

The project «#EngagEU» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Overall, 9 Events took place in this project.

Event 1: #1stYoungCitizens'FutureLab, 27/09/2018 to 28/09/2018, Otzenhausen, Germany

Participation: The event involved 13 citizens from Germany, France, the United States of America and Ukraine.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Otzenhausen, Germany, from 27/09/2018 to 28/09/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to pave the way for a European process of gathering ideas and empowering young citizens to set the agenda with their ideas in the upcoming European Elections. In this kick-off event, the participants focused on challenges and opportunities of e-participation and digital civic involvement. In light of rising nationalism and loss of confidence in the European institutions, they discussed strategies against fake news, hate speech or bots as well as opportunities to strengthen political transparency and civic participation by using digital tools. The participants agreed on four crucial claims for the whole #EngagEU process: better education on the European Union in schools (e.g. by project weeks) and for adults; on the infrastructural level, net neutrality as a basic principle and safeguarding the quality of news by fact-checking platforms; better inclusion of citizens' demands in regional policy topics by implementing digital tools; better inclusion of young citizens, e.g. by a European Youth Parliament and promotion of the #FreeInterrail initiative. This first gathering of ideas served as basis for following events.

Event 2: #EngagEU Partner and Preparation Meeting, 12/10/2018, Berlin, Germany

Participation: The event involved 14 citizens from France, Germany and Poland.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, on 12/10/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to gather all project partners from France, Germany, Belgium and Poland for a preparation meeting. The partner organizations met in person and familiarized themselves with OPIN and the "Future Search conference" method.

Event 3: #2ndYoungCitizens'FutureLab, 29/11/2018 to 30/11/2018, Otzenhausen/Saarbücken, Germany

Participation: The event involved 81 citizens, including participants from France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Otzenhausen and Saarbrücken, Germany, from 29/11/2018 to 30/11/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to empower young European citizens to develop visions for the future of European Union, especially in the policy fields of migration and security. This was supplemented by the so-called "Vision Night" in Saarbücken, a public forum where elected rapporteurs out of the participants' group presented their visions to a broader audience and discussed them with political scientist Claus Leggewie and the public. During the #2ndYoungCitizens'FutureLab, young Europeans developed claims to decision-makers, e.g. free language courses for European citizens to strengthen understanding and communication within the European Union, widening the scope of the Erasmus programme to new target groups, and establishment of a "European Peacekeeping Force" as a first step towards a European army.

Event 4: #3rdYoungCitizens'FutureLab, 14/01/2019 to 18/01/2019, 25/02/2019, Nice, France

Participation: The event involved 230 citizens from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Romania.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Nice, France, from 14/01/2019 to 18/01/2019 and on 25/02/2019.

Short Description: A group of 25 master students had prepared workshop sessions on the topics migration, environment, foreign policy, gender equality and European identity. Altogether 135 high- and middle school students then took part in the workshops, thinking about their ideas for the future of the European Union in these fields. To disseminate the results of the workshops, the Franco-German Cultural Centre (CCFA) in Nice hosted a public event on 25th February 2019 with distinguished journalists from Germany and Greece and a French judge and former EP candidate to discuss the policy proposals. The #3rdYoungCitizens'FutureLab in and around Nice followed an intergenerational approach and reached out

to the schools of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. At the end of the week, the master students worked to wrap up the results of these school-workshops.

Event 5: Lunch Debate on Youth proposals and the of Civil Society, 28/02/2019, Berlin, Germany

Participation: The event involved 85 citizens, including participants from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, on 28/02/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the role and influence of civil society on European politics in Germany and Italy. Together with Sandro Gozi, President of the Union of European Federalists, and Michael Roth, Member of the Bundestag and Minister of State for Europe in the German Federal Foreign Office, elected rapporteurs from the #EngagEU project discussed questions and proposals for strengthening appreciation for the European Union. Among the proposals discussed were project weeks about the European Union in schools in member states as well as the formation of a civil society council for citizens to exchange with decision-makers.

Event 6: #4thYoungCitizens'FutureLab, 04/03/2019, Warsaw, Poland

Participation: The event involved 117 citizens from Albania, Denmark, France, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and the UK.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 04/03/2019.

