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EU for Global 

# ***CITIZENS\* SHAPING EUROPE***

*Connecting Member States  
to shape the role of the EU  
in the world*

EU FOR GLOBAL FINAL REPORT 2024 - 2026

\* We have taken the term "Citizens" as an inclusive shorthand, to stand for anyone living in the EU on a temporary or permanent basis and having an interest in shaping the society they live in.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Citizens Shaping Europe: A Democratic Call to Action for the EU's Global Role**

This summary brings together the key outcomes of the two-year EU for Global project, which engaged more than 1,000 citizens and residents across Europe through consultations and Citizens' Panels to reimagine the European Union's role in the world. At a moment of growing geopolitical instability, democratic backsliding and declining trust in institutions, the recommendations emerging from this process offer not just specific policy proposals, but a democratic roadmap for a more resilient, participatory and people-centred Europe.

Across two years of deliberation, participants shared with us their strong belief in democracy as an ideal, while warning that if this ideal is not accompanied by democratic practice, trust in politics, society and each other are at risk. Citizens repeatedly emphasised that resilience, security and social cohesion cannot be built through technocratic or top-down governance alone. Instead, the recommendations emerging from this process point towards a renewed European social contract rooted in participation, solidarity, transparency and accountability.

The conversations held throughout the project with those who are often left out of the conversation — young people, migrants, LGBTQI+ communities, people with disabilities and other underrepresented groups — revealed strong demands for a European Union that is more inclusive, transparent and accountable, and that consistently upholds democratic values both internally and globally.

Participants put forward recommendations across a broad range of interconnected priorities, including fair migration policies, inclusive governance, civic education, combating disinformation, a socially just green transition, stronger protection of fundamental rights and more balanced international partnerships. Citizens also stressed the importance of empowering civil society, strengthening youth participation and fostering a shared European identity grounded in solidarity, democracy and multilateralism.

At the heart of all these recommendations lies one overarching insight: democracy is not simply one policy area among many — it is the foundation that makes all other ambitions possible. Participants consistently linked democratic participation to social trust, human rights protection, effective policymaking and Europe's global legitimacy. Without meaningful participation, transparency and accountability, efforts to address climate change, inequality, migration, disinformation and geopolitical instability risk remaining fragile and disconnected from citizens' realities.

In a time of unprecedented attacks on democracy and multilateralism, business as usual will not do. Participants expressed a strong belief that the European Union can and should play a leading role in advancing democracy, peace and human rights, globally, while

recommitting to these values internally. The message from citizens is clear: the EU's resilience, legitimacy and global credibility depend on its willingness to deepen democracy at home and place participation, solidarity and fundamental rights at the centre of its policies, institutions and partnerships. Citizens are not asking merely to be consulted — they are demanding a meaningful role in shaping Europe's future as active co-creators of the European project.

**We therefore call on the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and Member States to:**

### **1. Put participatory democracy at the heart of EU policymaking and external action**

The EU must strengthen and expand participatory democracy mechanisms both internally and globally. Citizens' participation tools — including deliberative citizens' assemblies, participatory consultations and mechanisms inspired by the European Citizens' Initiative — should become a permanent and meaningful part of EU decision-making, enlargement, neighbourhood and development cooperation processes.

### **2. Advance the EU's global role in promoting participatory democracy and human rights**

Participants highlighted the EU's unique potential as a model of transnational cooperation and called on it to play a stronger global role in advancing participatory democracy, peace and human rights. The EU should actively promote democratic participation tools, strengthen support for inclusive civic engagement worldwide and ensure that participation, solidarity and fundamental rights are central to its international partnerships and global action.

### **3. Defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law consistently**

Citizens demand that the EU uphold democracy, human rights, non-discrimination and the rule of law as non-negotiable principles in all its internal and external actions. The EU must ensure that these values are consistently reflected across its institutions, migration policies, trade relations and international partnerships, while strengthening protections for marginalised communities across Europe.

### **4. Build fair, humane and solidarity-based migration policies**

Participants rejected fear-based narratives and called for migration and asylum policies grounded in dignity, inclusion and shared responsibility. This includes improving reception conditions, investing in integration support such as free language courses and ensuring fair responsibility-sharing among Member States.

### **5. Strengthen civil society, civic participation and youth engagement**

Citizens across Europe stressed that democracy cannot function if people feel excluded from decision-making. The EU should expand accessible participation opportunities, strengthen support for civil society and grassroots organisations and invest in civic

education, media literacy and democratic innovation — particularly for young people and underrepresented groups.

### **6. Invest in democratic resilience against disinformation and digital threats**

Participants identified misinformation, digital polarisation and unaccountable technologies as growing threats to democracy. The EU must support independent media, strengthen media literacy and ensure transparent and democratic oversight of digital platforms and emerging technologies, including AI.

