



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard

European Citizens' Perspectives on the Future of Europe

We, citizens of Europe, have deliberated on the future of Europe at both European and national dialogue events. With this document, a synthesis of the outcomes of our national dialogues, we make our voices heard at a European level. We ask you, European and national policy makers, to take our views into account as you prepare decisions on the future of Europe. And we invite fellow citizens and the media to continue this debate we have started.

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Preface

The following pages are a synthesis of 27 individual 'National Perspectives on the Future of Europe' created by randomly selected citizens in all Member States. They participated in similarly structured two-day deliberations on a shared agenda of three topics selected by citizens themselves. The full text of all 'National Perspectives' is available online.

This document, the "European Citizens' Perspectives on the Future of Europe", is a report edited by representatives of all National Consultations. It shows areas of agreement and disagreement between the national panels. For each statement, the national panels, which agree with it, are indicated as, for instance, "(BG/HU)" for Bulgaria and Hungary. The text reference appears in grey/italics. Quotation marks indicate direct quotes from one of the panels.

In their 'National Perspectives', the participants started by outlining visions for Europe regardless of institutional responsibilities necessary to achieve these visions. In a second and separate step, participants assigned specific responsibilities to the EU and/or Member States (and/or other actors). Although this document is not structured according to the two steps outlined above, it is possible to trace the distinction: on the one hand, whenever the text refers to "Europe", the statement is linked to the vision citizens created of the environment they would like to live in. It does not refer to any specific policy level. "EU", on the other hand, specifically relates to institutions of the European Union.

The following abbreviations are used throughout the text:

Austria-AT; Belgium-BE; Bulgaria-BG; Cyprus-CY; Czech Republic-CZ; Denmark-DK; Estonia-EE; Finland-FI; France-FR; Germany-DE; Greece-GR; Hungary-HU; Ireland-IE; Italy-IT; Latvia-LV; Lithuania-LT; Luxembourg-LU; Malta-MT; Netherlands-NL; Poland-PL; Portugal-PT; Romania-RO; Slovakia-SK; Slovenia-SI; Spain-ES; Sweden-SE; United Kingdom-UK, European Union-EU, Member States-MS.



The social and economic conditions for Europe's families

A proactive, social EU (23 MS)¹

All across Europe, our national consultations nearly unanimously ask for the EU to play a substantial role in virtually all social policy issues, and actively create a “social Europe” (25 MS²) beyond the ‘economic Europe’. We would like Europe to play a larger role in promoting *equal rights* (12 MS³) and safeguarding the *dignity and individuality* (PT/IE/AT), and *human rights* (UK) of all persons, and in protecting *vulnerable and disadvantaged* (CY/IE/PT/LV/SK/HU/GR/BE/UK) members of our societies from *discrimination* (FR/NL) and in *eliminating poverty* (FI/AT/UK). One of our panels urges for *the integration of social rights into a Constitutional Treaty* (HU). Another wants Europe to play a *pioneering role in the world regarding social issues* (BE).

While a few of our panels assign more direct responsibilities to the EU for *creating and implementing* (BE/LV/LU/PT/DK/ES) social policies in these directions, many more agree that the national level remains the key decision-making level when it comes to *specifying and deciding on the details* (DE/PT/SE/AT) of employment, welfare, education, housing and health policies. Decision-making in these areas, some argue, remains the “*prime responsibility of each Member State*” (IE/FI/SE/LT), or *should be dealt with regionally* (AT). For not only are they more familiar with local priorities and circumstances, they will also take care that *national differences* (FR/GR/MT/UK) and *religious and cultural differences* (PT) are respected.

Some of us also stress the need for more individual *responsibility* (DE/LV/BE), which, however, requires that basic social rights and conditions be provided for.

Gradual harmonisation of social and economic policies (GR/DE/BE) among EU countries and the creation of *equal opportunities* (EE/DE/SE/SI/HU/FI/BE) are at the centre of the social agenda our panels envisage. One of the objectives is to reduce social and economic disparities between the Member States, which would prevent people from *migrating for economic reasons* (BG/FR/LU/NL). In this process, we ask for European *solidarity* (FR/PT/SE) and demand *support for economically weaker Member States* (DE). Some of our panels also highlighted the need to support companies to *act socially responsibly* (HU/LU/MT) and to decrease disparities.

Many panels believe that harmonising policies requires EU institutions to take on more responsibility, on the basis of a national commitment to cooperate on a European level. Most of us advocate that the EU sets *minimum standards* (BE/IE/GR/LU/DK/NL/DE/LV/PL/IT/LT/RO/ES/UK), and *fights inequalities* (FR). It should also be able to *enforce* (AT/LV/UK/ES/IT) these standards by, for example, using a *minimum percentage of GNP for social services and health care* (FI), while encouraging more advanced countries to develop legislation further (MT).

Moreover, the Union's institutions should *monitor* (LV/HU/LU/FI) national implementation, exchange *best practices* (SE/BE/UK), and support *communication* (SK/GR/IE/BE) among Member States in the area of social policy. A few of our panels suggested that the EU *monitor the social security situation in each country* (DE/LV/EE/LT/LU), while two panels *ask the EU to support MS in acting against the abuse of social benefit systems* (MT/IE).

¹ AT/BE/CY/DK/EE/FR/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PL/PT/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK

² AT/BE/BG/CY/DK/EE/FI/FR/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PL/PT/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK

³ BE/CZ/DK/FI/FR/HU/IT/NL/PL/SK/SI/UK



Some of our panels mention a Europe with less crime and violence (LT/SE), in which citizens feel safe and “not fear each other in ghetto societies” (BE). A few panels put a priority on *appropriate and affordable housing* (NL/ES/SI/BE), envisioning a Europe where no one is *homeless* (UK).

Families at the heart (23 MS)⁴

Almost unanimously, our panels put the “*family as a high value*” (AT/DE/HU/MT/PL/SE/SI/GR/PT/LV/SK) firmly on the European agenda, one characterising the family as a “*key to solving [the social] problems of Europe*” (SK). Aware of constant changes in cultures, values and attitudes and of demographic shifts, many of our panels put an emphasis on new patterns of family life, “*non-traditional*” (BE/LU/PT/MT/UK) and “*incomplete*” families (PL), and the need to include older generations (LU/SE/PT/DE).

We believe that *improving the social and economic conditions for families* (GR/MT/PL/DE) should be a European policy goal, because most of our panels think families in Europe need better *protection and support* (BE/DE/LV/DK), and the problem of *low birth rates* (MT/EE/PT/CY/SE/SK/DK/LU/SI/HU/GR/LT/ES) is apparent. One of our panels stated that religion should play no role in family policy (DK).