Short Description: Together with 5 experts on European politics and especially the East Europe region, young Europeans discussed in workshops future challenges for the European Union after the European elections in May 2019. The debate focused on Poland and Ukraine, as well as European integration in general. Challenges identified by the #EngagEU participants included: strengthening the Common Market; encouraging moderate political parties to better address citizen's concerns; reforming European institutions for better efficiency; better integration of migrants; the EU should act as a guardian of diversity, equality, human rights and free education for men and women. Afterwards, a public debate followed which focused on potential Russian influence on the European elections and states in East Europe. This debate was concluded by stressing the importance of the ideas created by participants of the #EngagEU project for the future of the European Union member states in East Europe.

Event 7: #EngagEU manifesto workshop, 18/03/2019 to 19/03/2019, Berlin, Germany

Participation: The event involved 26 participants from Albania, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, on 18/03/2019 to 19/03/2019.

Short description: Young Europeans participating in the #EngagEU project gathered in Berlin for a Manifesto Workshop. During the workshop, participants split in four working groups (foreign policy, environment, migration, and identity) to devise objectives and policy proposals in those policy areas and then took part in a plenary discussion where they drafted a youth manifesto for the Future of Europe to be presented to decision-makers. The workshop also saw the participation of representatives of the other members of the #EngagEU project, namely the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), the Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) and WiseEuropa.

Event 8: #1stYoungCitizens'Convention with Federal President Steinmeier. 30/04/2019, Berlin

Participation: The event involved 102 citizens from Albania, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Sweden.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, on 30/04/2019.

Short description: At the #1stYoungCitizens'Convention, #EngagEU rapporteurs presented their manifesto "Young Ideas for the Future of Europe" as a result of the four #YoungCitizens'FutureLabs to the public and German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The manifesto identifies a demand for action in four policy fields: first, promoting a common European identity; second, aspiring a global leading role in climate protection policy; third, implementation of a common European integration policy; and fourth, consistent orientation of EU foreign policy on its own values. In his welcome remarks, Federal President Steinmeier addressed the importance of the young participation in decision-making processes on a European level. Additionally, six young candidates for the European Parliament gathered to discuss the "Young Ideas for the Future of Europe" Manifesto in a Fishbowl discussion with the rapporteurs and the public. At the same event, other youth organisations presented their campaigns for the European Parliament's elections at the "EU campaign hub".

Event 9: #2ndYoungCitizens' Convention – Debate with Members of the European Parliament on the Future of Europe, 24/09/2019, Brussels, Belgium

Participation: The event involved 114 citizens, including participants from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 24/09/2019.

Short description: In the framework of the project #EngagEU, TEPSA organized the #2ndYoungCitizens'

Convention – Debate with Members of the European Parliament on the Future of Europe, which took place in Brussels on 24 September 2019. The event saw the participation of Vice-President of the European Parliament Pedro Silva Pereira, who delivered a passionate keynote speech, four Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) as the panelists, several Civil Society Organizations, and over a hundred citizens with an interest in the EU. Funda Tekin, Director of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), opened the event with insightful remarks on the outcome of the 2019 European Parliament elections, and the main features of the project.

The #2ndYoungCitizens' Convention – Debate with Members of the European Parliament on the Future of Europe was moderated by consummate EU Affairs analyst Jacki Davis and made extensive use of the online platform Slido, which was used to create polls in which the members of the audience could vote. The structure of the debate was shaped after four different policy proposals taken from the #EngagEU-Manifesto "Young Ideas for the Future of Europe": One for the topic "European Identity", one for "Environmental Policy", one for "Integration Policy", and one for "Foreign Policy". During the interactive debate, all the participants were instructed to express their level of agreement with the four different policy proposals taken from the #EngagEU-Manifesto "Young Ideas for the Future of Europe" by voting via Slido. After the votes for each of the polls were revealed, the panelists commented on the results and expressed their own preference. Following the debate, a Civic Engagement Hub took place, where several civil society organisations presented their work and how young Europeans can get engaged in civil society.