### **7. Promote balanced and mutually beneficial international partnerships**

Citizens called on the EU to move beyond top-down approaches in its global engagement and instead support locally driven initiatives, long-term cooperation and partnerships based on mutual respect and shared responsibility. Participants also highlighted the importance of strengthening cultural diplomacy, expanding people-to-people exchanges and fostering international cooperation that addresses the structural causes of instability and exclusion.

### **8. Foster a shared European identity rooted in solidarity and inclusion**

Citizens envision a Europe built not only on markets and institutions, but on shared democratic values. Expanding exchange programmes, fostering intercultural dialogue and supporting cross-border civic cooperation are essential to strengthening democratic trust, solidarity and a shared sense of belonging.

The recommendations emerging from the EU for Global process demonstrate that citizens are not only ready to shape Europe's future — they expect EU institutions to listen and act.

A stronger Europe requires more than strategic autonomy. It requires democratic legitimacy built through participation, inclusion and accountability.

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# 1. EU for Global

## The context

The EU for Global project, undertaken by a consortium of seven EU civil society organisations and one university, started with the overall objective to strengthen transnational democracy, in a world facing global challenges. Against the backdrop of growing euroscepticism and distrust in the EU and citizens feeling as if they do not have a voice within the Union, the project set out to consult citizens on how they view the EU's role in their countries, in the continent and in the world. They explored what participatory tools are available to them, how they can participate in EU decision-making processes, what are the strengths of the EU and what requires to be improved to meet the needs of the people of the EU. It is evident that the European Union has a pioneering experience with a unique set of participatory tools that include citizens and residents in decision-making. It sets the example of a functioning transnational democracy, also for governance systems at the global level.

The project started with a core mission: only participatory strategies and the amplifying of underrepresented voices can democratise transnational governance and equip it to handle the biggest challenges of our time. This is why it targeted different communities to collect inputs from a diverse group of people living in the EU. We focused on reaching traditionally marginalised people, whose voices are often underrepresented in policymaking.

## The methodology

As a basis for our work, EU for Global first conducted a three-month online consultation on Consul, a deliberative democracy platform that has a proven track record facilitating policy debates, to collect and analyse a first round of inputs from people living in the Union on their awareness on the functioning of the EU, on what values they associate with it and which topics should be a priority for EU policymaking. Consequently, the analytical review of the consultation results provided the foundation for the design of the subsequent project activities. It supported the project's aim to understand people's views and needs by tackling the following questions:

1. How do EU citizens and residents view the role of the EU in the world?
2. Which democracy instruments do they see as available to them in the EU?
3. Which values do they associate with the EU?
4. How should the EU carry these values out into the world?

These questions were further explored during the panels. Specifically, from November 2024 until April 2026, the project partners conducted citizens' panels in the eight Member States to consult people who live in the EU on their views on the role of the EU in the world. Each partner organised one local panel, with participants from the country, and one transnational panel, whose participants come from at least seven different EU countries. The former gathered insights into what is important to a national audience regarding the thematic focus on which the respective national partner works. The topics of the local citizens' panels ranged from migration and inclusion to the role of youth in decision-making, misinformation, the rule of law or climate policies. At the local panels, participants discussed what role they have in the EU, the effect of global EU policies at the local level and what mechanisms they deem the most useful to represent the local needs in transnational actions. On the other hand, the transnational citizens' panels built on the results of the corresponding local panel and combined workshops, lectures and creative trainings to allow for discussions on EU foreign policies and the Union's role in the world. Additionally, the panels aimed to collect inputs on how citizens can further participate in meaningful ways in decision-making processes beyond EU borders within a certain thematic area.

All citizens' panels had a similar structure while allowing for variation depending on the country context and thematic focus. They followed the example of the European Citizens' Panels, being designed as a two-stage process. The first phase was primarily informative, bringing together experts, practitioners, and public officials who provided participants with relevant background knowledge on a selected topic. This was typically delivered through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and moderated exchanges, ensuring that participants had access to diverse perspectives and a shared understanding of the issues at hand. The second phase shifted towards a more interactive and deliberative format. Participants were actively encouraged to contribute their own views, concerns, ideas, and lived experiences in smaller group discussions and facilitated workshops. This participatory setting enabled an open exchange of perspectives and fostered collective reflection on the challenges and opportunities related to the topic. The insights generated during these discussions were systematically documented, clustered, and synthesised, ultimately forming the basis for a set of recommendations – Annex 1. Through this structured yet flexible methodology, the process ensured that the final recommendations were grounded in both expert knowledge and citizen-driven input.

## **2. Participation and recommendations**

The participatory activities carried out throughout the project resulted in a broad set of people-driven recommendations on the future role of the European Union and democratic participation within it. By bringing together people from different countries, backgrounds, and experiences, the project created opportunities for participants to exchange perspectives, identify shared challenges, and collectively formulate proposals for more inclusive and representative policymaking processes at the European level.