To a large extent, our panels consider “*combining family life and careers*” (IE/BE/DE/IT/SE/DK/LU/FI) a key challenge for tomorrow’s Europe. Many panels propose specific policies – at EU as well as at national level – to address the issue, including the improved availability of (or even a *right to* (DE)) *child care* (CZ/NL/CY/LU/LV/DK), *work/life balance* (MT), *working time flexibility for parents* (UK/BG/DK), opportunities for *parental or care-taker leave* (BE/UK/DE/CY/PT), and *job protection* (BE/GR/IT) for those returning from leave. Many of our panels would like to see the EU support *family-friendly* (HU/LU/MT/ES/SE) work places, with one emphasising the need to provide adequate support structures for families (AT).

Some of our panels propose policies that support families beyond the professional sphere, for instance, measures that *support families with children financially* (CY/SK/BG), with *subsidies for housing* (SK/IT) (rent or purchase) or the provision of *low-interest loans* (SK).

Children, many of our panels believe, need to be *protected* and to *feel safe* (IT/GR/IE/BG/LT/SE/PT/EE). For many of our panels, the EU could take an active role in this field by setting common *rules* (PT/BG/DK/LT) to ensure more stringent protection of children and their *rights* (BE). Some of our panels demand *preventive measures against child abuse* (DK) and *domestic violence* (PT/SE). One of our panels suggests *simplifying and shortening the process for adopting children* (PT).

Some of our panels wish to see women and their rights better protected, arguing women should be “*appreciated and not penalised for their decisions*” (GR/CZ/IT) in balancing private and professional lives.

In Europe intergenerational solidarity needs to be guaranteed (LU/PT). The *elderly need to be supported in order to be able to live their life in dignity* (IE/CZ/ES/SK/AT). *Following one of our panels, they should be able to remain active on the labour market* (NL), but also to “*look forward to their retirement with joy*” (SE), because *pensions are fair and guaranteed* (BG/NL/PT/IT/LU/ES). According to two of our panels the *EU should help Member States to provide care for the elderly* (IE/AT).

Jobs and opportunities (19 MS)⁵

Some of our panels put an emphasis on EU policies to *harmonise and set minimum standards in the areas of employment and labour markets* (SK/SI), *preventing distortion of competition by ensuring healthy and safe working conditions* (NL). For two of our panels this includes the *definition of minimum wages*

⁴ AT/BE/BG/CZ/DK/FI/DE/GR/HU/IR/IT/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SI/SE/UK

⁵ AT/BE/CY/DK/EE/FI/DEHU/IT/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PT/SK/SI/SE/UK



(ES/LU). For many of us, principles like *'the right to work'* (AT), *"equal pay for equal work"* (HU/DK/LU/PL), *non-discrimination* (CZ/SK/UK/IT/SE) and *equal access to the labour market for women* (CZ) must form part of this agenda, as they will also help tackle challenges like the *brain drain* (HU/LU) from which some Member States currently suffer.

Recognising the importance of respecting dignity and granting equal opportunities, as mentioned above, some of our panels stress that *everyone should be able to contribute to society* (AT/BE/EE), be it through *paid or unpaid work* (AT) in a Europe in which *gender, age or handicap "will not be an obstacle to finding a job"* (PT/CZ/CY/ES).

In this context, two panels want the EU to better protect its citizens from *precarious labour contracts* (MT, ES), and promote *socially responsible employment* (MT/LU).

Convergence in health care (14 MS)⁶

Concerning health care, our panels largely agree that the EU should work towards, and set standards ensuring *accessible, dignified, high-quality and affordable* (IT/PL/LV/BE/SK/NL/PT/HU/AT/LU/ES) treatment in all Member States. Some of our panels would like to see the provision of *equal quality of primary health care* (DE/SK/CY/IT) across the EU as a policy goal. One panel asks the EU to *monitor the quality of health-care providers* (SK).

In many consultations, we discussed strategies to reach these goals, and came up with suggestions including *open competition* (IE/GR) and *cross-border access* (CY/NL/IT) on the one hand, and international *cooperation* (IE/SK) of health services and in *health research* (SE) on the other hand. Two of our panels promote the idea of *free health services across Europe* (DK/PT).

A few of our panels would like to see health policy focus more on *prevention* (BE), *alternative medicine and treatments* (PT) and a more active role for the EU in *preventing and fighting drug and alcohol abuse* (PL/CY/LT). One of our national groups would like to see the EU *promote a healthy lifestyle* (EE).

Raising the bar on education (15 MS)⁷

Many of us assign an important role to the EU in developing *uniform* (FR) and *high standards for education* (EE/LV/BE/LT) at *all levels* (PL) in the Member States. The qualifications could be determined at EU level, while the *specific content* (DE) for comparable and *compatible degrees across Member States* (BE/HU/PL/RO/SE/DK) is specified at national and regional levels.

The resulting education system, most of our panels agree, should be *free* (DK/NL/ES/PT/DE) and accessible to everyone *regardless of age and background* (BE/HU), *responsive to individual abilities, talents and wishes* (AT) and *support children with special talents* (RO/CY).

Some of our panels promoted *life-long learning or training* (LU/MT/UK/FR/IT) opportunities, which could, for instance, focus on *the re-integration into employment* (LU) or *parental skills* (MT). One of our panels sees a role for the EU in supporting educational programmes geared towards *preparing first-time job seekers* (LU) to meet *labour market needs* (MT).

Many of us would like education to incorporate a European dimension, for instance, through the expansion of *exchange programmes* (RO/SI/BE/DK/FR) at all levels of education, *effective Second Language education* (HU), or a *European citizenship education* (FR).

⁶ AT/CY/DK/DE/HU/IT/LV/LU/NL/PL/SK/ES/SE/UK/BE

⁷ AT/BE/FR/DE/HU/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PL/RO/SK/ES/UK



The EU's role in the world and the management of immigration

Unity in diversity (22 MS)⁸

Many of our panels would like to live in a Europe that is *open to the world (SK/SE/CZ/BE)* and cultural differences, and yet *coherent and united internally (LU/FR)*. This Europe is *strong and self-confident (DE/BE/FR)*, speaks with *one, strong voice (DE/UK/MT/LU)* at world level and “*positions itself as a unique pole with its own original structure*” (BE).

