Multilingual Digital Platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe

Final Report
May 2022
Disclaimer: this report is the sole responsibility of the authors and does not reflect the views of the EU Institutions or the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Analysis carried out by Kantar Public.
## Contents

**INTRODUCTION**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. OVERVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE PLATFORM
2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
3. HEALTH
4. A STRONGER ECONOMY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND JOBS
5. EU IN THE WORLD
6. VALUES AND RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, SECURITY
7. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
8. EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY
9. MIGRATION
10. EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

ANNEX I: LIST OF CURRENTLY MOST ENDORSED AND COMMENTED IDEAS PER TOPIC

ANNEX II: METHODOLOGY
Introduction

With the Conference on the Future of Europe, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission have created an opportunity for European citizens from all 27 Member States to engage in a debate on challenges and priorities to address in order to create together a Europe fit for the future. As part of the Conference process, a Multilingual Digital Platform (referred to in the following as ‘the platform’) was launched on 19 April 2021 (futureu.europa.eu) and remained live throughout the work of the Conference.

The platform was a key component of the Conference; it gave every EU citizen the chance to participate in any of the 24 official EU languages. Citizens could put forward their ideas, endorse other people’s ideas and comment on them. The platform was also the place where everyone could share information on Conference events and report on their outcomes.

All contributions on the platform were then collected and analysed in order to serve as input for the work of the European Citizens’ Panels, the Conference Plenary. Three interim reports, three Member States reports and a full report have been published to date, covering contributions on the platform up to 20 February 2022.

This report covers all the contributions on the platform from its inception on 19 April 2021 until 9 May 2022 when the Conference concluded its work.

When reading this report it is important to bear in mind that the contributions on the platform represent the views of the respective contributors and should not be
regarded as representing the views of European citizens as a whole.

The analytical results are presented in the report according to the topics defined on the platform:

- Climate change and the environment
- Health
- A stronger economy, social justice and jobs
- EU in the world
- Values and rights, rule of law, security
- Digital transformation
- European Democracy
- Migration
- Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Ideas mentioned on the platform under ‘Other ideas’ have been placed under one of the nine above-mentioned topics, or several topics in the case of cross-cutting issues.

For each topic, an overview of the thematic clustering of the ideas and events with event reports is provided, aided by a Text Analysis system that identifies the multiple occurrences of a similar idea, in any language. These identified themes and sub-themes are presented in the order of level of occurrence as assessed by the analyst with the help of the Text Analysis system. A text box at the beginning of each topic provides some examples of events held on that topic, focusing on new events added since the last report. A thematic overview of the new contributions uploaded to the platform after 20 February 2022 has been added in a box at the end of every topic chapter. A mind map for each topic provides a visual representation of the content analysis by themes and sub-themes.

Note on methodology

The main focus of this report is on a qualitative analysis of the contributions on the platform. This is carried out on the basis of the ideas, event reports and comments submitted by contributors to deliver a broad overview of the content of the platform. In practice, within each topic a manual textual analysis and clustering of the proposed ideas and closed events with event reports has been performed by a research team, aided by a computer-assisted clustering tool. Subsequently, a summary of the common themes and possible sub-themes has been prepared. The cluster analysis into themes and sub-themes is carried out within the pre-defined topics. This means that ideas cutting across topics or ideas submitted by contributors under multiple topics or under ‘Other ideas’ may appear multiple times in this report under the relevant topics. This approach has been chosen so as to give a holistic perspective on each of the conference topics.

Issues which are raised by a small number of contributors also figure in this analysis if they provide a new perspective compared with that of other contributors. The aim is to provide a general overview of the breadth and diversity of ideas currently proposed on the platform, rather than focusing on quantitative elements. Nevertheless, themes, sub-themes or ideas that recur frequently or have a high number of endorsements or comments are indicated in the text, to reflect the current state of discussions on the platform, including a high level of interest in or debate on some issues. These elements are also used to guide the order of presentation of themes in this report.

Quantitative elements (number of ideas, comments, endorsements and events) are also used in the overview of contributions and in the list of currently most endorsed and commented ideas per topic presented in Annex I.

Please also note that in the analysis provided in this report, the term ‘contributions’ refers to a combination of ideas, comments and event reports.

Further details on the methodological approach are provided in Annex II.
This report summarises activity on the Multilingual Digital Platform for the Conference on the Future of Europe from its launch up to 9 May 2022.

In this period 48,530 contributions were recorded on the platform, with 18,955 ideas, 22,570 comments and 7,005 events covering all 10 topics.

From 21 February to 9 May 2022, 4,796 new contributions were added to the platform. The majority of these new contributions consolidate existing themes and sub-themes in the various topics and have no impact on the order of the themes according to their overall occurrence.

The start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has influenced some new sub-themes across various topics such as calls for a stronger involvement of the EU in the conflict within the topic of EU in the world, as well as suggestions to achieve European energy sovereignty under the topic of Stronger Economy, social justice and jobs.
Contributors are concerned about climate change and its effects, as well as numerous other environmental challenges. The most frequent themes deal with emissions as well as renewable energy. Contributors in general want an accelerated green transition with immediate and concrete measures from the EU and governments, with a range of proposals, such as fostering greener energy production and transport, altering consumption patterns, more sustainable agriculture, promoting biodiversity and halting pollution. Contributions have emphasised the need for education and communication at EU level, with initiatives to address these issues. Some contributors have raised the issue of social justice in the context of climate policy. The ideas can be thematically grouped as follows:

- An overarching call urging governments and the EU to take immediate action, with a stronger European environmental policy to combat climate change. Contributors have put forward several suggestions to tackle emissions and have discussed best practices and ways to accelerate a green transition and the implementation of the Green Deal at local and regional levels;

- Under the theme of energy, contributors, strongly favour increasing the use of renewable energy and enhancing energy diversity through research, and innovating with alternative energy sources, for both households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). However, some contributors have drawn attention to the issue of acceptance by the population, and the issue of nuclear energy has prompted a divisive debate;

- Participants want measures to encourage the development and use of alternative, eco-friendly means of transport, with various suggestions to encourage the use of public transport and calls for increased research and investment in alternative transport solutions;

- Under the theme of consumption, contributors want stronger measures to address waste, food waste and to promote recycling and a circular economy, targeting both manufacturers and consumers. Additionally, there are calls for measures to promote more sustainable consumption in sectors ranging from tourism, fashion to electronic appliances. Contributors are equally concerned about the environmental pressures linked to digital transformation, such as the development of cryptocurrencies;

- The promotion of biodiversity and animal welfare, with calls for reforestation, the halting of deforestation, the protection of endangered species and increased research facilities related to biodiversity;

- Under the theme of agriculture a strong sub-theme is the call to eliminate the use of pesticides and in general to adopt more environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Other measures in relation to the environment include the promotion of local farming, biodiversity, vegetarian or vegan diets and fair prices for farmers;

- Means and measures to combat pollution as it is seen as a source of pressure on the environment. Solutions have been proposed to battle water pollution, the polluting use of plastic with calls to ban single-plastic use, as well as light pollution;

- The halting of environmentally unfriendly subsidies such as fossil fuel or harmful fishing subsidies, as well as various proposals for taxation measures to drive behavioural change and promote sustainable consumption, for example by way of a sustainability tax;

- Contributors want increased efforts to change behaviour and attitudes through enhanced awareness-raising, education and communication;

- Related to recent hikes in energy prices and the EU’s increasingly problematic dependency on Russian gas and oil supplies, a number of contributions have called for an
accelerated switch to renewable energy sources, promoting more conscious energy consumption, as well as advocating EU energy sovereignty;

- A specific theme is dedicated to housing and construction, with ideas concerning sustainable housing, eco-friendly building materials and the ‘New European Bauhaus’;

- Contributors have discussed the interaction between digitalisation and climate change under the topic of ‘digital transformation’.

**Health**

The topic of health covers a wide variety of themes. The most frequently raised theme, strongly influenced by the experience of COVID-19 and its impact, relates to equal access to quality healthcare across the EU, with ideas for closer cooperation between Member States, greater harmonisation and integration, through for example EU-wide quality standards of care. Contributors want increased research and investment in the field of medicine and have suggested various ideas to improve public health in general. The main themes are the following:

- Measures to ensure access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, with access for everyone, in particular to mental healthcare. The suggestions include, amongst others, a European medical insurance scheme to ensure affordability;

- More cooperation and integration, a strengthened EU healthcare system or even increased competence for the EU in public health matters;

- Integrated strategies towards common EU health challenges, such as cancer, mental health, suicide prevention, rare diseases, etc.;

- Resources and measures to promote health literacy, healthy lifestyles and diets, including on mental health, and various measures to discourage the consumption of unhealthy products, such as tobacco. Participants want the EU to invest more in a series of preventative health-related measures;

- The need for EU coordinated innovation and investment in health research, particularly in relation to the EU’s ageing demographic profile;

- Under the theme of approaches to medicine, the ideas discussed include palliative and end-of-life care, the integration of natural remedies or more holistic approaches to medicine;

- The opportunities and health threats relating to increased digitalisation in recent decades, with amongst the opportunities discussed the integration of European e-Health systems, and amongst the threats the dangers of digital addiction;

- An assessment of the impact of COVID-19, including evaluating responses such as the digital corona certificate, the need to revalue healthcare workers and the lessons to be learned to prepare for and combat future pandemics;

- Less prominent themes concern sexual and reproductive health related measures, such as combating period poverty, sexual education and the right to abortion, as well as cancer care, discussed in particular in relation to prevention, early diagnosis and the pooling of resources EU wide.

**Stronger economy, social justice and jobs**

A frequently discussed theme under this topic is the importance of Europe becoming more inclusive and socially just, especially in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Contributions under this topic also include various suggestions to drive economic growth in the EU, such as research and innovation, further
strengthening the single market, and various measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises and strategic industries. Additionally, contributors believe that the well-being of various groups of people, especially the most disadvantaged ones, is pivotal to the EU’s successful functioning and further growth. The most prominent themes debated under this topic are:

- Suggestions to build a more inclusive, socially just Europe, in accordance with the European Pillar of Social Rights, such as social protection measures, eliminating the gender pay gap, poverty reduction measures, gender equality, ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ rights and representation. Various concrete ideas discussed include a unified EU approach to social security, introducing gender quotas at board level and a social equality measurement index;

- Economic recovery, including concerns about rising public debt in the EU, discussions about the role of the European Central Bank, calls for a review of the Stability and Growth Pact and for an expansion of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, as well as various suggestions to support local production and local consumption to boost the internal market and the EU economy. In light of the recent energy crisis generated by the strategic responses to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, calls for strategic energy autonomy have been stepped up;

- Boosting job growth by investing in innovation, education, digitalisation, research and development, but also by establishing a Green Economy. There is a particular focus on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises as they are considered innovation drivers. Additionally, several contributions have discussed the potential of rural areas in economic innovation, with calls for measures to counter depopulation of rural areas or general support for the agricultural sector, encouraging young farmers in particular;

- Contributors consider that social security measures are important to achieve social justice. The Unconditional Basic Income is the most frequently raised idea. Other ideas include coordinated retirement policies and pensions across EU Member States, and actions to curb poverty in the EU, with also a call to more generally take account of the EU’s demographic transformation. Calls for a digitised common EU social security card – also raised elsewhere - and transferable social rights for mobile Europeans are also present in contributions under this topic;

- Various taxation formats for a fair and inclusive economy, such as tax measures to ensure fair competition between companies, environmental taxes and a minimum EU-wide tax to counter tax havens;

- Contributors have also raised the idea of a common tax policy with European fiscal reform for a more united European future, including more EU own resources or a budget independent from the Member States, as well as putting forward suggestions to further strengthen the single market;

- Suggestions to improve working conditions, such as flexible working and the right to disconnect, and specific measures to further facilitate labour mobility within the EU. Youth unemployment in particular has been discussed, with several suggestions to support young people entering the job market;

- Some ideas challenge the current economic model with a view to moving towards an inclusive and equitable European model that looks beyond GDP.
themes are those calling for a stronger EU presence in the global political arena in line with the EU’s core values. Contributors to the platform have raised the issue of strategic autonomy and often feel that the EU should be bolder in its exercise of both soft and hard power, although some contributors have expressed doubts in this regard. The main themes include:

- Contributions discussing the overall objectives of EU foreign policy, with calls for a common EU foreign policy defending human rights and democratic values worldwide;
- Developing various means and mechanisms in order to enhance the EU’s image and ensure that it is taken seriously on the global political stage, with considerable discussion about a common defence policy to be able to intervene, but also to play a dissuasive role and represent geopolitical power vis-à-vis other global powers;
- The creation of an EU army and related centralised defensive or military institutions;
- Rethinking the unanimity rule in foreign policy decision-making, and giving increased powers to the European Parliament;
- Actions to make the EU more visible, as well as ideas concerning an EU diplomatic representation, for example with a single seat on the United Nations Security Council;
- Exerting soft power as an advocate of multilateralism by strengthening trade policies;
- Further enlargement, especially to Western Balkans countries. In light of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, EU membership of Ukraine was equally discussed;
- Fostering the EU’s strategic autonomy and increasing the focus on the EU’s primordial common economic market function;
- Taking a more assertive stance towards China, especially by adopting a European Union Foreign Investment Strategy;
- A large number of the most recent contributions concerned the role of the EU in

the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, with most often calls for the EU to support Ukraine or to take a leading role in bringing the conflict to an end.

Values and rights, rule of law and security

Contributors have advanced ideas on equality and a variety of rights and freedoms and discussed the concept of European values as a guiding principle for EU policy making. As equality is considered a core EU value, there is strong support for enhanced efforts to create an inclusive society, with contributors calling in particular for greater gender equality, recognising LGBTIQ rights, and the inclusion of ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Another recurring idea under this topic relates to the need to uphold and defend the rule of law. The main themes and ideas are the following:

- The discussions have included ensuring human rights in general and ways to make them enforceable, as well as a variety of rights and freedoms. Civil and political rights are strongly represented within this topic on the platform, with the right to privacy and freedom of expression, as well as their limits (disinformation, hate speech) being most prominent among contributions. Economic and social rights have also been raised, as in the topic on Stronger economy;
- Combating discrimination and means and measures to achieve a more equal and inclusive society have been raised, in particular for people with disabilities, older people, national and ethnic minorities. A large number of ideas relate to achieving gender equality, such as ensuring equal pay, and improving the protection of LGBTIQ rights and freedoms;
A number of concrete suggestions concern ways of improving the protection of the rule of law in the EU, such as a review mechanism or introducing punitive strategies for those countries that infringe the rule of law, for example by reducing grants or taking away voting rights in the Council. Some contributors however are critical about what they consider as the EU interfering in internal affairs of Member States;

A group of contributions have focused on what constitutes EU values, such as human rights, freedom, equality, democracy, rule of law, pluralism, solidarity, gender equality, which should guide the EU’s policies and its interactions globally, or even be enshrined in the EU constitution, according to contributors;

Discussions have also covered the role of Christian values, with some contributors making the point that more conservative voices and approaches within the EU should not be dismissed;

As under the EU in the world topic, under the security theme a number of participants have discussed the idea of an EU army and the need for closer cooperation between European countries on internal security matters. The recent geopolitical events have only reinforced this call for increased EU military organisation and border protection;

There are calls for enhanced regulation to make lobbying more transparent and tackle corruption.

Digital transformation

In general contributors have stressed the importance of facilitating and investing in a digital transformation across a wide range of areas, including governance, the economy and health. However, they have also highlighted several challenges related to digital transformation, such as ethical considerations, the growing digital divide, General Data Protection Regulation shortcomings and cyber threats. Overall the most occurring themes concern the need to invest in digital education and foster digital skills, as well as investing in digital innovation and moving towards a digitally sovereign Europe. The main themes are the following:

- Ensuring that EU citizens possess the necessary digital skills to succeed in an increasingly digital world, and digitalising the education system;
- Means and measures to support digital innovation, such as artificial intelligence and boosting digital sovereignty. This covers a wide range of sub-themes: encouraging the use of open-source software, sustainable manufacturing, social media and platforms that comply with EU standards in terms of privacy, and more broadly building a European digital ecosystem that is competitive and open to the world, but that is also safe and respects privacy;
- Several tools for digital citizenship and digital unification of the EU, with suggestions for digital portals, European-wide identification via a digital e-ID or a European-wide authentication method for accessing personal data or for public services;
- Participants are concerned about data privacy and security, with ideas touching on the centralised storage of sensitive personal data, ensuring secure public networks with open-source software or blockchain technology, legislative action to safeguard data privacy and a centralised approach to defend the EU from cyber terrorism;
- Working towards digital inclusion with measures to guarantee affordable and inclusive access to the digital space, and fostering digital skills across a range of population profiles, as well as ensuring digital accessibility geographically, including in rural areas;
- Durable digital transition measures, with digitalisation leading to a reduction in pollution.
and calls for durable, repairable digital equipment among others;

- Digitalisation of the economy with measures relating to cryptocurrency, and a call for a digital euro;
- Investing in digital education and digital health in order to promote healthy and conscious use of technology.

**European Democracy**

Ideas under this topic cover a wide range of issues. The most recurring themes relate to European Parliament elections, future-proofing European institutions by means of restructuring and the question of “federalisation”. The need to increase citizen participation to help shape policy-making has been widely discussed. Contributors deem it crucial to increase knowledge about EU matters and to foster a common European identity. As across other topics, contributors often stress the need to protect democracy and uphold the rule of law in the EU. The most prominent themes are:

- In terms of representation, changes to the way the European Parliament elections are held as a means of enhancing citizen participation in EU democratic processes, with proposals for transnational electoral lists and transnational campaigns; directly electing an EU President has also been proposed;
- The idea of federalisation is prominent. Contributions range from calls to take steps towards a federal union in specific areas to establishing a European Constitution. On the other hand, some participants are sceptical or call rather for decentralisation, with greater powers for Member States;
- Suggestions include measures to make citizen consultations and participation a structural part of EU governance in order to create a sense of ownership among citizens as regards EU decision-making. Proposals include institutionalising citizen assemblies, creating online platforms and organising EU wide referenda;
- Institutional reforms have been suggested, with the aim of making the EU institutions more efficient and transparent and bringing them closer to citizens. The most frequent suggestions include qualified majority voting rather than unanimity in the Council, especially in relation to the protection of EU values, and a greater role for the European Parliament in general;
- Mechanisms and means to better engage EU citizens and ensure that they are more connected and better informed about the EU, EU institutions and its decisions. Suggestions concern better communication, reducing the distance between Members of the European Parliament and their constituencies, common EU media platforms and fostering a European spirit; the latter suggestion also figures in the topic of Education, culture, youth and sport;
- Mechanisms and means to protect democratic values with regard to lobbying, corruption, and measures against governments that violate democratic principles. The fight against disinformation, also raised under other topics, is also covered under this topic;
- Some contributions have called for greater involvement of national governments and parliaments in EU policy-making, with for example compulsory parliamentary sessions discussing EU affairs, making them more accountable for EU policies.

**Migration**

While contributions under this topic consistently call for a common EU approach to migration, they reveal more than under any other topic vastly different opinions. On one hand, one group of interactions call
for greater solidarity and better integration procedures, while on the other hand other contributions want more action to control and reduce migration. Taking an intermediate position, another group of participants would like to foster international mobility, but only between economically developed democracies. The most recurrent themes include a common EU policy on migration, respecting human rights in the area of migration, supporting the integration of migrants in various ways, but also ideas calling for stricter border controls and migration management. The ideas can be summarised as follows:

- Calls for a common migration policy, such as an EU labour migration policy, an EU selective migration policy or a points-based system;
- Calls for a migration policy respecting human rights, with better reception infrastructures, safer migration routes; and more humane asylum and return procedures;
- Specific measures and means to decrease migration or various forms of controlled migration, with stricter border controls and stricter repatriation;
- Means and measures to facilitate and support the integration of migrants and permanent residents in the EU. The proposed measures include language education and volunteering programmes for migrants, and information campaigns to sensitise EU citizens to counter racism;
- Opposition to migration in any form, linking it with terrorism, a threat to the EU’s cultural identity or migration being used as a political weapon;
- Better organised and coordinated efforts when it comes to border control: increased support to Frontex and greater solidarity between Member States;
- The need to tackle the root causes of migration in the countries of origin, for example through enhanced development policies and equal trade relations. Discussions have also addressed ways of countering climate migration.

Education, culture, youth and sport

Given its multi-thematic nature, content under this topic covers a variety of themes. While youth is a current in many ideas across the platform, the strongest focus in this topic is on education and culture. As elsewhere on the platform, the call to foster a common EU identity is a recurrent underlying sentiment for themes identified under this topic with contributions related, among others, to exchanges, exposure to different cultures, and mobility. Many of the themes under this topic are cross-cutting and therefore appear elsewhere on the platform:

- Means and measures to foster the development of a European identity and European citizenship; with a key role for the media and European journalism, as well as European productions disseminating European values and culture;
- Increased foreign language education or mandatory courses in schools on the EU institutions and European history are also seen as a means of fostering recognition and a common EU identity. There are numerous suggestions for a unifying, common language on the platform under various topics; suggestions range from Esperanto to English as a common language. The call to recognise Esperanto in particular occurs widely across the various topics, including under Other ideas;
- Various suggestions to foster intra-EU mobility, particularly with regard to education, with an expansion of Erasmus scholarships amongst others;
- Several ideas raise the need to future-proof education with calls for digitalisation, the promotion of soft skills next to STEM skills, or cross-cultural skills in general;
- In addition, the ideas submitted under this topic discuss specific actions relating to youth and youth unemployment, work precariousness, education and training needs, or specific employment support for young people;
– Ensuring equal access to education, specifically tertiary education, particularly supporting rural inhabitants, former inmates, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities to enable them to access tertiary studies;

– The need to support and protect the cultural and creative industry with a legal framework;

– Means and measures to support academic professionals and researchers;

– A smaller proportion of ideas have discussed sport in the EU and ways to improve inclusivity in sport.
1. Overview of contributions on the platform

Overview of activity

Since the launch of the Multilingual Digital Platform on 19 April up to 9 May 2022, in total 48,530 contributions were collected on the platform, representing ideas, comments and events. The activity can be broken down as follows:

- Ideas: 18,955
- Comments: 22,570
- Events: 7,005

Looking at the trendline (see Figure 1), three peaks in submissions of ideas and comments can be observed. The first peak coincided with the launch of the platform, the second peak occurred around the inauguration of the Conference on the Future of Europe on 9 May, while the third peak occurred in the last week before the 20 February deadline for contributions to be taken into account in the last published report.
Figure 1 – Timeline indicating daily submissions of ideas and comments (19/04/2021 – 09/05/2022)
Prior to engaging on the platform contributors were asked to provide information on their country of residence, educational background, age, gender and employment status. The data were processed anonymously. As this information was shared voluntarily, there are limitations on the insight that can be provided on this basis and presented below. For example, 29.5% of the contributions were from participants who did not disclose their country of residence.

All EU countries have generated activity, as can be seen from Figure 2, which presents the total number of contributions per country. In addition, 1.4% contributions from third countries outside the EU were recorded.

In order to paint a more detailed picture of the volume of contributions in proportion to the population, the figure below gives an overview of the number of contributions from each country per one million inhabitants.

**Figure 2 – Volume of contributions per country (19/04/2021 – 09/05/2022)**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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**Figure 3 – Volume of contributions per country, proportional reflection per 1M inhabitants (19/04/2021 – 09/05/2022)**

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</table>
Overview of events

During the Conference a significant number of events were organised. They provided an opportunity for more people to become involved in this bottom-up democratic exercise. From the launch of the digital platform up to 9 May 2022, in total 7,005 events were registered on the platform. In line with the Conference Charter (accessible here), citizens had to be at the heart of events, which had to be inclusive and accessible and encourage diversity of debate. Toolkits were in place to help event organisers (accessible here). In order for events to effectively contribute to the Conference, event reports detailing the conclusions and concrete ideas emerging from them had to be uploaded to the digital platform (see guidelines). These event reports, together with the event description and linked ideas have been taken into account in the overall analysis of the contributions on the platform.

Events related to the Conference were organised in a variety of formats, as regards the type of event, their scale, the profile of the audience or of the organisers, as well as their thematic scope. This section aims to provide an insight into the diversity of types of events, while their contribution in terms of substance is addressed under the relevant platform topics.

Events took place online, in person or were hybrid. They were often organised as debates or workshops, such as a series of dialogues on the future organised in Spain with, among others, a citizen workshop on basic income (see event) or a citizen workshop on sustainable city practices that was held in a small Flemish town (see event). World cafes were also organised, as in a series of discussions with Latvian young people, exploring their vision of Europe and their role in the Europe of the future (see event). Some events were organised in more classical formats, involving for example a keynote presentation followed by question and answer sessions, while other events were organised in more deliberative formats. Some events registered on the platform were part of longer-running deliberative consultation projects, such as the Decide Europe project, a simulation of legislative deliberations at EU level for secondary school students in Czecchia and Slovakia (see event). There were also innovative formats such as a workshop where participants could provide recommendations while moving through a role-playing game (see event), a hackathon organised in Latvia, where participants competed against each other in teams to create innovative and sustainable solutions (see event) or a ‘walking and talking about climate change’ event in Spain (see event).

As regards participation, some events were organised with the aim of including the contribution of specific categories of participants, such as women (see example of an event), young people (see example of an event), or people living with a disability (see event). A number of events were organised on community level, for example a participatory event with inhabitants of a certain city or region such as the Jönköping County (see event) or with inhabitants of a cross-border region discussing a common challenge, such as adapting to climate change impacting the Spanish-Portuguese border (see event).

In terms of topics, some events addressed the Conference process or the future of Europe more broadly, such as an event in Germany providing a general introduction to the Conference (event) or a debate in Marmande, France, on the key issues at stake for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, ranging from food and agriculture to European defence and fundamental rights (see event). Others focused on specific topics, for example cities fostering democracy (see event) or an event held by the University of Pécs, Hungary on the use of artificial intelligence (see event).

Events were organised by a variety of organisers: alongside EU citizens, academia, civil society organisations, also national, regional and local authorities and EU institutions have contributed to the Conference on the Future of Europe by organising events. Some Member States organised national citizens’ panels, others carried out or supported various other types of consultations. Events were also organised by the European Commission Representations in the Member States, the European Parliament Liaison Offices, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee.
Who engaged in the debate?

When assessing the profile of contributors who provided information on their country of residence (70.5%), including those from third countries, the following observations can be made.

Close to half of contributors identified themselves as men (47.3%) and 15.9% as women. However, more than a quarter (35.6%) did not provide information on their gender and 1.2% identified as non-binary, so these figures only give a limited view.

The representation of age groups was fairly diversified, with 55-69 year-olds being the most active age group in terms of contributions (17.7%), followed by 25-39 year-olds (16.3%) and the 40-54 age group with 14.9%.

In terms of occupation, professional workers (14.9%) and retired people (10.9%) have been the active on the platform. Managers (10.3%) and students (8.1%) were also fairly active. Self-employed (7.6%), manual workers (4.5%), and unemployed people (2.6%) have been relatively less active on the platform. 40.8% of contributors did not declare their occupation.

When it comes to education, people with higher levels of education have been most active (41.6%). The socio-demographic data of education is the least provided (41.6%).

It should be noted that the socio-demographic data presented here provide only a limited view since organisations could also create a profile on the platform to contribute, whether in the form of ideas or events. Also, participants in events have not necessarily registered on the platform and may not be covered by the statistics.
Trending topics in terms of contributions

From the launch of the platform up to 9 May 2022, the topic of European democracy has recorded the highest level of contributions (ideas, comments and events) (8,205). Climate change and the environment ranks second with 8,123 contributions. Contributions under Values and rights, rule of law, security are in third place, followed by Other ideas (4th) and Education, culture, youth and sport (5th) (see Figure 5).

Some topics have generated more comments, ideas or events than others, for example, European democracy has the highest number of comments (4,606). Climate change and the environment have recorded the most ideas (3,748) and events (1,215). With 1,156 events, the topic of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport has the second highest number of events.