Overall, 411 people took part in the online consultation. Large representation is evinced from countries where EU for Global partners are based, which is in line with the recruiting method using civil society organisations as main multipliers in order to overrepresent the traditionally underrepresented. The consultation engaged a diverse group of participants, including individuals from over 21 countries, with a significant portion identifying as part of underrepresented groups. The project does not consider nationality, rather place of stay as everyone living in the EU is affected by its policies and decisions, including groups like mobile citizens and migrants. Over 38% of respondents felt that they belong to underrepresented communities, and nearly 10% identified as people with disabilities. This diversity highlights the importance of broadening democratic participation and ensuring that those typically excluded from decision-making processes have a voice in shaping EU policies. Furthermore, the survey saw strong participation from younger age groups, underscoring the need to integrate the perspectives of younger generations into EU policy discussions.

In addition to the online consultation, the project engaged a total of 618 participants through eight local and eight transnational citizens' panels organised across the participating Member States. The panels brought together citizens, residents, civil society representatives, students, academics, activists, artists, journalists, and policymakers from diverse social and cultural backgrounds. Particular attention was paid to ensuring the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups, including young people, people with migration backgrounds, LGBTQI+ individuals, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and residents from rural or marginalised communities. To ensure broad and inclusive participation, partners applied outreach methodologies adapted to their national and local contexts. Recruitment strategies included cooperation with universities, grassroots organisations, NGOs, youth associations, local authorities, and advocacy groups, as well as targeted social media campaigns, newsletters, public calls, mailing lists, posters and flyers, outreach through community networks, and word-of-mouth promotion. The panels also provided informal and accessible discussion spaces, interactive workshops, cultural activities, and multilingual environments to encourage active engagement and participation, and ensure equal opportunities for participation for different personalities and needs. Through discussions, trainings, workshops, and deliberative sessions, participants collectively developed recommendations on democratic participation, human rights, migration, climate action, media literacy, inclusion, resilience, and the role of the European Union in the world.

### **3. Citizens' Panel: a spotlight on the key topics**

#### **Local Citizens' Panels:**

##### **1st Local Citizens' Panel: 24 October 2024, Bucharest, Romania**

The first Local Citizens' panel was organised by the Romanian consortium member EUROPULS. It brought together decision-makers, representatives of civil society, the public sector and students to focus on youth participation and to develop recommendations on how young people can contribute to the foreign policy and the future of the European Union.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Local Citizens' Panel: 10 March 2025, Athens, Greece**

The second Local Citizens' Panel organised by Democracy Without Borders Greece in Athens, focused on migration, refugees, human rights, and the EU's global role. Bringing together students, academics, and civil servants, it explored democratic participation, the treatment of migrants and refugees, and the importance of human rights within the framework of the rule of law. Via open discussions and participatory exchanges, participants developed recommendations on humane migration policies, psychological and social support for migrants and refugees, fair asylum procedures, civic education on human rights, and stronger EU engagement supporting stability and infrastructure development in neighbouring regions.

### **3rd Local Citizens' Panel: 10 March 2025, Aarhus, Denmark**

The third Local Citizens' Panel was organised by the Danish partner organisation Nyt Europa during the Century of Ideas Festival in Aarhus, Denmark. Under the title "You have more influence on the EU than you think," the panel focused on democratic participation and citizens' influence in EU policymaking processes. Through discussions and participatory exchanges, participants explored both formal and informal channels of civic engagement, reflected on barriers to participation, and developed recommendations on transparency, accessibility, and stronger citizen involvement in European decision-making.

### **4th Local Citizens' Panel: 27 March 2025, Floriana, Malta**

The fourth Local Citizens' Panel was organised by the Maltese partner organisation aditus Foundation. The Panel specifically focused on the experiences of those who are traditionally underrepresented in traditional politics and hence addressed questions surrounding trust in politics, the accessibility of decision-making spaces and experiences of marginalisation to create a set of recommendations to strengthen inclusive participation within the Union.

### **5th Local Citizens' Panel: 25 June 2025, Cologne, Germany**

The fifth Local Citizens' Panel was organised by the German partner organisation Democracy International and discussed the topics of individual rights and freedoms, with a focus on identity, representation and LGBTQI+ rights. The panel brought together experts, policymakers, youth, activists and artists to discuss the current status of LGBTQI+ rights in the Union. Through creative workshops, the Citizens' Panel highlighted how art can help one's activism and subsequently developed a set of recommendations.

### **6th Local Citizens' Panel: 19 September 2025, Madrid, Spain**

The sixth Local Citizens' Panel, organised by IE University took place in Spain and focused on the politics of the European Union, its historical development, and its current challenges. The discussion addressed key issues such as the lack of democratic participation, the need to defend core EU values, and the importance of strengthening dialogue and knowledge exchange between EU institutions and citizens. Participants reflected on the EU's role as both an economic and normative power and developed recommendations aimed at enhancing citizen engagement and participation within the Union.

