



Conference  
on the **Future**  
of **Europe**

Conference on the Future of Europe:  
European Citizens' Panels  
*Panels' Guide*

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*Welcome to the Citizens' Panels of the Conference on the Future of Europe. We are deeply grateful to you for agreeing to participate in this adventure. You are one of 800 people chosen through random selection with the collective responsibility of working for several months to improve the future of Europe.*

*You may be wondering, why me? Are there not people better prepared for this task? The answer is no. Both you and the rest of the participants get up every day somewhere in Europe, facing a reality that is not always simple or friendly to everyone, and it is your specific perspective and experience we are interested in.*

*The Conference European Citizens' Panels are characterized by being diverse, in the same way that Europe is. As you will see in the coming days, you all come from very different places, some study, others work, are retired, or are unemployed. You are of different ages and most of you are not used to participating in this kind of process. And this is the important thing. We are not looking for experts or politicians, but for everyday people who live in the European Union.*

## Welcome from Co-Chairs

Dear European Citizen,

We are delighted that you have accepted to take part in the European Citizens' Panels of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

We would like to warmly thank you for your participation and assure you of the importance we give to this unprecedented and shared project, which is the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The Conference on the Future of Europe aims to open a new space for debate with citizens of the European Union to address both challenges and priorities. To this end, we want to reach out to a great diversity of citizens, from all walks of life and corners of the Union, and give them a central role in shaping the future of the European project.

The European Citizens' Panels will be a key feature of this Conference. The Panels will be able to explore issues of relevance to you as well as contributions gathered in the framework of the Conference, through the Multilingual Digital Platform ([futureu.europa.eu](https://futureu.europa.eu)), which will serve to produce a set of recommendations for the institutions of the Union to follow up on.

We invite you to deliberate and to provide recommendations. As part of a group of 800 European citizens randomly selected and representative of the EU's diversity, you will have the opportunity to share and discuss your ideas with other fellow citizens, during three deliberative sessions in a panel with 200 participants. Thanks to the help of interpreters, you will be able to express yourself in your own language. All information related to the topic discussed and to the organisation of this Panel and other related events, such as the European Youth Event, will be provided to you in due course.

What interests us are your opinions, ideas and concrete proposals concerning the future of our Union. With the time you will devote to this European Citizens' Panel, you will help to shape the future of the European Union.

Representatives from your Panel will present the recommendations you will have collectively elaborated to the Conference Plenary and discuss them with the other participants. The three institutions will then examine swiftly how to follow up on the outcome of the Conference. We commit to full transparency and feedback on this follow-up.

We thank you again for accepting to be part of this exciting project. We wish you good luck in your work and we await with great interest the outcome of your deliberations.

With all our best wishes,

Co-Chair



**Guy Verhofstadt**  
Member of the European  
Parliament

Co-Chair



**Gašper Dovžan**  
State Secretary  
for EU Affairs

Co-Chair



**Dubravka Šuica**  
Vice-President of the  
European Commission

## Introduction to the Conference on the Future of Europe & the European Citizens' Panels

The Conference on the Future of Europe (the Conference) is an **unprecedented democratic exercise**, with the following pillars: a Multilingual Digital Platform (<https://futureu.europa.eu>) which collects ideas from individual citizens and from events, four European Citizens' Panels, national citizens' Panels and national events, and a Conference Plenary composed of citizens representing the European Panels, citizens representing national panels and events, politicians, social partners and organised civil society.

**The European Citizens' Panels are a key feature of the Conference on the Future of Europe.** Four European Citizens' Panels are organized to allow citizens to jointly think about the future they want for the European Union.

This process does not intend to simply collect your opinions but to make you participate in shaping the future of the European project. What are the issues or problems that affect you the most? What specific measures should the European Union put in place to facilitate your life projects? You are about to begin a process of collective deliberation in which you will have to reflect together and work as a team to generate specific recommendations to be presented and discussed in the Conference Plenary.