Figure 5 – Contributions per topics on the platform (19/04/2021 – 09/05/2022)
Recent developments

Between 21 February and 9 May 2022, activity on the platform totalled 4,693 contributions, composed of:

- 2,633 ideas
- 1,246 comments
- 814 events

The analysis of contributions at country level shows that Italy ranked first in this period in terms of the volume of contributions (445), while Hungary (361) remained in second place. Spain (285) ranked third. Germany (4th) and France (5th) continued to contribute significantly, with 232 and 230 contributions respectively.

In terms of the level of contributions in proportion to population, Hungary recorded the highest level of activity in the past period, with a high level of activity of 36.9 contributions per one million inhabitants, followed by Slovenia with 18.8 contributions per one million inhabitants. In addition, high levels of contributions per one million inhabitants were recorded for Croatia, Slovakia and Belgium.
Trending topics 21
February up to 9 May 2022

The topics of European democracy and Climate change and the environment continued to be the most popular topics with the highest number of contributions, 686 and 818 respectively. The topic of Education, culture, youth and sport was the third most popular in the past period with a total of 636 contributions.

Compared to the total numbers, the topic of Values and rights, rule of law, and security ranked fourth in among the most recent contributions, with 532 contributions, while Other ideas ranked only sixth in this overview, with only 385 contributions.

Figure 8 – Comparison of overview of contributions per topic past period and total

Overview of contributions per topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Current Phase</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change and the environment</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>8123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European democracy</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>8205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Culture, Youth and Sport</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>4976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values and rights, rule of law, security</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>5361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger economy, justice and jobs</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>4939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ideas</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>5272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU in the world</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>3695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>2413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital transformation</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>2646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The topic of Climate change and the environment has generated a total of 8,123 comments, ideas and events on the platform (3,748 ideas, 3,160 comments and 1,215 events). In their various contributions participants have generally expressed their concerns about global warming and its consequences, urging governments to take immediate concrete action to tackle climate change. Amongst suggestions, reducing emissions was often identified as the main driver, next to facilitating a green transition, achieving climate neutrality and promoting renewable energy, in particular solar panels. Sustainable transport solutions have mainly focused on rail systems, and consumption related suggestions to battle climate change, such as recycling, packaging and plastics, have also figured prominently. In light of recent energy price rises, there have been a number of calls to promote more conscious energy consumption, as well as energy sovereignty for the EU. Citizens have called for engagement across all segments of society: depending on the specific content of each proposal, the responsibility is allocated to individuals, to the commercial sector, or to governments and policy makers.

The various ideas can be grouped according to the following themes:

- Tackling climate change and ‘Green Deal’
- Energy
Events

Compared to the pre-20 February period, in the post-
20 February 2022 period a higher number of events
associated with the topic of Climate change and the
environment were organised in Central and Eastern
European countries, such Hungary, Poland and, to a
lesser extent, Slovakia and Bulgaria. These events
were generally organised as collective discussions
about the challenges generated by climate change
(see example of event). Many events focused on
specific environmental topics discussed from the
perspective of young people (see example of event).
A wide range of themes was discussed during these
events. Sustainable agriculture and the safeguarding
of bees (see event) was the subject of a beekeeping
conference organised in Budapest, with over 100
beekeepers. Climate neutral cities were the topic of a
public event in the Hungarian town of Békéscsaba
(see event). The scope of the event was to collect
ideas and recommendations to make Békéscsaba
climate neutral by 2030. A series of meetings with
young activists and representatives of local
governments and NGOs was organised in Poland with
the aim of examining young people’s level of
environmental awareness and interest in the
environmental cause (see event).

Young people in Spain brainstormed on a number of
topics related to the Green Deal and proposed ideas
ranging from boosting the use of bicycles and skates
to promoting sustainable energy consumption and the
use of natural resources in building complexes (see
event).

A series of Danish online workshops aimed at
exchanging ideas on how companies could foster
innovation and green transformation. A key subject in
the ensuing panel discussion was the need to
accelerate the design and production capabilities of
EU hydrogen and hydrogen-derived fuels (see event).

Participants frequently express their concerns about
climate change and its consequences, urging
governments and the EU to take immediate action and
putting in place a stronger European environmental
policy to combat climate change (see example of idea,
example of event). Suggestions are related to
reducing emissions, achieving climate neutrality,
combating pollution, a green transition, also covered
under the various themes below.

With regard to emissions, one of the most frequently
discussed issues concerns taxing emissions, more
specifically, to encourage businesses to lower their
greenhouse gas emissions by opting for cheaper
renewable energy sources, leading, in turn, to
customers making more sustainable choices (see
example of a much endorsed idea). Another proposal
is to lower the maximum permitted rate of greenhouse
gas emissions. This currently allows high-efficiency
coal and gas plants to fall below the threshold;
however, they still contribute to pollution (see idea).
The need for a Carbon Border Tax and related
measures is also raised (see example of an event).

Contributors have mentioned the Fossil Fuels Non-
Proliferation Treaty, a civil society initiative aimed to
ensure the downscaling of the use of fossil fuels. They
recommend that the EU should join the treaty in
parallel to the Paris Agreement (see idea).

One participant calls for more investment in the
development of technologies for the capture and
storage of carbon dioxide (CCS technology) (see
idea).

Debates on the ‘Green Deal’ and green transition more
generally have been organised across Europe with the
aim of discussing key priorities, best practices,
implementation at local and regional level, as well as
alternative business models (see examples of event and event).

Several contributions focus on the social and economic effects of the implementation of the ‘Green Deal’ as an EU strategy aiming to set Europe on the path of transformation to a climate-neutral, fair and prosperous society. There are, for example, calls for a more socially inclusive approach and a call for a balanced strategy whose economic, social and environmental dimensions need to be assessed and implemented jointly and strategically, referencing the soaring energy prices across Europe (see idea). A highly endorsed idea on the platform wants the EU to provide a strong and inclusive governance approach, where both workers and trade unions are involved in the design and implementation of adaptation policies at all levels. It is stressed that the EU’s strategy to deal with climate change should include concrete policy measures that maintain jobs and protect the health and safety of workers, as well as active labour market policies and reskilling and training to prevent job losses (see idea).

On a more general level, it is proposed to create a scoreboard to monitor the impact of measures and provide evidence of the progress of the implementation of the Green Deal at regional level (see idea).

Energy

Another theme which attracts more engagement is energy, which is often raised with regard to the topic of climate change. Contributors on the platform suggest boosting both the small-scale and large-scale use of renewable energy, for example through European energy cooperation (see event). Next to renewable energy, nuclear energy is a topic of discussion, with ideas calling for the use of nuclear energy to be limited, or, alternatively, developing safe nuclear energy and using it in the countries and places where it is not possible to use renewable energy sources (see example of idea). Moreover, the European Commission’s recent plans to classify nuclear power and natural gas as green investments have sparked criticism on the Conference platform (see example of an idea). On the other hand, most contributions on this issue take the opposite view, stating that nuclear power is the best way to achieve de-carbonisation (see example of an idea).

Simultaneously, there is a call to investigate alternative sources of energy (see example of event), such as thermonuclear fusion, geothermal energy or hydrogen that would contribute considerably to energy diversity (see example of idea). However, contributors emphasise that even alternative sources, such as wind energy, need to be accepted by local populations and that it is necessary to ensure that they have a positive impact on biodiversity, human beings and landscapes (see example of idea).

Under the sub-theme of energy efficient and environmentally friendly heating, examples include an idea advocating the use of multi-fuel stoves (see idea) or a district heating network capitalising on unused heat sources, such as deep geothermal energy (see idea).

People in general call for more accountability and engagement from companies and commercial enterprises, for instance reducing artificial lighting when it is not needed, for example shop windows in malls after closing time (see idea).

For energy efficiency goals at residential level contributors advocate a transition to individual energy consumption in condominiums (see idea). Another idea mooted is micro co-generation of energy in housing (see idea).

Transport

Another frequently occurring pool of ideas relates to transport, often discussed in relation to pollution. Some of the suggestions listed below concern changing transport systems in order to reduce pollution.

Ideas submitted on the platform to change transport systems call first and foremost for a ban on short-distance flights in the EU in order to reduce pollution (see example of idea). Contributors highlight that the
pandemic has already led to a shrinking aviation industry.

In general, there is strong support for public transport systems in Europe to be improved (see example of idea) as more environmentally friendly alternatives to short-distance flights. Specifically, a common European railway network is widely discussed (see example of idea and event). One contributor proposes the Euro Trainscanner search engine to make travelling by rail more attractive (see idea) and another suggests introducing an integrated EU ticket and making it free of charge in cities (see idea). Proposals to expand fast train networks and create cross-border railway connections were generated in one of the several events organised for the European Year of Rail (see event).

Other ideas concern a common cycling network, proposing, for instance, an extension of cycling routes or the creation of a Europe-wide cycling junction network (see example of idea). Moreover it was proposed to make it mandatory for municipalities to set up cycle paths as an integral part of the road, as it is already the case for pavements for pedestrians (see idea).

Another pool of ideas focuses on innovation and the development of electric vehicles, such as cars and bicycles, and their integration into the current environment, for example by providing a charging station network (see idea and idea). Nevertheless, one participant argues that electric cars have detrimental environmental and humanitarian costs and suggests instead that vehicle weight and speed should be limited to reduce CO2 emissions (see idea).

On the question of the decarbonisation of transport and more environmentally friendly transport, participants also emphasise the importance of cross-border projects to foster shipping and rail transport (see example of idea). There is also a call to develop programmes to encourage R&D and innovation, in order to produce means of transport - both public and private, individual and collective - that are non-polluting and 100% energy self-sufficient (see example of idea).

Consumption

‘Consumption’ covers a wide range of sub-themes, with ideas focusing on the most varied types of material waste, identifying the sustainable practices to address and reduce such waste. Contributors massively call for a change to the current system of the mass consumption of goods and services. A highly endorsed idea, presenting a recurrent sentiment, calls for the promotion of the circular economy in this respect (see idea). The right to repair is seen as a crucial element in altering consumption patterns and promoting a circular economy. Participants call for repair friendly product design, and the introduction of a repair index and an EU wide repair label (see idea). The impact of the pandemic has also caused people to rethink global supply chains and advocate the shortening of those (see idea). Some contributors go even further by proposing to have quotas for maximum consumption and production (see example of idea).

Related to food waste specifically, one participant highlights that 40% of all food produced worldwide never reaches our tables and that this causes 10% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, and proposes measures to stop food waste, such as supporting food donations (see idea).

A number of contributors on the platform point to the considerable volume of waste produced and propose several measures to avoid and combat such waste, such as recycling (see example of idea), opting for zero or low waste product packaging in order to decrease the negative impact on the environment (see example of idea). A highly endorsed idea promotes the idea of an EU led programme for returnable food packaging made from recyclable materials (see idea). One participant points to the need for more information on recycling to encourage this practice from an early age (see idea). Another proposes the introduction of a European integrated system to return bottles, based on the German model (see idea). The ban on the outsourcing of waste from the EU is also noted under the sub-theme of waste (see idea).

Within the sub-theme of the environmental impact of consumption, the issue of the compliance of imported goods with EU standards has been raised. For example, one contributor suggests prohibiting the
import of beef from Brazil that does not have the same level of traceability as EU beef (see idea).

Another recurring idea advocates a more advanced product labelling system (see example of idea) that would detail the environmental impact of production or indicate whether the products contain microplastics and thus have a negative long-term effect on the health of consumers (see example of idea). A highly endorsed idea proposes a ‘climate score’ for products, calculating the impact of a product on the climate in terms of production, transport, company profile, etc. (see idea).

A last strand revolves around the fast fashion and textile industry, with the aim of making it more eco-friendly; contributors highlight the huge quantity of resources used in the production of clothing and the fact that clothes are often unsuitable for recycling (see example of idea).

In a citizens’ workshop held in Spain, several ideas were generated relating to water consumption. Contributors stress the need to improve distribution and water harvesting systems to avoid water waste (see event).

Additionally, participants highlight the need to promote green and sustainable tourism instead of mass tourism, since the latter is considered to have a considerable impact on natural and cultural resources (see example of event).

A last group of comments and ideas under this theme reflects concerns about the waste generated by new electronic appliances, and calls for an increased mandatory warranty for such appliances and the need to ensure reparability (see example of idea), and for the creation of a collaborative networking platform to ensure re-circulation of e-waste (see idea). Another proposal involves developing a pilot programme to replace the electrical appliances of 35 million EU families with A+++ items in line with the EU’s objective of a green transition (see idea).

Some participants also want energy consumption to be limited - especially since electricity is largely produced with fossil fuels - by imposing a monthly quota of electricity for consumption, with the surplus being taxed (see example of idea). A few participants have expressed concerns about the development of cryptocurrencies, where the equipment leads to massive electricity consumption. In their view, the more crypto mining becomes a global issue, the more limits and regulations will be required (see example of an idea).

### Biodiversity and animal welfare

The preservation of biodiversity and the protection of animals have become increasingly recurring themes during the course of the conference, with several contributions.

The main sub-theme of ideas concerns deforestation. One of the more endorsed ideas calls to invest in the reforestation of Europe to avoid desertification (see idea) or globally to save the lungs of the planet, namely, the Amazon rainforest and other world rainforests, in order not only to slow down global carbon pollution and save species, but also to reduce migratory pressures on Europe (see example of idea). Policy suggestions include a ban on the import of products derived from deforestation (see idea).

Fauna protection is equally regarded as an important component for this theme. One participant proposed the adoption of a common policy for the protection of endangered European species (see idea). A number of participants have endorsed the ideas of stopping the trade of exotic animals as pets (see idea), as well as ideas related to the protection of aquatic animals including the implementation of a legislation on aquatic animal welfare (see example of an idea).

Among other contributions that are associated with the theme of biodiversity, are the suggestion to plant trees in all the ‘forgotten’ places, such as motorways, road interchanges, etc, as a way to capture CO2, enhance evapotranspiration, improve biodiversity and regulate water flows stands out (see idea). The call to leave more space to nature was also discussed in some events (see event). A further suggestion involves establishing a European Mobile Marine Research Station to gain essential knowledge about marine biodiversity (see idea).
Agriculture

Another theme that has attracted a considerable number of contributions, as well as a fair amount of endorsements as regards the related ideas, is agriculture. Under this theme, the concept of ecological farming and more small farms (see example of idea) is fairly frequently advocated by contributors, with calls for the use of pesticides and intensive farming to be banned (see example of idea). Some contributors go even further, suggesting that the pesticides ban should be extended to private use (see example of idea). The support for small and organic farming, as well as for the future of EU agricultural policy in general, is also demonstrated by the participation in round tables organised to discuss these specific themes (see example of an event).

A strand of ideas raises several examples to make agriculture less polluting and more sustainable, with discussions addressing aspects such as plastic use in agricultural films (see idea) and ways to reduce water consumption in agriculture (see idea).

Other ideas suggest that the EU should do more to promote a plant-based diet on the grounds of climate protection and the preservation of the environment. Some contributors add ethical concerns as grounds for such action (see example of idea). This is also addressed under the Health topic.

The need to ensure food sovereignty and security by promoting local farming is also strongly emphasised by contributors. The discussions have addressed food belts around cities, planting fruit trees in urban areas, support for the acquisition of land by producers and farmers by limiting the price of such land and other measures (see idea). Moreover, proposals include establishing purchase quotas of local products for large international supermarkets (see idea).

Under the theme of agriculture, the issue of how agriculture should cope with, and prepare for, climate fluctuations is raised. In this regard, multifunctional, multi-diverse agroforestry systems can enhance the formation of humus, water holding capacity and CO2 binding, thereby significantly increasing the stability and productivity of agriculture (see idea). Moreover, one participant advocates a transition from intensive agriculture to agro-ecology (see idea).

Lastly, the income of farmers is discussed, with some contributors calling for farmers to receive a guaranteed income through fair prices instead of subsidies (see example of idea).

Pollution

Pollution is identified as a source of pressure on the global environment. Several areas of pollution are discussed, with the following sub-themes: water pollution, plastic pollution and light pollution.

On the sub-theme of water pollution, there is a strong emphasis on the need to ensure the future security of drinking water resources and clean ecosystems. Moreover, there are concrete proposals for combatting ocean and river pollution (see example of event), for example the idea to neutralise the acidification of the oceans with a specific bacteria (see idea).

The contributions that address the issue of the pollution caused by plastic materials account for a significant proportion of the total contributions, reflecting increasing public concerns about excessive plastic waste. Alongside the call to enforce and extend the ban on single use plastics (see example of event), participants propose limiting the types of plastic used for packaging to those that can be recycled together without having to separate components (see example of an idea). Additionally, one idea put forward is to create facilities for recycling plastics removed from rivers and oceans (see idea).

Lastly, some ideas on the platform propose limiting light pollution (see example of idea).

Subsidisation, taxation

In addition to various ideas related to taxing emissions, which are discussed under the theme of tackling climate change, within this theme several suggestions are made to halt to environmentally unfriendly...
subsidies, such as a highly endorsed idea to stop all fossil fuel subsidies (see idea). In a similar vein, another idea calls for a halt to harmful fishing subsidies (see idea). On the other hand, suggestions advocate increasing subsidies for biodiversity and climate change projects, or EU provided funds to renew house insulation (see example of an idea).

Contributors also propose introducing a sustainability tax (see example of idea) that would make unsustainable products more expensive, thus making such products less attractive for both consumers and producers. Moreover, this would also provide the EU with additional revenue, or ‘climate income’ to invest in sustainability measures, such as the purchase of electric cars and the installation of solar panels on private homes (see idea).

Creating change in attitudes and behaviours

Another focus is on education and raising awareness among Europeans of all generations (see event). While most of the ideas address the education of young people (see example of idea), even from a very early age, through educational gardens (see idea), there is also a call to engage older Europeans with climate change initiatives, especially because of the increasing population ageing in Europe (see example of idea). Additionally, some contributors stress the need to promote eco-responsible communication by the European institutions. For instance, they propose developing communication kits on ‘how to be an eco-responsible European’ and strengthening environmental education in order to create neighbourhoods responsible for the environment (see idea).

While being conscious of the role of individuals in reducing climate change, some participants insist on the responsibilities of companies and urge people to hold accountable those enterprises that claim to be carbon neutral but still rely on unsustainable business models (see idea).

Housing and construction

An additional theme concerns housing and construction with a sub-theme grouping together a number of ideas and events discussing the New European Bauhaus (see event), with the aim of combining innovative, aesthetic design with concrete actions tackling climate change, and making our future living spaces more sustainable, affordable and accessible. Another idea calls for awareness-raising campaigns on green, sustainable construction with the use of low-carbon building materials (see idea).

Similarly a dialogue organised in Sweden focuses on ways of developing and promoting sustainable housing in rural areas in order to make rural living more attractive (see event).

One proposal involves introducing a European restoration land-trust to restore abandoned lands and buildings to a more natural state for the benefit of biodiversity and urban dwellers (see idea).

Lastly, the idea of re-circulating second-hand elements and materials in the construction industry was also explored (see idea).

New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

A new focus in the latest contributions was the focus on energy in light of the EU’s increasingly problematic dependency on Russian gas and oil supplies. Several suggestions were made ranging from encouraging energy sobriety in the EU (see idea) energy independence, or promoting sustainable transport. A substantial amount of the new contributions have advocated enhanced railway networks, cheap and accessible public transport and the use of bikes (see example of idea). Largely, the debate centred on clean energy sources, a popular subject as also seen in previous reports (see example of idea). Hydrogen was often mentioned as an example of a green energy carrier, while the limits of some ‘green’ energy sources such as nuclear energy and methan were often highlighted (see example of idea).
In connection with the sub-theme of encouraging sustainable consumption, previously reported sub-themes such as banning the use of plastic (see example of idea), recycling, reduction of waste and a tax system encouraging sustainable consumption were noted. New ideas brought specific suggestions such as a contribution proposing establishing an EU supported car exchange programme to allow citizens to exchange their cars for less polluting models, such as hybrid cars (see idea). Other contributions suggested ways of saving energy, in particular in offices in the light of climate change (see example of idea).

Climate change and emissions in general were again widely discussed, whereas ideas related to environmental education were put forward more frequently in the past period (see example of idea). Within the theme of tackling climate change, recent contributions made suggestions in the framework of a common approach to climate change for a European Ambassador for the Environment or, reflecting the current environment, the creation of a European Energy Minister to represent Europe in these matters on the international stage (see example of idea).

The European Youth Debate held in Milan in early April 2022 discussed a number of issues related to sustainable space exploration, with a call to develop new, more environmentally friendly space technologies to create sustainable satellites (see idea).
Figure 9 – Mind map ‘Climate change and the environment’ topic part 1

**Consumption**
- Encourage circular economy
- Rethink supply chains
- Interrogate mass consumption
- Reduce all types of waste, including food and water waste
- Introduce an increased mandatory warranty on new appliances
- Ban the outsourcing of waste from the EU
- Introduce product labels detailing environmental impact
- Encourage slow fashion & eco-friendly textile industry
- Fight water waste
- Promote green and eco-friendly tourism
- Promote energy efficient electronic appliances

**Energy**
- Promote sustainable ways to reach European energy sovereignty
  - Abandon or limit non-renewable energy sources
  - Promote and investigate alternative sources of energy
  - Investigate energy efficient and environmentally friendly heating
  - Hold companies accountable for their energy use
  - Regulate the mining of cryptocurrencies

**Transport**
- Ban short distance flights
- Improve and expand public transport and its infrastructure
- Expand fast train networks
- Facilitate cycling infrastructures
- Discuss electric cars’ environmental benefits and drawbacks
- Invest in research and development of environmentally friendly transport

**Tackling climate change**
- Facilitate a Green Transition with concrete policy measures
  - Expand the EU Emissions Trading System
  - Tax emissions
- Lower maximum permitted rate of greenhouse gas emissions
  - Join the Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty
  - Invest in CCS technology
  - Put in place a stronger European Environmental Policy to battle climate change
  - Encourage implementation at local and regional levels
- Expand the green deal in a socially inclusive manner
  - Monitor impact of measures and implementation

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Figure 10 - Mind map ‘Climate change and the environment’ topic part 2

**Subsidisation, taxation**
- Halt environmentally unfriendly subsidies
- Subsidise biodiversity & climate change projects
- Tax unsustainable products

**Pollution**
- Ensure future security of water resources, neutralize acidification of oceans
- Battle plastic pollution, extend the ban on single-use plastic
- Limit light pollution

**Create change in attitudes and behaviours**
- Hold companies accountable for unsustainable business models
- Raise awareness among all generations
- Invest in environmental education and communication
- Provide more information on recycling

**Housing and construction**
- Promote the New European Bauhaus
- Encourage use of low carbon building materials
- Introduce a European Restoration land-trust to re-value abandoned lands and buildings
- Facilitate the recirculation of second-hand construction materials

**Climate change & the environment**

**Sustainability in agriculture**
- Ban pesticides and promote more ecological farming
- Promote plant-based diet
- Promote local farming to ensure food security
- Investigate more sustainable forms of agriculture: vertical farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry,...
- Investigate ways to transform agriculture to cope with effects of climate change
- Enforce fair prices and guaranteed income for farmers

**Biodiversity and animal welfare**
- Battle deforestation
- Intensify reforestation, including in urban areas
- Ban the import of products derived from deforestation
- Protect endangered European animal species
- Stop the trade of exotic animals as pets
- Protect aquatic animal welfare
- Promote biodiversity with concrete measures such as green roofs
3. Health

Under the topic of Health contributors have addressed a wide variety of themes. The most recurring themes have advanced the need to ensure equal access to high-quality healthcare and suggested greater harmonisation and integration of healthcare at European level; this has also been influenced by the experience of COVID-19 and its impact. Other ideas range from calls to invest more in mental health, health research to battle current health challenges, with a particular focus on ageing populations and cancer, to calls for investing in preventative measures, including promoting healthy living and tackling those elements that are known to be causes of health issues, such as air pollution and tobacco consumption. This topic has generated 2,413 contributions: 1,162 ideas, 1,003 comments and 248 events. The themes identified are listed according to their level of occurrence. The main themes covered under this topic are:

- Healthcare access for everyone
- Integrating EU healthcare systems
- Healthy lifestyles
- Health research
- Prevention, rather than intervention
- Healthy ageing and anti-ageing
- Approaches to medicine
- Responses to COVID-19
- Health in a digitalised era
- Cancer care
- Healthcare workers
- Sexual and reproductive health
Events

A variety of recent events addressed issues such as mental health and well-being (see example of event). In the context of the European Congress of Youth Councils which took place in Poland participants discussed how social media impacts mental health (see event). In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of the pandemic on citizens’ physical and mental health were considered (see event).

In an online event organised at the University of Ljubljana participants investigated the EU’s role in enabling healthy ageing (see event), while an event in Italy was dedicated to the European Cancer Plan (see event).

In connection with integrating healthcare across EU Member States, the prospects and challenges for the creation of a European Public Health System were discussed during a participatory seminar in Greece (see event). Participants formulated ideas ranging from calls for the creation of a European Medical Corps to the need to eliminate inequalities between the North and the South in order to move towards such a common European Public Health System.

An online event discussed health risks related to air quality from pollutants, such as tobacco smoke, fuel gas, chemicals and other allergens and radons (see event).

Healthcare access for everyone

One of the most recurring themes under this topic is the call for equal access to affordable and high-quality healthcare (see example of a highly endorsed idea).

Ideas put forward also support the introduction of a European medical insurance scheme (see example of idea). One highly endorsed idea in this topic equally calls on the EU to ensure for all EU residents to have equal access to affordable and high-quality health and social care services, delivered by resilient, well-staffed and well-equipped public systems with universal coverage (see idea). A number of ideas evolve around the need for the EU to allocate funds to ensure specifically access to mental health care for all, irrespective of income and age (see example of idea). The idea of de-privatising the healthcare industry is also put forward as a way of making healthcare affordable for all (see example idea) and abolishing the double track of public versus private health access within the EU (see idea). Other ideas raise the issue of the cost of medicines and suggest ways to make them affordable for everyone by monitoring the pharmaceutical industry more (see example of idea).

When it comes to accessibility, a group of ideas proposes several solutions to make healthcare practically more accessible for patients with reduced mobility or located in remote areas (see example of idea). Development of remote health care takes the form of high-speed and low-barrier access to medical systems with health buses (see idea).

A last sub-theme relates to the equality aspect of access to healthcare. Contributors point out that certain patient groups often face specific societal obstacles. Some participants highlight the need to focus on paediatric care in particular for cancer patients (see example of idea), another idea is to increase targeted benefits for the disabled (see idea). One participant calls for greater access to dedicated healthcare services for transgender people (see idea).

In light of the current COVID-19 context and growing waiting lists for mental health services, a number of ideas evolve around the need for the EU to allocate funds to ensure access to mental health care for all, irrespective of income and age (see example of idea).

A German event titled ‘Health without borders in an ageing population’ discussed current and future challenges for the European health systems in the face of the two megatrends characterising health in our age: population ageing and the technological revolution. Part of the scope of this event was also to understand how to capitalise on technology to ensure comprehensive health coverage despite population ageing (see event). Participants identified three areas of action: the establishment of international training programmes, the overcoming of geographical
boundaries in health research and care, and the improvement of working models (working time and content), and particularly workers’ appreciation mechanisms.

**Integrating EU healthcare systems**

Among the themes of ideas proposed in connection with Health, that of integrating the EU’s healthcare systems with increased cooperation among Member States is, overall, one of the most frequently mentioned themes (see example of idea). Participants on the platform advocate closer cooperation among Member States to strengthen European healthcare systems (see example of event) and ensure quality healthcare across the EU. Ideas include setting EU wide standards of care (see example of idea and idea), to pooling medical knowledge and capacities in a network (see example of idea) or by, for example, allowing intensivists to move freely and care for critically ill patients across the EU (see example of idea). There are also proposals on recognising carer qualifications across the EU, setting up a European hospital for rare diseases (see idea), improving legal regulations on transplantation to create a unified transplantation and organ donation system (see idea), and creating a European agency for the accreditation of healthcare institutions (see idea). On the same note, contributors suggest recognising diseases across the EU to create a database with treatment methods and evaluations to produce an EU-wide disease regime (see example of idea). Another idea concerns the creation of health corridors between bordering countries (see example of idea). This would allow workers, patients and other health professionals to travel across national borders during future lockdowns, and thus ensuring access to healthcare.

