

I AM EUROPE

JOIN THE DEBATE – SHARE YOUR IDEAS – GET HEARD

I AM EUROPE is an exploratory expedition into the heart of the European Citizenship concept organized by Evens foundation with 11 partner organizations from 9 EU countries in the framework of 2013 European Year of Citizens. Through this project we want to learn what citizens' participation can mean in a European context, and find out what is needed so that European citizens get more involved in EU policymaking.

This project aims to enrich the general public debate on European Citizenship in the context of the upcoming EU parliament elections and hopes to put forward innovative models of citizen participation that can be applied at the EU level.

We believe it is active citizens who can be a motor of change within the EU and make EU succeeds in becoming more appealing to its citizens, and therefore we decided to invite to I AM EUROPE project citizens who are already engaged at local level.

MAIN TOPICS

Exchange of good practices that encourage citizens' participation: mutual learning

- How do citizens from other European countries organize themselves? Objectives, successful strategies and models, major fields of action/intervention ?
- What are the major pitfalls and limitations ?
- What are innovative methodologies and approaches that encourage citizens' participation?
- Which models could be instrumental/inspirational to foster citizens involvement on EU level ?

Exploration of the so-called European values

- Why Europe? What are our common concerns and visions for future ?
- What do we share as values ? Are they reflected in the way we organise our societies ?
- On what common ground we, Europeans, should base our common policy making?
- How to negotiate our diversity (of cultures/opinions) with a common policy making)

Insights in EU policymaking and its influence on citizens' daily lifes, local issues and civic activities

- What is the impact of EU policymaking on our daily lives?
- What is the relation between the EU and the local level when it comes to policymaking?
- How does the EU work? How does EU policy come about?
- How do you relate to EU policymaking?

Investigation into the nature of participation and citizenship

- What's the relation between participation and citizenship?
- What's the relation between participation and democracy?
- How does participation at local level look like?
- How does/could participation at European level look like?

Communication training

- How to disseminate your ideas, communicate with your community and build a network of supporters ?
- How to raise media attention and set up a press campaign?
- How to empower citizens and get their voices heard both on local and EU level ? What levers do we, as citizens, have to influence and control our Euro MPs ?

MEETINGS

Local preparatory citizens' meeting

The participants present their local initiatives and experiences to the project facilitator including the methodologies they use in setting up their projects. They discuss the content of the IAE project, share their expectations and delegate a team of 5 representatives that will take part in the joint sessions.

Joint sessions in Antwerp, Paris and Warsaw

At these sessions a group of 45 people from 9 different localities will come together to share good practices in participation and citizenship projects and to jointly address the topics mentioned above in preparation of the final conference. The participants will also work on and test proposals on EU citizenship they would like to submit to MPs and on a first edition of "the only independent European Newspaper" which will present the proposals as well as local citizens' projects/initiatives and deepened reflections on the concept of European Citizenship.

Local feedback citizens' meeting

The group of 5 people delegated to the joint sessions organizes a local citizens' meeting to share their learning with the other citizens of the group in order to prepare them for the final conference.

Final conference in Brussels

Attended by all participating citizens, policy-makers and thinkers. At this stage we aim to present and discuss the proposals resultant from joint sessions and efficiency of contributing to the European Citizens initiative(s) with a proposal to enhance participation in the EU. The conference will also witness the launch of the Newspaper.

Travel and subsistence will be financed by the project organizers.

TIMEFRAME

LOCAL CITIZENS MEETINGS	
LCM BELGIUM POUR LA SOLIDARITE SAS	02/02/13
LCM SPAIN	09/02/13

CONFAVC	
LCM BULGARIA	16/02/13
BALKAN ASSIST	
LCM GERMANY	16/02/13
MITOST	
LCM ROMANIA	23/02/13
CERE	
LCM POLAND	23/02/13
E	
LCM FRANCE	02/03/13
ANIMAFAC	
LCM SWEDEN	02/03/13
CESAM	
JOINT MEETINS	
JM ANTWERP	22-24/03/13
JM PARIS	19-21/04/13
JM WARSAW	17-19/05/13
FINAL CONERENCE	
FINAL CONFERENCE	21-22/06/13

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