### Who will be in the European Citizens' Panels?

- 4 Panels of 200 European citizens each chosen through random selection, from the 27 Member States;
- Reflecting the EU's diversity: geographic origin (nationality and urban/rural), gender, age, socioeconomic background and level of education;
- At least one female and one male citizen per Member State is part of each Panel;
- A third of each Panel is composed of young people (age 16 – 25). A special link between this youth group and the European Youth Event will be created.



## Calendar of the European Citizens' Panels

	Topic	When	Where
<b>PANEL 1</b>	<b>Stronger economy, social justice, jobs/ education, youth, culture, sport/ digital transformation</b>	Session 1: September 17th - 19th Session 2: November 5th - 7th Session 3: December 3rd - 5th	Strasbourg, France Online Dublin, Ireland (Institute of International and European Affairs and partners)
<b>PANEL 2</b>	<b>European democracy/values, rights, rule of law, security</b>	Session 1: September 24th - 26th Session 2: November 12th - 14th Session 3: December 10th - 12th	Strasbourg, France Online Florence, Italy (European University Institute and partners)
<b>PANEL 3</b>	<b>Climate change, environment/health</b>	Session 1: October 1st - 3rd Session 2: November 19th - 21st Session 3: January 7th - 9th	Strasbourg, France Online Natolin, Poland (College of Europe and partners)
<b>PANEL 4</b>	<b>EU in the world/migration</b>	Session 1: October 15th - 17th Session 2: November 26th - 28th Session 3: January 14th - 16th	Strasbourg, France Online Maastricht, Netherlands (European Institute for Public Administration and partners)
<b>Feedback event</b>		Spring 2022	To be determined

## What is the process about?

We invite you to think about what future you want for the European Union, as part of a collective **deliberative process**<sup>1</sup>. Facilitators will be at your disposal and will be helping you throughout the process. You will be able to speak in and listen to your own language, thanks to the help of interpreters.

We are not simply asking for your opinion. This should be an opportunity for you to reflect and exchange ideas with the rest of the participants, with the **aim of reaching collective recommendations**.

During the process, you will also have **access to resources and experts** on the topics that you will choose to discuss. You are not expected to have previous knowledge about the functioning of the European Union and basic information will be provided in due time.

To reach these goals, we propose **three different phases of work (“sessions”)**.

You will have the opportunity to decide for yourself on the issues to be debated, within the framework of the Panel’s main themes. We have called the **first session “definition of the agenda”**. The objective of this session is to prioritise the issues that you, as a group, want to deal with and deepen in order to generate specific recommendations for the European Union.

Addressing these issues will be the task of a second phase, which we call **“thematic deepening”** and which will be carried out in the **second and third sessions**.

After delivering the final recommendations to the Plenary, the last phase (**feedback event**) will allow for an accountability process, during which you will follow up on the response to your recommendations and their possible practical implementations.

In each Panel, you will designate **20 representatives to the Conference Plenary**<sup>2</sup>. The Plenary will discuss citizens' ideas stemming from the national and European Citizens' Panels and the Multilingual Digital Platform. The Plenary will put forward its proposals to the Executive Board, who will draw up a report in full collaboration and full transparency with the Plenary and which will be published on the Multilingual Digital Platform.

For all this work you will receive a compensation fee and you will be asked for a commitment to attend all sessions.