Accordingly, discussions underline the need to increase the EU competences in public health matters (see example of an idea and an event), with many suggesting and endorsing the idea of a revision of the Treaty of Lisbon (see example of an idea). Others propose to create a European Health Authority (see idea), or to upgrade the role of the EMA, the European Medicines Agency (see idea). One contributor suggests creating a European healthcare ministry (see idea) or a real authority coordinating all EU health agencies to oversee the supply of medicines, from development to manufacturing (see idea). These suggestions are most often put forward in connection with the way in which Member States have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic and the related shortages of medical equipment, the challenges of vaccine development and joint vaccine purchases. Accordingly, contributors highlight the need to increase or relocate production capacity of medicines and medical devices within the EU (see example of idea).

Some contributors call for an integrated strategy towards common EU health challenges, such as a European Strategy for mental health (see example of idea) and the prevention of suicide (see example of idea), or a common approach for rare diseases (see example of idea). Relatedly, in a national debate on health organised in Poland, participants proposed to change the Treaty on European Union so that mental health issues are regulated on the Union level (see event). Others, in the context of fighting and preventing cancer, do not consider it appropriate to extend the Union’s competence in health as Member States are more in tune with the local situations (see idea). A set of ideas addresses the theme of end-of-life care, advocating a unified European strategy for end-of-life treatments (see idea), while others focus on improving palliative treatments for cancer patients (see idea).

**Healthy lifestyles**

Another often occurring theme is that of promoting healthy lifestyles. Many participants on the platform see the EU as an actor well qualified to promote a healthy lifestyle among Europeans. Several contributors consider important to promote vegan or vegetarian diets because of their health and environmental benefits (see example of idea). In this context, some suggest to increase taxes on meat and
reduce VAT on healthy foods (see idea) while others strive for a taxation of unhealthy food products in general (see example of idea). One participant suggests subsidising healthy and organic food so that low-income people can also afford to buy it (see idea). Thinking forward about the consequences of a poor diet, another participant proposes to tackle inflammatory diseases associated with poor diets and obesity (see idea).

Support for promoting health literacy and education (see example of idea and idea) and instilling health-related practices from an early age, as a key factor to a healthy lifestyle, are also proposed on the platform (see idea). In this regard, the parameters used in the Nutri-score system were criticised by one participant (see idea). Next to education on healthy diets, education on mental health is particularly deemed important by contributors (see example of idea).

The correlation between food and health is further explored in multiple ideas raise the issue of increased food quality controls (see example of idea), or a ban of specific products such as artificial transfats (see idea). The regulation of agricultural techniques impacting nutrition and health, such as antibiotics in intensive farming (see idea) are also mentioned. A specific event in Lithuania was dedicated to the development of a sustainable EU food policy and was attended by 280 participants (see event). These expressed the need for the EU to invest more in organic agriculture through specific supports for farmers. In general, participants underline the necessity to adopt a bottom-up approach to implement a sustainable agricultural policy. Similar ideas are also raised under the topic of Climate change and the environment.

Several citizens point to the need to discourage tobacco consumption at European level, by increasing the price and reducing selling points to pharmacies (see example of an idea), while others advocate a more sustained fight against drugs at EU level (see idea). Alcohol is also mentioned among the addictions which the EU should be fighting (see example of idea), with one participant proposing to limit sales of both alcohol and tobacco to specialised shops (see idea).

A few contributors suggest the abolishing of seasonal time changes, which in their view would improve general health and safety (see example of idea).

**Health research**

Health research is a cross-cutting theme that attracts more engagement and touches upon multiple subjects. Regardless of the specific issue, contributors are generally highly supportive of increased investment in research, especially when it comes to investigating innovative biomedical technologies.

A number of contributors propose various ideas to develop a thriving health ecosystem in Europe, promoting and supporting health innovation and health research (see example of idea). Suggestions take various forms, such as the highly endorsed proposal to encourage research on the pathomechanisms of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis within Horizon Europe (see idea), or the call to support research on neurodegenerative diseases (see idea).

Regarding the institutional organisation of research at EU level, some contributors propose a transparent intellectual property incentive system (see idea), or the creation of a centralised European Health Research Institute to coordinate health research across national institutes and invest in pharmaceutical research (see idea). Other ideas include the creation of a European laboratory for infectious diseases (see idea). One citizen underlines the necessity for national research institutes to connect and also for the purchase, production and supply of protective clothing and medicines to become more Europe-based (see idea). Another suggestion is the need for Europe to join forces with universities on research to develop a new antibiotic against super resistant bacteria (see example of an idea). Greater awareness on antibiotics usage and misuse is also advocated (see idea). Some citizens also call for a law to be introduced making it obligatory for pharmaceutical companies which are distributing vaccines to publish full data from the clinical trials for those vaccines to facilitate evaluations of their safety and effectiveness (see idea).

Gender biases are mentioned among the problems which hinder research from effectively studying illnesses which are more prevalent among women. One participant urges the EU to find a remedy to the lack of women-related data in research (see idea).
Some contributors, amongst which a highly endorsed idea in the topic of Other ideas, call for an action plan to transition to animal-free science (see idea).

Prevention, rather than intervention

As for the healthy lifestyle category, that of prevention is seen as an area where the EU can and should effectively act.

Several ideas put forward by citizens concern raising awareness about mental health and its consequences, such as burnout, stress, depression and anxiety, and call for a European Plan to tackle this issue (see example of idea), especially in view of the impact of COVID-19 (see example of idea). This issue is seen as particularly pressing among young people, leading to calls for a European Youth Platform for mental health (see idea) and in media campaigns on mental health awareness (see idea).

The influence of air pollution on citizens’ health is also raised as a pressing issue (see idea), as is the need to tackle noise pollution by defining strict levels on permitted noise emissions for car tires (see idea). In addition, there is a call to lower exposure to substances of very high concern, including PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (see idea).

In line with prevention, one idea presents the advantages of epigenetic technologies to promote a new ecological humanism by enhancing the role of the environment and food to protect the health of individuals and the community (see idea).

The importance of prevention and health screening was also underlined in events (see event).

One participant stresses the need to set up a European action plan also around cardiovascular diseases (see idea).

Healthy ageing and anti-ageing

Some participants discuss ideas related to healthy ageing and anti-ageing from multiple perspectives.

In light of Europe’s ageing populations, citizens highlight the importance of good health during the ‘silver age’. To that end, the need for quality care services for the elderly is highlighted (see idea). One highly endorsed and commented idea promotes science-intensive healthy longevity research and clinical trials. Implementing effective legal, budgetary, regulatory and institutional commitments, with the objective of increasing healthy life expectancy in the EU, is also judged key (see idea). Taking the idea even further, one citizen advances cryonics as an opportunity to delay care until a cure is found, by freezing terminally ill people (see idea).

Anti-ageing is also advocated with a view to boosting economic growth, vis-à-vis the decrease in the working population (see idea).

One citizen raises the potential of rural areas as hubs of innovation for healthy ageing strategies, as these ‘struggling areas’ are generally more densely populated by elderly citizens and the quality of healthcare is not as high as in urban areas, therefore requiring innovative solutions (see idea). A solution proposed by another contributor is the concept of assisted, multi-generational living (see idea).

An event in Lithuania adopted an interesting age-related perspective, trying to understand young and older people different perceptions and attitudes towards health issues (see event). The two main takeaways from the event were, on one side, the importance of informational campaigns and lifelong learning about health matters, and, on the other, the key role of families and mutual support in facing health issues.
Approaches to medicine

Participants on the platforms sometimes differ in their views on the best approach to medicine. Although the discussion about medical approaches is usually confined to a few participants, some issues tend to reach a wider audience. That is the case for end-of-life treatments. A contributor calls for greater data collection on end-of-life choices and for the recognition of the living will in the whole of the European Union (see idea).

One of the ideas addressing the theme of end-of-life care focuses on the improvement of palliative treatment for cancer patients (see idea).

Beyond support for end-of-life legislation, another commonly discussed subject is that of the decriminalisation of light drugs for medical scopes. In particular, several citizens call for cannabis to be decriminalised for medicinal and therapeutic purposes (see idea and idea).

The idea of integrating natural remedies in medicine, such as phytotherapy, homeopathy, etc. to complement allopathic medicine is widely discussed on the platform (see example of an idea). Moreover, the need to adopt more holistic approaches to medicine is equally expressed (see example of idea). In this regard, contributors also suggest that non-medical interventions can demonstrably benefit the health and autonomy of patients (see example of an idea).

Other participants stress the importance of practising evidence-based medicine and ensuring access to scientific information to fight fake news in health (see example of idea).

Responses to COVID-19

The pandemic has certainly prompted interest and concerns about health. This subject is mentioned in many of the ideas published on the platform. The lack of healthcare resources, whether human resources in hospitals, masks, or vaccines, has generated a public debate about the necessity for the EU to be strategically autonomous in the area of healthcare. One more endorsed idea relates to autonomy in the production of essential medicines (see idea).

The effects of COVID-19 are widely discussed by participants who, overall, feel that there is a need to restore rational and scientific credibility and confidence in medicine and politics vis-à-vis the widespread dissemination of misconceptions and fake news during the pandemic. When discussing COVID-19 related measures, citizens on the platform agree that any COVID-19 measures in the EU should be implemented in an evidence-based manner, in order to achieve a cost-benefit analysis that is as realistic as possible (see idea). In particular, one participant warns against neglecting or delaying the care of patients with other illnesses and diseases, vis-à-vis the restructuring of medical facilities to take account of Covid patients (see idea). In line with this, citizens advocate increasing medical staff capacities (see example of an idea).

Further ideas highlight the need to develop inclusive strategies to deal with future pandemics at EU level, protecting the rights of people with a disability (see idea). One suggestion put forward is to carry out research on the impact of COVID-19 measures on residents and staff of homes for the elderly in the different EU countries, in order to have first-hand accounts of the experiences of elderly people with COVID-19 measures (see idea). Furthermore, one citizen calls for an investigation into the collateral damage and hidden effects of the pandemic (see idea).

Several participants call for enhanced mental health support to deal with the social and economic consequences of the pandemic, especially among young people (see example of an idea and idea). A number of events have also revolved around this theme, such as the question of the future of European public health after the corona crisis (see event).

Debates on the vaccination programme reveal conflicting views, ranging from the idea that vaccination should be mandatory for everyone (see
example of idea), to suggesting that citizens should be free to choose (see example of idea). Another contributor argues that vaccines should not be mandatory for young people and that the EU should not ‘blackmail’ them by enabling ‘facilitated’ transnational travel in exchange for vaccination, and that if PCR tests are required they should be provided for free (see idea). It is also proposed that EU Member States should agree to recognise the relevant WHO standards and national documents certifying the level of antibodies (or vaccine/refreshment) (see idea). The green pass certificate is also widely discussed, pitching those who call for its abolition (see example of idea), fearing the rise of two classes of citizens (see idea) and suggesting that Europeans should defend the right to choose not to be vaccinated (see idea) against those who support such a health pass and obligatory vaccination as part of a collective effort to defeat the virus and ensure the viability of healthcare systems (see example of an idea). One contribution addresses the procedures relating to vaccine purchases at EU level, calling for greater disclosure and transparency with respect to the contracts with the pharmaceutical companies (see idea).

Several citizens call for greater solidarity and the establishment of a global partnership and funding to fight and eradicate diseases globally and suggest that Europe can be the world leader in fighting and overcoming pandemics, cancer and heart disease (see idea). One citizen suggests that the European Commission, in cooperation with World Health Organisation, should promote an international agreement to enable the worldwide production and distribution of medicines in the context of pandemics (see idea) and another contribution underlines the need to vaccinate the world to prevent the rise of new strains (see idea). At the same time, contributors propose that measures should be taken to safeguard the patents of companies and suggest that the European Commission could play a significant role as mediator and ambassador (see idea).

Health in a digitalised era

The contribution of technologies to healthcare is extensively discussed by contributors on the platform, including the negative impacts of digitalisation on human health which represent for many the dark side of the digital revolution.

A group of citizens has discussed the opportunities and health threats relating to increased digitalisation in recent decades. Several ideas see digitalisation, compatibility and integration of European eHealth systems as a way of providing citizens with interoperable health records across the EU (see example of idea). The use of Artificial Intelligence and the key role of data are generally underlined by participants (see example of idea). However, some contributors are cautious and emphasise the vulnerability of such sensitive data and the need to limit both nationally and Europe-wide the size of the healthcare data sets (see idea). As an example, one citizen calls for the prohibition of national genome databases because of the high risk of violating privacy rights (see idea).

On a different note, digital addiction is more discussed and an EU action plan against digital addiction is suggested (see idea), with some contributors suggesting that training should be introduced in schools, as well as information campaigns for adults to limit digital interaction. The issue of digital addiction, and addiction to videogames specifically was also identified (see event), with ideas such as online self-help interfaces put forward. Another idea suggests prioritising funding for research into exercise and in relation to eHealth points to digital solutions that help citizens to remain physically active, thereby combatting a diverse range of chronic conditions that are due to inactivity (see idea).
Cancer care

A subject that is frequently mentioned on the platform, especially in relation to prevention, but also to its social and psychological consequences, is that of cancer (see example of idea). Here too, participants suggest a pooling of resources to fight cancer across the EU (see example of idea).

Contributors raise the need for consorted efforts for early diagnostics, such as screening, which the EU is requested to support (see example of idea and idea).

Related to cancer prevention, one idea suggests banning sunbeds to prevent the risk of developing skin cancer (see idea), while another contributor highlights the importance of cancer prevention in rural areas, often barely reached by cancer prevention campaigns (see idea). Some participants underline the obstacle of gender stereotypes and stigma in promoting a healthy lifestyle and prevention practices among men. They want the EU to develop targeted awareness campaigns, particularly on prostate cancer prevention (see idea).

Healthcare workers

The topic of working conditions in the healthcare sector has been raised by participants in relation not only to health but also to migration and gender (see, for example, the Migration chapter). Participants have underlined the contribution of women working in the healthcare sector and the need to support them by investing in leadership and upscaling programmes (see idea).

Ideas concerning healthcare workers highlight the negative working conditions affecting this sector (see example of idea), generally demanding an improvement of salaries and working conditions (see idea).

The pandemic also contributed to highlighting healthcare workers’ key societal contribution, sometimes generating wider debates about the nature of current healthcare systems, and the role of private actors in this sector, including the impact of privatizations on working conditions (see idea).

According to one idea, a European Year of Volunteers would be a fitting tribute to the efforts and impact of volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic (see idea).

Sexual and reproductive health

The call to ensure access to affordable and accessible contraception for all women is discussed in ideas and events (see event). Some ideas propose that free menstrual items should be made available in public spaces to combat so-called ‘period poverty’ (see example of an idea). Other proposals suggest the reduction or abolishment of taxes on female health products such as sanitary pads (see idea). In addition, the need for more research into female reproductive health and the development of less invasive female and male contraceptives is raised (see idea), as well as making the morning-after pill available in every country without prescription. Views against a right to abortion are equally recorded on the platform (see idea).

Contributions discuss the need for promoting sexual education either by means of a pan-European approach, sexual health campaigns or by supporting non-governmental institutions who are active in this regard (see example of idea).

An event in Berlin discussed the future perspectives, but especially the ethical issues related to in-vitro fertilisation (see event). One proposal suggests instituting EU sponsored and promoted sexual health clinics (see idea), while another emphasises the importance of the fight against HIV (see idea).
New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

Recently submitted ideas under the Health topic reiterated many of the themes previously noted, showing a continuing focus on issues that are seen as priorities for most participants. No new sub-themes or themes were recorded.

Participants further discussed the need to adopt a common framework in the management of the European healthcare system and foster the integration of the separate national healthcare systems (see example of an idea), with some participants reiterating the idea of a European Health Union (see example of an idea), and others focusing on health sovereignty (see idea). Participants also stressed the idea that healthcare must remain a public service (see example of an idea).

Related to Covid-19, the importance of ensuring adequate vaccine uptake was raised (see idea), as well as the need for better crisis communication and management (see idea and idea).

The importance of prevention initiatives was widely discussed (see example of an idea), with proposals pointing to innovative technologies (see idea) and the use of telemedicine for those hard-to-reach segments of the population (see idea) and compulsory routine-checks (see example of an idea). Additionally, the dangers resulting from tobacco especially from an early age were highlighted (see idea).

Data collection was also a prominent theme with a view to enhancing medical research, especially in order to reconcile the gender data gap (see example of an idea). The need to enhance health literacy was also reiterated on the platform (see example of an idea).
Figure 11 – Mind map ‘Health’ topic part 1

**Healthcare access for everyone**
- Ensure access to affordable and high quality healthcare
- Establish EU-wide standards for care
- Implement an overarching European medical insurance scheme
- Deprivate healthcare industry
- Ensure affordable medication
- Develop Remote Health Care
- Ensure access to mental healthcare for all

**Integrating EU health care systems**
- Strengthen European healthcare systems through cooperation and exchange
- Pool medical knowledge and capacities on an EU level
- Establish a EU-wide organ donation system
- Increase competence of the EU in public health matters
- Equip the EU with more emergency competences and powers for public health
- Establish integrated strategies towards common EU health challenges: mental health, prevention of suicide, rare diseases, cancer, etc.

**Healthy lifestyles**
- Encourage vegetarian diets
- Promote healthy diets by means of subsidisation or by taxing unhealthy products
- Ban artificial trans fats, the use of antibiotics and biocides in intensive farming
- Instil health-literacy from an early age
- Discourage consumption of addictive goods such as tobacco and alcohol
- Lead a sustained fight against hard drugs
- Abolish time changes and time zones

**Prevention**
- Increase mental health awareness
- Limit air and noise pollution and exposure from substances of high concerns
- Ban or limit practices that are known to be detrimental to health, such as sunbeds
- Overcome gender stereotypes which limit the effectiveness of prevention programs, especially among men

**Health research**
- Invest and support health research and innovation
- Coordinate health research with an institute a European laboratory for infectious diseases or a centralised European Health Research Institute
- Develop a new antibiotic against super resistant bacteria
- Commit to transparency in clinical trials and studies for vaccines, making data available to the public
- Avoid gender biases in research of illnesses prevalent among women
- Transition to animal-free science
- Encourage research on the pathomechanisms of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis
Figure 12 – Mind map ‘Health’ topic part 2

Health in a digitalised era
- Implement European eHealth systems
- Promote eHealth instruments to encourage physical activity
- Ensure privacy of DNA databases
- Contrast digital addiction

Healthcare workers
- Increase healthcare workers salaries
- Improve working conditions in healthcare

Responses to COVID-19
- Restore scientific credibility in medicine and politics
- Introduce Covid-19 related measures in an evidence-based manner
- Develop inclusive strategies to protect rights of persons with a disability to face future pandemics
- Impact study gathering accounts on the experiences of elderly people living through Covid-19
- Solidarity call for global partnership and funding to fight and end diseases
- Address modalities of vaccine purchases and administration at the EU level
- Restructure medical facilities to prevent patients affected by other illnesses than Covid-19 from not being cared for

Health

Sexual and reproductive health
- Ensure access to affordable and accessible contraception
- Combat period poverty by i.e. abolishing taxes on female health products
- Increase research into female reproductive health and less invasive female and male contraceptives
- Institute a European sexual health clinic
- Ensure the right to choice for all women
- Provide the day after pill without prescription
- Fight against HIV

Healthy ageing and anti-ageing
- Promote innovations for healthy ageing
- Research on anti-ageing and longevity

Cancer care
- Prevention (healthy habits, screenings, etc.)
- Mobilise on the social and psychological impact of cancer
- Centralized efforts, pooling of resources to combat cancer on an EU level

Approaches to medicine
- Advocate evidence based medicine
- Advocate a holistic approach of medicine
- Decriminalise cannabis for medicinal purposes
- Recognize natural medicines
- Unified European strategy for end-of-life care treatments
The topic of A stronger economy, social justice and jobs has received a total of 2,195 ideas, 2,099 comments and 645 events up to 9 May 2022. Contributors have stressed the importance of the EU becoming more inclusive and socially fair, especially in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and have pointed to several perceived related challenges, such as a lack of support for young Europeans and lack of collaboration among Member States. One of the most frequently suggested mechanisms to make Europe more inclusive and socially fair is guaranteeing an Unconditional Basic Income throughout the EU. Additionally, contributors have put forward various suggestions to drive economic growth in the EU by introducing economic policies, further deepening the Single European Market, focusing on innovation and promoting and supporting SMEs and strategic industries. Additionally, contributors believe that the green and digital transitions offer opportunities to upskill European workers and adapt to the changing labour market, for the European economy to be competitive and more self-reliant. A further strand of contributions points to the need to counter depopulation in rural areas and brain drain effects. The various ideas can be grouped according to the following themes:
Events

Several participatory events were organised in different locations across Europe to enable citizens to express their opinions on the EU and their concerns for the future (see example of an event). For example, one event engaged students in a reflection on the issues that are a priority for them. In the field of employment they called for fairer opportunities (between men and women and between generations) to prevent brain drain, and advocated increased investment in innovation to spur growth, an increased intergenerational dialogue and greater inclusion to avoid any type of discrimination. Moreover, they highlighted the value of historical, artistic and cultural heritage and the need for better transport infrastructure (see event).

At a Bulgarian event, the issues of brain drain and retention of youth in less populated areas were discussed in connection with making the economy fairer and more inclusive, and stimulating job creation, growth and investment (see event).

In connection with social policies, during a debate organised by the Maison de l'Europe in the city of Agen, participants discussed prospects for a Social Europe (see event) and ways of bridging the inequality gap for greater social justice (see event). The subject of youth prospects in the EU market economy was the focus of an event for students (see event).

The issue of the pay gap between men and women was investigated in-depth in the context of Cyprus (see event). Moreover, the European Social Fund was discussed in relation to the transformations that are occurring in the labour market in a Conference on ‘The Future of the Labour Market, Opportunities and Opportunities within the European Social Fund’ organised in Zagreb (see event).

During a hybrid event, employers of European companies were consulted on how to face future challenges in the market economy (see event).

An event in Hungary discussed the impact of the new EU Common Agricultural Policy on family farms (see event). In Spain Europa Press, in collaboration with the European Parliament, organised a cycle of events ‘The Future is in Your Hands’; one of these events tackled the issue of the depopulation of rural areas and prospects for their revitalisation (see event).

More inclusive, socially just Europe

The quest to build an inclusive and socially just economy in Europe has recorded the most ideas under this topic. This theme tackles the objective of strengthening social cohesion, as a means of achieving a strong economy (see idea). A large strand of ideas under this theme generally call for an expansion of the European Pillar of Social Rights (see example of a highly endorsed idea) and for a unified EU approach to social security, ranging from parenting and the family to the right to accessible housing and pension policies (see example of event). Other contributors discuss the European Pillar of Social Rights as a compass to achieve a social Europe and call for establishing a minimum target in the areas of employment, poverty reduction and education and skills (see idea). On the other hand, some contributors maintain that labour law, social welfare and pension systems should remain under each Member State's competence (see idea).

Several contributors on the platform call for a more socially just Europe that could be achieved, for example, by developing a social equality measurement index (see example of idea).
One of the more discussed sub-themes under this theme is the need to develop policies at an institutional level to achieve gender equality, as well as on a cultural and educational level (see example of an idea). One suggestion is to establish gender quotas for executive positions in firms (see idea). Specifically, there are ideas proposing policies for equality concern decisions for parental leave (see idea) and equal employment opportunities (see idea). In line with this, a panel discussion tackled the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in the business environment, wage inequalities, funding opportunities and highlighted examples of good practices at local and national level (see event and event). Considerations of women’s employment precariousness during COVID-19 were also raised (see idea and idea).

Further ideas include, for example, a call to enforce gender equality in the fields of architecture and civil engineering (see idea). One idea recorded on the platform advocates the adoption of the Equal Treatment Directive to ensure equal treatment in all spheres of life (see idea). Related ideas concern measures against sexual assault and domestic violence, with calls, in particular, for initiatives to support victims, for instance through an app (see idea).

Another sub-theme which saw promoting a more inclusive Europe, with a high number of contributors, discusses the need to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities, for example by extending the validity of national disability cards across the EU (see idea) and through improved accessibility of touristic areas (see idea and event). There is also support for the creation of a social network for people with disabilities (see idea). Furthermore, some ideas focus on town planning, suggesting to make public spaces conducive to intergenerational exchanges, through parks, cultural centres, etc (see example of an idea). This was also one of several ideas put forward in a Spanish event which encouraged citizens to share their views on how they would improve their city if they were the mayor (see event).

Similarly, an idea advocates sustainable urbanist principles to put cities with a good quality of life at the heart of a resilient and socially just European economy, including promoting local businesses and local economies, access to public transport, good air quality, etc (see idea and idea).

There is support for the need to help people living below the poverty threshold and the need to reduce inequalities (see example of idea). A couple of ideas also highlight the need for greater effort to tackle homelessness (see example of an idea) and develop integration strategies for Roma minorities (see event and event), with also some more sceptical views expressed (see idea).

Several ideas discuss the need to institute the right to disconnect (see examples of idea and idea).

A further idea advocates increasing the validity of blue cards for third country nationals after their initial employment has been terminated (see idea).

### Economic recovery

Economic recovery is one of the themes which has recorded the most engagement. Participants on the platform shared their views on the need to boost the internal market to increase its competitiveness and incentivise innovation, as a path to recovery (see idea). In tandem with this, a number of participants support the idea of a renewed social contract for Europe for a fair recovery (see idea). Moreover, to achieve a European social market economy, a citizen encourages strengthening social dialogue and collective bargaining (see idea).

A pool of comments and ideas on the platform expresses concern about rising public debt in the EU (see example of an idea and event): discussing the role of the European Central Bank (ECB), calling for a review of the Stability and Growth Pact rules (see idea), legislation on current account imbalances among others (see example of idea), and more generally, for the ECB mandate to be extended and strengthened (see idea and idea).

A main focus of discussion revolved around the EU Recovery Plan, where contributors highlighted the solidarity challenge that is shared among EU countries and discussed the challenges to activate funds (see example of an idea and event). At the same time,
contributors underline the need for rigorousness, efficiency and transparency in the implementation of recovery plans (see example of an idea).

Ideas revolving around the promotion of local consumption and production, with SMEs as the growth engine, are frequently put forward by contributors and are viewed as pivotal to the EU’s economic recovery. For this reason, citizens highlight the need to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles for businesses (see example of an idea and event) and simplify bureaucratic procedures for foreign start-ups (see idea). Participants also suggest that EU Funds should also be targeted to SMEs (see example of an idea). In line with the broad trend within this theme, there are many calls to increase production of goods within the EU, rather than importing (see idea and idea). A contributor suggests indicating the origin of products sold online to promote more local consumption (see idea).

In connection with recovery strategies, cohesion is highlighted as an essential value, in conjunction with online social rights and addressing youth employment needs (see event). For instance, investing in future generations is also presented as a strategy to relaunch the economy, following the COVID-19 crisis (see idea).

In the same vein, with regard to COVID-19, contributors discuss the need for financing future possible pandemic preparedness measures (see example of idea). In line with this, one idea addresses the understaffing of healthcare professionals in Europe (see idea). Additionally, contributors stress the importance of allocating public funds to support small producers and traders to compensate them for all the losses due to closures during the pandemic (see idea).

Innovation – boosting growth

A large number of entries under this topic pointed to innovation as a fundamental asset for the European economy. Contributors suggest boosting growth via investments in high-tech research, skills, knowledge and expertise (artificial intelligence, blockchain, nanotechnology, energy storage, lab-grown meat, etc.). Some ideas discuss a shift in competition from minimising costs to maximising knowledge, opening opportunities for the European knowledge economy to establish itself (see idea and idea). Additionally, several ideas identify the need for technological independence, for example, by developing the EU’s hardware manufacturing capacity and reducing its industrial and commercial dependency on external countries (see example of an idea). The most recurrent ideas within this theme address the need to support small and medium-sized enterprises (see example of an idea) and to stimulate entrepreneurship (see idea). In fact, funding start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is generally perceived as an important innovation driver (see example of idea). In practice, contributors propose to support SMEs via, for example, an EU fund providing starter capital for SMEs (see idea), or an online commerce platform dedicated to European SMEs (see idea). Another participant points to the case of China’s development through capillary hubs of innovation and growth, combined with favourable administrative and fiscal regulations, which encouraged investment and the rise of start-ups. The participant calls for a rethink of European policies in light of such examples (see idea). Moreover, an idea suggests granting favourable taxation to start-ups in cutting edge technology sectors (see idea).