Europe's diversity should not be considered a detriment, many of us believe, but a *wealth (BE)* or an *added value (LU)*. We all agree that the EU should play an active role in *preserving, appreciating and respecting (EE/FI/SK/LV)* this diversity in *peoples (IE/FI/EE)*, *knowledge (SE)*, *customs (CZ/SK)*, *languages (FI/EE)* and, above all, *national and cultural identities (EE/FI/DK/PL)*. In addition, this diversity should be communicated and many of our panels call for the EU to do more to foster *cultural exchange and tolerance (RO/ES/PL/LV/FI/PT)* by providing financial support for *intercultural (PT)* and *educational projects (BG/PL/BE/FI)*, *non-governmental organisations (ES/FI)* and *adult education institutions (FI)*. In this context, some of our panels address the issue of religion. Some want the EU to remain a *secular (DK/DE/LU/SE/FR/BE)* and *religiously tolerant (SK/BE/PT)* space. One panel calls for Europe to preserve *its Christian roots while respecting separate identities of other countries (PL)*.

And yet, our emphasis on diversity goes hand-in-hand with the recognition by some of our panels of *common and shared European values (BE/DE/EE/FR)* and achievements. According to most of our panels, the EU should take on an active role in protecting and promoting *peace (DK/FR/UK/LU)*, *democracy (SE/RO/AT/DK/FR)* and respect for *human rights (BE/SE/DK/PL/LU/FI/SI/FR)* and *justice (SE)* across the world. Some panels are of the opinion that the EU should use *peacekeeping forces (DK/UK)* and its *diplomatic (EE/DK/LV/HU/AT)* strength to provide a *strong role model (IT/UK/BE/DE/DK/MT/CZ)* across the world in this field.

One of our panels believes the EU could “*be a force capable of providing a counterbalance to the trend towards a unipolar world dominated by the US*” (FR).

By the same token, some panels acknowledge the need for the EU to be able to act or react *jointly and in solidarity (PL)* in the fields of *foreign (BE/CZ/DE/LU/IT/MT)*, *security (AT/PT/BE/HU)* and *defence policy (FR)*. Two panels advocate *European armed forces under the supervision of the Member States (HU)*, or *within NATO (RO)*, and a third proposes an *EU-wide police force for the security of collective borders (UK)*. One panel suggests a common *EU policy towards the defence industry which would exclude the possibility of national vetoes (DE)*.

One of our panels expresses the need for a *European Foreign Minister (DE)*, and for a *shared seat in the UN Security Council (DE)* while others mention the need for a *common diplomatic service (LU)* and *civil crisis management capacities (FI)*.

Preventing and controlling illegal immigration (24 MS)⁹

There is a commitment among some of our panels to do more to help those in need and *grant asylum to the persecuted (DE/NL/PT/CY/UK/AT/BG/PL)*. Four of our panels think that the EU should set a *framework for asylum procedures (NL/CY/UK/AT/PL)*, thereby *shortening the period applicants spend in immigration camps (PL)*.

⁸ AT/BE/BG/CZ/DK/DE/EE/FI/FR/HU/IE/IT/LU/LV/MT/PL/PT/RO/SK/SE/ES/UK

⁹ AT/BE/BG/CY/CZ/DE/DK/EE/FR/HU/IE/IT/LT/LU/LV/MT/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/ES/SE/UK



Most of us feel strongly about controlling and preventing *illegal immigration* (SK/DK/CZ/MT/IT/HU/NL). To achieve this, many panels want more efficient *improved border control* (13 MS¹⁰). Many also stress the need to identify and tackle the *root causes* (CZ/NL/DK/CY/ES/IT) of migration.

Border control

A number of our panels associate the following positive consequences with border control: it helps regulate migratory fluxes, enhance security and reduce crimes such as *human* (PT) and *drug trafficking* (PT/UK/PL). Most of our panels favour a *common or joint approach* (CZ/NL/DK/CY/ES/IT/BG) of both EU and the Member States, with some assigning the EU a *clear role in assisting or cooperating* (IE/NL) with them. Two of our panels raise the issue of *burden sharing* (MT/IT) between Member States. Three argue that *asylum seekers should be more evenly spread* (DE/NL/UK) with the EU assuming a *coordinating role in asylum policy* (UK).

The means to enhance border control, according to a couple of panels, range from *technological support systems* (BG/CY/IT) to *border control forces* (NL/UK/EE). One panel suggests a *joint European organisation to fight terrorism* (PL).

Root causes of immigration

Some of our panels stress the need to *identify the causes* (DE/CZ) of migration and to provide help accordingly. A majority thinks that *development aid* (18 MS¹¹) is an important issue in this context and will help developing countries grow and “*reduce the immigration pressure on Europe*” (FR/PT/HU/DE/BE/EE/NL/SK). To achieve this goal, some of our panels suggest the EU should *target development aid towards the countries of origin of the majority of immigrants* (CZ/EE/BE/SK/FR/RO/HU), while one argues that aid should be distributed *solely based on a humanitarian agenda* (UK).

Both the *EU* (BG/SE/BE/NL/PT/SI/SK) and our *Member States* (AT/IE/SE/NL) should be responsible for the provision of aid, where some of our panels see the *EU's role in ensuring that each one pays its share* (BG/NL/SK) and that the *human rights situation is taken into account* (SE/UK). Some panels specified the *percentage share of GNP* (SE/AT/NL, e.g. SE/AT: 0.7% GNP) to be invested in development aid by the EU or the Member States.

Within this context, three of our panels highlight the need to fight *corruption* (AT/DK/BE). Two other panels mentioned history-related *relationships and responsibilities* (PT/FR) towards certain developing countries.

One of our panels suggested supporting “*education in developing countries, promoting business and establishing companies*” (LT/SE). Other means of addressing the root causes for migration raised by some panels included *increasing trade* (MT/NL/DK) with developing countries, *responsible market economics* (DE), reforming the EU's *agricultural subsidies* (DK/SE/MT/BE) system and *opening up European markets* (DK/DE/BE/MT/SE), while establishing *social and ecological standards for imported goods* (DE). Two of our panels referred to *debt relief* (ES/NL), with one of them saying debt relief should only be granted if the money is invested in *economic, social and democratic development* (ES).

Migration (25 MS)¹²

Many of us reaffirm the principles of *free movement* as well as *equal rights and opportunities* (BG/IE/SK/PL/IT/HU/ES/FR/PT) for migrants within the Union. We believe to a large part that we need to

¹⁰ BG/CY/CZ/DK/IE/IT/LV/LT/MT/NL/PT/ES/UK

¹¹ AT/BE/BG/DK/EE/FR/HU/IE/LT/MT/NL/PT/RO/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK

¹² AT/BE/BG/CY/CZ/DE/DK/EE/FR//GR/HU/IE/IT/LT/LV/LU/NL/PL/PT/RO/SI/SK/SE/ES/UK



address immigration together (16 MS¹³). Many of our panels suggest that the EU should be involved in establishing a *(legislative) framework, mechanisms or common guidelines (FR/ES/AT/LU/HU/UK/CZ)*, or even a *common migration policy (DE/SK/NL/PT/LT/SE)*. A few panels argue that this should not compromise *Member States' role (GR/FR/CY)*. One of our panels suggests appointing a *European Commissioner for Immigration (ES)*.