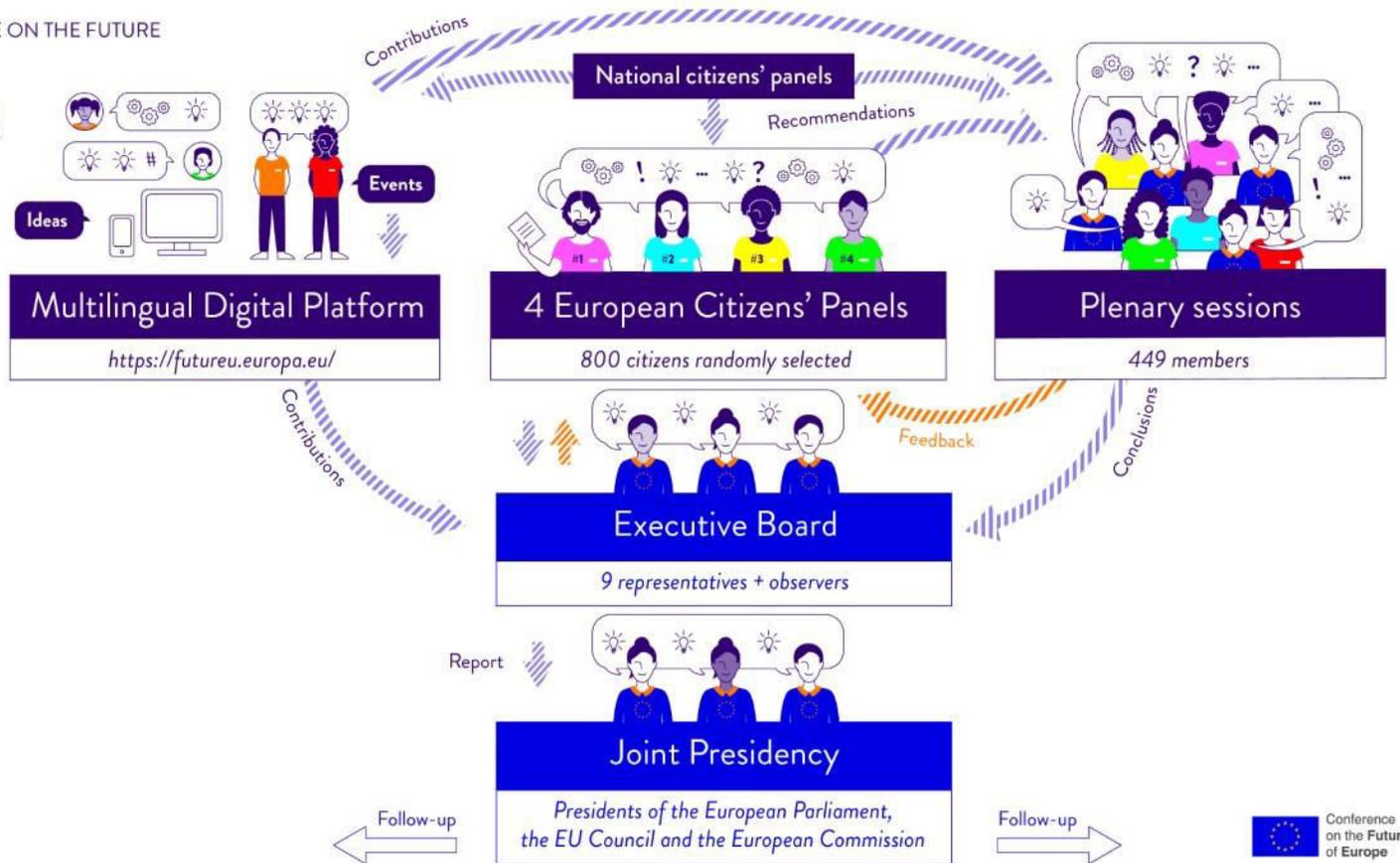
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<sup>1</sup> A deliberative process occurs when a group of citizens chosen through random selection meets for several days at the request of a Government to give a consensual answer to a question of general interest. The group (which can be called Citizens’ Assembly, Citizens’ Jury or Citizen Panel for example) has access to group work techniques and to information, and has enough time to deliberate on the question that has been asked. This format is used in hundreds of governments around the world.