A robust strand of contributions also highlights the opportunity to establish businesses in small European villages and border areas (see example of an idea and event), also taking opportunity of teleworking (see idea). Several ideas argue in favour of decentralisation and enhanced local governance (see idea and event), also in view of diminishing regional territorial disparities and the brain drain many regions face (see event). In a similar light, an event on how to retain youth in rural and smaller towns was held. On a similar note, several events discussed opportunities to valorise local development of territories to promote sustainable tourism (see event and event).

Investments in research and education are seen as critically important (see idea and event), with support for knowledge sharing via an open network of laboratories or a European Infrastructure Agency (see idea). A largely endorsed idea calls for the EU to live up to its promise of dedicating 3% of the GDP to
research and innovation (see idea). Another suggestion discusses a kind of Spotify for science, an accessible database containing 3D printing models (see idea), e-learning materials and educational programmes collecting international good practices for professional education (see idea). In connection with research, one of the suggestions is to facilitate patents via a patent fund (see idea). There are also calls to set up a European High Authority for Health which should encourage public and private research in health (see idea).

Moreover, to encourage innovation, one citizen argues in favour of supporting innovation through greater freedom in standardisation to reduce legal liability vis-à-vis innovative approaches offering alternative solutions (see idea). There are numerous proposals to promote research and innovation to foment the development of key enabling technologies in Europe (see idea).

Other ideas reveal that the digital economy is seen as a prerequisite to innovation and growth, with discussions on cryptocurrency (see example of idea) and local digital currencies that would be parallel to the euro (see example of idea). When it comes to cryptocurrency, contributors feel that regulation is needed to protect citizens (see example of idea).

Innovation and growth are also discussed in relation to the environment and climate change and the green transition (see idea). As such, ideas around climate neutrality goals and the leading role that the EU could play in establishing and investing in a (global) Green Economy are present across the platform (see example of idea). For instance, one citizen suggests complementing the green transition with the tracing of industrial policy plan goals, through quantitative indicators to monitor Europe's industrial strategy in global comparison (see idea). Moreover, a participant highlights opportunity to use artificial intelligence to improve energy efficiency for businesses (see idea).

Several ideas discuss a practical implementation of the Green Economy, for example, by investing in organic farming and farm-to-fork initiatives (see idea). Another participant suggests achieving a greener economy while tackling the issue of food security through smart agriculture technologies (see idea).

Nonetheless, one citizen explains that implementation of the Green Deal should ensure that EU citizens are not adversely affected by the new measures (see idea). From a business point of view, several ideas discuss measures to encourage and support businesses in achieving a green transition (see event), for example by setting clear and binding objectives for specific sectors (see idea), while, at the same time, preventing companies from adopting 'green washing' strategies (see idea).

Other suggestions refer to strengthening the aerospace industry as a way to spearhead innovative technologies, for instance by increasing funding for ESA (see idea and idea).
Related, many contributors discuss the need for coordinated retirement policies and pensions across EU Member States (see example of idea), with suggestions to set up a unified pension system for mobile citizens (see example of an idea). Pension reforms are also suggested by participants (see example of an idea).

Another set of ideas addresses the problem of child- and elderly poverty (see example of an idea). Female pensioners are more at risk of poverty, as they normally take on the role of caregivers and such years of work are not recognised in their pensions (see idea).

The right to accessible, affordable housing is another sub-theme related to social security discussed by contributors (see example of idea). A participant also calls for incentives to counter current demographic decline, through a tax credit measure to alleviate the financial burden for young low-income families (see idea). Others call more generally for the EU and its Member States to take account of the demographic transformation (see example of an idea) with suggestions to set up a body to this end (see idea).

Lastly, there is a group of more ideas relating to administrative processes, for instance, the introduction of a digitised (common EU) social security card and transferable social rights for mobile Europeans, as also discussed under other topics on the platform (see example of idea). On the same note, one contributor advocates a democratic digital dividend, which could be funded by the yields the ECB earns on bonds and stocks acquired through its open-market operations, via digital licensing, or direct investment (see idea).

A substantial strand of ideas argues in favour of tax harmonisation and creating a fiscal union to ensure better wealth distribution across European societies (see example of an idea). In this respect, a variety of possible taxation measures for an inclusive and fair economy are highlighted on the digital platform (see example of an idea). The taxation subjects are currently as follows. Firstly, tax measures to promote fair competition between companies, such as either a common Value Added Tax (VAT) system for e-commerce or requiring companies to only pay VAT in their home countries (see idea). Secondly, taxation related to the environment and climate change, with among others, calls for an EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (see example of idea) or a sustainability tax (see example of idea). Common taxes, such as carbon footprint taxation, are also seen as a way of bridging inequalities among EU countries and improving the functioning of the single market (see idea). In this regard, an event in which the need for a reform of the EU budgetary rules applicable in the Member States in order to ensure a sustainable post-Covid recovery and to secure the public investments required for the green and digital transition was held (see event).

Thirdly, a call for consumer goods to be taxed based on the conditions of production (labour, raw materials, wages) to promote fair trade rather than free trade (see example of an idea). The last group of taxation measures falls under miscellaneous, including taxation to promote gender equality, with a call to allow for introducing measures to tackle tax avoidance, introducing a financial transaction tax (see idea). A large amount of participants submit ideas on avoiding ‘social dumping’ by harmonising fiscal rules and minimum wages across the Member States (see examples of idea and idea). One highly commented and endorsed idea concerns the introduction of a global or EU minimum tax to address tax havens (see idea) and promoting a European convergence in direct taxation is also proposed (see idea). Another idea proposes that the methodology for the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes should be revised (see idea). Many contributions raise the question of how to tax large technology companies and digital corporations effectively (see example of an idea and event).
the application of the zero or reduced VAT rate for female sanitary products (see idea).

Further strengthening the European Single Market

A number of contributions relate to the need to further strengthen the European Single Market, putting the focus on economic policies, considering that the Commission’s focus has increasingly shifted towards other policy areas (see example of an idea and event). In fact, many participants view the EU’s single market for goods, services, capital and people as the EU’s more valuable asset (see example of an idea).

Some contributions underline the value and importance of connecting local ecosystems across Europe, through which different forms of expertise and know-how have developed (see idea).

Further, many contributions point to the opportunity, in light of significant increases in container transport costs, for the EU to bring back multinational factories, such as microchip productions, which had previously relocated to Asian countries due to lower production costs (see idea and idea). One citizen suggests developing an economic policy to attract global companies to the EU as part of a European Enterprise policy, with homogenous taxation across the EU (see idea).

Overall, ideas reiterate that Member States should improve the enforcement of existing acquis in the economic realm, avoiding protectionism to make the single market more attractive and competitive (see example of idea). Other ideas advocate to increase the ECB’s functions (see example of an idea), to limit lobbying interests in the EU (see example of an idea) and strengthening interconnectedness across borders. As well as improving connections to rural areas (see idea).

Common taxes, such as carbon footprint taxation and currency, are seen as a way to bridge inequalities among EU countries and improve the functioning of the single market (see idea). In this regard, an event in which the need for a reform of the EU budgetary rules applicable in the Member States in order to ensure a sustainable post-Covid recovery and to secure the public investments required for the green and digital transition was held (see event).

A participant reiterates that internal market rules should be harmonized to increase functioning of cross-border trade. Moreover, prospects for growth and scaling up of SMEs should be assessed following the SME test, to ensure that regulations respond to the real needs of entrepreneurs and citizens (see idea).

A few ideas place the focus on tourism as a strategic sector for the growth of the European economy (see idea).

Finally, an idea sustains that adopting Esperanto as a European language would be economically beneficial (see idea).

Boost jobs

When discussing how to boost jobs, contributors identify a range of issues, from the need to upskill workers, to adapting to the changing labour market and the necessity to address youth unemployment and adapt to the conditions brought about by COVID-19.

Contributors highlight the importance of supporting young people, in particular, when it comes to access to the job market (see example of event). Youth unemployment is the most prominent issue within this theme (see example of an idea), with particular reference by contributors to the NEETs (see idea). Participants highlight how entry-level jobs are inaccessible for entry-level job-hunters, as they paradoxically require work experience (see idea). One idea suggests integrating some hard-skills into the academic curriculum to strengthen work-oriented skills (see idea). There is also an emphasis on the development of careers, with calls for programmes and measures to facilitate access to the EU job market, with internships across Member States and an
online job-platform (see example of idea). For instance, the project Upskilling Pathways seeks to place opportunities for training and learning at the centre of the European Social Market (see idea).

On a similar note, suggestions submitted to the platform include adapting academic qualifications to the labour market, which in turn, would improve the employability of students (see idea). To address the shortage of skilled workers, and more generally, the shortage of skills for the digitalisation of the labour market (see idea), one participant suggests facilitating the recognition of training acquired abroad (see idea).

Another group of ideas, related to the theme of innovation, calls for the creation of jobs in line with the green and digital transitions (see example of idea).

On the other hand, participants also underline the need to provide more professional development opportunities in technical fields, where more practical skills are required (see idea). In fact, several participants stress the lack of vocational training and post-secondary learning and consequently the inability of companies to find skilled employees (see idea). For instance, one participant calls for the promotion of craft jobs as a means for young generations to rediscover fundamental values, rather than solely promoting jobs in the IT sector (see idea).

Increasing the mobility of workers in the EU is also seen as economically beneficial (see idea), which, however, is also discussed in light of giving rise to a brain drain in some countries (see event). The quest to generate decent jobs on the basis of meritocracy is advanced by a participant on the platform (see idea).

With regard to working conditions, participants advocate boosting teleworking and ‘flexible working’ to reduce commuting travel time for employees and office infrastructure fixed costs for employers (see idea), to reconcile family time, to reduce rural depopulation (see idea) and to cut harmful emissions through reduced traffic (see idea). Further suggestions include introducing a shorter working week (see example of idea), banning unpaid internships, mandatory overtime and precarious working contracts (see example of idea), or investing in childcare infrastructures to reconcile private and professional life.

Lastly, the idea of eliminating daylight saving time has been expanded with contributors discussing the economic and social benefits of eliminating the ‘Daylight saving time’ (DST) (see example of an idea).

**Challenging the current economic model**

Many ideas under this theme share the objective of reducing inequalities in the economies of the EU (see example of an idea). This is perceived to be crucial alongside the quest to increase societal balance through enhanced interregional cooperation (see idea).

Several ideas advocate to put in place a regulation on diversifying the sources of supply of raw materials and processed goods to European industry, with a view to promote the model of “European Capitalism” (see idea).

Several contributions also highlight the importance of considering an economic model that looks beyond GDP, to work towards an inclusive and equitable European welfare (see example of an idea and event) and to work towards an inclusive and equitable European welfare (see example of an idea and event). This is perceived to be crucial alongside the quest to increase societal balance through enhanced interregional cooperation (see idea).

On a similar note, one citizen argues that the regulatory framework of the single market should introduce greater incentives for companies to engage with society and the environment (see idea and event). At the same time, an idea delineates the need to consequently adapt monetary policy to the concepts of “environmental taxonomy” and “social taxonomy” (see idea). Third sector organisations advocate for a share of the NextGenerationEU package to be spent on social welfare and territorial cohesion (see idea).

One proposal suggests reporting how much different transport habits impact on the carbon footprint, to increase awareness and encourage citizens to choose the least polluting mode (see idea and event). Similarly, another participant suggests introducing a carbon credit card system for flights taken in the EU to regulate and limit air travel (see idea).
Within this theme, the current European economic system is discussed from a more ideological perspective. On the one hand, contributors propose building on capitalism and the free market, with more internal competition, reduced regulatory burden, fewer subsidies and excessive tax rates (see example of idea). A group of contributors call for the economy to become more liberal. Their suggestions include in particular decreasing bureaucracy, withdrawing privileges from EU politicians and staff (see example of idea), lowering taxes for the lower and middle classes, supporting entrepreneurship and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, which in turn provide employment opportunities (see example of an idea).

As discussed earlier, in contrast, other participants strive towards a more human-centred economy and highlight the perceived shortcomings of the current economic model, such as the lack of transparency of working conditions and origins of goods throughout the production chains (see example of an idea).

Within this discussion, one idea focuses on the theory of degrowth, as a way to re-establish a new balance between human beings and nature vis-à-vis uncontrolled growth (see idea). Another participant proposes to take as reference the doughnut economic model (see idea). A few contributors support initiatives of the circular economy (see idea and idea). Further ideas on the circular economy are posted under the topic Climate change and the environment.

New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

In connection with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a large pool of ideas raised the need for autonomy of production to enhance European economic self-sufficiency (see example of an idea), accompanied by stronger protection of the European label (see idea) and increased import taxes as a means to enhance Europe’s sovereignty (see idea). A new expression of this theme is the search for self-sufficiency raised by several participants in order to achieve energy independence (see example of an idea), often referencing the energy crisis generated by the strategic responses to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine (see example of an idea). This feeds into the proposal for a European Energy Union (see idea). The concept of the EU’s strategic energy autonomy was equally discussed by several participants (see examples of an idea) with a panel of experts during an event in Spain, from the perspectives of security and defence, energy and the environment, and industrial transition (see idea).

As previously the role of rural areas in creating a stronger EU economy was discussed in a number of recent contributions. Various ideas highlighted the problem of the depopulation of rural areas (see example of an idea), with many contributors seeing this as having an impact on inequality (see idea). Participants underlined the importance of providing incentives to businesses and young people to settle in rural areas, through targeted taxation and reduced bureaucracy (see example of an idea). There was also a call for increased funding for young farmers (see idea).

In the past period, the theme of social protection and social security generated a high volume of related ideas, reiterating themes detailed above. Contributions discussed pension reforms, the length of the working week, activation policies, policies addressing the specific problems faced by people with disabilities (see example of idea), and income support schemes. Among the latter, introducing a universal basic income was the most frequent proposal (see example of an idea), with some contributors problematising the effectiveness of such a measure (see idea).

A substantial strand of ideas discussed how the green economy should be implemented and sustain itself (see example of an idea). One participant also advocated organising awareness-raising campaigns at European level for good water management (see idea).
Figure 13 – Mind map ‘A stronger economy, social justice and jobs’ topic part 1

Economic recovery
- Negotiate a renewed social contract based on social dialogue and collective bargaining
- Introduce measures to counter rising public debt in the EU
- Strengthen and expand the ECB’s mandate
- Ensure that Recovery Plans are rigorous, efficient and transparent
- Support and grow SMEs: pivotal in EU’s recovery
- Finance future pandemic preparedness measures
- Address understaffing of healthcare professionals
- Promote and invest in local consumption and production
- Revalue rural areas for economic recovery
- Introduce an EU wide unconditional basic income
- Combat (youth) unemployment
- Combat income gaps in EU and poverty
- Measure opportunities for introduction of social protection benefits in relation to robustness of economic basis
- Address long-term healthcare to ensure safety and dignity of the elderly and encourage intergenerational exchanges
- Coordinate retirement policies & pensions in the EU
- Establish minimum EU standards for social security and protection
- Ensure access to affordable housing
- Introduce a digital common social security card

Social protection and social security
- Establish social dimension of Europe with the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Reach gender equality across industries with equal pay and gender quota
- Increase efforts towards including persons with disabilities
- Reduce inequality and enhance efforts to counter homelessness
- Target efforts towards integrating identified marginalised populations into society and counter all forms of discrimination
- Institute the right to disconnect

More inclusive, socially just Europe

Stronger economy, social justice & jobs

Innovation – boosting growth
- Invest in education, research and development to achieve a European knowledge economy
- Reduce industrial and commercial dependency on external countries
- Fund start ups & SME’s as innovation drivers
- Decentralise businesses and enhance local governance to diminish territorial disparities
- Promote sustainable tourism
- Establish the digital economy
- Strive towards a Green Economy
- Encourage and support businesses to achieve a green transition, while preventing “green washing”
- Expand aerospace industry to spearhead innovative technologies

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Figure 14 – Mind map ‘A stronger economy, social justice and jobs’ topic part 2

**Further strengthen European single market**
- Pursue the development of EU economic policies to deepen economic integration
- Connect local industrial ecosystems across Europe
- Bring back production companies to the EU
- Establish strategic autonomy in key industries
- Disincentivise the takeover of European companies by companies headquartered outside of Europe
- Establish transport and energy networks across the EU
- Introduce common taxes to bridge inequalities within the EU

**Boost jobs**
- Facilitate path to jobs in the EU, especially entry-level
- Tackle youth unemployment
- Adapt academic qualifications to the labour market to enhance employability of students
- Address shortage of skilled workers for the digitisation of the labour market
- Introduce “flex working” (working part from the office part remotely)
- Encourage young people to pursue manual and artisan jobs
- Simplify tax & labour policies in the EU
- Support young farmers and encourage sharing of good practices

**Stronger economy, social justice & jobs**

**Challenging the current economic model**
- Diversify the sources of supply of raw materials and processed goods to European industries
- Include other indicators to complement GDP measures within the economic model
- Engage third sector organisations to carry out programmes on social welfare and territorial cohesion
- Introduce carbon credit card system for air transport and raise awareness on how carbon footprints differ among different modes of transports
- Liberalise economy, decrease bureaucracy and lower taxes for lower and medium classes
- Reform EU economic governance model to achieve an inclusive and equitable European welfare
- Shift towards a circular economy
Ideas posted under the topic of EU in the world cover a variety of themes related to foreign and security policy, ranging from trade and various other aspects of soft power to defence. Overall, the most recurrent themes call for a stronger presence of the EU in the global political arena: in its neighbourhood policy as well as in relations with, for instance, African, Pacific and Latin American countries. Contributors to the platform feel that the EU should be bolder in its exercise of both soft and hard power. Since the inception of the platform, this topic has generated an overall number of 3,695 contributions, i.e. 1,448 ideas, 1,768 comments and 479 events. The various ideas can be grouped according to the following themes:

- Overall objectives of EU foreign policy
- Defence and armed forces
- Decision making
- Neighbourhood policy and relations with others
- Enlargement
- Trade Policies
Recent events organised under the EU in the world topic were largely impacted by the radically different geopolitical context determined by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The outbreak of the conflict prompted the organisation of multiple events on the EU’s role and its economic and diplomatic relationships with Ukraine and Russia. This was the case of an online event in Germany, with 64 participants (see event), where participants questioned two EU representatives about among things the EU’s foreign policy stance in the ongoing conflict and the effects of the EU’s sanctions against Russia. In another online event in France, participants exchanged views with an EU representative about ways to reduce the EU’s dependence on Russian gas supplies (see event). The war also renewed interest in subjects such as common defence and EU enlargement which were discussed during some of the events. For example, a workshop in Poland discussed especially the need to foster EU enlargement (see event).

Other events were also organised, for example a forum dedicated to migration, racism and relations between the EU and Africa was organised in Spain as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe (see event).

**Events**

**Overall objectives of EU foreign policy**

Many contributions under the EU in the world theme want the EU to reinforce its role as global actor and contribute to global multilateralism, as well as to defend democracy and use its soft power against the rise of authoritarianism around the world (see example of idea). Most of these ideas aspire to a more unified EU in the face of global challenges, like those represented by human rights violations and climate change (see example of idea).

Discussions about the EU’s role in the world have been especially marked by the Afghan and Ukrainian crises. Contributors have highlighted the importance of the geopolitical change provoked by the increasing withdrawal of the United States from foreign affairs and conflicts. Many contributors see the return to power of the Taliban as a failure for the West, and as a sign that it is time for the EU to assume its own role in foreign policy matters, independently of its strategic alliance with the US (see example of idea). This recurring call for a united approach on foreign policy has been the subject of several events (see example of event). Regarding the major crisis at the Ukrainian border with Russia, there are calls for the EU to help Ukraine (see example of idea) and to speak with one voice against Russia’s military threats, so not to repeat the mistakes of the past, when a divided EU left too much space to foreign powers, especially the US, in handling military crises (see example of idea). In relation to the role of the US, regardless of their view on the Ukrainian crisis, some contributions reveal a sentiment of distrust towards the EU’s main ally (see idea).

Contributors express the opinion that the EU's role is changing amidst rising concerns over the climate emergency, a shifting economic and geopolitical power balance, major challenges to multilateralism and the global battle against COVID-19 (see example of event, see example of idea). Hence several contributors express the opinion that the EU should be bolder in its exercise of both soft and hard power (see example of idea and idea).

Concerning the defence of human rights, one of the most endorsed ideas within this topic proposes the need for a common foreign and security policy to ensure the safety of Europeans, while promoting democracy, human rights, the rule of law and environmental protection in its neighbourhood and globally (see idea). Another idea proposes enhancing human rights protection in the clauses of foreign trade agreements signed by the EU (see idea). Numerous ideas support a feminist EU foreign policy, both in the sense that the EU should strongly defend women’s rights around the world (see example of idea), but also through an approach based on positive peace and cultural sensitivity (see idea).

Thus, contributors call for greater cooperation between Member States, and the need to cease competition between the Member States at
international level (see idea). Related is a call for a common European arms export system with strict rules to ensure that weapons ‘made in EU’ are not fuelling conflicts around the world and leading to violations of human rights (see idea).

While most ideas call for a more united and integrated EU, thereby reinforcing the EU’s role as a global power of law and justice open to interaction with various multilateral institutions, both at a global and regional level (see example of idea and idea), others want the EU to focus on its role as an economic actor, as initially envisaged. In this regard, they consider that the EU should not assume the role of a geopolitical actor but should rather maintain its primordial function of a common economic market. Participants consider that since the EU is not a sovereign state it cannot exercise a political role as a global actor (see example of idea).

Defence and armed forces

A recurrent and much discussed sub-theme is the need to strengthen the EU’s hard power (see example of event), both by increasing the EU budget for defence (see idea) and by strengthening the European defence industry in order to achieve strategic autonomy (see example of idea). Contributors also advocate the creation of a common European army (see example of idea), one of the most endorsed ideas under the topic, or for the integration of the Member States’ armed forces at the EU level (see example of idea). Existing initiatives in favour of a common European military policy, such as the EU’s Strategic Compass for security and defence, are acknowledged by some contributors. One of them, in particular, calls for more attention to be paid to the military's social dimension (i.e. working conditions within the armed forces, see idea). However, some contributors are more sceptical, if not totally opposed, towards the idea of a common European army. One of them demands not to pursue the idea of a European army, and asks to direct individual countries’ military investment on NATO (see idea).

Contributors also suggest the creation of more specialised forces or institutions at EU level, such as a European National Guard to deploy in emergency situations, for example in the aftermath of natural disasters (see example of idea). Other participants also want to develop a European Intelligence Service (see example of idea). Some contributors also propose the establishment of a European Military Academy (see example of idea). Regarding military education, one participant also proposes the establishment of basic military training for European youth (see idea). For some contributors, the perceived decline of the EU-US alliance also entails increased cooperation and coordination in foreign policy between EU Member States (see example of idea).

Decision making

The EU’s decision-making process is often seen as slow and quite ineffective when it comes to taking quick action in response to an immediate challenge. In order to overcome this problem, participants advance multiple ideas to reform of the EU’s decision-making process.

Contributors consider that pivotal for the EU to act as one solid and united entity in the international political arena, in order to maintain and further strengthen its role. To achieve this, several contributions raise the need for a common foreign policy (see idea). The call to strengthen the EU's ability to play a role in foreign and security policy was also the topic in the Finnish public consultation Europe Forum, discussing Finland’s current and future roles in Europe and the EU (see event).

Many contributions call for the rethinking of the unanimity rule. One strand of ideas stresses the fact that the current situation based on the unanimity rule allows a single Member State to block common foreign policy (see example of idea and event). This is considered problematic as it prevents the EU from having a credible, stable and strong voice in the world. Therefore, according to an idea expressed, the EU should move towards a system of an ‘absolute’ majority voting. One of the most endorsed ideas under
this theme gives a detailed description of an absolute majority voting system for Member States, supported by a simple majority of Members of the European Parliament, for the EU to be able to take executive action and generate a real, credible foreign policy (see idea). Similar to the discussions within the topic of European Democracy, qualified majority voting is also presented as an alternative to the current unanimity rule (see example of idea).

A last sub-theme discusses the competences of the European Parliament. Some contributors feel that, although the European Parliament has supported the concept of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) from its inception and has sought to extend its scope, it still only has a peripheral role in EU foreign policy making. Therefore, they believe that it is crucial to allocate more foreign policy competences to the European Parliament (see example of idea).

Neighbourhood policy and relations with others

A sub-theme of ideas concern the diplomatic representation of the EU with, in broad terms, contributors calling for the EU institutions to represent and defend their interests in the world more visibly (see example of idea). In this context, they suggest that the embassies of the EU Member States should be replaced by a single EU embassy that would represent and unite all EU Member States. According to one participant, this could be achieved through a reform of the existing European Union External Action Service (EEAS, see idea). This could also mean single EU membership of all international institutions, such as the NATO (see example of idea), or one single and permanent representation in the UN Security Council (see idea). Other ideas include the creation of a common EU passport for all European citizens (see example of idea) and the systematic use of the European flag and the European anthem in the international context (see example of idea).

An event in Poland, and its related idea (see event and idea), reiterated the economic importance of trade relationships between the UK and the EU for both Poland and the whole EU, and that even after Brexit.

Contributions under this theme refer particularly to the EU's political relations with Russia and China (see example of event). Contributors advance the need to fundamentally rethink the EU's foreign policy with the implementation of a bolder approach in line with what was discussed in earlier themes. One participant, for example, claims that the EU should increase its maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific area (see idea).

However, other contributors on the platform discuss the opinion that, when it comes to China, the EU should not only develop a more unified and tougher stance in its diplomatic relations given the highly divergent systems of values, but should also develop a European Union's Foreign Investment Strategy to counter China's influence globally and in particular in developing countries (see idea).

Concerning the relationship with Russia and the Eastern European countries, some participants in an event debating the relations between Germany and the Baltic countries, called inter alia for the EU to support the opposition in Belarus (see event). One participant wants the EU to be more involved in political tensions occurring in neighbouring states such as Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, or even in its own Member States such as Cyprus (see idea). In this regard, this participant also expressed concern with the relationship between the EU and Turkey, and between the EU and Serbia. The EU is also encouraged to play a leading role in the peace-building process between Israel and Palestine (see example of idea).

As regards the EU's relations with extra-European countries, and particularly the African states, contributors express the opinion that there should be an enhanced partnership and reworked trade relations with Africa (see example of event). Other citizens call for stronger bilateral partnerships between individual Member States and African countries, also in order to address migration issues. This kind of ideas is reported in greater detail in the Migration chapter. There are also some calls to move away from maintaining the economic and political heritage of former colonial systems (see idea). Also in relation to the relationship with the African continent, one participant urges the EU to grant full recognition of
Somaliland as a sovereign country (see idea). Some contributors call for a stronger partnership between the EU and other regional multilateral organisations, including the African Union, Mercosur and ASEAN (see example of idea).

### Enlargement

A recurrent theme is that of EU enlargement. Ideas for continued enlargement, particularly to the Western Balkans, receive a relatively high number of endorsements by participants. One of the most endorsed contributions within this topic calls for a continued enlargement of the EU with the integration of the Western Balkan partners to ensure peace and stability in the region (see idea). Various events discussing issues related to EU enlargement and the Western Balkans have also been organised (see example of event). In one youth event in Germany, young participants demanded greater involvement of the EU in the Western Balkans, including as a security actor (see event). A strongly pro-enlargement stance was adopted during a conference event in Hungary (see event), which was attended by multiple politicians and academics, who stressed the importance of the enlargement to the Western Balkans for the future of the European Union. Various contributions focus on the geopolitical aspect of EU enlargement (see example of idea), while others highlight that the prospects of EU accession are a driving force for economic reforms and the strengthening of the rule of law in countries seeking EU membership (see example of idea). Related to demands for the EU to enlarge to the Western Balkans, there is a call to fully recognise Kosovo (see example of idea). However, the idea of enlarging the EU to include Kosovo generates various comments that strongly oppose this perspective on various grounds. Another participant demands visa-free entry to the EU to people from Kosovo (see idea).