We largely agree that people should not feel under *economic pressure to migrate (CZ/SK/HU/PL/LV/LT/NL)* because they should find good living standards at home.

Two of our panels emphasise the need to *encourage migration (UK/SK)* to meet the *needs and reflect the resources* of each Member State while *preventing a brain drain (UK)*. It should also be recognised that immigrants *“play a constructive role in large and ageing societies” (GR)* and that migration has a *positive role (RO)* to play in Europe's future growth. One of our panels expressed concern about the increase of the migratory flux with the potential accession of *Turkey given the specific situation in Cyprus (CY)*. Two panels stress the importance of *equal rights for EU citizens living outside the Union (PL)*, and *national minorities in particular (HU)*.

As far as immigrants' access to the labour market is concerned, some of our panels suggest ideas such as a *joint labour market (SK/LT)*, using *databases or workforce studies to identify sectoral needs related to the labour force (LV/DK)*, or an *“EU Green Card” (NL)*.

Integration (19 MS)¹⁴

Recognising that *borders cannot be completely closed (GR)*, there is an agreement among almost all of our panels that successful *integration (14 MS¹⁵)* is of the utmost importance once migrants arrive in an EU country. Some panels attribute *“rights and obligations” (BE/PT/PL)* to both states and migrants when discussing how to *improve, support, promote and achieve (EE/UK/IT/ES/DE)* successful integration: immigrants need to *observe laws, rules and values (CZ/DE/EE)* and commit to *learning the language (DE/BE/PL/EE)* of the host country. In turn, they should have *equal opportunities (LT/BG)* to *“play a constructive role in large and ageing societies” (GR)* and to bring in their *special abilities (PT)*. One panel stresses the importance of *reuniting families (PT)*. Two of our panels consider it vital to avoid *“ghettoisation” (IE)* or the creation of *“immigrant enclaves” (EE)*. One argues this could be avoided by promoting *intercultural voluntary associations (ES)* and *deliberation processes between local citizens and immigrants (GR)*.

In order to achieve successful integration, we envisage various ways of providing migrants *“with the means to build skills” (GR)*. The majority of our panels attribute an essential role to *education (13 MS¹⁶)*, most of them stressing that both migrants and EU citizens should have *equal access and opportunities (AT/EE/IE)* in the educational sphere, and build *multi-cultural skills (FI)*. This will *“allow them [immigrants] to better understand the culture and customs of the country in which they live”* and will *“contribute to better integration” (EE)*. Most of our panels foresee a role for the EU in *supporting education financially (HU/PL/FI/SI)*, *granting access (GR/AT/IT)* and *promoting values (AT/IT)* that *foster integration (MT)*, for example through the school curricula. One panel highlighted the *national responsibility* for successful integration (SE).

¹³ AT/BE/CY/DE/FR/GR/HU/IT/LU/MT/NL/PL/PT/RO/ES/SE

¹⁴ AT/BE/BG/CZ/DE/EE/FI/GR/HU/IE/IT/LT/MT/PL/PT/SE/ES/SE/UK

¹⁵ BE/BG/EE/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/MT/PT/SI/ES/SE/UK

¹⁶ AT/BE/BG/EE/FI/GR/HU/IE/IT/MT/PL/SI/ES



The environmental and economic impact of Europe's energy use

Common approach, extended mandate (21 MS)¹⁷

Our panels are motivated primarily by *environmental concerns* (26 MS¹⁸) and our *energy dependency* on third countries. Many of our panels believe that the challenges of climate change and energy security are *global challenges* (LU), which cannot satisfactorily be managed at the national level.

Our panels widely agree that *increased common European action* (18 MS¹⁹) is required to tackle the impact of Europe's energy use on both the environment and the economy. Most of our panels advocate a strong EU taking on the role of the *setter of standards and binding targets* (NL/MT/LV/PT/IE/BE/UK/DE/SE) implemented by the Member States (NL) and supervised by the EU (FI). Some see the EU as an "effective negotiator" (IE) or mediator (PT) and a "non-biased provider" of information (SI/PT/LV) and transparency (DE).

Some of our panels would like to extend the mandate of the EU to enable it to set *fiscal incentives* (PT/SI/BE/IE) and *enforce agreed policies* (FR/MT/UK/CZ/DE), trusting the EU to act effectively against *individual interests* (CY/DE) and *monopolies* (DE), and to *balance economic, environmental and safety concerns* (PL).

One of our panels suggests that energy policy becomes a full competence of the EU and that this should be *included in a treaty* (FR); another panel explicitly *rules out national veto rights* (UK) on energy policy. While one panel is of the opinion that the EU should *not determine national energy (efficiency) policies* (BG), another *supports a common approach towards energy efficiency* (LV). One of our panels considers a *common energy market* (LT) a means to protect the EU from external political and economic pressure, while another promotes the idea of a *European public energy utility* in order to *guarantee the "right to have access to energy"* (FR). Several of our panels set the creation of a common European energy grid (BG/IR/PL/DE/FR) as a necessary precondition. One panel asks for *better control of energy prices* (GR).

Leading the world in clean energy (22 MS)²⁰

Many of our panels concur that the EU should become a *world leader* (UK/MT/BE/SK) and *example* (PT) in the transition to environmentally clean, safe and sustainable energy sources (23 MS²¹) and in the *fight against climate change* (FR), with an "international approach and one voice, in a continuing dialogue with other countries" (BE).

As a key measure, most of us think that the EU should promote the *use of clean energies* (22 MS²²), in particular *renewables* (IE/PL/PT/SE/LU/FR/NL/FI/CZ) which are *affordable* (UK/LV) and *reflect local natural conditions* (UK). Several panels call for "decreasing dependency on fossil fuels" (NL/IE/FR) to *reduce CO₂ emissions* (HU/IE) by 50% (SE).

One of our panels expects the EU to put *pressure on the US to sign the Kyoto Protocol* (IE) while another one argues for a pioneering Europe that *goes further than Kyoto* (BE), and yet another suggests more *cooperation with countries that have a large environmental impact* (SE).