### **7th Local Citizens' Panel: 26 November 2025, Riga, Latvia**

The seventh Local Citizen's Panel was hosted by the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation LAPAS in Riga. It focused on community resilience, active citizenship, and solidarity in local, European, and global contexts. Bringing together participants from across Latvia, the panel explored how democratic participation and civic engagement can strengthen societal resilience and foster solidarity in times of global challenges. Discussions resulted in recommendations on civic education, climate action, media literacy, and community-based democratic participation.

### **8th Local Citizen's Panel: 28 November 2025, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria**

The eighth Local Citizens Panel took place in Veliko Tarnovo, hosted by the European Information Centre (EIC). The Panel titled "Media Literacy and Democratic Participation – Bulgaria in the EU" focused on the relationship between media literacy and democratic participation in the digital era. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants addressed the growing impact of misinformation and disinformation on public trust, political participation, and democratic processes, while highlighting the importance of critical thinking and digital literacy, particularly among young people. The panel developed recommendations aimed at strengthening media literacy education, promoting reliable information sources, and improving resilience against disinformation across the European Union.

## **Transnational Citizens' Panels:**

### **1st Transnational Citizens' Panel: 15-17 November 2024, Bucharest, Romania**

EUROPULS hosted the first Transnational Citizens' Panel with participants from more than eight member states to discuss several thematic areas. The themes that they worked on were migration and solidarity, fake news, empowering youth, and technology, jobs and the future of the EU. Throughout the event participants identified key challenges and potential solutions through collaborative work and compiled their work into numerous recommendations.

### **2nd Transnational Citizens' Panel: 2-4 April 2025. Qawra, Malta**

The second Transnational Citizens' Panel in Malta, which was organised by aditus Foundation, brought together individuals from different backgrounds and countries to discuss two topics that are at the heart of EU for Global's mission: barriers to participation and democratic participation. Discussions between experts, activists and citizens highlighted the participants' different perspectives and lived experiences and resulted in the formulation of a comprehensive list of recommendations.

### **3rd Transnational Citizens' Panel: 24-26 April 2025, Athens, Greece**

The third Transnational Citizens' Panel organised by Democracy Without Borders Greece focused on migration, democracy, and human rights at Europe's southern border. Bringing together participants from different European countries, the panel explored the EU's role in addressing migration challenges, protecting fundamental rights, and strengthening democratic participation across borders. Through discussions and workshops, participants developed recommendations on solidarity-based migration policies, inclusion, and the protection of democratic values and human rights within and beyond the EU.

### **4th Transnational Citizens' Panel: 25-27 September 2025, Madrid, Spain**

The fourth Transnational Citizens' Panel in Madrid hosted by IE University explored how Europe's relationships with the Americas, Africa, and Asia, can evolve amid shifting power balances and global challenges through panel discussions, workshops, and cultural activities, participants discussed transatlantic relations, Europe–Africa cooperation, and Europe–Asia partnerships in the context of democracy, trade, security, and the green transition. Discussions highlighted the importance of strategic autonomy, fair and sustainable trade, multilateral cooperation, climate justice, and balanced international partnerships grounded in equality and mutual respect.

### **5th Transnational Citizens' Panel: 19-21 November 2025, Copenhagen, Denmark**

The fifth Transnational Citizens' Panel, organised by Nyt Europa in Copenhagen, focused on climate change, sustainability, and democratic participation in the European Union. Bringing together participants from across Europe, it explored climate resilience, the just transition, ecological democracy, and the role of citizens in shaping EU climate policies. Via workshops, discussions and participatory exercises, participants developed recommendations on democratic engagement, sustainability, and inclusive climate governance.

### **6th Transnational Citizens' Panel: 24-26 February 2026, Riga, Latvia**

The sixth Transnational Citizens' Panel, organised by LAPAS in Riga, Latvia, focused on community resilience, active citizenship, and global solidarity in the context of current geopolitical challenges. Bringing together participants from 14 countries, the panel combined expert discussions, participatory workshops, and World Café sessions to explore democratic resilience, crisis preparedness, and the role of civil society in strengthening European solidarity. Participants developed recommendations on civic engagement, media literacy, cross-sector cooperation, and resilience-building at local, national, and EU levels.

### **7th Transnational Citizens' Panel: 25-27 March 2026, Sofia, Bulgaria**

The seventh Transnational Citizens' Panel, organised by the European Information Centre (EIC) in Sofia, Bulgaria, focused on digital development, information integrity, and democratic participation. Bringing together participants from nine European countries, the panel explored the impact of digital technologies, misinformation, and disinformation on democratic societies through workshops, expert presentations, and participatory discussions. Participants developed recommendations aimed at strengthening media literacy, democratic resilience, and citizens' active participation in the digital era.