Although less frequently than those supporting enlargement, some participants expressed opposition to further EU enlargement, stressing the need to prioritise issues internal to the current Union (see example of idea). One contribution asks the EU to stop considering Turkey as a candidate country (see idea). One respondent generally criticises the ambiguity displayed by the EU in its enlargement policy (see idea). According to her, this is generating frustration and instability in the candidate countries. Therefore, in her view, the EU needs to clarify its stance on enlargement once and for all.

### Trade policies

Ideas related to trade and economic relations are less discussed by participants. However, the theme of strengthening trade relationships and agreements between the EU and other countries in the world is often mentioned among ideas calling for a stronger and active global EU.

A group of contributions within the topic EU in the world wants to enhance trade policies and reform trade agreements in line with EU values, whether with regard to respecting human rights or complying with environmental standards (see example of idea). A widely endorsed idea calls for a reform of EU trade and investment policy and a relaunch of global multilateralism, with at its core the creation of decent jobs and the protection of fundamental and human rights, including workers and trade union rights (see example of idea). In a German-speaking workshop, participants discussed the EU trade policy and its implications in Third World countries, particularly in relation to sectors characterised by poor working conditions, child labour and negative environmental impacts, such as the textile industry (see event).

For some contributors, the health and the climate crises have highlighted the limits of a highly globalised and interdependent European economy. The shortage of masks during the health crisis, the issues with global supply chains following the pandemic, and the impact of global trade on the environment, have given rise to calls for re-industrialisation and increased local production (see idea). In this regard, many contributors call for increased coordination between the EU Member States when it comes to the
management of supply chains risks (see example of idea). Another participant proposes the establishment of dedicated institution to anticipate and counter supply shortages of strategic resources. This could take the form of a European observatory (see idea).

**New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)**

Most recent ideas under this topic related to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, reinforcing themes from the last published report.

Generally new contributions called for European support for Ukraine, but also advocated solutions to bring the conflict to an end (see example of idea). In this regard, contributions sometimes reflected radically different positions, with a majority of contributors welcoming the common foreign policy initiatives taken by the EU (see example of idea), and a few criticising them (see example of idea).

Concerns about Russian geopolitical ambitions in the Baltic states, and about Russian influence in the Western Balkans were also expressed (see idea). Additionally, the role of NATO was often mentioned in relation to the conflict (see example of idea). The applications for EU membership submitted by Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia in response to the Russian aggression of Ukraine prompted even more frequent debates about EU enlargement on the platform, with some participants more open to pursuing further enlargement of the Union, and others advocating a far more moderate enlargement policy (see example of idea).

The conflict has made the EU’s role in the protection of human rights and democracies worldwide an even more central issue. Various contributors defended the importance of cultivating diplomatic relations with other democracies around the world, whose sovereignty is threatened by autocratic states, such as Taiwan (see idea). Other contributions discussed instead the nature of the relations between the EU and illiberal states such as Iran, China and Turkey (see example of idea), pushing for more dialogue and economic cooperation with such States.
Figure 15 – Mind map ‘EU in the world’ topic part 1

Overall objective of EU foreign policy

Promote democratic values and human rights
- Take action against states violating international treaties
- Strengthen a common foreign policy
- Foster strategic autonomy of the EU
Increase the focus on the primordial common economic market function of the EU
- Take common action in the Ukrainian crisis

Defence and armed forces

Create a European army
- Create more specialized forces or defence institutions at EU level, such as an Intelligence Service
- Establish common European armed forces for non-defensive purposes, such as a European National Guard

Decision making

Enhance visibility and influence of the EU as a global power
- Foster greater cooperation between Member States
- Rethink unanimity rule to absolute or qualified majority voting
- Allocate more foreign policy competences to the European Parliament
Figure 16 - Mind map ‘EU in the world’ topic part 2

Neighbourhood policy and relations with others

EU in the world

Enlargement

- Continue enlargement towards the Western Balkans
- Integrate Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia the EU
- Advance EU enlargement vs. no further enlargement
- Recognise Kosovo and foster its integration in the EU

Trade policies

- Anticipate and find coordinated solutions for resource shortages in supply-chain crises
- Promote trade agreements in line with EU values
- Promote economic cooperation and growth, both within and outside the EU
- Invest in local production and increased industrial autonomy

Introduce a single EU embassy to represent Member States

Adopt an assertive stance toward Russia and China vs. Protect European economic partnerships with those countries

Develop a EU Foreign Investment Strategy to counter China’s influence globally

Develop stronger partnerships between the EU and the African countries, as well as other non-Western countries, also through organisations like the African Union or Mercosur

Encourage stronger bilateral partnerships between Member States and developing countries

Single representation of the EU in international institutions such as NATO or a single and permanent representation in the UN Security Council

Assume a leading role in peacebuilding between Israel and Palestine
The topic Values and rights, rule of law, security has generated a total of 5,351 contributions (1,768 ideas, 2,910 comments and 673 events), with contributors advancing ideas on various rights and freedoms, such as LGBTIQ and gender equality, and the inclusion of people with disabilities, and discussing the concept of European values as a guiding principle. Reflecting the diversity of opinions on the platform, other contributors have called for the respect of more conservative views, frequently linked to the protection of religious values. Another substantial theme under this topic discusses the need to uphold and defend the rule of law with regard to what is described as the ‘dangers of the rise of illiberal democracies’ within the EU, and the need to strengthen the EU’s democratic values. Recent entries have discussed the war in Ukraine and the need for the EU to increase its military capabilities.

The contributions cover the following themes:

- Rights and freedoms
- Inclusive society
- Protecting the rule of law
- Security
- EU values
- Lobbying and corruption
**Events**

In relation to the topic of Values, rights, rule of law and security, EU values were discussed during a round table event in France (see event) and the challenges resulting from the EU’s cultural and linguistic diversity were equally addressed at a German conference organised in collaboration with cooperation with minorities in the German-Danish border area, which focused in particular on the value and relevance of minorities in society (see event).

Inclusive society, gender equality, anti-racism (see event) and anti-LGBTIQ phobia policies were the most frequent themes of the events organised under the topic, particularly in Greece, Italy, France and Belgium. In Denmark, events on values and rights mainly took the form of travelling workshops to engage with young people in several high schools across the country (see event).

Gender-based discrimination and violence was discussed extensively during an online event touching on root causes, prevention and responses to abuse (see event). On the occasion of the international day for women’s rights, an event was organised to debate policy measures to enhance gender equality (see example of an event). While another event tackled domestic violence and gender-based violence (see event).

More recently, some events discussed issues related to security and defence, touching upon the Russian invasion in Ukraine. In particular, one event discussed the implications of the war in Ukraine for the EU’s security and defence (see event), while another looked at the prospects of achieving strategic autonomy (see event).

A large group of ideas on rights and freedoms discuss the protection of human rights and freedoms in general (see example of an idea). One of the most endorsed ideas in this topic suggests strengthening the enforceability of various human rights instruments in the EU legal system (see idea), while others see the need for an update of the human rights to suit today’s and future societal realities (see example of idea).

The various kinds of human rights are touched upon, being economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Some participants bring attention to human rights violations at European borders, to which some contributors respond condemning human smugglers (see example of an idea).

Civil and political rights are highly present within this topic on the platform, with the right to privacy and freedom of expression being most present among the contributions (see example of an idea). Those contributions discussing freedom from discrimination are grouped in the separate theme of inclusive society, as being considerable in size.

In light of our changing society, a diverse range of contributions focuses on issues related to the rights and freedoms in the context of the digital transformation, particularly related to the right to privacy. This sub-theme is equally discussed in the topic of digital transformation. The EU’s General Data Protection Regulation is seen as key to prevent companies from selling personal information (see idea). In general, contributors raise the need for better legislation and tools to address privacy concerns related to the internet and social media, as well as all new technology (see idea). There are calls for limitations on the use of biometric data for surveillance (see idea) and on the collection and sharing of personal data more generally (see example of an idea). In fact, contributors note that digital surveillance through the collection of personal data by technology giants poses a significant threat to citizens’ dignity, autonomy and privacy. Accordingly, they call for increased regulations and data protection measures (see idea). This is also raised in light of the expressed need for increased regulation with regard to artificial intelligence (see idea).

Another group of ideas discuss the freedom of expression and limits to this freedom. When it comes...
to ensuring freedom of expression related to press and social media, some contributors have raised concerns that these are being compromised, with content being removed from platforms (see example idea).

Others tackle the limits of freedom of expression, such as to what extent online content should be regulated and how this impacts free speech, with some citizens supporting the creation of a unified European digital framework (see event). Fake news, for example is perceived to constitute a threat to fundamental democratic values (see event). The frequently raised notion of hate speech points to the need to tackle this issue and increase protection for the victims of hate speech (example of an idea and event) and hate crimes (see event).

A sub-theme concerns economic and social rights as also raised in the topic on Stronger economy, social justice and jobs, such as the right to housing (see example of idea), ensuring work-life balance (see example of event), social security for food (see idea), etc. Some contributors demand an updating of human rights in this respect (see idea) or even make social rights enforceable (see idea).

From the angle of rights of a specific segment of the population, several ideas advocate for children’s rights and indicate the need to increase child protection in legislation and policies (see example of an idea).

Framed in the light of the fundamental right to respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, a widely endorsed idea on the platform is the request for the European Union to recognise Esperanto as a language of European citizens (see example of an idea).

Another group of contributions underlines the need to lift COVID-19 measures once the effects of the pandemic allow, in order to ensure a return to normality and restore citizens’ freedoms (see idea). In this regard, there is also a call to prevent discrimination against citizens who have chosen not to be vaccinated or undergo regular tests to gain access to basic facilities (see example of an idea). Issues related to COVID-19 vaccination are addressed in more detail under the Health topic.

Some contributions call for the EU to take the lead in protecting animal rights (see idea), for example by introducing an ‘animal licence’ (see idea). Contributors consider that although the EU treaties recognise animals as sentient beings, abusive and cruel treatments still exist in the farming and meat industries (see example of an idea).

Others specifically focus on judicial matters and the implications of intra-EU mobility, discussing the need to facilitate the processes, for example in relation to the handling of successions (see idea), death (see idea) and suggesting that Member States’ registers of matrimonial property regimes and registered partnerships should be interconnected (see idea). At an open forum webinar, participants discussed the procedural rights in criminal proceedings across the EU (see event).

Various participants support the right to self-medicate with cannabis (see example of an idea) and discuss the decriminalisation and legalisation of drugs more broadly (see example of an idea). This issue is also addressed under the Health topic.

Some citizens suggest that cash payment options should be recognised as a democratic right (see example of an idea).

Inclusive society

Various contributions call for greater efforts to be made to create an inclusive society, addressing issues such as freedom, discrimination and equality. A dominant strand of contributions under this theme revolves around ideas relating to gender equality, including a highly endorsed idea on this issue (see idea and example of an event), as well as female empowerment (see event). Related suggestions include increasing the number of women among political and economic decision-makers (see example of an idea). Gender equality is also widely discussed in terms of achieving equal pay (see example of an idea), as well as in educational terms from childhood (see idea). The call for a gendered approach towards traditionally more male dominated sectors, such as
STEM, to alleviate gender inequality is also present in other topics.

With regard to sexual and reproductive rights, citizens are divided. A group of contributions underlines the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights as fundamental means to achieve gender equality and end gender-based violence, including the right to abort (see example of an idea). In contrast, other contributions advocate protecting the dignity and right to life by halting funding in the areas of EU research, development aid and public health which are seen to promote the destruction of human embryos (see idea). Going beyond the topic of abortion, ideas related to sexual and reproductive rights discuss the need to implement effective measures to counter increased gender-based violence (see example of an idea and event), and also suggest addressing male stereotypes (see idea), and countering revenge porn and harassment online (see event).

Another theme that has attracted numerous contributions is the need to further promote inclusion of persons with disabilities, for instance people affected by Trisomy 21 (see idea). Contributors call for the inclusion of persons with a disability to be integrated into national constitutions (see idea and event), as well as for policies to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities (see idea) and disability awareness training for all employees (see idea). Similarly, an idea advocates for training teachers on how to integrate pupils with disabilities within classes (see idea). Other proposals include: (i) the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities, by making products and services more accessible (see idea and event), (ii) adequate protection of their human rights (see idea), and (iii) countering discrimination against people with mental disabilities (see idea). A highly commented event, with participants approving in the comment section, similarly calls for the inclusion of people with Down syndrome and legislative initiatives in their support (see event) to increase their visibility and participation across all levels of society (see idea).

Some contributors perceive the rights of women, LGBTIQ minorities and human rights to be under attack in some Member States (see example of an idea and idea). As follows, numerous participants call for LGBTIQ people to be protected and same-sex marriages to be recognised across the EU Member States (see example of idea and idea) and for LGBTIQ parenthood to be allowed (see idea). One workshop event addressed the integration of LGBTIQ rights across various topics (see event). Another idea suggests introducing the concept of multiple discrimination, i.e. discrimination based on two or more grounds and taking concrete measures to combat it (see idea).

In view of ageing European societies, calls to counter ageism have been submitted to the platform (see idea). An event was also held to investigate the consequences that the demographic changes have on society’s structural foundations (see event).

A couple of events have also drawn attention to the issue of the rights of national and ethnic minorities (see example of an idea and event), including the Roma community (see example of an idea, event and event). On the same note, some ideas call for an EU regulation to ensure European minorities’ language rights (see example of an idea). One highly endorsed idea calls for making Catalan an official EU language (see idea).

Inclusive communication reflections in the Commission were discussed, with participants commenting that European citizens should feel free to celebrate religious festivities, to avoid European citizens from feeling inversely discriminated (see idea and idea and event).

In relation to prospects for a diverse and inclusive Europe, contributors discuss the need for successful integration policies as some highlight that failure to implement effective immigrant integration policies creates tensions in European societies and related security risks (see idea).

Protecting the rule of law

The need to uphold the rule of law and respect for democratic values is a frequently recurring theme (see example of an idea). Contributions recognise these as
constituting the foundations of European Union (see idea and idea). While most contributions raise internal aspects with regards to rule of law, external aspects are also covered, with calls for the EU to adopt a tougher stance vis-a-vis third countries, such as Russia and China.

One of the most endorsed ideas under this topic calls for a review mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (see idea). The importance of rule of law for the functioning of the internal market is also highlighted (see idea). Consequently the idea of setting out a common vision to protect its values and institutions is widely shared across the platform (see example of an idea).

Many participants are concerned regarding respect of EU values and the rule of law inside the EU (see example of idea and idea), some specifically mentioning Hungary (see example of idea) and Poland (see example of idea and idea), in particular. A highly endorsed idea highlights that democracy and rule of law should be upheld by all Member States without engaging in double standards (see idea).

In light of these perceived threats to the rule of law, contributors propose different strategies to counter infringements: (i) reducing grants to the countries, (ii) taking away their voting rights in the Council (see example of idea), (iii) using budgetary protection mechanisms linked to the rule of law (see idea), (iv) reviewing Article 7 to make it easier to sanction governments breaching EU values (see idea), (v) introducing a mechanism whereby Member States can be expelled if they violate the democratic rule of law (see idea), and (vi) install a watchdog such as the European Union Court of Justice to protect democracy and the rule of law in the EU (see idea).

A number of ideas to ensure the rule of law, next to other EU values, are suggested as well. A few of them suggest supporting civil society organisations as a way to strengthen and sustain the democratic rule of law (see idea and see idea). A contributor has raised a related idea to implement an EU civil society strategy for civil society organisations to operate freely and contribute towards upholding European values (see idea).

Nonetheless, the most widespread idea calls for the unanimity rule to be eliminated to ensure that Member States that are not aligned with the rule of law cannot block decision-making in the EU (see example of an idea).

Protection of press and media freedom is considered related to protecting of rule of law, and EU values by extension. This was the topic of a participatory workshop, and the need to increase transparency for mediatic pluralism and ensure greater protection of journalists were key takeaways (see event). Increased transparency and greater involvement of the citizens in EU decision-making process is also supported (see idea).

While the dominant share of ideas points to concerns surrounding violations of the rule of law, another strand of ideas takes a different perspective, where the EU is seen to be encroaching on the constitutions of Member States in an authoritarian manner (see example of idea). Some calls to reconsider the competence of the European Court of Justice to prevent conflicts with national constitutional jurisdictions are recorded on the platform (see example of idea and event). For example, one participant takes the view that so long as popular sovereignty is respected, democracy reigns (see idea). Similarly, others argue that the veto power is enforced as a political tool granted by the Treaties, and that it is the prerogative of Member States to defend borders and preserve the Christian religion, culture and a homogenous society (see idea).

The issue of security is widely discussed in other topics such as EU in the world, hence it occurs less frequently as a theme within the topic of Values and rights, rule of law, security. Nevertheless, one of the most commented ideas currently in this topic is a proposal to create an EU army (see idea), to better protect Member States against hostile foreign actors (see example of event). Furthermore, participants argue that centralising EU security would be beneficial both in terms of costs and in view of the declining importance of national armies across Europe, due to weaker allegiances by European citizens to the
defence of their own State (see idea). However, in the comment sections of these ideas others have questioned this proposal, commenting mostly on the political implications and the relationship between EU defence and national defence. For this reason, a participant advocates for the integration and interoperability of national armies (see idea).

Contributors also discuss the future of foreign policy and how it can be changed to ensure that Europe plays an international role (see event), with calls also for the EU to rethink its priorities in terms of its security goals, against the background of issues ranging from the migrant crisis to Afghanistan, to the threat of China in the Asia-Pacific (see idea). In view of non-traditional militaristic challenges which are being securitised, such as terrorism, criminal organisations’ activities and unregulated immigration, one participant argues that these cannot be solved solely through traditional military strategies, as they require security measures established through diplomacy, mediation and societal cohesion (see idea). Energy security (see idea) and the objective to decrease dependence to enhance geopolitical defence capabilities of the European Union represents an important example (see idea).

Debates on the platform also saw the juxtaposition of pacifists promoting defensive strategies, against those who argued that when confronted with superpowers, such as China and Russia, militarized security is required (see idea). Some participants take the view that the EU should not deal with defence matters and that it is better for the Member States to defend themselves with the support of NATO(see idea).

There are widely shared security concerns with regard to Russia on the platform, such as the threat of disinformation and Russia's influence and leverage towards European countries (see idea and event), and views expressing the need to develop common policies (see idea).

Discussing internal security in the EU, some contributors raise the need to combat different types of threats, such as cyber-attacks through enhanced coordination in cybersecurity (see idea) and the multiple forms of terrorism with coordinated counter-terrorism programs (see example of event). Additionally, they highlight the importance of preventing the radicalisation and polarisation of European societies, for example by setting up a Radicalisation Awareness Network to share best practices (see idea and idea).

EU coordination is also suggested for police forces to ensure equality and uniform working across Member States (see idea). In this respect, participants have suggested introducing a military and police Erasmus programme to consolidate allegiance to the EU and facilitate the sharing of good practices (see idea and idea). Similar ideas are also discussed under the topic EU in the world.

As a last strand of ideas, there are several calls on the platform to facilitate prosecution and law enforcement across national borders (see examples of idea and idea), for instance by adopting a unified penal code (see idea). Given the freedom of movement within the EU, some citizens endorse the establishment of a European agency to strengthen collaboration across Member States in the fight against terrorism and organised crime (see idea and idea). A participant also notes the danger posed by illegal sales of weapons (see idea). The strengthening of Europol, the already existing European agency to fight international crime and terrorism, is also envisaged by some participants (see idea).

EU values

The importance and centrality of sustaining European values is reiterated often on the platform (see example of an idea). A group of ideas on the platform discusses what it means to be European and the values that the EU should embody and promote (for example, see idea and idea). In particular, several citizens mention the principles of human dignity, freedom, equality, democracy, rule of law, human rights, pluralism, justice, solidarity (see event) and gender parity among others, as constituting the European Union’s value system, and believe that these should guide its policies. As such a highly endorsed proposal entails introducing a Review Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in the EU (see idea).
Citizens also refer to the common roots as well as heterogeneous specificities that characterize each Member State (see example of an idea and idea).

Some contributors also discuss the need for a European Constitution to clearly define a set of fundamental European values that need to be respected in the EU (see example of an idea).

A strand of discussions focuses on the place of religion and religious values in Europe with discussions on the role of Christian values and the need to protect them (see idea and event), but also calls to respect cultural and religious diversity in Europe (see idea). With reference to Christianity, an event explored how Eastern European countries reconcile public religious displays with tolerance towards other religions and beliefs (see event). Religion and its relevance in today's European Union was addressed during an inter-faith meeting in Dublin (see event). On the same note, participants argue that increasingly divisive ethical issues should be dealt with through interreligious dialogues and intercultural perspectives (see example of an idea).

Recent entries have also raised the question of antisemitism as a large threat to citizens from Jewish communities in many countries, which have seen an increase in attacks and violence (see idea).

In addition to tackling corruption at the level of EU institutions, there are some calls for the EU to check on the impartiality of national public administrations to counter favouritism and arbitrariness (see idea and event) or to tackle judicial corruption (see idea). Contributors ask for the EU to take action against tax avoidance and corruption in Member States (see example of an idea). Moreover, some contributors have voiced their outrage at not being able to have fair judicial trials (see idea).

**New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)**

New ideas increasingly discussed issues of security and border protection. The topic of defence was discussed not only in terms of creating a European army (see example of an idea), but also in relation to the Russian invasion in Ukraine, with many calls to strengthen Europe’s democratic values (see idea) and support Ukraine. As such, some participants advocated expanding the EU’s defence system (see example of an idea). Also Ukraine’s EU membership was discussed (see idea).

Aside from this, contributions covered themes and sub-themes raised in the last published report. LGBTIQ rights (see example of an idea), gender equality (see example of an idea), discrimination against people with disabilities (see idea) and minorities (see event) were often raised in the ideas submitted on the platform, next to EU values (see example of an idea).

Under the theme of rights and civil liberties, some participants called for greater respect for freedom of expression, with a proposal to facilitate independent media coverage (see example of an idea). Another contribution advocated greater freedom for bearing arms (see idea).

With regard to social rights, the theme of demography was also discussed, with calls for the introduction of policies to better support families (see idea). An idea also stressed the need to develop effective policies to combat homelessness (see idea).
The topics of justice and law enforcement (see example of idea) were largely debated. In relation to justice, participants discussed issues related to tax evasion and social dumping (see idea), as well as the malfunctioning of justice systems, and advanced proposals aimed at integrating European justice systems, including the possibility of serving a sentence in another EU country (see idea).
Figure 17 – Mind map topic Values and rights, rule of law, security part 1

Values and rights, rule of law, security

Inclusive society

Legalise cannabis

Rally for inclusion of minorities, such as Roma populations

Ensure freedom from discrimination

Implement gender equality and strengthen women representation

Increase inclusion of persons with disabilities by removing barriers and countering discrimination

Champion LGBTQ rights and recognize same-sex marriages across Member States

Counter ageism

Strengthen sexual and reproductive rights vs pro-life anti-abortionism

In relation to migration: ensure effective integration policies and combat disinformation

Protect and defend human rights and freedoms

Strengthen the enforceability of human rights instruments in the EU legal order

Protect privacy and personal data

Limit use of biometric data for surveillance

Sustain freedom of conscience and freedom of expression

Tackle hate speech and hate crime

Ensure press and media freedom while countering disinformation

Ensure economic and social rights

Implement children’s rights in policy making

Protect animal rights and abolish abusive and cruel practices in intensive animal farming

In light of COVID-19 measures ensure right to freedom of movement and prevent discrimination

Ensure the right to cash-payments

Standardise electoral rights across Member States

Tackle corruption on national and EU levels and enhance regulations for lobbying activities

Render EU decision-making process more transparent and accountable

Act against tax avoidance in Member States

Counter favouritism and arbitrariness in national public administrations

Lobbying and corruption

Rights and freedoms
Figure 18 – Mind map topic Values and rights, rule of law, security part 2

**Security**

- Establish European defence army
- Establish a European agency to counter organised crime and terrorism
- Integrate and render national armies interoperable
- Establish European Police force
- Take a tough stance against Russia vis-à-vis disinformation and military threats
- Tackle non-military security challenges, such as cyber attacks and radicalization
- Combat illegal sale of weapons
- Facilitate cross-border prosecution within the EU
- Provide support to Ukraine through military and diplomatic means in light of Russia’s aggression
- Strengthen the EU’s border protection

**Protecting the rule of law**

- Set out a common vision and/or institution to internally protect the rule of law
- Abolish unanimity requisites for more democratic decision-making
- Ensure that the democratic rule of law is upheld by Member States and take punitive actions when democratic principles are breached
- Appoint the European Court of Justice as watchdog for democracy and rule of law
- Support civil society organisations as a way to strengthen democratic rule of law
- Defend EU values and rule of law externally in face of opposition by Russia and China
- EU-sceptics call for the abolishment of European law and of the EU apparatus

**EU values**

- Need for a debate about the place of religion in European societies
- Adopt preventive measures to radicalisation and polarisation in European societies
- Ground European values to be respected in a European Constitution
- Let the European Union value system guide policies, human rights, freedom, equality, democracy, etc.
- Engage with divisive ethical issues through interreligious dialogues and sharing of intercultural perspective
The topic of Digital transformation has generated 1,072 ideas, 1,184 comments and 390 events, making a total of 2,646 contributions. The contributions in general stress the need for digital transformation with regard to the future economy, collaboration, health and other areas of life. However, they have also highlight several challenges related to digital transformation, such as ethical considerations, the growing digital divide, GDPR shortcomings, and cyber threats. In relation to this, by way of the most occurring themes, contributors have expressed the need not only to invest in digital education and foster digital skills, but also to invest in digital innovation and move towards a digitally sovereign Europe. The various ideas can be grouped according to the following themes:

- Education and training: digital skills
- Digital sovereignty and ethics
• Overall digitalisation of society
• European digital tools: digitalisation of public services
• Digital data
• Cyber security
• Digital rights and inclusion
• Pollution, sustainability and durability
• Digitalisation of the economy
• Digital health

Events
Recent events organised under the Digital Transformation topic reflected the debate around the creation of a fair and balanced digital transformation in the EU. In one event in Sweden, high school students discussed the lack of modern electronic equipment in schools, the low level of understanding of new technologies among older people, and the need for high-speed internet connections everywhere in the EU (see event).

A workshop in the Hungarian city of Pécs, organised by the local university, discussed the ethical dilemmas in connection with the regulation and use of AI. The workshop consisted of an initial brainstorming session, followed by a presentation of ideas and their subsequent translation into more concrete proposals (see event).

An event dedicated to the digital divide was organised in the French region of Brittany (see event), while the topic of the Russian invasion of Ukraine was a key focus of a discussion about European digital sovereignty which took place in the French town of Agen under the title of ‘Digital: the worst and the best of the worlds’ (see event).

One of the most recurrent group of ideas on the platform under the topic of Digital Transformation relates to the need to provide EU citizens with the necessary skills and tools to grow and succeed in an increasingly digital world. A number of ideas on the platform advocate comprehensive EU-wide digital literacy efforts in all EU countries as the development and promotion of digital skills is considered a top priority for the economy (see example of idea). Participants in particular mention the need to develop digital skills of young people in all EU Member States to improve their employability (see example of idea). The enhancing of digital skills and creating the capacity to navigate the digitalized society is not only felt to have economic benefits, it is also increasingly felt to be a prerequisite for ensuring wider access to education, culture and important public services (see example of idea). Ideas suggest starting at primary school level and continuing along the education pathway (see example of idea and event), including among the elderly population (see example of event, example of idea). One contributor references the EU Skills Agenda and the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 and asks for an accelerated implementation of it with regards to digital skills, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic (see idea). In addition to digital skills training, there are calls to provide training on the dangers of the internet, such as deep fake videos and educate on methods to prevent online fraud (see example of idea). Some contributors express the need for EU legislation around digital education to protect minors in the virtual space and ensure high quality education (see idea).