<sup>2</sup> The Conference Plenary is composed of 108 representatives from the European Parliament, 54 from the Council (two per Member State) and 3 from the European Commission, as well as 108 representatives from all national Parliaments on an equal footing. Some 18 representatives from both the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, 6 elected representatives from regional authorities and 6 elected representatives from local authorities, twelve from social partners and eight from civil society will also take part. 80 representatives from European Citizens’ Panels, of which at least one third shall be younger than 25, the President of the European Youth Forum and 27 representatives of national events and/or national Citizens’ Panels will participate. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be invited when the international role of the EU is discussed. Representatives of key stakeholders may also be invited.

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

**PROCESS**



## What are the governing bodies of the Conference on the future of Europe?

### The Joint Presidency and their respective institutions

The Conference is placed **under the authority of three EU institutions**, represented by the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Council and the President of the European Commission, acting as its Joint Presidency.

- The **European Parliament** (705 members), together with the Council of the European Union, is the main legislative body of the EU. It also has supervisory and budgetary responsibilities. Its members are elected directly by citizens every five years. Decisions are usually made by majority of votes cast.<sup>3</sup>
- The **Council of the European Union**, together with the European Parliament, is the main legislative body of the EU. It is composed of ministers from each Member State in each of the policy areas. Depending on the issue under discussion, the Council of the European Union takes its decisions by simple majority, qualified majority or unanimity.
- The **European Commission** is the executive body of the EU. It proposes new legislation, implements decisions made by the Council and the Parliament and represents the EU internationally. Commissioners (one per country) are designated with the agreement of the Parliament and the Council. Decisions are taken by consensus or, if voted, by simple majority.

### The Executive Board

The **Executive Board** of the Conference on the Future of Europe is led by three **co-chairs, one from each of the three institutions. It is composed** of three members and up to four observers per Institution as well as observers from the national parliaments; representatives from the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, social partners and civil society are also invited. It reports on a regular basis to the Joint Presidency. The Executive Board is responsible for taking decisions by consensus regarding the works of the Conference, its processes and events, **overseeing the Conference as it progresses**, and preparing the meetings of the Conference Plenary, including citizens' input and their follow up.

A **Common Secretariat**, of limited size and made up of officials representing the three institutions equally, **assists the work of the Executive Board**.

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<sup>3</sup> Source : Institutions and bodies | European Union ([europa.eu](https://europa.eu))

## What are the topics of the European Citizens' Panels?

### Panel 1

The panel “**stronger economy, social justice and jobs / youth, sport, culture and education / digital transformation**” addresses the future of our economy and jobs, especially after the pandemic, paying due attention to the related issues of social justice. It will also tackle the opportunities and challenges of digital transformation - one of the biggest future-oriented topics under debate. The Panel will also deal with the future of Europe in the areas of **youth, sport, culture and education**.

For more information about this Panel's topics:

Stronger economy, social justice and jobs:

<https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Economy>

Youth, sport, culture and education: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Education>

Digital transformation: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Digital>

### Panel 2

The Panel “**European democracy/values, rights, rule of law, security**” addresses topics related to democracy, such as elections, participation outside election periods, perceived distance between people and their elected representatives, media freedom and disinformation. The Panel also addresses issues related to fundamental rights and values, the rule of law and the fight against all forms of discrimination. At the same time, the panel deals with the internal security of the EU, such as protection of Europeans from acts of terrorism and other crimes.

For more information about this Panel's topics:

European democracy: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Democracy>

Values, rights, rule of law, security:

<https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/ValuesRights>

### Panel 3

The Panel “**Climate change, environment / health**” is related to the effects of climate change, environmental issues and new health challenges for the European Union. These topics also relate to the EU's objectives and strategies such as agriculture, transport and mobility, energy and the transition to post-carbon societies,

research, healthcare systems, responses to health crises, prevention and healthy lifestyles.

For more information about this Panel's topics:

Climate change and the environment:

<https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/GreenDeal>

Health: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Health>

## Panel 4

The Panel “**EU in the world / migration**” discusses the role of the EU in the world, including objectives and strategies for the EU's security; defence; trade policy; humanitarian aid & development cooperation; foreign policy, and neighbourhood policy & enlarging the EU. It is also related to how the EU should deal with migration.