### **8th Transnational Citizens' Panel: 16-18 April 2026, Cologne, Germany**

The final Transnational Citizens' Panel was organised by Democracy International in Cologne, Germany, within the framework of the "LightLab Democracy – Europe's Role in the World" event. The panel focused on democracy, individual rights and freedoms, civic participation, and the role of the EU at local and transnational levels. Through workshops, artistic co-creation activities, panel discussions, and participatory dialogue formats, participants reflected on how democratic participation can be strengthened through inclusive and people-driven approaches. The agenda combined media literacy, creative expression, and policy-oriented discussions to encourage bottom-up democratic engagement and gather concrete recommendations for EU policy. Artistic activities and collective performances further enabled participants to translate political reflections into creative outputs. The panel was embedded in a week-long closing event that consisted of an interactive light and sound installation that was inspired by the recommendations issued from the different citizens' panels. It was open to the public and visited by 152 people from 13 countries.

Through all these panels, EU for Global has worked to build trust in transnational democracy by encouraging democratic participation of traditionally underrepresented groups. This includes young people, women, new EU citizens and residents, people with a migration background, racial and ethnic minorities, people with lower levels of education, people with disabilities or mobile citizens. At each of the panels, participants co-designed recommendations on EU policies discussing global problems – see Annex 1.

## **4.Recommendations analysis**

The recommendations developed throughout the EU for Global project reveal a strong demand for a more participatory, inclusive, and values-driven European Union. Across all local and transnational Citizens' Panels, participants consistently identified democratic participation, social inclusion, transparency, solidarity, and the protection of fundamental rights as essential priorities for the future of the Union. Although each panel focused on specific national or thematic concerns, several overarching trends emerged consistently across the discussions and recommendations.

A recurring concern among participants was the perceived distance between citizens and EU decision-making processes. Many described political institutions and democratic mechanisms as overly complex, inaccessible, or disconnected from people's everyday realities, particularly for young people, migrants, minority groups, persons with disabilities, and residents of rural or marginalised communities. As a result, participants repeatedly stressed the importance of strengthening direct and meaningful participation through more accessible democratic tools, civic education, transparent communication, and stronger cooperation between institutions, civil society organisations, and local communities. The recommendations reflected a clear desire to move beyond occasional consultations and instead establish more permanent and structured participatory mechanisms that enable citizens to continuously contribute to policymaking processes at local, national, and European levels.

The recommendations also demonstrate a strong demand for more inclusive governance and representation. Participants highlighted that democratic participation cannot be fully achieved while significant parts of society continue to face structural, social, economic, or cultural barriers to engagement. Across several panels, participants called for greater inclusion of underrepresented groups in political life and decision-making processes, including women, LGBTQI+ individuals, people with migration backgrounds, ethnic minorities, non-citizens residing in the EU, and socially disadvantaged communities. Representation was therefore understood not only as formal political participation, but also as visibility, recognition, equal access to rights, and the ability to influence policies that directly affect people's lives and communities. The discussions further highlighted the importance of creating safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces for participation, where individuals from different backgrounds feel able to contribute openly and meaningfully.

Another major theme emerging from the recommendations was the growing concern surrounding misinformation, digitalisation, and declining trust in institutions and media. Participants identified disinformation, online polarisation, and the rapid spread of false information as significant threats to democratic resilience and social cohesion across Europe. In response, many recommendations focused on strengthening media literacy, critical thinking, civic education, and public awareness campaigns, particularly targeting younger generations. At the same time, participants recognised the opportunities offered by digital tools and artificial intelligence to support participation, communication, and access to information, while underlining the importance of transparency, accountability, ethical safeguards, and democratic oversight in the use of such technologies. Participants also stressed that digital participation should complement, rather than replace, in-person and community-based democratic engagement.

Migration and solidarity also featured prominently throughout many discussions, particularly in panels organised in Southern European Member States directly affected by migration routes and asylum policies. Participants generally advocated for more humane, coherent, and solidarity-based migration policies at EU level, including improved reception conditions, fairer responsibility-sharing mechanisms between Member States, stronger integration policies, and better protection of migrants' rights. Importantly, the recommendations reflected a broader understanding of migration not only as a border management issue, but also as a question of human rights, social inclusion, equality, and global responsibility. Several discussions additionally emphasised the importance of combating fear-based narratives surrounding migration and promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding within communities.

Education emerged as another central priority across nearly all panels. Participants repeatedly emphasised the importance of civic education, democratic values, critical thinking, and access to reliable information as long-term foundations for strengthening democratic participation and social cohesion. Many recommendations focused specifically on the role of schools, universities, youth organisations, and civil society initiatives in fostering active citizenship and empowering people to participate confidently in democratic life. Particular emphasis was placed on youth participation, with many participants expressing the need for stronger support structures, educational opportunities, and accessible channels through which young people can engage with European politics and policymaking.

