien Licha - 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 - Dr Kamila Franz & Maxine Salmon–Cottreau, Comparative Research Network**  
E-democracy platform
3. **Inclusive social media - Lizeth Lopez (online), ALDA**  
(Un)heard voices campaign
4. **Final conclusions on inclusiveness and diversity - Anna Bieniasz, EGEA Alumni**

### **16:15 - 16:25 Poster Competition International Award ceremony**

**Moderator:** Adrien Licha - ALDA

- Presentation of the competition idea by Comparative Research Network
- Presentation of the country winners: France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden

### **16:25 - 16:40 Conclusions & Evaluation**

**Moderator:** Adrien Licha - ALDA

### **16:40 - 17:30 Refreshments**

**Digital exhibition of the posters and videos of the (Un) heard voice campaign**