Some of our panels would like to see the EU become a "catalyst in lessening dependency on energy" (MT), especially regarding energy from *non-EU states* (LU/FR). This, for several of our panels, went

¹⁷ BE/BG/CY/CZ/DE/DK/FI/FR/GR/HU/IE/IT/LT/LU/LV/MT/NL/PT/SI/SE/UK

¹⁸ AT/BE/BG/CY/CZ/DK/EE/FI/FR/DE/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/MT/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK

¹⁹ BG/BE/CY/CZ/DK/FI/FR/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LT/LU/MT/SI/SE/UK

²⁰ BE/CY/CZ/DK/EE/FI/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SI/ES/SE

²¹ AT/BE/CY/CZ/DK/EE/FI/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SI/ES/SE

²² BE/CY/CZ/DK/EE/FI/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LV/LT/LU/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SI/ES/SE



hand-in-hand with the goal of ensuring a “*strong, independent and self-sufficient*” (CZ/IT/LU/HU) energy supply in the future, which was a vision shared across our European panels. One panel *gives preference to decentralised and local solutions using a variety of different energy sources* (FI). Another panel asks for more opportunities for *citizens to participate in debates on energy policy* (GR).

Our panels are at odds with each other about the role of nuclear energy in the energy mix: while two of our panels *favour* (BG/HU) the use of nuclear energy, two propose a *re-evaluation* (IT/SK), one calls for a *ban* (AT), and one considers the use of nuclear energy as a *temporary solution* (NL) only. Most of our panels cannot agree either way. One panel suggests that the EU should *invest in research on the treatment of nuclear waste* (FR). One panel suggests that the *risks and benefits related to nuclear energy should be shared by all Member States* (IT).

Protect the environment (18 MS)²³

We broadly agree on the need to *protect the environment* (CY/FR/HU/LU/RO/EE/SK/PL) in order to *safeguard the health of human beings* (CZ). One of our panels wants environmental protection to become “*part of every day life*” (HU).

We want the EU to act in this field, be it through the establishment of a *common policy* (DE/PL), *harmonised policies* (MT) or *broader guidelines with common objectives* (PL/MT/IT/FI/DE/LU/UK), which would *allow single Member States to keep their high standard* (DE) of environmental protection.

Some of us argue that the EU should *control the implementation of environmental norms* (FI/IT/LU/SE/SE/FR/LV/CZ) and *sanction infringements* (FR/ES/CY/IE/CZ/PT). Individual panels add the EU should take a *leading role in environmental protection* (DE/MT/BE), by helping to *solve global environmental problems* (SK), *coordinating with third countries* (ES/SE), and *supporting poorer countries to reach high environmental standards* (UK).

In order to achieve these goals, both in the area of energy and environmental policy, we recommend four strategies: promoting personal responsibility, increasing investment in research and technology, reforming transportation, and the use of financial instruments.

Personal responsibility (21 MS)²⁴

We strongly emphasise the potential of individual responsibility to achieve a *wiser* (LU), *more aware* (DE/FI) and *responsible* (BE/UK/FR) use of energy and other environmental resources. One of our panels adds that the *authorities should act as models* (BE) in this respect.

We largely agree on the fact that the EU should help *educate and raise awareness* (20 MS²⁵) in this field. It should better “*inform citizens on how to save energy*” (CY/PL/PT), for example by *creating a European TV channel in all languages* (CY) and *boost environmental consciousness as a life style* (ES) through *lifelong learning from childhood onwards* (EE/CY/DE) and *teacher training* (FR) strategies. We believe “*being informed makes people more responsible*” (CZ).

Some of our panels want better consumer *information* (EE) regarding other ingredients such as *additives* and *GMOs* [genetically modified organisms] in food, asking for “*clear understandable labelling*” (DK/AT/LV/IE/EE).

²³ BE/CY/CZ/DE/EE/FI/FR/HU/IE/IT/LU/LV/MT/PL/RO/ES/SE/SK

²⁴ AT/BE/CY/CZ/DE/FI/FR/GR/HU/IE/IT/LU/LV/MT/PL/PT/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK

²⁵ AT/BE/CY/CZ/FI/FR/DE/GR/HU/IE/IT/LU/MT/PL/PT/SK/SI/ES/SE/UK



Technologies and research (17 MS²⁶)

We broadly agree in identifying the need for further *research (CZ/DK/EE/FI/FR/IE/LV/SK/HU)* on environmental issues, because we are optimistic that *better funding (BG/PT/PL)* and *technologies (DK)* for example to *increase the longevity and recyclability of products*, and to *improve building design (IE)*. Research into clean and environmentally friendly energies will help achieve environmental and economic goals because “*the joint use of means and brains will bring better results*” (LT). While one panel explicitly addresses Member States in its call for *better research funding (CZ)*, another proposes that the EU should *oblige Member States to make the environment a priority in national research budgets (FR)*.

We largely agree that the EU level plays a central role in achieving these goals, with some of our panels calling for better *coordination (DK)* of national research strategies, *research funds (CZ)*, *knowledge transfer (CY)*, *independent (HU/BE) research programmes (LT)*, a “*European University for Environmental Research*” (DK) or a European “*research institute on renewable energy*” (NL). One panel raises the subject of the EU *relaxing patents (ES)*.

One panel suggests that the EU promotes the *use of e-technologies including e-Government* to save resources (EE).

Reforming transportation (13 MS²⁷)

When focusing on the greatest sources of pollution, some of our panels urge a “*proactive and integrated transport policy*” (IE/DK) encompassing environmentally friendly and optimised *public mass transportation (CZ/HU/PT/BE/EE)* as *part of urban planning (BE)*, and increased *cargo transport on rail and waterways (ES/EE/HU)*.

The EU should, according to some of our panels, encourage the use of *clean vehicles (ES)* and *environmentally friendly fuels (DK/HU)*, and *set transport policy goals (LU)* for Member States to achieve. Two panels envisage a Europe that supports *bicycles (HU/CZ)* as inner city transport. Another one advocates that Member States provide the infrastructure and financial support to facilitate *citizens' choice of environmentally friendly transportation (CY)*.

Financial instruments (8 MS)²⁸

Some panels propose intervention mechanisms such as *progressive EU energy pricing (NL/SE)*, *eco-taxes (RO/NL/BE/EE)*, for example on *air travel (IE)*, whereas one prefers *free market mechanisms (BG)*. Some acknowledge that we ourselves should *do more to reduce energy consumption (SK/LU)*, e.g. by avoiding *excessive city lighting (IT)*.

The revenue from eco-taxes should be invested in research and development on renewable energy (NL). One panel suggests that *manufacturers should be made more financially liable for environmental damage and pay for preventative measures (EE)*.