Overall, the recommendations reveal that participants largely perceive the European Union as a global actor that should actively promote peace, democracy, sustainability, human rights, and solidarity both within and beyond its borders. At the same time, the discussions revealed frustrations regarding perceived inconsistencies between the EU's stated values and its practical actions in areas such as migration, minority rights, democratic participation, or foreign policy. The recommendations therefore reflect both trust in the EU's democratic potential and a strong expectation that the Union should become more accessible, socially responsive, inclusive, and consistent in defending its values in an increasingly complex global context.

## ANNEX 1: The full list of recommendations

The recommendations presented below reflect citizens' responses to growing democratic, social, environmental, and geopolitical challenges facing Europe today. While rooted in different national and thematic contexts, they collectively demonstrate a strong demand for a more participatory, inclusive, transparent, and values-based European Union.

While the recommendations are grouped thematically, many of them are interconnected and reflect citizens' broader calls for democratic resilience, solidarity, accountability, and inclusive participation across all areas of EU policymaking.

### Enhancing Democratic Participation and Inclusive Governance

- Support initiatives that amplify grassroots voices and create avenues for non-traditional participation
- Promote “power of numbers” strategies, where unified movements can influence policymakers
- Encourage public funds to support authorities engaging with diverse groups
- Introduce frameworks requiring institutions to engage marginalized voices
- Advocate for greater inclusion of non-citizens in local governance structures
- Solidarity among movements fosters interconnected advocacy, strengthening the collective voice for change
- Encourage collaboration across sectors (e.g. health justice, education reform, refugee rights) to highlight interlinked issues
- Create spaces where diverse groups can engage informally, breaking down barriers and fostering mutual understanding
- Ensure that electoral programmes are also published in simplified and multiple languages
- Ensure that electoral programmes, voting and other democratic tools are accessible to persons with a disability and older persons who may be left behind from digitalisation
- Work towards the inclusion of long-staying third-country nationals in local, national and EP elections
- Ensure that youth groups and civil society actors are present and available in remote and isolated areas
- Work towards the syncing of local, national and EP elections without provoking election fatigue
- Ensure equal and transparent financial support for all political parties, including the smaller ones
- Ensure the de-centralisation of power to local authorities and communities

- Ensure that anti-discrimination legislation is enforced nationally in order to counter the discrimination that minority groups face daily and also in community and/or democratic participation
- Ensure that safeguards are employed, and safety-nets exist for when minority groups exercise their rights
- Ensure equal treatment, safety and protection of individuals and groups that organise and participate in demonstrations and protests
- Activists should be ready to question and hold governments to account, whilst also reaching out to political parties, politicians and MEPs to start a dialogue and give information of what is happening nationally on the ground
- Civil society must give clear messaging and reach out to communities in a more effective manner in order to counter the anti-democratic movement, including with the use of social media and digitalisation
- Ensure resources are available to civil society for them to be able to carry out their role in society more effectively
- Promote the visibility of youth structures and projects to improve access to clear and verified information
- Implement systems to formally recognise and reward not just organisations but also individual volunteers for their contributions
- Challenge misconceptions by highlighting the value of youth-led initiatives in personal and community development
- Strengthening the visibility of international civil society networks
- People who volunteer should get something to motivate them at the start, like a European Youth Card, which they could use to get more discounts or charge it and spend it regardless, the schools/universities should provide it (the more volunteering work they do, the more benefits on such a card they could benefit from). Paid internships or projects also play a crucial role in this domain.
- Create youth centres at the European level from EU funds and make the ones that do exist known
- Engage young people who are not usually engaged, e.g. from rural areas
- Provide economic support for the people who are not engaged at all
- EU bodies could pay youth workers
- EU representative should raise awareness in Member States to have gender neutral participation in public life
- Guarantee representation in EU institutions of LGBTQI+ individuals, through EU policies and affirmative action
- Education and training programmes on gender-sensitive approaches and on gender identity and sexual orientation should be extended especially to politicians representing us at the local, national, and EU level

- Electronic voting for the European Elections and other local elections in the Member States should be established
- People should be able to participate in decisionmaking at the EU and the UN institutions level in a more interactive and participatory way, following the model of the European Citizens' Initiative
- Improve anti-corruption mechanisms in institutions for more transparency.