A theme equally discussed in the topic of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, e-learning in the context of the health crisis has become a recurring theme among contributions with a common call for increased investment and efforts to boost the digitalisation of education (see example of idea). Going beyond hardware infrastructure, contributors propose creating a single European remote learning platform (see example of idea and idea), developing virtual and immersive pedagogical tools (see idea) or a common web portal for online digital certificates (see example of idea). In this connection, contributors equally suggest further promoting scientific careers (see example of idea and event) and the development of scientific research programmes for young students, investing in the field of digital and innovation (see idea).
Digital sovereignty and ethics

The theme of digital sovereignty occurs frequently and several ideas to invest in open-source software, in particular, have received a high number of endorsements. The ideas submitted on the platform to boost digital sovereignty focus on Europe’s strategic independence in terms of hardware, software and social media platforms, with several calls to enforce and promote software resilience and independence as well as investments in innovation (see example of idea and idea). A number of ideas call for investment in European open-source software for egalitarian reasons and increased cooperation amongst Member States (see example of a highly endorsed idea), but also to gain greater digital autonomy (see example of idea). A sub-theme of ideas involves advancing the EU’s digital development and production, taking action with regard to web industry monopolies (see example of idea and idea) vis-à-vis other actors such as the US or China. As in other topics, contributors advance the idea of Europe owned and lead digital media platforms, such as a European streaming platform (see example of idea). Related, a contributor discusses the need for the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) to go further in order to curb the hegemonic position of digital giants from outside the EU. To stimulate digital sovereignty for the EU the contributor calls for the encouraging of innovation by ways of investing in European-wide high potential start-ups and a sovereign cloud among others (see idea). This call for strategic autonomy for the European Union in the digital field and a European model for digitalisation is equally one of the ideas put forward by a civil participation programme and forum organised by the Germany-Italy-Europe Observatory (see event).

Next to sovereignty in terms of digital software, other contributors specifically advance the need for the EU to achieve sovereignty in terms of hardware (see event). For instance, one of the most endorsed ideas suggests developing and promoting Europe’s own chip production (see idea), another idea specifically mentions dependencies on specialty metals (see idea). One contributor describes a Sovereign and Green European SmartPhone completely manufactured in the EU (see idea).

Central to the calls for digital sovereignty is the need to invest in innovation and research, with several mentions of European Digital Innovation Hubs (see example of idea). For digital sovereignty and sustainability to become central in a European digital policy, one contributor suggests linking EU funding closely with digital, sustainable transformation projects and European digital free trade zones (see idea).

An additional strand of ideas places a strong emphasis on the ethical aspect. Specifically, contributors want to boost the EU’s digital sovereignty to be fully in line with European values, standards, transparency and ethics (see example of idea). Contributors express the need for the EU to be the frontrunner when it comes to digitalisation, also for scientific and technological legislation (see idea). Additionally, the most highly endorsed idea in this topic calls for fair digitalisation based on human rights, including labour and trade union rights (see idea), as well as a call to safeguard freedom of expression with actions against forms of hate speech and the spread of fake news (see event).

Overall digitalisation of society

The overarching thrust of contributions on the topic of digital transformation is for the increased digitalisation of a variety of areas of EU society, going hand-in-hand with the necessary innovation efforts. In this regard, contributors reference the Digital Decade and call for an acceleration, closely monitoring the progress of Member States (see example of idea). A variety of participants further suggest a digital transition with ideas on the digitalisation of EU public transport with a common electronic transport pass (see idea). Others discuss digitalisation in relation to agriculture (see example of event), justice in the EU (see example of event) or in the framework of achieving a sustainable, greener economy (see example of event).

A sub-theme relates to digital voting, where a number of contributors on the platform point out the
advantages of electronic voting as well as of electronic signatures (see idea), in particular in the context of the pandemic (see example of idea). This question has been explored from the point of efficiency, safety and innovation, not from the perspective of enhancing democracy. There are however some opposing views in the comments which point out a number of disadvantages of electronic voting. Contributors suggest applying blockchain technology or setting up Europe’s own highly encrypted mailing system, as a possible means of ensuring the security of digital voting in the EU.

When it comes to digital innovation in particular, the ideas submitted on the platform concerning digital growth advocate first and foremost increasing the EU’s role in further developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. A call for a concerted effort to co-operate is expressed in an idea for a European AI Research Department (see idea). For some contributors AI is an essential component to drive economic growth and wealth in the EU (see example of idea).

A common call is noted for increased planning and regulation with regard to current AI possibilities and algorithmic decision-making systems in order to minimise risks, enhance security and accessibility (see example of idea, see example of event). The need for legislative action is expressed to minimise risks with artificial intelligence technologies (see example of event) and to respect fundamental rights. An example of the latter is the call for listing prohibited uses of AI such as algorithmic workers’ surveillance (see event). A much endorsed idea within this theme discusses an ethical AI and suggests legislation to contain the risks of AI, regulate data use and avoid inequalities (see idea).

Nonetheless, the benefits of AI, for example, for the public sector or emergency medical services are pointed out by some contributors (see example of idea). Other contributors, however, are more hesitant and highlight the future risk of creating AI superior to the human brain (see example of idea).

Another highly endorsed idea discusses the need to ensure that major crowdfunding platforms can be accessed from all Member States (see idea).

Some ideas also discuss the (potential) disadvantages of the digitalisation of society, such as exclusion of less digitally aware people, environmental pressures, dehumanisation, robotisation, and increased monitoring and surveillance of individuals (see example idea and idea). Contributors want these negative consequences of digitalisation to be investigated. Related, some contributions want legislation to be updated in light of the increasing digitalisation of society (see example of idea).

European digital tools – digitalisation of the public sector

A number of contributors suggest the digitalisation of governance and public sector within the EU to allow for interoperability and e-governance (see example of idea and idea, see event). A range of specific technological and digital tools for European citizens are proposed by citizens. The sub-theme of the digital unification of the EU is widely discussed (see idea), with a call for greater harmonisation at European level through the adoption of common digital tools: for example, a dedicated European Social Network for the expression of public opinion (see idea), for example, by creating a framework which helps all EU countries to work together on IT projects. This idea is developed further with several suggestions for all encompassing digital portals for citizen engagement and daily life identification needs (see idea).

A large pool of ideas discusses creating digital citizenship with ideas for a Europe-wide identification via a digital ID (see example of idea and idea) or highly secure (EU) identification systems, for instance based on the use of a fingerprints code (see example of idea). Similarly, contributors suggest a European digital wallet with all paper documents replaced by digital documents (see idea).

Another category of contributions focuses on European e-services: with, for example, a European Single Sign-on Identity Provider for providing access to public services (see idea), the need to harmonise standards and create a single authentication account at European level (see idea). Likewise, there is a
proposal to introduce a ‘Digital EU Cross-border Service Card’ to simplify access to public and emergency services for citizens living in cross-border regions (see idea). The development of digital tools and services such as a Digital Identity for the EU, the creation of a European App or the introduction of a Digital European passport was equally discussed in events (see example of event).

Digital data

When it comes to the digital data theme, contributors emphasise the progress made so far, mentioning that the EU is a leader in protecting individuals in the digital world. Nevertheless, there is a call for further improvement in this area (see example of event, see example of idea). For example, suggestions focus on modifying GDPR laws to make it easier to refuse the online collection of personal data (see example of idea). Another contribution demands clearer regulations when it comes to GDPR and employee data (see idea). Simultaneously, multiple contributions call for more comprehensible legislation without burdening users with constant requests for consent (see example of idea). Suggestions include taking GDPR even further and moving towards increased data autonomy for EU citizens (see example of idea).

A number of ideas suggest strengthening protection against cybercrime by first and foremost increasing network security, which for many contributors goes hand-in-hand with increased digital sovereignty (see example of idea). Additionally, the transparency and the accountability of data systems should be improved (see example of idea). As part of a five-pillar proposal, building on ENISA’s recommendations regarding risks of devices connected to the Internet of Things (IoT), contributors suggest creating an EU Label for any IoT product ensuring that the device meets the minimum Internet safety and performance requirements, coupled with manufacturer review and control regulations for third-party software (see idea). A form of inspection to ensure applications are safe by means of a European network Security Inspection Authority is equally suggested (see idea).

Cyber security

Overall, there is a recurrent call for co-operation at European level, in terms of infrastructure, knowledge and human resources, to strengthen cyber security in the EU (see example of idea and idea).

Cyber terrorism is equally discussed, with several suggestions for an EU centralised approach to defend the EU, its citizens and businesses in case of online threats (see example of idea). Suggestions range from a European cyber army (see idea) to expanding the scope of the ENISA agency into a European Cyber Defence Centre (see idea). Some contributors see a role for the EU in leading the way to a Global Cybersecurity Treaty, based on the example of the 2001 Budapest Convention (see idea).

In addition to defensive strategies, there are several suggestions for legislative action, for example advocating the introduction of EU-wide legislation to safeguard citizens’ privacy (see idea). A number of contributions equally stress the need to introduce regulation on social media platforms to counter disinformation, fake news and achieve data sovereignty (see example of idea). One such regulation could be digital network identification protocols verified by a European authority to avoid defamation, digital bullying or disclosure of false information (see idea). A contributor sees a role for the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) in strengthening European action against cybercrime and suggests extending their competence to cross-border cybercrimes (see idea).

Additionally, there is a call for stronger consumer protection in an online environment (see example of idea), for instance, by making it easier in the future for
consumers to change their mind with regard to purchases.

**Digital rights and inclusion**

There are several challenges identified with an increased digital society according to contributors. One concern emerging from the contributions is the digital divide affecting vulnerable groups. An online discussion, for example, discussed the increased digitalisation of our society and, as a corollary, the increasing exclusion of a certain population groups, the ‘digitalisation losers’ (see event).

Contributors therefore stress the need to guarantee free and inclusive access to digital space and contents, for example with calls for accessible and affordable digital services and appliances (see example of idea and idea). Others suggest that digital access should be recognised as a basic need by ensuring systemic funding at European or national level to provide digital services (see example of idea and idea). As referenced earlier, several ideas suggest enhancing the level of digital literacy and education of young and elderly population groups in order to promote digital cohesion (see example of idea and event). One contributor proposes the introduction of a monitoring mechanism to ensure fair and equal digitalisation and the acquisition of digital skills (see idea).

Another substantial strand of ideas stresses more specifically the digital inequality between urban and rural areas: improving digital connectivity and access to essential public and private services are some of the most discussed proposals within this theme (see event).

With reference to digital rights, some contributors would like to see a limitation or reduction of advertising on digital media channels (see example of idea), while others want, in the interest of freedom of information, to see paywalls removed and make information freely available with no payment needed (see idea).

One contribution calls for a gender-sensitive approach to digitalisation with suggestions for a legal framework to combat digital violence and a call to promote gender-friendly digital design (see idea). Additionally, contributors raise the need to increase female entrepreneurship and foster digital skills among women (see the event). The call for increased gender equity in tech was also discussed in the YEP workshop (see event).

**Pollution, sustainability and durability**

In several cases contributors link digitalisation to a more sustainable society. For instance, there is a call to introduce a digital product passport to promote local consumption and circular economy, accessible via QR codes providing information on product origin, composition, environmental impact, recycling and final handling (see idea).

However, there is a catch as digitalisation equally contributes to pollution among others. To counter this, contributors call for a sustainable digitalisation with increased research in environmental impacts of digitalisation and to inform consumers about the environmental impact of digital products (see example of idea and event). Suggestions for sustainable manufacturing with, for example, a call to make data centres greener with green energies (see idea) or for new products to be produced with recycled electronic waste or other sustainable alternatives (see example of idea and idea). Another strand of ideas revolves around digital waste, calling, for instance, to extend product warranty of digital goods (see idea). Additionally, there is an emphasis on durable, repairable and fairly and ethically produced digital equipment, which could be promoted, for instance, with lower taxes (see idea).

Some contributors focus on extending sustainability and accessibility not only to digital devices but also to digital infrastructures, and the development of smart cities (see example of idea). Another category of ideas in this respect proposes fostering the development of accessible and sustainable technologies by investing in Low Tech (see idea).
Digitalisation of the economy

In line with a theme also developed under the topic Stronger economy, social justice and jobs, a large number of ideas call for the digital economy and a single digital market to be embraced (see example of idea). Contributors, for example, have discussed the implementation of an EU blockchain platform (see example of idea and idea). The idea of a Digital Single Market Programme to promote e-commerce as well as ways to enhance SME’s capacity to use digital tools and advanced technologies is equally mentioned (see idea).

Other contributors also discuss cryptocurrencies with requests for governments to adopt cryptocurrencies to benefit and develop a digital and economically active society (see example of idea), or call for a European cryptocurrency (see idea). Counter arguments discussing the need for cryptocurrencies to be regulated or banned are also raised on the platform (see example of idea).

In addition, several ideas advocate the introduction of a digital euro as a secure and convenient payment method (see example of idea).

Another group of ideas encourages investment and boosting the competitiveness of the European digital market, by promoting a strategy of digitalisation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (see example of idea) and improving market conditions for the development of start-ups within the framework of European digital infrastructures (see idea). Related, one contributor discusses a strengthened digitalisation of the economy with digital receipts, a simplification of digital transactions and online banking made more accessible via phone (see idea).

New ideas in past period
(21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

Recent ideas presented under the Digital transformation theme were in line with those highlighted above.

The importance of guaranteeing equal access to the internet everywhere in Europe and ensuring a democratic digitalisation were among the most frequently raised ideas. Education is seen as a key driver to digitalisation (see example of idea). Technological innovation, supported by EU-wide policies, within an efficient European institutional and legal framework, is generally seen as a way to support a fair and inclusive digitalisation of the European society (see example of idea).

The workshop in Hungary on AI referenced above resulted in a number of proposals such as the possibility of extending the use of AI was another example of idea), introducing a social media day off (see idea), mental health (see example of idea) or fostering youth digital training to promote healthy and conscious use of technology.

In this regard, one contributor calls for increased regulation of computer and video games, particularly those aimed at (and popular with) children as some of them might introduce gambling patterns among others (see idea).

Equally discussed in the topic of Health, there is a call for digital health integration within the EU (see example of idea) or introduce a digital European Health Insurance Card (see example of idea). More elaborate ideas, suggest creating a single platform for electronic health management – which would be particularly interesting for the many Europeans using cross-border mobility possibilities (see example of idea). The latter idea has been expanded to the creation of EU electronic certificates (see example of idea). However, commenters often raise concerns on privacy and data protection. The idea of a European Digital Health Platform is often times discussed in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations and the Green Passport (see example of idea).

Digital health

Within the theme of digital health, a number of ideas on the platform propose concrete measures to improve the health of citizens in the digital world, such as employee rights to disconnect from work (see example of idea), introducing a social media day off (see idea), mental health (see example of idea) or fostering youth digital training to promote healthy and conscious use of technology.

In this regard, one contributor calls for increased regulation of computer and video games, particularly those aimed at (and popular with) children as some of them might introduce gambling patterns among others (see idea).

Equally discussed in the topic of Health, there is a call for digital health integration within the EU (see example of idea) or introduce a digital European Health Insurance Card (see example of idea). More elaborate ideas, suggest creating a single platform for electronic health management – which would be particularly interesting for the many Europeans using cross-border mobility possibilities (see example of idea). The latter idea has been expanded to the creation of EU electronic certificates (see example of idea). However, commenters often raise concerns on privacy and data protection. The idea of a European Digital Health Platform is often times discussed in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations and the Green Passport (see example of idea).
recurring proposal (see idea) and the establishment of a legal and institutional framework to regulate the use of AI was also mentioned (see idea). Another event in Bulgaria, equally discussed the need for regulation (see idea).

Next to ideas supporting technological innovation, a number of contributions called for greater online safety, in particular as regards the collection and use of personal data (see example of idea). In this regard, the topic of digital sovereignty was discussed to ensure that European values, especially right on personal privacy, are met (see idea).
Figure 19 – Mind map ‘Digital transformation’ topic part 1

Digital sovereignty and ethics
- Invest in innovation, development and production of hardware and software in the EU
- Develop ethical social media platforms in line with European values & standards
- Increased EU independence in digital matters with binding standards to break digital monopolies
- Invest in open source software

Cyber security
- Cooperate on EU level to strengthen cyber security
- Adopt independent and safer public networks
- Ensure network security in EU
- Adopt minimum Internet safety and performance requirements for IoT devices
- Create a European Cyber Army
- Combat cyber terrorism with legislative action
- More assertive stance from EU in regulating online platforms
- Increased consumer protection in an online environment

Digitalisation of society
- Ensure digital advancement of all Member States
- Update legislation in light of increasing digitalisation of society
- Encourage digital voting with electronic voting systems
- Implement an EU blockchain platform
- Investigate negative consequences of digitalisation of our society
- Invest in digitalisation such as Artificial Intelligence

Education & training: digital skills
- Boost digital literacy in the EU
- Invest in digitalisation of education system
- Develop digital skills along the education pathway
- Facilitate e-learning with a European remote learning platform

European digital tools
- Digital unification of the EU
- Digitalise governance and public institutions
- Create digital social media portals for citizen participation
- Create a Digital Identity for the EU
- Harmonise standards and e-services with the adoption of common digital tools such as a European Single Sign on identity provider
- Introduce a single crowdfunding platform for EU citizens and companies
- Build out digital citizenship with digital innovation in the EU
Figure 20 – Mind map ‘Digital transformation’ topic part 2

Digital data
- Improve data security
- Provide comprehensive legislation on digital data
- Further ensure data privacy with a modification of GDPR
- Restrict or ban geo-blocking

Digital economy
- Promote e-commerce with a Single Digital Market
- Regulate or adopt cryptocurrencies
- Promote a strategy of digitalisation for SME’s
- Introduce a Digital Euro

Pollution, sustainability and durability
- Encourage digitalisation to reduce pollution
- Investigate and support sustainable ways of producing digital equipment
- Promote environmentally friendly and ethically produced digital equipment
- Reduce digital waste
- Foster development of digital infrastructures, smart cities and low tech

Digital transformation
- Digital rights and inclusion
  - Address the digital divide and inequality
  - Ensure accessible and affordable digital services and appliances across the EU
  - Invest in digital literacy and education across the population
  - Guarantee free and inclusive access to digital space and contents
  - Ensure digital connectivity of rural areas
  - Ensure gender equity in digital and tech

Digital health
- Ensure the right to disconnect
- Introduce the concept of a social media day off
- Ensure safety of children online and in computer games
- Integrate health digitally in the EU with f.e. a digital health ID
The topic of European Democracy has generated a total of 2,539 ideas, 4,606 comments and 1,060 events on the digital platform. The most frequently discussed themes are European Parliament elections and the restructuring of the European institutions (or even federalising the EU), followed by a broad spectrum of suggestions to increase citizen participation and knowledge about European matters and foster a European common identity. Overall interactions under this topic are constructive and forward-looking, even if some interactions have expressed a fear of the EU being at risk of implosion due to tensions, populism, and nationalism. While noting a number of overlaps between the different themes and broadly comparable levels of engagement, the contributions have covered the following aspects:

- European Parliament elections
- Federalisation of the European Union
- Citizen participation and consultations
- Institutional reforms
- Fostering a common European identity and public space
- Protecting and strengthening democracy
Events

Under this topic, more than a third of the total number of events closed since 21 February were held in Italy. An overwhelming majority of such events discussed the theme of the federalisation of the EU, such as the citizens assembly organised in the city of Pavia, with representatives from civil society organisations, political parties, the non-profit sector and industry (see event).

Other events discussed issues relating to European democracy from the perspective of young people. During one such event in the city of Montpellier, France, young participants advanced various proposals to concretely improve the EU from the perspective of young people (see event). An information and communication event organised in Romania was attended by high school students who were introduced, to the opportunities represented by the Next Generation EU plan and the online platform on the Conference on the Future of Europe (see event). A dialogue between students, professors and organisers was established during the event, during which students focused on their view of the EU and its future in relation also to the Ukrainian war.

A lecture on human rights and democracy as bases for European cooperation was organised in Sweden for an audience composed of migrants from EU and non-EU countries (see event). During the lecture, participants also exchanged with the speakers, particularly about the importance of voting in EU elections and being informed about how EU citizens can contribute to the EU.

A special focus on journalism and how to report EU affairs was the key feature of multiple events organised in Croatia. A discussion with students took place in Zagreb and focused specifically on ‘How to increase interest in reporting on the EU among journalism students?’ (see event).

European Parliament elections

A group of ideas under the topic ‘European Democracy’ discuss changes to the way European Parliament elections are held as a means of enhancing citizen engagement in EU democratic processes. A widely endorsed idea, which has attracted different reactions, concerns the creation of EU-wide transnational electoral lists (see idea). The creation of a new electoral constituency for Europeans living in another Member State to encourage candidates to focus on European, rather than domestic issues, has also been proposed (see idea). Other electoral reform ideas for promoting pan-European debate, while bringing European Parliament members closer to citizens, have also been proposed (see example of idea). One specific kind of electoral reform, among the ones proposed, aims at changing the redistribution of seats within the Parliament, to replace the current proportional system with a majoritarian one, based on coalitions (see idea). One idea advocates that Members of the European Parliament should be nominated by national legislatures, instead of being directly elected (see idea).

Some of the proposals address more specific ways of increasing voter turnout at the European elections. There are calls for the introduction of mandatory voting (see idea), as well as suggestions to facilitate participation, for instance by allowing postal ballots (see idea) and same-day voter registration, making the voting day a public holiday (see idea), and even voting on the single day for multiple types of elections (see idea). Some contributors also discuss digital voting, including an idea to create a pool of pan-European digital voters (see idea). The issue of digital voting is also covered under the topic ‘Digital transformation’.

There are also suggestions to harmonise the minimum age to be eligible to vote at European Parliament elections (see example of an idea) and to preferably set it at 16 years of age (see idea). These ideas, among others, are aimed at encouraging young people to engage in politics, an issue which is often
considered key by participants. A workshop in Vienna discussed, among other things, ways of increasing young citizens’ participation in the European elections (see event). The proposals advanced during the workshop stress the need to increase the number of young Members of the European Parliament, allowing candidates as young as 16 years of age to run for election. Participants in an event organised in Malta discussed the outcomes of the Eurovoters project, an initiative aimed at training young voters in the country. Multiple suggestions were put forward during this event, including the need to move away from considering ‘youth’ as a single group, which risks discounting specific needs within specific communities. There are calls on the platform to give young people opportunities to regularly present their views in the European Parliament (see idea), another idea envisions instead another type of platform, where young users are familiarised with Members of the European Parliament and their political proposals (see idea). A related contribution suggests establishing a quota for Members of the European Parliament who are under 35 years old (see idea).

Other participants address the issue of voting rights from the perspective of people with disabilities or having health conditions which limit their ability to cast their vote. These contributions advocate European Parliament elections which are more inclusive for these categories (see example of idea). One participant suggests establishing a gender parity list for European Parliament elections (see idea).

Some ideas address specific issues regarding political parties. One contributor, for example, suggests using only the symbols of European parties rather than those of national parties (see idea), so as to reinforce once again the transnational character of the election. According to another contribution, parties should become more accessible to people from different cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds (see idea).

Federalisation of the European Union

A large number of contributions under the topic of European Democracy call for a federalisation of the European Union, with different understandings of this notion. This is a recurring subject of events linked to this topic (see example of event). ‘Federalisation’ has also generated some of the most endorsed ideas on the platform (see idea and idea), as well as different comments from participants.

Some contributors see federalisation as the best way forward for the EU to reach its full potential (see example of idea and event), but also as a means of giving the EU more credibility and influence in the global political arena and the power to deal with the transnational problems we are facing today, such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic (see idea). In addition, it is seen as a way of overcoming Euroscepticism and nationalist sentiments according to the participants who support the idea.

As an example, a highly endorsed and debated idea advocates establishing a constituent Assembly to develop a European Constitution defining the key elements and principles of a democratic European Federation (see idea). The discussion also includes more specific calls for a common fiscal and economic policy (see idea), including an idea of a ‘European Union of taxpayers’ (see idea), one European army and the federalisation of foreign policy, alongside a redesign of the EU institutions along federalist principles.

Nevertheless, some contributors are sceptical about federalisation. Some participants are worried that this may lead to an excessive centralisation of power or create imbalances between Member States. Others consider that there are many problems to be overcome for such an idea to be able to become a reality. Some participants favour decentralisation with greater power for Member States instead of federalisation (see example of an idea), with more freedom and respect for the identity of Member States and free cooperation in areas where it is useful (see example of an idea). One of such ideas expresses concern about the idea of “an ever closer Union” and the potential power of federal
courts, advocating for a confederation instead of a federal Union (see idea).

Considering the distinct national contexts and level of readiness of Member States to become part of a federal union, some participants advance the idea of a step-by-step federalisation, with a system of ‘transition zones’ (see idea). This type of contributors support the idea of a federal Europe but they might consider it unrealistic at the present stage, and therefore they advocate a multi-speed Union which would improve the EU’s strategic autonomy in the short-term, and the prospect of federalism (see idea).

Some of these contributions discuss specifically the merits of the Multilingual Digital Platform, drawing praise and criticism, but also putting forward suggestions for improvement. For example, various participants stress the need to establish a feedback system to follow-up on citizens’ proposals during the Conference (see example of idea). Another participant replies to an idea proposing to make the Conference a permanent one by pointing out the need to summarise the content of the platform from time to time and create a discussion around it (see idea).

The contributions also include a proposal to devise an online one-stop-shop platform centralising all public input, whether European Citizens’ Initiatives, complaints or petitions, into the EU institutional participatory architecture (see idea), while another contributor raises the idea of a platform exclusively dedicated to associations (see idea).

Among the kinds of online platforms proposed by participants to enhance democratic participation, one aims at establishing a bottom-up lobbying system, financed by common European citizens through individual donations, and the sharing of ideas via the same portal (see idea). This platform is intended to solve the issue of unequal influencing ability between individual citizens and big organisations.

Other contributors propose an online digital forum where EU citizens could discuss EU legislation, using a social media-derived system of upvotes and comments (see idea). A related idea involves a citizens’ lobbying platform as an alternative way for ordinary EU citizens and smaller companies to channel their expertise and views on legislation in the EU decision-making process (see idea).

The importance of civic technology, especially in the current age of increasing distrust towards political parties, is discussed by many participants (see idea). According to this idea, civic technologies would allow to understand the increased complexity of public governance in our time and enhance active engagement and participation.

An event organised in the Italian town of Brindisi advanced a wide range of ideas to improve direct democratic mechanisms at EU level, including boosting public knowledge of some already-existing instruments, such as EU petitions, temporary

Contributions to the platform include a number of suggestions to strengthen citizen participation and a sense of ownership as regards EU decision-making.

A group of ideas and events discusses developing more permanent mechanisms based on participatory democracy and interaction among citizens to strengthen and complement representative democracy, including by building on the experience of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Participants propose, for instance, a more systematic use of citizens’ assemblies and panels to prepare the most important and difficult political decisions in the EU (see example of an idea). One participant proposes that such assemblies should be convened directly by citizens following a successful European Citizens’ Initiative (see idea). Some contributors propose a ‘Citizen Parliament’, an ‘Assembly dedicated to civil society organisations’ (see idea) or a ‘Constituent Assembly’ (see idea) to advise the European Parliament. Participants also discuss the idea of EU-wide referenda on EU institutional and policy topics (see example of idea). Some participants see it as an alternative to having national referendum on European matters, whose outcomes risk blocking determinate EU policy initiatives regardless of the level of EU-diffused support for those initiatives (see example of idea).
committees, European mediators, and the Solvit platform.

Reducing the distance between MEPs and citizens is also seen as a way to improve European democracy. One participant advances various strategies to improve communication and foster direct exchange of ideas between MEPs and their electors (see idea). Among the ideas proposed, there is the establishment by MEPs of local offices in their own electoral colleges. This idea partially resembles the proposal by another participant to create a system of local EU Councillors (see idea), as a way once again to reduce the distance between the EU institutions and European citizens.