For more information about this Panel's topics:

EU in the World: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/EUInTheWorld>

Migration: <https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/Migration>

## What is the output of the process and how will the EU institutions respond to it?

The Panels will **formulate a set of recommendations which will be discussed by the Conference Plenary**.

A recommendation can either state how to achieve change (a specific solution) or the direction that should be taken to create a solution to the problem (a general recommendation).

The **Conference Plenary will then put forward its proposals to the Conference Executive Board**. The three Institutions will examine how to effectively follow up on the final outcome of the Conference, each within their own sphere of competences and in accordance with the EU Treaties.

## How can panellists use the Multilingual Digital Platform?

The Multilingual Digital Platform (<https://futureu.europa.eu>) is the **main hub for ideas and events of the Conference of the Future of Europe**. Citizens from all over Europe can submit and discuss recommendations in their language with automatic translation. It will also be used as an information and communication tool for participants in the European Citizens' Panels.

### The spaces

The Multilingual Digital Platform offers you two different spaces:

<b>Panel space</b>  <i>(only for participants from your Panel)</i>	<b>Public space</b>  <i>(for any European citizen)</i>
As you are invited to join one of the four European Citizens' Panels of the Conference on the Future of Europe, you can join the space of your respective Panel.	If you wish to connect with the public space and see the Digital Platform as any citizen from anywhere in Europe, you can select the public access mode.

### What does the Multilingual Digital Platform offer?

The Multilingual Digital Platform is here to help you. In the Panel space you will be provided with information about the program of the sessions, inputs from experts and access to documents needed in your discussion. You will have access to all the results of your work during the session and the Platform will be our voting tool to decide upon the recommendations at the end of the third session. It is also a space to connect with all participants in addition to the real-life interactions you will have during the Citizens' Panels, share your ideas and discuss them further. In the public space you may interact with the wider public, learn about events that are organised as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, share your ideas and react to comments.

### Access to the Platform's Panel spaces

Go to the Conference's Multilingual Digital Platform (<https://futureu.europa.eu>).

Click on "European Citizens' Panels" in the top menu bar.

- To go to the restricted space: click on the **Citizens' Panels (for panellists)** button and then select your Panel.
- To go to the public space: click on the **Citizens' Panels (public)** button.

## How to connect and participate as a Panellist?



  Logged in English ▾

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### European Citizens' Panels

#TheFutureIsYours ● Randomly selected citizens jointly reflect about the future of Europe

[About Panels' calendar](#) [Panel 1](#) [Panel 2](#) [Panel 3](#) [Panel 4](#)

Show automatically-translated text

Warning: Automatic translations may not be 100% accurate.

**The European Citizens' Panels are a key feature of the Conference on the Future of Europe.**

Four European Citizens' Panels are organized to allow citizens to jointly think about the future they want for the European Union.

 15 | Stop following

Reference: cofe-ASSE-2021-07-34

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- 4 Panels of 200 European citizens each chosen through random selection, from the 27 Member States;
- Reflecting the EU's diversity: geographic origin (nationality and urban/rural), gender, age, socioeconomic background and level of education;
- At least one female and one male citizen per Member State is part of each Panel;
- A third of each Panel is composed of young people (age 16 – 25). A special link between this youth group and the European Youth Event will be created.

### European Citizens' Panels

The European Citizens' Panels are a key feature of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Four Euro...

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**Take part**

### Panel 1: Stronger economy, social justice, jobs, education, culture, sport, digital transformation

Dear Panellist

Welcome to the Multilingual Digital Platform of the Panel on **Stronger economy, social justice, jobs, education, culture, sport, digital transformation**

Upcoming event



17 September  
2021 14:00



19 September  
2021 14:30

 18 Stop following

**Take part**

To be able to submit ideas or contribute with comments, you will need to create an account called EU login

All digital material on the Platform will be available in your own language.