Natural resources and waste (15 MS)²⁹

A number of our panels raised the issue of waste management and said the EU should be responsible for *strict regulation (CZ/EE)* and *sanctions (FR/HU/EE)* against offenders. Several of our panels insist on *strict and effective sorting and recycling (HU/PL/SE/SK/RO)*. Some also thought *waste should be used*

²⁶ BE/CY/CZ/DK/EE/FI/FR/DE/IE/LT/LU/MT/PL/PT/SK/ES/SE

²⁷ BE/CY/CZ/DK/EE/GR/HU/IE/IT/MT/PT/ES/SE

²⁸ BG/EE/GR/IE/IT/NL/RO/SE

²⁹ CZ/DK/EE/FI/FR/HU/IT/LV/LU/NL/PL/PT/RO/SK/SE



more effectively as a source of energy (EE/IT/PL), and suggest EU funding could be made available to solve problems like the transport of waste (PL).

Some of our panels suggest various fields of increased European activity in the future relating to the protection of natural resources like *water (DK/IT/SE), the seas (LT) and soil (SE)*, as well as *natural diversity (SE/CZ/EE), animals (IT/DE) and their habitats (EE/NL), and naturally-occurring forests (SE/PT)*. One panel calls for a better *balance between urbanisation and green areas (PT)*, while another asks for *small-scale agricultural production (AT)*.



Citizen participation (11 MS³⁰)

In addition to the above three topics, many of our panels express a wish to increase opportunities for a “*more active participation of Europe’s citizens*” (DE/LU/AT/IT/FR/GR/SE/MT/ES). One panel suggests that Europe Day be made a *work-free day to celebrate and discuss* European policy issues such as *culture, family life and child protection* (IE). Overall, 97% of us who participated at the national events say we would invest our time again to travel and participate in policy dialogues on European issues. Many of us believe that a Europe with which we can identify needs to be “*built with and not without*” us (FR) – with *decisions taken close to citizens* (SE), with *active encouragement of social and political engagement* (DE), and with citizens who take *responsibility for one another* (DE/LV).

³⁰ DE/LU/AT/IT/FR/GR/SE/MT/ES/IT/LV



About the European Citizens' Consultations

The European Citizens' Consultations provided the first-ever opportunity for members of the public from all 27 Member States to debate the future of the European Union across the boundaries of geography and language. Citizens exchanged opinions, developed together their ideas on the future direction of Europe, and communicated their perspectives to policy-makers. Simultaneous and interlinked events across Europe allowed every citizen to make his or her voice heard. The consultations and their follow-up aimed at inspiring both European and national institutions and decision-makers as they prepare to take decisions on the next phase of Europe's development. The process was organised by an independent consortium of foundations and non-profit organisations from all over Europe and led by the King Baudouin Foundation. It was funded in the framework of the European Commission's communication strategy "Plan D" and a consortium of 21 foundations including King Baudouin Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Compagnia di San Paolo, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The consultations and their follow-up went beyond past European communication initiatives. The citizens of Europe were at the centre of the project: Representing the diversity of the EU population, they engaged into an authentic and exciting European dialogue. They were chosen at random whilst making sure that different age groups, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds were represented. Further criteria were added as appropriate in each country. During the deliberations, the participants were able to draw back on experts if needed, but it was them who set the agenda of the debates, identified common ground and formulated visions and responsibilities for the future of Europe. Without requiring any special knowledge or language capabilities, they exchanged expectations, hopes, and concerns across boundaries and cultures. Innovative dialogue design, modern technology, and interpretation made it possible to overcome the typical barriers to effective participation – ensuring that each citizen was able to make his or her voice heard. The consultations created a truly European discussion, bringing citizens from all Member States together to deliberate and linking simultaneous national debates on a shared agenda of broad ideas and visions set by the citizens themselves.



Topics and Process

The European Citizens' Consultations started with a blank slate. During an Agenda-Setting Event - the first stage of the ECC process, which took place in Brussels on October 7th and 8th – 200 participants from all Member States of the European Union were invited to present their opinions on the influence Europe has had on their lives, and what direction they would like to see Europe take in the future. In identifying common ground on the central question of "what Europe do we want?" they set the agenda for the following national consultations. Of all possible issues including economy, institutions, enlargement and many others, citizens from all Member States set and debated an agenda of three policy issues they considered key to the future of Europe. These priorities were broadly shared, and only few national differences were documented.

The environmental and economic impact of Europe's energy use

(Key issues included awareness of and willingness to act on environmental issues; new, alternative, and environmentally friendly energy technologies; security of energy supply; opportunities and risks of nuclear energy; financing of cleaner energy technologies; energy pricing; recycling and waste management; sustainable development balancing ecological and economical interests.)



The social conditions for Europe's families

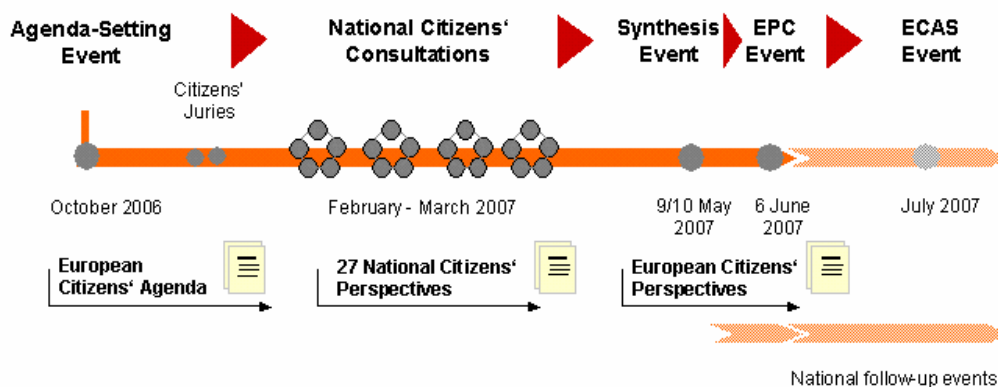
(Key issues included: policy frameworks for families with children and the improvement of the situation of children in European societies; combining families and jobs; children's health care; child care; child protection; educational standards.)

The EU's global role and the management of immigration

(Key issues included: EU's global profile; representing the EU in the world; peace building and democratisation; legal and illegal immigration; counteracting root causes of immigration.)

Topics that were ranked below the top three were economy, education and study, peace and security, integration and enlargement, agriculture and food, and jobs.

All national consultations confirm in their discussions the role of these topics as key concerns shared by participants regardless of nationality, gender, age, occupation and education.



In November and December 2006, *Citizen Juries* met to assess which kind of information the participants of the national consultations would require to lead a fruitful discussion.

At the heart of the dialogue are the *National Citizens' Consultations* – simultaneous, interlinked debates in all 27 Member States. From February to March 2007, citizens were asked, “what is needed to achieve the Europe we want?” Five to ten consultations happened at the same time – each in its respective Member State. They exchanged their results and enabled a European dialogue across locations. The outcome was 27 national reports. These served as the basis for a European-level *Synthesis Event* on the 9th and 10th of May 2007 attended by 27 citizens, one from each Member State. In a first step, they worked on a document synthesising the 27 national results and highlighting the common ground and the areas of divergence between the national outcomes. In a second step, citizens discussed their result with Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström in a *European Citizens' Roundtable*. This event kicked off a comprehensive follow-up process, which actively communicates the outcomes to policy-makers and provides feedback to citizens.