### **Advancing Education**

- Embed civic education in curriculums, focusing on diversity, human rights, and political engagement
- Partner with organisations to expose students to diverse perspectives and real-world policymaking challenges.
- Ensure strong educational curricula on civic engagement and democratic processes
- Ensure that civic education includes a values component to teach empathy, solidarity and community belonging
- Ensure that children and young people are aware of their rights and are able to express their wishes and problems they wish to address
- Establish partnerships between schools, NGOs, and local authorities to facilitate access to information and representation processes
- Ensure that citizens and particularly young people are better informed about opportunities for civic participation
- Establish youth centres where young people can collaborate and develop civic initiatives
- Introduce media education and digital literacy in schools to help young people identify credible sources and combat misinformation. A series of international projects addressing this issue could facilitate the learning process for young people
- Initiate partnerships between schools and independent media organisations to promote critical thinking
- Implement cross-border programs at the EU level for civic and digital education
- Awareness campaigns to prevent disinformation and encourage collaboration between youth organisations at the European level
- Create educational programs to inform young people about political roles and opportunities in their countries
- Expand school-based campaigns to promote volunteering in European projects, showcasing its personal and societal benefits
- Introduce successful individuals as role models to inspire and guide youth in various fields
- Paid internships should be applied in every EU country as the EU legislation asks
  - Tax cuts for intern employers, reducing bureaucratic burden

- Introduce democracy, government and EU education in schools
- Ensure children have the right to inclusive, objective, and gender-neutral sexual education, as well as queer education

### **Leveraging Technology, combating misinformation and ensuring Accountability**

- Ensure that digitalisation is a tool that helps and not hinders democratic participation, such as an online tool to suggest proposals to local and central governments
- Introduce an independent system of monitoring of the European Parliament elections nationally, similar to the OSCE election monitoring missions
- Develop an EU platform using AI to filter and verify information, with oversight by state governments
- Create platforms for citizens to report fake news, ensuring these are user-friendly and accessible
- Establish an EU-level institution to safeguard journalists' rights, ensuring they can report the truth without fear of dismissal
- Strengthen the use of cybersecurity measures
- Introduce curriculum ideas that could be integrated in the national education systems for combatting disinformation
- Establish an EU level institution to reduce the bureaucratic process for organisations, people, etc. to report disinformation or attacks through disinformation
- Extend existing internet laws to media institutions, addressing misinformation and holding them accountable as countries should follow international law, EU media should be a role model in all the world
- Educate the public on identifying and reporting disinformation to build a more informed society
- Form a specialised department to evaluate and publicly address false narratives with verified facts
- Foster environments that encourage experimentation with AI tools and solutions, allowing stakeholders to explore their potential
- Promote discussions on AI recommendations, encouraging users to question and validate what these tools suggest
- Organise workshops for decision-makers, citizens, and industries to understand the ethical implication and practical applications of AI
- Ensure that AI tools used in governance and decision-making are transparent in their processes and accountable for their outputs
- Explore ways to implement AI tools in policy making
- Lobby transparency on all issues on EU agendas

- Create centralised and user-friendly EU platforms that provide accessible information on democratic participation tools and civic engagement opportunities.
- Strengthen media literacy education across all Member States, including critical thinking, fact-checking, and digital awareness from an early age.
- Support independent fact-checking initiatives and establish a European network for verified information and disinformation monitoring.
- Improve cooperation between public institutions, schools, civil society, journalists, influencers, and digital platforms to combat misinformation.
- Increase transparency of social media algorithms, political advertising, and AI-generated content.
- Develop accessible educational tools and short-form digital campaigns to help citizens identify manipulation and disinformation online.
- Promote lifelong media literacy education targeting both younger and older generations.

### **Community Resilience, Active Citizenship and Solidarity**

- Develop EU-wide resilience and crisis preparedness standards to strengthen coordinated responses across Member States.
- Strengthen cooperation between local authorities, NGOs, civil society organisations, and public institutions in crisis management and democratic participation.
- Promote community-based resilience through participatory governance, local engagement, and active citizenship initiatives.
- Expand civic education programmes focused on democratic values, media literacy, critical thinking, and societal resilience.
- Support participatory budgeting, local citizen boards, and community-led decision-making structures.
- Combat disinformation and hostile propaganda through coordinated EU-level tools and public awareness initiatives.
- Increase support for cross-border solidarity initiatives and local partnerships between European communities.
- Improve inclusion of NGOs and grassroots organisations in civil protection and crisis response mechanisms.
- Shift public communication from fear-based narratives towards messages of preparedness, solidarity, and collective resilience.

## **Climate Governance, Sustainability and Ecological Democracy**

- Strengthen citizen participation in climate policymaking through assemblies, consultations, and accessible democratic mechanisms.
- Facilitate ecological and climate education (“green bildung”) to improve public understanding of sustainability and democratic participation.
- Ensure that sustainability and competitiveness are addressed together through fair, transparent, and socially inclusive policies.
- Increase accessibility of sustainable alternatives through subsidies, public investment, and stronger regulation against greenwashing.
- Promote climate resilience as a core security issue and integrate sustainability into EU security and defence strategies.
- Improve transparency and accessibility of EU climate legislation and communication towards citizens.
- Support local initiatives, grassroots organisations, and community-led environmental action through accessible funding and institutional support.
- Strengthen youth participation and intersectional approaches in climate governance and ecological transition policies.
- Advance the concept of a just transition that balances environmental sustainability, social justice, and democratic inclusion.