## Conference Charter

The Charter is the **set of common principles and criteria, reflecting EU values**, to which organisers of events must subscribe to and **to which Conference participants shall adhere to. Here is an extract:**

*I will contribute to the debate and deliberations on the priorities for our common future, together with citizens from all backgrounds, walks of life and all corners of the European Union.*

*As a participant in the Conference, I commit to:*

- *Respect **our European values**, as set in Art. 2 of the Treaty on the European Union: **human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**, which is part of what it means to be European and to engage respectfully with each other. These values are **common to all EU Member States** in a society in which **pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men must prevail**.*
- *Contribute to the Conference with **constructive and concrete proposals**, respecting the opinions of other citizens and building **Europe's future** together.*
- *Refrain from expressing, disseminating, or sharing **content which is illegal, hateful or deliberately false or misleading**. In this context, I will always refer to **credible and reliable sources** when I share content and information to support my ideas.*
- *My participation in the Conference is voluntary and I will not try to use the Conference to pursue any **commercial or exclusively private** interests.*

The **full version of the Charter** can be found here:  
**<https://futureu.europa.eu/pages/charter>**.

## **Data management**

This section aims at clarifying the transparency of the process and data management issues.

### **Selection of participants**

The selection of the 800 citizens (and 200 citizens as a reserve) took place from May 2021 to August 2021, covering the entirety of the population (limited to EU citizens). Citizens were mainly contacted by phone (random generation of phone numbers — fixed and mobile) in several rounds in order to explain the purpose and obtain their consent. Once they agreed, they received a mandate letter explaining exactly what is expected from them as well as professional support and guidance throughout the process.

### **Recruitment data & GDPR**

The personal data collected as part of the recruitment are first name, last name, address, phone number and email address. All personal data collected by the company in charge of the selection, Kantar, on behalf of the European Commission are processed in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Kantar transferred the personal data of the participants only to the European Commission which will act as the “data controller”. Personal data will be retained only for such a period as is appropriate for its intended and lawful use, in this case we shall retain data for no longer than 12 months, unless otherwise required to do so by law. Personal data that is no longer required will be disposed of in ways that ensure their confidential nature is not compromised.

### **Recording of sessions**

The plenary session of the European Citizens’ Panels will be audio recorded and video recorded. The group sessions will not be video recorded, but an audio recording in English will be taken for organisational matters. At all times the organizers of the Conference on the Future of Europe will handle this data with care and according to all data protection regulations. For more information, please turn to the helpdesk.

## Photography and filming

As a general principle, the Panels' plenary discussions and expert presentations will be livestreamed on the Multilingual Digital Platform and released, while the group discussions (break-out sessions) of the Panellists, will not be publicly accessible.

During the sessions, you may be filmed and have your picture taken. By participating, citizens are giving consent to and authorizing the European Union, the right to film, photograph, and to make sound recordings of you, and to use this media at the sole discretion of the organisers of the Conference. This will be reminded to citizens at the beginning of each panel. You release the organisers from any liability in connection with the above. If you do not want to be filmed or photographed or for any further information regarding footage consent, please refer to the helpdesk ([info@futureu.events](mailto:info@futureu.events)).

You may be approached by members of the media for an interview. In order to be interviewed, you will have to provide your specific prior consent. You can always refuse. In case you receive such a request before the sessions, please feel free to contact the helpdesk if you need any guidance. ([info@futureu.events](mailto:info@futureu.events)).

## Misconduct

In case you are experiencing or spotting misconduct of any kind during the Conference on the Future of Europe, please do not hesitate to turn to the helpdesk.

## Helpdesk

The Panels' helpdesk supports you and answers all your questions in your own language. It handles your travel reservations and support, considers specific needs (e.g. food, special support) and follows-up in real time. You will receive extra information on all logistic matters. To reach the helpdesk, please dial: +32 460 249 839 or write to [info@futureu.events](mailto:info@futureu.events).

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