About the participants

Citizens from all EU Member States were selected randomly. They came from all walks of life and reflected the diversity of their countries' population and thereby of the entire European Union. In each of the Member States, an opinion research agency selected the participants following a set of selection criteria including gender, age, and socio-economic background. Further criteria were added as appropriate in each country (e.g. regional diversity).


The table summarises the demographic data of all participants that took part in the European Citizens' Consultations project³¹ from October 2006 (both in absolute figures and in percentages):

Gender	Abs.	%
female	842	49,5
male	848	50,1
not responding	6	0,4
Age		
< 25	247	15,2
<35	318	17,6
<45	316	19
<55	350	20,6
<65	302	17,9
65 +	149	8,8
not responding	9	0,6
Occupation		
education	254	13,7
employee	550	32,8
civil servant	215	13,5
self-employed	190	11,3
housewife/ husband	84	4,7
retiree, between jobs or other	381	22,6
not responding	13	0,8

³¹ Please note that the demographics in this table do not contain figures from the Citizens' Juries due to incomparableness of the data. Demographics for the Citizens' Juries can be found on the ECC Website <http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu/3.0.html> under "Report on the Citizens Juries"




Impressions from the Citizens' Consultations

 António Luís Semedo Bispo, 58 (Portugal): *"I have a flu and and I've taken medicines just to be able to be here. But it's worth it. The discussion is motivating me so much. I would never have discussed these issues if I hadn't been selected to be here."*




Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission: *"I hope this is the beginning of a movement that will help to revitalise democracy in all of Europe. I promise that the Commission will listen and learn."*

 Jean-Gabriel Steffens, 60, retired (Belgium): *"I had never thought about Europe. For the last week, I have started thinking about it and just could not stop."*





 Karl Doutlik, Head of Office of the EC Representation (Austria): *"I'm deeply impressed that Austrian citizens, chosen randomly, are prepared to sacrifice their free time, spending their full weekend to discuss the future of Europe. This is a wonderful signal."*



 Mary, 80, grandmother of 12 grandchildren (Ireland): *"It's a hard and very interesting job: we know the final goal – in our case, we're trying to save the planet – and discussing it shows us the complexity of the topic, the very different aspects and the sacrifices we have to make. Will this event have an influence on my daily life? Well, I don't drive a car anymore, but yes, it will."*



 Alda Anastasi, homeopath, 40 (Malta): *"Malta only recently joined the EU but we already feel part of it. We are proud to be Europeans and look forward to exchange ideas on the future of Europe. It will certainly work in this marvellous location!"*

 Günther Langanke, 63, pensioner (Germany): *"I have learned a lot about democracy and participation. Everyone could voice their opinion and all opinions were heard. I have never experienced anything like this."*



 Cecilia Malmström, Minister for EU Affairs (Sweden): *"We will read this with great interest, and hopefully discuss it further at the next meeting with all the EU-ministers in middle of May. There are many more spirited ideas in this report than at most of the official meetings I attend."*

 Artis Pabriks, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Latvia): *"Europe is at the crossroad. This is exactly why decision-makers turn to the people, and you (the participants of this project) have the responsibility to give your answers which way to go. ECC is a real contribution and I believe that the results of this debate of the weekend will be of a high quality so that the decision-makers will not be able to disregard them."*



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard


www.european-citizens-consultations.eu




Prime Minister Bertie Ahern (Ireland):


„You have been selected as representative of Ireland today – a cross section of men and women, young and not so young, urban and rural. And you are here to look at the future and try to work out what kind of European Union you want in 2020. In other words, what kind of Ireland you and your democratic representatives should be working for. The outcome of these two days of deliberations will be a very significant input into all our thinking about and work for the Europe of the future.”




 Barbara Prammer, President of the National Parliament (Austria): *„Europe will be so powerful as people will urge.”*

 Kenneth, 58, Edinburgh (Scotland): *„I don't like the recent developments in the EU at all, but this meeting is a unique opportunity to voice your opinion. So that's why I accepted to come.”*




 Kinga Goncz, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hungary): *„It is important that we do not only talk with politicians but that the voices of citizens are heard - that they have a say [...] There seems to be a large distance between Budapest and Brussels and so decisions are difficult to accept for citizens. This initiative diminishes the distance [...] We need to continue European Citizens Consultations.”*




 Günter Gloser, Minister of State for Europe (Germany) in his opening speech: *„I am keen on the results, I am keen on your suggestions. You are discussing issues which already are on the European agenda. But they are not perceived as such. You are in a position to change this. I am looking forward to the final results of this forum.”*

 Noel Treacy, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ireland): *„It is your input and debate that makes this conference so unique and stimulating [...] To promote debate on European issues on national level, it is essential for governments to forge partnerships, within their own societies. This will enbale Europe to come alive and this is the reason that events such as this consultation are so important for a common understanding of the EU.”*

 Francis Givron, 59, ASE participant (Belgium): *„Europe ended in a ditch. But they had the good idea to ask us.”*



Meglana Kuneva, European Commissioner for Consumer Protection: *„Europe is not decided in Brussels but where the citizens are.”*

 Silvio, 52, employee (Italy): *„Being here is a pleasure and a privilege: I feel part of an important project for our children and I believe this is a useful contribution towards their future.”*

 Dr Michael Frendo, minister of foreign affairs (Malta) in the closing speech: *„It is crucial for the EU to integrate with its citizens. Citizens need to know Europe is working for them to be successful and competitive.”*



What are the next steps?

The Synthesis event on the 9th and 10th of May 2007 kicks off an extensive follow-up process. The objective of the follow-up process is to actively communicate the European citizens' perspectives to policy-makers and the wider public. Various activities will take place at both European and national levels.

Activities at European level

6 June 2007	<i>Policy dialogue in cooperation with European Policy Centre</i>
	A small number of selected citizens joins a panel of policy-makers. Together with the audience and journalists they engage into an in-depth discussion about the policy implications of the perspectives.
Autumn 2007	<i>Event in cooperation with the European Citizen Action Service</i>
	ECAS (European Citizen Action Service) organises an event to discuss the way forward for citizen participation and what the EU can learn from the European Citizens' Consultation project.