**Institutional reforms**

A substantial volume of ideas also discusses reforms of European Institutions more specifically, with the aim of making them more efficient and transparent, and bringing them closer to citizens. The ideas of institutional reform advanced may include proposals for a wider overhaul of the institutional set-up (see example of an idea), but also strategies to make policy-makers more accountable for the effectiveness of policy initiatives. For example, one participant advances the idea of making impact assessments compulsory at all stages of the legislative process (see idea).

Regarding the European Parliament, contributors most often call for it to be granted real powers of legislative initiative (see example of idea). There are also calls for it to be granted fiscal powers (see idea). The seat of the European Parliament is discussed as well, with contributors calling for a choice between Strasbourg and Brussels (see example of an idea), also as a way to reduce logistic costs (see idea).

Discussing the European Council and the Council of the European Union, a recurring idea on the platform and within the topic of European Democracy is a move to qualified majority voting, at least in certain policy areas (see example of an idea), and to stop veto power (see example of idea). There are also discussions about the role of the Council in the EU institutional set-up (see example of idea) and suggestions to deepen the bicameral legislature in the EU (see example of an idea).

When it comes to the European Commission, a group of contributions discusses the election of the Commission President and appointment of commissioners, including the Spitzenkandidaten system (see example of an idea), and direct election of the Commission President by citizens (see example of an idea). Participants have also raised the issue of the number of commissioners (see example of an idea).

One much discussed idea is to have a directly elected EU President, for instance by merging the roles of the President of the European Commission and the European Council (see example of an idea). There are also calls to have a single contact point for the EU to speak with one voice in external relations (see example of an idea). One participant proposes to merge the role of the Eurogroup President and the European Commission’s Vice-President, in charge of the Euro, to create a Ministry of the Economy and Finance, as a way to increase coordination (see idea).

Additionally, reforms of the Committee of Regions and the Economic and Social Committee are mentioned, for example to make them function more efficiently. The suggestions include reforming the Committee of Regions to encompass adequate channels of dialogue for regions as well as cities and municipalities (see idea), or giving it an enhanced role (see idea). Linked to this, another participant proposes to recognise Euroregions as institutional entities (see idea).

One highly endorsed idea asks the EU to establish a clear mechanism on stateless nations’ right to self-determination (see idea).

The role of the European Court of Justice is also a common subject of discussion (see example of idea), with calls to clarify or even strengthen its powers (see example of idea) and others to reduce them (see example of idea).

Some contributors focus on the role of the European Central Bank (see idea) and the Eurogroup (see idea), proposing ways to reform those institutions. One idea calls for the completion of the Banking Union with a European Deposit Guarantee Scheme (see idea).
Various ideas of reforms display a generational focus. For example, one participant proposes to introduce an impact assessment for EU policies and legislation, aimed at measuring their specific impact on youth (see idea). Thus “Youth test” would help bringing the young people’s perspective within the institutions and make EU policies more inclusive for young people. Moving from young to old age, another participant, suggests having a European commissioner dedicated to the elderly (see idea).

### Fostering a common European identity and public space

Within this theme contributors discuss a common European identity, on the basis of common European values of democracy (see event), as discussed under other themes. However, they also advance practical ideas to foster such a common European identity, as well as a common European public space, including through the contribution of media.

The theme of language is the most discussed. A common language is viewed as an effective (and sometimes as the sole), way to create a strong European identity (see example of idea). Esperanto is often put forward as a unifying language (see example of idea), also to bypass divisions between the supporters of each national language. Although contributors may disagree on which language should be preferred for Europeans, they all agree on the necessity to foster language training to achieve a common language (see example of idea). Other contributions call for the principle of multilingualism to be better respected (see example of an idea), for example by having any official EU publication translated into every EU language (see idea).

Additionally there are ideas for establishing an EU sports team (see example of idea), having 9 May as a public holiday in all Member States (see idea), or creating an EU Passport (see idea) to foster a European spirit.

One participant also proposes establishing twinning programmes between employees to allow non school-age Europeans to discover the culture of another EU country, for example by attending a training course abroad (see idea). Future generations are seen key drivers of a common EU identity, therefore many participants stress the importance of educating youth to European political matters (see idea), a theme which is extensively discussed also in the Education, Culture, Youth and Sport chapter.

Besides languages, cultural products are also seen as something able to bind Europeans together. Hence, the call by a participant to favour the diffusion of cultural production within European borders by establishing a space of “free movement of information”, meaning reducing copyrights and licencing constraints within the EU (see idea).

A number of contributions under the theme of European identity touch upon the subject of media and the way in which they can contribute to diffusing knowledge about the EU and create a European spirit (see example of idea). One recurring suggestion, which has received a relatively higher number of endorsements, is that of establishing pan-European media outlets or networks (see example of idea) or the creation of a single public EU broadcaster (see example of idea). This is mainly proposed to increase knowledge on EU issues among citizens, with for example live streaming of discussions and events, but also to foster a common EU spirit celebrating European values and European cultures, with documentaries on EU countries. Some contributors also call for an EU TV and radio channel to project its values beyond the EU’s borders (see example of idea).

Other participants suggest training journalists on EU reporting or imposing an obligation for public broadcasters to dedicate a percentage of broadcasting time to EU matters (see idea).

### Protecting and strengthening democracy

A number of ideas under this theme relate to the protection of democracy in the EU, with calls for strong
action against governments that violate democratic principles, with reference in particular to Hungary and Poland (see example of an idea). This issue is covered in more detail under the topic of ‘Values and rights, rule of law, security’.

Contributors also acknowledge the danger that disinformation and fake news can pose to democracies. There are calls for a stronger approach to counter the spread of misleading information, including proposals to create a mobile fact-checking app (see idea) or an independent EU Media Fact-Check Institute (see idea). A specific EU regulation on the content which can be published on social media is also advocated by some contributors (see example of idea).

A number of ideas and comments discuss the need to regulate lobbying, with calls for a code of conduct for politicians or the establishment of an independent European body with the means to combat corruption and the undesired influence of lobbies (see example of idea). One participant calls for a ban on the use of sponsorships during the Presidencies of the EU Council, a practice through which the government of the EU Member State holding the Presidency receives financial support to display brand logos on official online or physical material (see idea).

There are also calls for general measures to be taken to fight corruption, for example in the granting of tenders at local level (see example of idea). One participant proposes the introduction of a single database combining the current multiple EU reporting systems (see idea). Another suggests that European politicians and civil servants who hold important positions – such as Members of the European Parliament or Commissioners – should be banned from owning stocks (see idea).

A participant expresses concern about undesired foreign influence on European democracy, demanding a screening on how much of the EU’s crucial infrastructure is owned by China and asking for the EU to privilege India over China as a strategic economic partner in trade deals (see idea).

An event organised in Brussels highlighted the key role of cities and local communities in strengthening democracy and pioneering social progress. In a time of strong disconnection between the institutional centre and the peripheries, the role of cities and municipalities might be key in building citizens' confidence in democratic institutions.

### New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

The majority of contributions in the past period consolidated previously noted themes. However, a new strand of ideas discussed making national governments and parliaments more involved in EU policy-making and more accountable for EU’s policies, thus approaching the theme of European democracy from a national perspective. Among this strand of ideas, one proposal involved establishing a minimum number of sessions devoted to EU political matters in each national parliament (see idea). Another one, which focuses on the role of the national parliaments in the ratification of EU treaties, introduced the idea of joint sessions between the European Parliament, or its specific committees, and the national parliaments, notably via video conference calls (see idea). In line with the findings reported in the last report, the most frequently discussed theme in recent contributions was the overall call to protect and strengthen democracy within the EU, followed by the need expressed for institutional reforms (see example of idea). Many ideas discussed proposed reforms to the European electoral system (see example of idea).

The need for efforts to increase citizen participation and consultations was also highlighted (see example of idea). In fact, the engagement of citizens was occasionally discussed in relation to the protection of democracy itself, for instance by contributors who called for the establishment of a permanent digital online platform for citizen consultations (see example of idea). The creation of a unique media platform broadcasting European content in multiple languages was proposed, in line with the importance given to journalism and press freedom by participants on the platform (see idea).
Figure 21 – Mind map ‘European democracy’ topic part 1

- European Parliament elections
  - Create transnational lists for European Parliament elections
  - Reform EU electoral system
  - Lower and/or unify the voting age
  - Facilitate digital voting
  - Facilitate voting for mobile Europeans and non-EU citizens in EU elections
  - Assure right to vote for disabled and ill people

- Working towards a common fiscal and economic policy
  - Creation of a European army
  - Creation of a common foreign policy
  - Develop a European Constitution
  - Voices against federalisation: calls for greater power and freedom of cooperation only in areas where it is useful for Member States
  - Transitional approach of federalisation

- Citizen participation and consultations
  - Use participatory policy making
  - Invest in youth engagement & interactions
  - Ensure citizen representatives in policy making via a citizen parliament or an assembly
  - Organise longitudinal consultations
  - Focus on generations: youth and aging populations
  - Reduce distance between MEPs and their constituencies
  - Organise more mandatory EU wide referenda
  - Suggestions and/or criticism to improve the multilingual platform, i.e. establish a follow-up system, make it permanent
Figure 22 – Mind map ‘European democracy’ topic part 2

Institutional reforms
- Review the role of the European Parliament to grant it more legislative and fiscal power
- Reform decision making (unanimity to majority rules)
- Review the role of the European Council
- Reform election procedure of Commission President and Commissioners (ex. Direct election of the Commission President)
- Reassess the roles of the Committee of the Regions (including institutionalising Euroregions) and the Economic and Social Committee
- Reduce the number of Commissioners and limit the political mandates
- Reform role of the European Central Bank and of the Eurogroup
- Make policy impact assessment compulsory
- Strengthen the powers of the European Court of Justice vs. reduce them
- Make policies more accountable towards future generations

European Democracy

Fostering a common European identity and public space
- Having a common EU language vs. fostering multilingualism
  - Establish EU sports teams
  - Establish a EU national holiday
  - Create a EU Passport
  - Establish twinning and exchange programs for employees
  - Establish EU media portals dedicated to EU topics
  - Establish a single public EU broadcaster to promote citizen engagement with the EU
  - Ensure national public broadcaster dedicate time to EU reporting
  - Establish compulsory debate sessions about EU affairs in each national parliament with the attendance of EU commissioners

Protecting and strengthening democracy
- Change the way in which EU funds are allocated
- Fight disinformation
- Regulate lobbying
- Fight corruption
  - Create a code of conduct for politicians
  - Take strong action against governments that violate democratic principles
  - Control and limit ownership of strategic assets by anti-democratic world powers
Since the launch of the platform, the Migration topic has generated a total of 2,700 contributions, including 955 ideas, 1,539 comments and 206 events. The most recurrent contributions under this topic reveal three general trends. On one hand, one group of interactions calls for greater solidarity and better integration procedures, while on the other hand, other contributions want more action to control and reduce migration. Taking an intermediate position, another group of participants would like to foster international mobility, but only between economically developed democracies. The influx of Ukrainian refugees has also been discussed by participants. The following themes are analysed accordingly:

- Common EU policy on migration
- Humanistic stance on migration
- Integration
- Non-EU migration as a threat
- Border control
- Addressing root causes of migration
**Events**

Recent events discussing migration from a European political perspective touched upon the EU Refugee Policy, indicating the need to rethink refugee and asylum policies and the need for a framework for the common distribution of migrants across the EU. In an event organised in the Parliament of the Canary Islands, participants discussed the negotiation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum and called for improved protection of unaccompanied migrant children (see event). During an online event hosted by an Italian catholic organisation, the forthcoming European Pact on Migration and Asylum was discussed (see event).

A Danish debate also focused on whether Europe should open or close its external borders. This event generated significant engagement with a diverse audience, and raised issues such as the implications resulting from the externalisation of Europe's border, from the establishment of asylum centres in third countries and from EU cooperation with countries such as Turkey and Libya. (see event).

Another participatory event discussed whether migration constitutes an opportunity or a threat, tapping into issues such as regular versus irregular migration, and differentiation in terms of ethnicity and culture, as in the case of Ukrainian refugees (see event). These issues were also explored during an event in Lithuania (see event).

Related to the theme of integration, the need for improved integration infrastructures and programmes to counter racial hatred and discrimination was raised during an event in France (see event).

In relation to the war in Ukraine, an event was organised to discuss international solidarity and the EU's response to the war in Ukraine to date, with the resultant migration implications (see event).

A recent event also took place in Poland engaging young Ukrainians in debates related to European integration, migration and concerns for the future (see event).

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**Common EU policy on migration**

Many ideas under this topic demand a common EU migration policy. These are often accompanied by calls for greater respect of human rights, and an effective redistribution system. The need to reform the Dublin system is also frequently mentioned.

Under the sub-theme of legal migration, those advocating stricter migration policies call for a common EU policy of selective migration, with quotas, stricter selection and acceptance procedures (see example of idea). Alternative approaches to legal migration are suggested such as a European points-based immigration system, which is sometimes seen as necessary to regulate migration flows more efficiently (see idea). Contributors equally want to explore a model that allows asylum seekers to be moved to centres in a partner country for case reviews (see event).

Contributions that are more open to migration, similarly call for a unified and more efficient approach, more in line however with European (social) values. For example, contributions specifically discuss a single and efficient EU asylum procedure (see idea), also pointing to the need to reform the Dublin Regulation to prevent the unequal distribution of asylum seekers and migrants (see example of idea). Among these contributions, some propose that migrants should be granted a temporary EU passport to access work and residence rights (see example of idea). One highly endorsed idea under the Migration topic equally calls for a more concrete and fairer European policy on economic migration, with legal channels for entry and an integration policy based on equal treatment and full respect of human rights (see idea).

One contribution advances the idea of creating the post of a European Commissioner for asylum and migration, who should act in coordination with the other institutions to supervise a common EU asylum system (see idea).

An EU labour migration policy or EU recruitment strategies for students and qualified employees coming from third-world countries are also advocated by citizens. In this regard, one contributor highlights...
the need for increased competences on migration for the EU so that it can manage migration in accordance with the principles and values of the Union (see idea).

A group of contributors advances the idea of fostering a selective type of immigration. Such participants usually see migration in a positive light because of the economic advantages it creates. They propose targeting specific countries to attract their talents (see idea), or easing the mobility criteria between economically advanced democracies, in the West and in Asia alike, in particular in the context of Free Trade Agreements (see idea).

**Humanistic stance on migration**

Contributors adhering to a humanistic view of migration advocate a change of narrative regarding migrants, especially in the light of their contributions as healthcare workers during the pandemic (see event).

Some contributions advocate the creation of humanitarian corridors or a fully-fledged open border policy, and they criticise the lack of solidarity towards migrants (see example of idea). Among participants sharing these ideas, initiatives aimed at patrolling the Mediterranean to push migrants back, or agreements to control migrant flows, such as the one between the EU and Turkey, are generally seen as a failure of the EU’s migration system (see example of idea).

Contributors call for human rights to be respected with solutions to counter unregulated migration and an EU immigration policy with easier and more accessible asylum procedures in countries of origin, legal and safe migratory routes and a crackdown on human trafficking in order to avoid the deaths of refugees on the EU’s borders (see example of idea).

Some contributors propose a legal framework to halt the forced return of integrated persons and families to unsafe countries of origin (see idea). Other participants support a strategy of voluntary rather than forced returns, on the basis that the former, if implemented in concertation with the countries of origin, has proved much more effective (see idea).

Some of these contributions also address issues of inequality affecting the existing asylum-seeking process. For example, they highlight the fact that the share of male asylum seekers is significantly higher than that of female asylum seekers or families (see idea). Others report the difficulties faced by LGBTIQ asylum seekers, calling for greater protection and better support for this group (see idea).

**Integration**

Many proposals are related to the integration of migrants. Participants recognise the need to create more effective integration programmes, with specific attention being paid to language training. A number of participants discuss and endorse an idea asking the EU to create integration programmes, with different views being put forward (see idea).

Among the ideas discussing integration, many call for a monitored follow-up pathway for migrants in order to ensure full integration in EU Member States. One idea sees great potential in recognising and further activating migrants and members of receiving communities as changemakers (see idea). The importance of engaging migrants in local projects and volunteering activities is advanced on numerous occasions (see example of idea). One respondent stresses the importance of adopting a transversal approach to integration, focusing on the transferability of policies adopted at the local level, and an approach spanning from institutions to local associations, with the EU responsible of providing this type of framework (see idea). Education is seen as key to integration, with language and European values playing a central role. In this connection, contributors feel that there is a need for sufficiently funded programmes to support the inclusion of school-age migrant children in the public education system (see idea). Other ideas focus on tertiary education as a key lever for greater integration. In this regard, one participant advocates improved access for young refugees to university programmes (see idea). A specific proposal addresses the issue of language barriers, advancing
the idea of using Artificial Intelligence to overcome the language divide (see idea).

The successful integration of the migrants in the local labour market is seen as beneficial to the European economy. This is particularly true in the post-pandemic situation, as highlighted during a two-day event co-organised by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels (see event). One participants highlights in particular the beneficial outcomes of immigration to economically depressed areas (see example of idea).

There are calls for information campaigns and programmes to sensitise EU citizens to counter racism and move towards a more society. One contributor calls for greater diversity among the personnel working in policy-making bodies and public services related to migration (see idea). In connection with the opinions regarding racism and labour market exclusion, there are calls for equal and fair treatment of legally residing third-country nationals (see idea). Concerning labour market discrimination, one participant points to the necessity of (census) data on the ethnic background of migrants to efficiently inform policy making (see idea).

Some participants regret the limited of rights of permanent residents in the EU. They note that the Union does not grant the right to vote to its permanent residents and demand that voting rights are residency based (see idea).

This issue is considered by some contributors to be particularly pressing when it comes to UK citizens who had been living in the EU before Brexit. One idea giving rise to a controversial debate is the introduction of a fast-track procedure to get EU-wide rights for British citizens who had been living in the EU before Brexit (see idea).

Non-EU migration as a threat

Despite the opposition expressed by some contributors to migration, ideas that openly define migration as a threat to European civilisation or political stability are relatively less endorsed than ideas related to integration and respect for human rights. When specified, concerns regarding European civilisation and political stability are put forward and are significantly endorsed by participants (see example of highly endorsed idea).

An event in Hungary discussed some fundamental legal issues related to migration. Among the questions which this event purported to answer, there was also ‘the right (of a society) to preserve its own national culture, identity and lifestyle’ in the face of mass migration (see event).

Commentators to this type of contributions are outspoken in their ideas and contributions on the topic of migration. One theme observed is the feeling that migration from non-EU countries is a threat to EU civilisation, identity, values and culture (see example of idea). These contributors call for measures to restrict non-EU migration, a stricter repatriation policy, and strategies hindering migrant mobility, such as tougher border controls (see example of idea).

Multiple participants warn against the use of illegal migration as a (political) weapon, referring in particular to the large influx of migrants from Belarus to the Lithuanian and Polish borders (see example of idea). With reference to the migrant crisis at the border with Belarus, contributors’ opinions diverge.

Border control

A relatively high number of ideas support a tough stance on immigration. Participants who adopt this line oppose the regularisation of illegal immigrants and call for a further empowerment of European border control authorities, such as Frontex. However, some of them favour a national rather than a European approach to immigration control, fearing that the EU would be too permissive towards asylum seekers.

In general there is support for more organised and coordinated efforts when it comes to border control, with calls for more comprehensive border controls, including push-back authority (see example of idea), greater support for Frontex, with a better definition of its functions (see idea), and a legally binding approach.
to Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts in the Mediterranean (see idea). However, the role of Frontex, and of sea patrolling initiatives, is often discussed on the platform, with other participants asking for greater control of their functioning, to assure that human rights are being respected (see idea). A more endorsed idea demands quick expulsion from the EU for those migrants who commit a serious crime (see example of idea). A similar idea asking for the return of irregular migrants generates a debate between contributors in favour of immediate repatriations and those against (see idea). One respondent proposes to interrupt foreign aid to countries that do not accept to repatriate their nationals (see idea).

Other contributions call for more solidarity and respect for human rights. The ideas discussed here are, for example, a centralised EU distribution system based on solidarity, funding to improve border reception infrastructures (housing and food) or a supranational agency managing European refugee camps, co-managed by different countries and funded by EU resources (see example of idea).

The recent debate about the extension of EU financing to fund the construction of national barriers against migrants is partially reflected in some contributions demanding increased financial support from the EU to its Member States to reinforce physical border protections (see idea).

However, when participants call for increased financial support from the EU to tackle migration at the borders, they do not always advocate the construction of new barriers. Some of them recognise the key role of local and regional authorities operating on the national borders, and they want increased financing for projects related to the reception and integration of migrants (see example of idea).

In an event named ‘Stronger borders, stronger Europe’, which took place in Budapest, participants advocated a more pragmatic and stricter border policy (see event).

**Addressing root causes of migration**

A smaller section of ideas goes deeper into the migration question and considers the need, alongside policy measures managing migration in the EU, to take measures to address the root causes of migration elsewhere. Cooperation between European and third-world countries, particularly the African ones, is seen as key to address the root causes of migration (see example of idea). Thinking about the future of Europe, contributors highlight the need to address the root causes of migration in order to tackle the migration issues the EU is currently facing. The role of international partnerships, including agreements with third-world countries, in managing immigration flows was the subject of an event in Portugal (see event).

Suggestions in this regard range from establishing equal trade relations, investing in more development aid plans and academic training, and the professional development of people living in third-world countries (see idea). A common concern is that development aid is being misused by receiving countries, making it ineffective. In this regard, one participant proposed to improve the traceability of funds and thus monitor their use by employing blockchain technologies and smart certificates (see idea).

A particular group of contributions takes the EU to task on the basis that it has played a part in regional destabilisation through, for example, subsidised agricultural exports to developing countries (see idea).

Also in order to address economic inequalities between developed and developing countries, some participants advocate the promotion of sustainable, climate change-proof agriculture in third-world countries (see idea). This would also help counter ‘climate migration’ (see example of idea and event). The phenomenon of ‘climate migration’ is indeed largely addressed by participants, who want greater public focus on this issue and the recognition of the status of climate refugee in international law (see idea).
New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

Contributions on the topic of Migration in the past period reinforced previously observed themes and sub-themes.

Numerous proposals called for improvements to the existing migration and asylum systems. In this regard, a common European framework for the processing of asylum applications is seen as key (see idea), including a reform of the Dublin system (see example of an idea).

A couple of ideas suggested connecting each newcomer with a ‘referent’ who is already settled in the country of arrival (see example of an idea). Other participants highlighted the importance of legal routes for migration, so to facilitate integration processes (see idea) and advocated enabling working visas (see idea), or creating safer migration pathways in order to limit migrant casualties on the route to Europe, especially those at sea (see example of an idea).

Recent entries on migration are largely polarised, as previously noted. On the one hand, some participants view migration as a resource for society (see example of an idea). On the other hand, some participants oppose further migration, as many migrants are perceived as failing to integrate (see idea). To facilitate and encourage integration, one participant called for reduced bureaucracy to reduce barriers for migrants seeking employment (see idea). More positive communication about immigration was also advocated to facilitate smoother integration from the host country’s side (see idea).
Figure 23 – Mind map ‘Migration’ topic part 1

Common EU policy on migration

- Establish a single EU policy of selective migration: quotas and stricter selection procedures
- Reform Dublin Convention for a more equal distribution of asylum seekers and migrants
- Call for a migration system respecting human rights, in line with EU values
- Increased competences for the EU on migration
- Develop EU labour migration policy
- Call for stricter acceptance procedures for legal migration
- Establish a common EU immigration policy with a centralized application body and procedure
- Establish a system of partnerships allowing migrants to apply for asylum in their country of origin
- Allow a selective type of immigration, targeting only educated migrants, and favouring mobility between economically advanced democracies
- Establish a European Commissioner for asylum and integration

Humanistic stance on migration

- Easier and more accessible asylum procedures in countries of origin, and the creation of humanitarian corridors
- Counter illegal migration, crack down on human trafficking and smugglers
- Create legal and safe migratory routes and channels to avoid deaths
- Establish a legal framework to halt the deportation of integrated persons to unsafe countries of origin
- Favour voluntary repatriations through partnerships with the countries of origin, over forced returns

Migration

- Reduce bureaucratic procedures for immigrants in their job search
- Create integration programs at the EU level
- Sensitization of EU citizens: invest in inclusion-related education
- Establish a follow-up trajectory for migrants and asylum seekers
- Establish an education system to support inclusion of school-age migrant children and prioritize education of language and values
- Counter discrimination and treat migrants and legally residing third-country nationals in an equal and fair manner, for example in the labour market
- Improve access to volunteering activities for migrants
- Increase diversity of personnel in migration services and political bodies
- Support British citizens residing in the EU long before Brexit to obtain EU wide rights through a fast-track procedure
- Grant right to vote to permanent residents in the EU
- Foster the transferability of policies and good practices related to integration between EU countries
- Connect each newcomer with a “referent” immigrant who is already settled
Figure 24 - Mind map ‘Migration’ topic part 2

Non-EU migration as a threat
- Restrict non-EU migration
- Take measures to regulate non-EU migration
- EU to develop more defensive stance against use of illegal migration as political weapon

Border control
- More comprehensive border controls, granting push back authority
- Prioritize respect of human rights in managing migration flows
- Funding for border reception infrastructure (housing and food)
- Coordinate search and rescue (SAR) efforts in the Mediterranean
- Establish a supranational agency managing European refugee camps
- Safeguard a centralised EU distribution system of asylum seekers based on solidarity
- Increased financial support for Member States to reinforce physical border protection or finance border reception projects
- Measures to immediately expel migrants who commit a crime and/or irregular migrants

Address root causes of migration
- Foster dedicated agreements and partnerships with countries of origin
- Battle climate change in countries of origin to counter climate migration and recognize the status of climate refugee
- Establish equal trade relations
- Invest in more development aid plans
- Cease European military involvement in developing countries and halt destabilizing practices such as subsidized agricultural export
Ideas posted under the topic of Education, culture, youth and sport cover a variety of themes, given its multi-thematic nature. As elsewhere on the platform, the call to foster a common EU identity is a recurrent underlying sentiment for themes identified in this topic, with contributions related, among others, to exchanges, exposure to different cultures, and mobility. This topic has generated an overall volume of 4,976 contributions, consisting of 2,063 ideas, 1,757 comments and 1,156 events. The various ideas can be grouped in the following themes:

- Foster common EU identity
- Intra-EU mobility
- Future-proof education
- Work precariousness and unemployment among youth
- European heritage
- Access to education and culture
- Creative and academic professionals
- Inclusivity in sport
Events

In the past period events discussed a range of themes, such as access to tertiary education, mobility, and the harmonisation of educational systems and titles. As an example, a participatory workshop event with 30 young participants was organised in a rural town in France, with the aim of discussing ways to improve youth mobility in rural areas (see event). In this event, which took the form of a debate, participants discussed in particular solutions to help children who did not know the language to adapt quickly to the new situation.

In Poland, one of the countries which registered the highest number of events for this topic, participants also discussed the role of young migrants from Ukraine, including ways to boost their integration (see event). In this event, which took the form of a debate, participants discussed in particular solutions to help children who did not know the language to adapt quickly to the new situation.

In Spain, another country with a high number of events related to this topic, the themes discussed related in particular to opportunities and employment prospects for young people. In one event in the region of Navarra, the general feeling among the young participants in the event was quite pessimistic, with most of them complaining about a lack of opportunities to emancipate themselves and calling for improved school transport, increased availability of scholarships and greater assistance in applying for mobility programmes (see event).

Foster common EU identity

When it comes to the theme of European identity, one of the most discussed subjects is that of language learning.

Under the notion of language education as a means of fostering intercultural exchanges and how it contributes to a common EU identity, several contributions stress the need to overcome monolingual schooling, and call for the recognition of the heterogeneous and multilingual nature of Europe as a resource (see example of an idea). Similarly, a panel discussion in Berlin explored Europe’s multilingualism and ways to recognise and encourage multi-language diversity (see event). Another participant advocating multilingualism calls for greater support for the teaching of minority languages in school (see idea). One contributor suggests introducing EU-financed travel vouchers for language exchanges (see idea).