## **Migration Policies**

- There need to be more decent places in the EU for migrants and refugees to stay not just in the short-term, but also in the long-term.
- Highlight cooperation challenges, especially for countries like Greece, Malta, Spain and Italy, heavily affected by migration to strengthen solidarity among member states
- Quotas that should be reflective of the demographics and incentives to solve the problem of under-hiring through state subventions
- Increasing the visibility of minorities
- Recognising migrants’ economic contributions and not only, as they should have means to acquire faster citizenship in the residence country and to have access to social services
- Data show that there are not enough workers and specialists in reception centres and facilities, hence, there is a need to:
  - Enhance the role and staffing of relevant authorities (e.g. asylum agencies) to process applications more efficiently
  - Increase the speed of migration processes upon arrival
- Develop EU-wide migration policies while addressing differences between nationalities

- EU-wide standards for citizenship (related to the stateless, children as well), introducing a faster way to get citizenship or residence
- The creation of basic standards that each country can have, so that there aren't so many differences between countries
- Strengthen the role of the European Union Agency for Asylum
- Better regulation for migration financial aid and housing distribution
- Redesigning support systems to avoid forming ghettos and ensure equitable access to resources
- Create programs that prevent migrant communities from becoming isolated, in order for them to be integrated in the host country
- Introduce demographic quotas in institutions
- Create programs and laws for the case of stateless children and nationality gaps
- Amend EU regulation to address issues like statelessness (for example for children born to Syrian mothers who are unable to pass on their nationality in order to have access to social services)
- Implement programs for children like community activities or creative community gatherings and better financing for projects dedicated for them, in order for them to be integrated
- Improve the reception of the refugees securing the basic needs for home, school, employment and education in parallel with free language courses of the language of the host country.

### **Protecting fundamental rights**

- EU affirmative action in protection of persecuted LGBTQI+ individuals and activists: such as strengthening implementation of asylum laws and adoption of protection funds, amongst others.
  - Protection funds should be granted to supporting local entities and CSOs for activities like the creation and development of safe houses and art residencies, free legal consultations, etc.
  - Funding should also be invested in science, education, and research – focusing on gender identity and sexual orientation. Such funds are crucial to raise awareness and ensure respect and protection of the LGBTQI+ community.
- The EU should have a better communication strategy and should inform its citizens and residents more and better about points of action in its policy agenda on protection of LGBTQI+ rights

- Establish training programmes for first responders to deal with violence cases for all individuals equally with gender-sensitive approaches. Whilst increasingly more action has been taken towards first-response to cases of violence against women, violence against LGBTQI+ individuals is still underdealt and needs more awareness-raising and training programmes.
- The EU should take a harder stance of support towards LGBTQI+ people to stand against the very prevalent hate sentiment in current times.
- The EU should act against hate speech, sexual and gender violence, and guarantee an environment of protection
- Raise awareness on the relation between freedom of speech and hate speech. Social media standards to combat hate speech exist, but there is a need to improve how they are implemented. It is necessary to enhance and expand hate speech regulators, such as, by establishing designated entities or institutions to report to.
- Ban conversion practices in the EU
  - The EU should increase its competence in interfering in legislation in Member States, when it comes to protection of individual rights and freedoms.
  - There are too few means to report Member States for not respecting and protection rights and freedoms of LGBTQI+ individuals.
- The EU should enhance support and protection for self-determination rights for transgender people as to ease the access to and process of hormonal therapy.
- The EU should guarantee that rights of queer families are respected in all Member States: such as access to adoption and creation of family, right to be a parent, recognition of marital status, amongst others.
- The EU should ensure a minimum stance of support for LGBTQI+ people all across the EU, so that everyone can feel safe in any country of the Union.
- The EU should protect people living in the Union and it must not leave LGBTQI+ people behind
- The EU should increase accessibility for LGBTQI+ individuals, and not restricting this action to EU citizens only, but all residents of the Union

### **The EU's role outside of Europe**

- The EU should be a peacekeeper worldwide, especially in Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa
- The EU should increase its budget spent on holistic development of neighbouring countries to help ensure that citizens there have peace and opportunities for a decent life
- Encourage scaling local initiatives to a global stage, demonstrating how small actions can lead to broader impacts
- The EU should end the support to wars and use its money in a more effective way
- The EU should advocate for the introduction of universal rights for queer families: such as to be a parent, or recognition of marital status beyond national practices
- The EU should advocate for banning conversion practices around the world
- The EU should advocate for the protection of citizens with non-binary genders on identification documents and for the recognition of such documents beyond national borders



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