Activities at national level

Participants to the consultations, the wider public and all other interested stakeholders have the opportunity to stay informed about the role of the results in political discussions on the development of the European Union. In the Member States, various follow-up events will take up the discussion and further the debate on the Future of Europe in general, and the contents and results of the three topics in particular. The European Citizens' Consultations thereby reach out beyond the 2,000 people that have been involved since the Agenda-Setting Event in October 2006. The following is only a selection of past or upcoming events.

Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ May-September 2007: The King Baudouin Foundation and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister support local debates on the ECC topics organised by schools and local authorities.
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Summer 2007: Official hand-over of the National Citizens' Perspectives to Members of the Danish Parliament in the premises of the Parliament
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beginning of autumn: <i>follow-up event</i> for National Consultation participants and other interested parties in the Parliament▪ Astrid Thors, current MP and former MEP received the Finnish Citizens' Perspectives and promised to <i>report further proceedings</i> thereon in the Parliament. The perspectives will be sent to all other parties as well.
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ March - July 2007: <i>citizens' fora</i> in 15 German towns and communities with 50 randomly selected citizens at each event discussing the outcome of the German national consultation, supported by the German Foreign Office, "Aktion Europa"
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ January - March 2007: The three topics were used at the <i>Schools' Public Speaking Competition</i> organised by the National Forum on Europe in cooperation with Irish MEPs▪ Presentation of the National Consultations at the <i>Public Submissions Day</i> organised by the National Forum on Europe, where individuals and organisations can make written submissions on a specific theme.▪ In its Chairman's Report to the Irish Government, the National Forum on Europe



	<p>included the complete Irish Citizens' Perspectives as well as a description on the European Citizens' Consultations project. This report is considered to have a significant impact on the policy debate and is an important instrument in setting the agenda for future debate.</p>
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>Open debate</u> on the outcome of the National Consultations to be organised in cooperation with the European Commission Representation, involving MEPs, government officials, representatives of relevant ministries etc.▪ Lithuanian Citizens' Perspectives are published on the <u>European Commission Representation's Website</u> and will be distributed to MEPs and government representatives
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>Press conference</u> (date tbc) to be attended by European Commissioner Jan Figel on the premises of the EU Information Centre on the European Citizens' Consultation process and outcomes at both national and European levels▪ The Slovakian Citizens' Perspectives have been sent out to all members of the <u>foreign committee</u> in the Slovak Parliament, the Government office, MEPs and relevant <u>Embassies</u>▪ A 9-minute video on the national event will be used in relevant <u>trainings</u> organised by the PDCS on participation
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 20 April 2007: presentation of Slovenian Citizens' Perspectives and the process to Members of the Parliament on the invitation of Mr Kokalj, MP (President of the Committee for EU Affairs). The event took place in the <u>National Assembly</u>. The citizens participating in the Synthesis Event presented the perspectives. The event was followed by a press conference and covered by media.▪ <u>CNVOS' seminars</u> for NGOs on Active Citizenship, organised all over Slovenia, will present the European Citizens' Consultations as exemplary for dialogue between citizens and the EU
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Luis Vives Foundation will organise 6 to 8 <u>seminars on two of the topics</u>, namely immigration and social welfare, and present the results from the National Consultation within this context▪ The Foundation will publish a <u>handbook on citizens participation</u> including the results from the National Consultation▪ <u>Cooperation with the European Commission Representation</u> in activities related to the European Citizens' Consultation project
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 29 March 2007: Presentation of and discussion about the results of the National Consultation with the European Commission Representation at the Europaforum Häsleholm▪ 9 May 2007: Presentation of results at a seminar attended by Ms Cecilia Malmström (EU Minister) organised by the Nätverk för Europa.▪ 7 June 2007: Seminar in cooperation with the Swedish Institute for International Affairs



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- **United Kingdom:** Barrow Cadbury Trust, www.bctrust.org.uk, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, www.jrct.uk, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, www.jrtr.org.uk, Carnegie UK Trust, www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, www.jrf.org.uk, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk (Funding Partners), Power Inquiry, www.powerinquiry.org, Oliver Henman, ohenman@gmail.com
- **Citizens' Juries:** nexus e.V., www.nexus-berlin.com, Nicolas Bach, bach@nexus.tu-berlin.de

For more detailed documentation, pictures, and background information on the European Citizens' Consultations in all 27 Member States, please visit:

www.european-citizens-consultations.eu

The screenshot shows the website 'www.european-citizens-consultations.eu' in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The page features a header with the logo and the tagline 'Making your voice heard'. A left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories like Home, News, The European Citizens' Consultations, A Model for European Participation, Contact and Partners, and Media Information. The main content area is divided into three columns. The first column contains a welcome message and a quote from Margot Wallström. The second column provides details about the consultations, including their purpose and the model for participation. The third column lists sponsors and partners, including the King Baudouin Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Robert Bosch Stiftung, and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The footer shows the URL and a 100% zoom level.

ECC: Home - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu/

European Citizens' Consultations
Making your voice heard

Home
News
The European Citizens' Consultations
Agenda-Setting Event
National Citizens' Consultations
Synthesis Event
Follow-Up Events
Topics and Outcomes
A Model for European Participation
New methods and technology for dialogue
Policy Integration
Plan D
Contact and Partners
Media Information

Welcome to the first pan-European Citizens' Consultations!

"My hope is that this will be the beginning of a movement that will help to revitalise democracy in all of Europe. I promise that the Commission will listen and learn."
European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström, October 2006

The **European Citizens' Consultations** provide the first-ever opportunity for members of the public from all 27 Member States to debate the future of the European Union across the boundaries of geography and language. Citizens reflecting the diversity of the population are randomly chosen to take part in the deliberations, to identify common ground and to make recommendations to policy-makers as they prepare to take decisions on Europe's future.

The consultations create a truly European discussion, bringing citizens together at European events and linking simultaneous national debates on a shared agenda of ideas set by the citizens themselves. They establish a [model for European citizens' participation](#) on future topics with an innovative combination of professional facilitation and modern technology.

The ECC process is driven by [partners in all Member States](#) - independent and non-political European foundations and civil society organisations.

Quick Links to ECC News

27 National Citizens Consultations - and now? On the 9th and 10th of May 2007, citizen representatives from all countries meet in Brussels to synthesize the national results... [\[more\]](#)

National Citizens' Perspectives on the Future of Europe adopted in all EU Member States: On 24-25 March the last round of the national consultations took place... [\[more\]](#)

Last round of the National Consultations: Ten countries from snowy Finland to sunny Malta will debate their visions on the future of the European Union on 24-25 March... [\[more\]](#)

Our vision on the future of Europe: Citizens from seven countries debate what is at their heart and formulate their perspectives on the future of Europe... [\[more\]](#)

The Consortium

King Baudouin Foundation

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http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu/2.0.html



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard

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