The establishment of one common European language is seen as something which could foster European integration according to many participants (see example of idea). This is also widely discussed under the topic of Other ideas (see example of idea). The discussion deals with the various advantages and disadvantages of such a common European language and the various possible languages, including Esperanto (see idea and idea, both highly endorsed), Latin (see example of idea), or English (see example of idea). A conversation about Esperanto in particular has sparked a certain interest online, mirroring the vibrancy of the debate around one neutral language for all EU countries (see event).

Another idea among the most endorsed ideas refers to the creation of a European public broadcaster (see idea). Several ideas relate to establishing more EU media portals (TV, radio and social media) to better engage European citizens when it comes to EU matters and issues, with the ultimate goal of strengthening the European identity and core values (see example of idea). Favouring the circulation of European media productions, for example by establishing a common EU media market, is also advanced as an idea by numerous participants (see example of idea). One idea is the creation of a specific EU media platform tailored to language learning (see idea).

A sub-theme of ideas relates to education where contributors suggest the introduction of a mandatory course about the history and institutions of the EU in all European secondary schools as a tool for younger generations to build interest and a sense of ownership with regard to the EU, thereby enhancing the EU identity building process (see example of idea). European history knowledge is seen as key also by another participant, who proposes to launch a European survey to measure young people’s historical consciousness (see idea), while another advances the
idea of creating an official European history textbook (see idea).

The existence of school events related to the EU is considered as key by many participants (see example of idea), with one of them proposing the establishment of a teacher in charge of coordinating EU-related events and programmes (see idea). Many ideas related to fostering a common EU identity suggest various forms of exchange or twinning between schools in different Member States to foster friendship across Member State borders (see idea). One idea proposes to promote the study of European history in school curricula, including the history of each individual European country (see idea).

The sub-theme of sport in relation to fostering a common EU identity discusses the organisation of more transnational, inter-European sports events (see example of an idea) and the possibility of creating a European sports team which could compete in international events (see example of idea). Moreover, the importance of common EU symbols has been raised in relation to creating a common EU identity with, among others, an idea to incorporate EU flags on the sports equipment and uniforms of athletes from EU Member States (see idea).

Another idea, which is more endorsed and also widely mentioned in other topics, advocates the establishment of a European public holiday on 9 May to foster a common European spirit (see example of idea).

The promotion of European culture, such as music in various European languages, is mentioned by one participant who wants radios to be required to stream at least 20% non-English music (see idea).

Food is also seen as a way to build bridges between European countries and cultures (see idea), leading a participant to propose the creation a EU-funded European recipes app (see idea).

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**Intra-EU Mobility**

The topic of intra-EU mobility generates a relatively high number of contributions. These either advance ideas to improve the existing mobility programmes, or come up with new original proposals.

Some participants propose the creation of an EU-led online portal for applying for higher education courses in the EU. This portal could also allow students to simultaneously apply to different programmes within the European Union (see example of idea).

Another sub-theme raised by several contributors concerns the expansion of Erasmus programme to include young people not in university, for instance by extending it to high school students, including those in vocational education. This would give those who have not gone into higher education the opportunity to live abroad, exchange good practices, learn new languages and cultures, and expand their skillsets in general (see example of idea).

Moreover, participants have stressed the need to make the Erasmus programme more inclusive for low-income students. One idea is to improve the adjustment of Erasmus scholarships to the cost of living in each country (see idea). In this regard, one participant proposes entrusting the university in the country of destination with the task of allocating Erasmus scholarships, so that applicants can apply directly to their preferred destination university, rather than applying through their home university (see idea).

The desire to improve the current form of the programme highlights the awareness of the importance of educational mobility programmes. This is also demonstrated by the existence of various events related to this subject and linked to the two ideas reported above (see event).

One participant calls for UK students to be reintegrated within the Erasmus+ programme (see idea).

In general, ideas concerning the accessibility and inclusivity of Erasmus programme re-emerge frequently. As an example, the latest contributions suggest extending the Erasmus programme to other categories of training, such as agriculture and other crafts (see idea).
Another area of focus is the ‘DiscoverEU’ initiative. Some participants propose extending the DiscoverEU initiative to every young European from the age of 18 years (see example of idea).

Finally, an idea on academic mobility concerns the ratification of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Treaty in order to facilitate professional and academic mobility in Greece (see idea).

A unique idea concerning mobility, potentially from non-EU countries, concerns the creation of a European ‘Student At Risk’ scholarship scheme for students being prosecuted in their own country in order to protect academic freedom (see idea).

The promotion of soft skills, and specifically artistic activities is often seen by contributors as another key step in developing EU students’ critical thinking and reinforcing their global values, especially at a young age (see example of idea).

The implementation of inclusive educational methods, and more generally the promotion of diversity in education, is regarded as an important objective for the future of education in the EU (see idea). This also reflects ideas regarding the necessity to fight feminicides (see idea) and antisemitism through education (see idea).

A sub-theme of ideas addresses the need to reform educational practices to produce adults who are able to be active citizens of the EU. Next to exchanges and education on the EU, as discussed above, this sub-theme includes ideas discussing the need to encourage the active social participation of young students in schools (see idea) or instil cross-cultural skills with, for example, more foreign language learning practices (see idea). A related idea, namely the diversity of languages and the role that their media exposure can have in facilitating learning and the creation of a common European identity, was explored during a number of events (see example of an event).

A group of contributors has drawn attention to the need to rethink the current educational system in order to prepare young people for the world of the future. Contributors call for education on economics and finance (see idea), and climate change (see example of idea), including the establishment of European Climate Corps (see idea). Moreover, they call for mechanisms to improve the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills of young people, e.g. via an EU wide STEM basic skills programme (see idea). Additionally, as raised in the topic of digital transformation, contributors call for young people to be trained in digital wellbeing (see example of an idea). The issue of digital wellbeing may fall also within the scope of the more general call for increased mental health support in schools (see idea).

In the idea of future-proof education conceived by some participants, school curricula are flexible (see idea) and schools support students’ associations and activities training students to be autonomous adults (see idea). In this regard, the proposal to increase the influence of civil society organisations in schools might
go hand-in-hand with this more ‘participative’ concept of school (see idea). Also in line with this view is the idea of fostering sport practice and increasing sport classes in school (see idea). Teachers’ evaluations, ideally coordinated by the European Union, are also advocated by other participants (see idea).

A strand of ideas also discusses the alignment of (vocational) education with the working world (see example of idea) and the need to encourage entrepreneurial skills in education (see idea). Some ideas added on the platform focus on training for innovation and entrepreneurship (see example of idea), and on the need for a better recognition of informal learning (see example of idea). In this regard another proposal involves introducing a mandatory professional orientation to assess the talents and interests of pupils early in their school cursus (see idea).

Another theme which has emerged following the diffusion of online classes during the pandemic, is that of home-schooling. One participant calls for home-schooling to be recognised in all EU countries (see idea).

The idea of establishing a standard final exam, common to all EU countries, is proposed by one participant (see idea).

Work precariousness and unemployment among youth

Youth employment is a recurring topic on the platform, also because this is strictly linked to education and training. Many ideas discussing educational programmes also focus on employability and transition to the labour market (see example of idea). However, when it comes to youth, the issue of unemployment, and of young people ‘not in employment, education or training’ (NEETs) is also seen as key by participants, and some ideas related to this are highly endorsed (see example of idea). The topic of work precariousness among youth is discussed by multiple participants, who call for support young people in precarious working conditions through quality jobs, fair remuneration and access to social protection (see idea and idea). In relation to precarious employment, one respondent asks the EU to abolish unpaid internships (see idea). Others propose extending certain guarantees and forms of employment support dedicated to youth (see idea), or even the implementation of quality standards that would be binding for all jobs created under EU and National Recovery Plans (see idea) Particular attention is paid by some contributors to those Member States which are more affected by youth unemployment, such as the Mediterranean ones (see idea).

An event in Lithuania focused on the multiple challenges faced by young people in the post-pandemic period, including unemployment. The event discussed whether the European Council Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 fully considers young people’s specific problems (see event).

European heritage

A relatively smaller category of contributions are those calling for the protection and celebration of European culture and heritage, for example by way of introducing an EU culture commissioner (see idea) and in general more investment in the preservation of common EU cultural heritage. There are also calls for the preservation of the traditions expressed by minority groups in particular (see event), as well as of religious cultural heritage (see idea).

On a more general level, the creation of a virtual library, associated with the libraries of different EU Member States, has been suggested with the aim of making rare books and artworks more widely available to all EU citizens (see idea).
Access to education and culture

The theme of access to education is a frequently mentioned one. This embraces different types of inequalities of access, as well as distinct educational levels, with a specific focus on tertiary education. Although the ideas relating to this subject are relatively less discussed, a proposal to make access to education free for everybody has been positively welcomed by some participants (see idea).

A transition which is considered key by participants is the one between secondary and tertiary education. In this regard, there are multiple calls from participants to support students in this crucial transition (see example of idea), also through improved university orientation programmes (see idea). Some categories are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to accessing tertiary education. In this regard, there are calls to support ethnic minorities and disabled people in accessing tertiary studies (see idea). Other participants are aware that other barriers to education might be of a geographical or economical nature. To overcome these barriers, multiple participants call for greater educational resources in rural areas (see example of idea), and some propose to establish different types of EU-funded welfare benefits in order to guarantee students’ financial autonomy (see example of idea).

Inequalities of access not only affect tertiary education but also cultural facilities and museums. Hence, the call by one participant to facilitate access to museums for disabled people (see idea). This was also the subject of the We All Need Theatre campaign (see event), dedicated specifically to accessibility to theatres for individuals with disabilities. Another proposal concerns introducing an EU Museum Pass to make museums more affordable (see idea). This idea reflects that of introducing cultural passes or vouchers, advanced by multiple participants (see example of idea). Another idea aims instead at tackling this issue from a wider perspective, proposing to increase public funding for culture, thus reducing its reliance on private funds (see idea).

A particular situation of disadvantage highlighted by one participant is that of former inmates. Despite having served their sentence, many former prisoners struggle to go back to a normal social life, which increases their risk of becoming repeat offenders. Therefore education and training in prisons are particularly important (see idea).

As a way to increase awareness about these issues, one participant advances the idea of establishing an Equal Opportunities Day at European level (see idea).

Creative and academic professionals

As previously mentioned, the issue of work precarity, particularly among youth, is one which has generated a considerable level of attention from participants on the platform. The creative sector is particularly impacted by precarious work.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the working conditions of cultural practitioners, as well as creative communities, has given rise to a serious reflection on their status and the role of EU institutions in providing a legal framework that would improve the sector’s precarity (see example of an idea). One participant asks the EU to support the creative sector to ensure a fair remuneration for creative workers (see idea). According to another contribution, Recovery Fund money should be used to fund the cultural sector, and the book sector in particular (see idea), while one contribution specifically demands to increase financial support for dance institutes (see idea).

The professionalisation of cultural workers was a crucial topic of discussion during several events that were organised across Europe around culture (see example of an event). One participant proposes that the EU should recognise the status of artists, which would also facilitate cultural exchanges (see idea).

Other recommendations with regard to the creative sphere concern both support for organisations that operate at the local level and the establishment of an integrated system of national and regional co-financing that would facilitate more international cultural cooperation (see example of an idea).
Academic professionals and researchers are another professional category highly affected by work precarity. One idea proposes to change the way in which research grants are allocated to make it more suitable to intersectional research (see idea).

Inclusivity in sport

Ideas related to sport, especially when this is discussed as a subject per se, occupy a somewhat smaller space on the platform. However, the theme of sport has been discussed by multiple participants.

As previously mentioned, many participants advocate a European sport team, and others call for more sport practice in schools, but the subject of sport is often mentioned also in connection with other themes, such as inclusivity. Participants question the ability of sport to be inclusive (see example of idea) and propose ideas to improve sport’s inclusivity (see example of idea). One contribution asks the EU to guarantee gender equality in sport, also through the establishment of a dedicated European authority (see idea). In a meeting organized by Europa Press, attendees debated whether sport fashion sexualizes Another contributor heckles the wide variety of, in some instances high, university taxation systems in the EU, calling for a fair university taxation (see idea).

Another often mentioned aspect of sport is the unequal public knowledge about less mainstream sports (see example of idea). In this regard, according to one idea, institutions should intervene to support less widely practiced sports (see idea).

An event in Germany discussed ways in which sport can contribute to climate action, with participants, who were mostly members of sport clubs, sharing examples of good practices (see event).

In terms of ideas, several suggestions related to the theme of future-proofing education, such as the modernisation of school curricula (see example of idea), or the reform and harmonisation of diverging educational systems (see example of idea). The establishment of training schemes for teachers was also proposed, with participants in one event in Italy stressing the need to train teachers about the opportunities offered by the EU (see idea and event). The theme of mental health was equally raised, with a contributor suggesting free psychological help in schools (see idea).

Another theme that appeared frequently relates to fostering a common EU identity (see example of idea). As reported previously, contributors feel exchange programmes play a key role in promoting diversity and increasing people’s trust in the EU (see idea).

Numerous ideas related to intra-EU mobility, with participants calling for exchange initiatives to be expanded (see example of idea).

A Youth Debate organised in Naples by Europe Direct generated a number of ideas on the topic of education such as the need to create a common European educational system, with a recognition of academic qualifications between the different EU countries mentioned as a key step in this direction (see idea). Another proposal expressed the need to increase access to tertiary education and culture (see idea).

On the topic of youth, contributions discuss the issues of youth employment also covered in other topics. Additionally, a contributor advocates for strengthening the role of young people in the media, as to ensure a fair representation and a less stereotyped, negative reporting (see idea).

The importance of sport and leisure activities was also underlined by many participants, who stressed the key role of sport education, but also pan-European activities related to this (see example of idea on sport education).

Less frequently mentioned ideas related to creative and academic professionals, as well as support for cross-border academic research and cooperation in science (see example of idea).

New ideas in past period (21/02/2022 – 09/05/2022)

No new themes or sub-themes were advanced in the most recent contributions.
Figure 25 – Mind map ‘Education, culture, youth and sport’ topic part 1

- Establish more EU media portals
- Foster knowledge of European history by introducing a course about EU history in school and creating a European history manual
- Languages: adopt a common language (English/Esperanto) or foster multilingualism
- Institute a European public holiday on the 9th of May
- Grant DiscoverEU free rail pass to all 18 year olds in EU
- Organise more cross-country, inter-European sports events
- Form European teams for international competitions
- Encourage foreign language education to foster intercultural exchange
- Foster friendships across Member State borders via exchange or twinning of schools

- Recognize academic qualifications across EU countries
- Promote inter-European educational mobility
- Facilitate inter-European educational mobility through an EU-led online portal collecting higher education courses
- Make the Erasmus scholarship more inclusive and accessible
- Ratify the Lisbon Recognition Convention Treaty to facilitate professional and academic mobility in Greece
- Reintegrate UK students in the Erasmus+ program

- Foster common EU identity
- Increase digitalisation of education
- Better align (vocational) education with the world of work
- Invest in education and educational infrastructure with a European Investment Strategy for education
- Integrate soft-skills learning
- Integrate development of STEM skills in the educational system
- Integrate climate change in the educational system
- Instil cross-cultural skills and encourage active social participation
- Implement inclusive educational methods and promote diversity in education
- More flexible school curricula, with greater choice of school classes
- Establish a standard final exam for every EU country
- Promote and establish lifelong learning and training as a right

- Intra EU mobility
- Future-proof education

Conference on the Future of Europe

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Figure 26 – Mind map ‘Education, culture, youth and sport’ topic part 2

**Work precariousness and unemployment among youth**
- Immediate and concrete actions to battle youth unemployment
- Ensure better working conditions for youth in the EU
- Recognize informal learning

**Access to tertiary education and culture**
- Support passage from secondary to tertiary education, through dedicated orientation programs
- Consider the role of ethnic, physical, and socio-economic inequalities in determining an unequal access to tertiary education
- Improve accessibility to cultural sites, like theatres, to disabled people
- Insure training and education for inmates
- Recognize informal learning

**European heritage**
- Celebrate, protect and value European culture and heritage
- Introduce a EU Culture Commissioner
- Preservation of traditions and cultural heritage of minority and religious groups

**Creative and academic professionals**
- Provide a legal framework to reduce precarity in the cultural, creative and academic sector
- Professionalize cultural workers
- Enhance cross-border and international cultural cooperation
- Fund academic research and change the way funds are allocated
- Use Recovery Fund money to support the cultural sector

**Inclusivity in sport**
- Promote less mainstream sports
- Increase ethnic and gender inclusivity in sport
- Sport as a vehicle of inclusivity
ANNEX I: List of currently most endorsed and commented ideas per topic
This Annex presents the most endorsed and commented ideas under each topic as of 9 May 2022, including suggestions made by individuals, as well as ideas promoted by organisations. It also includes the ideas registered under the topic ‘Other ideas’; in the rest of the report ideas under that topic have been placed under one of the nine thematic topics, or several topics in case of cross-cutting issues. The aim of this Annex is to reflect a high level of interest in or debate on some ideas on the platform.

Note that endorsements are similar to a ‘like/up-vote’ in social media. They indicate participants’ interest in and general favourability towards an idea, whilst not giving indications about any opposition to it. Therefore, the number of endorsements is not an indicator of overall support for the idea, but just one of the many aspects to be taken into consideration in the analysis of platform contributions. Comments can cover a range of feedback, from neutral to agreeing or strongly disagreeing. For more background on the analysis of contributions on the platform, see Annex II.

<table>
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<th>Climate change and the environment</th>
<th>Most endorsed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idea: Just transition (see idea)</td>
<td>Endorsements: 477</td>
<td>Idea: Promotion of nuclear energy where renewable energy cannot be used (translated) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Stop all fossil fuel subsidies (translated) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Improve protection of nature, environment, biodiversity and people when developing industrial wind power plants in Europe (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Make European railway network more accessible and advisable as a replacement for intra-EU connections (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Make nuclear power the focus of the green transformation (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Euro Trainscanner (translated) (see idea)</td>
<td>Endorsements: 203</td>
<td>Idea: Reduce Environment Pollution by Immigration Policy (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Science-intensive healthy longevity technologies: development and access (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Stop daylight saving time change: Adopting astronomically correct time and optionally mandate moving opening hours to 1 hour earlier (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Equal access to affordable and high-quality public services, including health (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Research on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Focus on Anti-Aging and Longevity research (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Treaty change to strengthen the EU's powers in health (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: A social protocol in the Treaties to stop dumping of wages and conditions (see idea)</td>
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<p>| Idea: How much money would Esperanto save the European Union? (see idea) | Endorsements: 79 | Endorsements: 77 |
| Idea: Unconditional Basic Income (translated) (see idea) | Endorsements: 77 | Comments: 83 |
| Idea: A social protocol in the Treaties to stop dumping of wages and conditions (see idea) | Endorsements: 329 | Endorsements: 66 |
| Idea: Start fighting tax havens inside &amp; outside the EU (see idea) | Endorsements: 269 | Comments: 52 |</p>
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<td>Idea: The creation of the European Army (see idea)</td>
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| Idea: The creation of the European Army (see idea) | Idea: The Internet portal “European Union — News” should also inform in the world auxiliary language Esperanto (translated) (see idea) |
| Endorsements: 441 | Endorsements: 40 |
| Comments: 204     | Comments: 64 |

| Idea: Acting as one: EU as a global actor (see idea) | Idea: Uniting Europe: Continue the EU enlargement (see idea) |
| Endorsements: 301 | Endorsements: 230 |
| Comments: 25      | Comments: 61 |

| Idea: Foreign Policy at EU level based on absolute majority, not unanimity (see idea) | Idea: Foreign Policy at EU level based on absolute majority, not unanimity (see idea) |
| Endorsements: 258 | Endorsements: 258 |
| Comments: 51      | Comments: 51 |

| Uniting Europe: Continue the EU enlargement (see idea) | Idea: Integration of the Armed Forces of the Member States at European level (see idea) |
| Endorsements: 230 | Endorsements: 22 |
| Comments: 61      | Comments: 33 |
| Values and rights, rule of law, security | Idea: 10 million voices: make Catalan an official EU language (see idea)  
Endorsements: 923  
Comments: 119 | Idea: Protecting vulnerable human life: a value of Europe (see idea)  
Endorsements: 244  
Comments: 190 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Idea: No double standards in the defence of democracy and rule of law (see idea)  
Endorsements: 628  
Comments: 48 | Idea: Creation of a common European army (see idea)  
Endorsements: 68  
Comments: 183 |
| Idea: Strengthen the enforceability of Human Rights Instruments (see idea)  
Endorsements: 480  
Comments: 14 | Idea: Trisomy 21: We want more... (see idea)  
Endorsements: 82  
Comments: 142 |
| Idea: Gender equality (see idea)  
Endorsements: 468  
Comments: 21 | Idea: Protecting our fundamental values: Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (see idea)  
Endorsements: 257  
Comments: 116 |
| Idea: Protecting our fundamental values: Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (see idea)  
Endorsements: 257  
Comments: 116 | Idea: Recognition of Esperanto as one of the cultural languages of EU citizens. (see idea)  
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Comments: 90 |
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<td>Idea: Public support for open source software and hardware (translated) (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Ban cryptocurrencies (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Towards an Ethical AI: promote debate and avoid inequalities (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Promote radio and television programmes that inform Esperanto via a digital distribution channel (DAB+ or DVB-T2) also in the world auxiliary language (translated) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Universal income for open source maintainers (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: GDPR: Declining collection of personal data should be made at least as easy as accepting it</td>
<td>Idea: Fair digitalisation (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Stronger together: A democratic European Federation (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: We need a common European language (see idea)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Idea: Abolish the Council Veto! (Petition to the Conference’s Representatives) (see idea)</th>
<th>Idea: Stronger together: A democratic European Federation (see idea)</th>
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<tr>
<th>Idea: A reform plan for a citizen-based European Democracy (see idea)</th>
<th>Idea: Directly elect the President of the European Union (see idea)</th>
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<tr>
<th>Idea: There can be no real European democracy without an autonomous fiscal power of the EU (translated) (see idea)</th>
<th>Idea: Better language skills – better democracy. English and Esperanto! (see idea)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Comments: 38</td>
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<td>Most endorsed</td>
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<td><strong>Migration</strong></td>
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| **Idea: A common migration and asylum policy, based on respect for rights and equal treatment** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 484  
  Comments: 56 | **Idea: No more immigration from non-European or non first world countries** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 135  
  Comments: 139 |
| **Idea: No more immigration from non-European or non first world countries** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 135  
  Comments: 139 | **Idea: Removal of unauthorised asylum seekers/migrants** (translated) (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 45  
  Comments: 91 |
| **Idea: No borders for humanity: a Single Immigration Policy** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 90  
  Comments: 12 | **Idea: Migration and integration** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 76  
  Comments: 71 |
| **Idea: Expulsion from the EU** (translated) (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 90  
  Comments: 40 | **Idea: Teaching the national language via Esperanto: Promote organisations that do so** (translated) (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 28  
  Comments: 59 |
| **Idea: Migration and integration** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 77  
  Comments: 71 | **Idea: A common migration and asylum policy, based on respect for rights and equal treatment** (see idea)  
  Endorsements: 484  
  Comments: 56 |
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<th>Education, culture, youth and sport</th>
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<th>Most commented</th>
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<td>Idea: The EU needs improved language learning (see idea)</td>
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<td>Comments: 157</td>
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<td>Idea: Youth. EU cannot fund precarity (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: A lesson about Esperanto for the schoolchildren of the European Union (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Created at European Public Broadcaster (see idea)</td>
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<td>Other ideas</td>
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<td>Idea: For European sovereignty. The necessary reforms (translated) (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Esperanto, a common neutral language, designed to be easy to learn, a tool for a more united European Union (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Official recognition of Esperanto as one of the languages of EU citizens (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Official recognition of Esperanto as one of the languages of EU citizens (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Esperanto, a common neutral language, designed to be easy to learn, a tool for a more united European Union (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: European Flag Greetings (translated) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: An Action Plan to transition to animal-free science (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: European Union- Federal State (translated) (see idea)</td>
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<td>Idea: Stop Animal Suffering in Exotic Pet Trade with a Positive List (see idea)</td>
<td>Idea: Adoption of a European language (translated) (see idea)</td>
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The metrics used for the analysis in this report come from a live platform where data is moderated and updated on an ongoing basis, even throughout the period of the research team’s data analysis. This may lead to small deviations in numeric data.

The main metrics used for the **quantitative analysis** are the following:

- **Numeric data on ideas uploaded by contributors**, be it as individuals or as representatives of an organisation. Numeric data consist of number of ideas – overall and within the various topics.

- **Numeric data on endorsements**: endorsements are similar to a ‘like/up-vote’ in social media. They help indicate participants’ interest in and general favourability towards an idea, whilst not giving indications about any opposition to it. Therefore, the number of endorsements is not per se an indicator of overall support for the idea, but just one of the many aspects that is taken into consideration in the analysis of contributions on the platform. Numeric data consist of the number of endorsements – overall, within the various topics and linked to a particular idea (used also for the listing of ideas by the number of endorsements).
• Numeric data on comments by participants: the analysis also covers the amount of participants’ comments on each other’s ideas, as they indicate the level of active engagement on an idea. In terms of substance, comments can cover a range of feedback, from neutral to agreeing or strongly disagreeing. This is reflected in the qualitative analysis (see below). Numeric data consist of the number of comments – overall, within the various topics and linked to a particular idea (used also for the listing of ideas by the number of comments).

• Numeric data on events: contributors can create events on the platform and upload event reports. Numeric data covers number of events – overall and within the various topics.

• Socio-demographic data (anonymised): Prior to engaging with the platform contributors are asked to provide information on their country of residence, educational background, age, gender and employment status. The data are processed anonymously. As this information is shared voluntarily (around 70.5% of participants provide it), there are limitations on the insight that can be provided into the profiles of participants. Respondents are particularly unlikely to provide information on their occupation, education and country of residence. For organisations, only the country of residence can be provided.

The main focus of the report is on the qualitative analysis on the basis of ideas, comments and event reports, to deliver an overview of the content of the platform. Themes and sub-themes are identified within the pre-defined topics.

In practice, within each topic a manual textual analysis and clustering of all the proposed ideas and closed events with event reports has been performed by a research team. To support this work the content available via the platform has been processed by an automated system for Text Analysis, which has been used to help analysts understand large volumes of text input. It enables the grouping (clustering) of contributions across languages, and allows to search for similar contents across the platform and across languages. Analysts use the Text Analysis system to facilitate multi-lingual content analysis, and to identify more conveniently the multiple occurrences of a similar idea in various contributions. This aids to assess the level of occurrence of an identified theme or sub-theme. The Text Analysis system only evaluates the content submitted via the platform. This includes pseudonymised answers to the sociodemographic questionnaire, which is used to compile the socio-demographic data, and the other content (ideas, comments and endorsements) submitted on the platform (including associated metadata such as the time the input was made). Subsequently, the research team has read through the ideas within the identified cluster as well as the event descriptions and their event reports to provide a summary of the common themes and possible sub-themes, also noting variations and potential points of disagreement in the comment sections. Highly or often endorsed ideas covering the theme or sub-theme are also referred to. The identified themes and sub-themes are presented in the order of level of occurrence as assessed by the analyst with the help of the Text Analysis system.

The ultimate goal of this qualitative approach is not only to record the themes or ideas which attract the most attention on the platform, but to also record the breadth and diversity of ideas falling within one topic. In case several ideas submitted on the platform are in practice expressions of the same idea or sub-theme, qualitative indications to this are provided in the summary, by referring to a ‘recurrent’ or ‘prominent’ idea or sub-theme.

The summaries also include links to illustrative ideas or events, which describe a concrete proposal or provide a good summary of the general argument of the identified theme or sub-theme.

In analysing events the research team focuses on closed events with an event report. Particular attention is paid to the more participatory and deliberative consultative events, to include the voices and opinions of those citizens who might otherwise not find their way to the digital platform.

The breakdown of a topic into themes and sub-themes or ideas is visually represented in the relevant mind map.