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European Parliament

EUR'HOPE
for the future

Final report

of an unprecedented participatory engagement campaign for young citizens ahead of the EU elections 2024

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

MAKE.ORG

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1 Executive SUMMARY

Over just more than a year, JEF Europe and Make.org set up the largest citizen engagement campaign ahead of the European elections. With more than **50 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**, EurHope helped to drive young voters to the ballot boxes. This was all built on one single base: the **PRIORITIES OF YOUNG CITIZENS**.

At the heart of EurHope stand the **1.5 MILLION VOTES** that young Europeans from all the 27 EU member states casted during the EurHope consultation. Over summer 2023, JEF and Make.org set up a large-scale engagement campaign that enabled the representative definition of the **AGENDA OF HOPE**: 15 priorities that European Institutions should address in the upcoming mandate in order to live up to young people's expectations. The topics cover all ranges of European policies, from the institutional setup of the EU, climate change, economic and social affairs, the role of Europe in the world, Human rights and migration, health and education, as well as research and innovation.

As outlined in this final report, this would not have been possible without the **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT** of the European Parliament, Dubravka Suica (Vice President of the European Commission), the European Economic and Social Committee and his president Oliver Röpke, as well as the European Committee of the Regions. Jointly, those four European institutions and bodies pushed EurHope to a new level and enabled a successful closure.

This report will provide a **COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW** of the project, breaking it down in the three phases. It displays the consultation methodology, the results, the European political parties' responses as well as the the civil society's reactions.

2 INTRODUCTION

How do you feel about the future? When asked in traditional opinion polls which words best describe their emotional status, Europeans chose uncertainty, frustration, helplessness, anger and fear. Among all those negative emotions, one positive shone through: HOPE.

JEF EurHope and Make.org therefore choose hope, TO PUT BACK HOPE INTO EUROPE: EURHOPE.

1.5 million votes and 5,069 proposals, made on EurHope.org and analysed by Make.org experts, gave us the Agenda of Hope: 15 priorities of young people for Europe's future. This campaign demonstrated that YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE CLEAR AND CONCRETE IDEAS FOR THE EU INSTITUTIONS such as strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy and EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare systems.

EurHope is the story of a coalition that set up to:

LISTEN to young citizens and their concrete ideas to form the Agenda of Hope. The youth coalition of civil society actors also set the concrete path to the realisation of each of the 15 consensual priorities.

ENGAGE with decision makers - ranging from European political parties to candidates and to institutions, the media and the public. Our goal is to put this Agenda and youth's priorities at the center of the European political debate.

VOTE and call to vote - together with young volunteers from JEF from all over Europe who tirelessly engage with the general public. They raise participation and vote for hope, joined by Make.org and the members of the EurHope coalition.

3 About the PROJECT

European society reached a turning point. We face war on the continent, rising inflation, an increasingly obvious climate crisis and the pandemic. The 2024 European elections are crucial.

Our destiny lies in our hands. We need a strong voice to make Europe better - together! A sustainable path for this future can only be taken with young people on board.

Therefore, **JEF Europe and Make.org**, with the support of the European Parliament, launched the unique, non-partisan, massive and participatory initiative "EurHope" in a collaboration with a coalition of more than 50 academics, civil society actors, European regions, cities and transnational institutions. It outlines the future that the European youth jointly envisages and spearhead the mobilisation of young European citizens ahead of the 2024 EU elections.

The first step of this initiative was an online consultation, this document presents its final results and key findings as well as the dissemination and engagement steps.

4 EURHOPE
Voices

"EurHope shows young people have hope for a better Europe and that **HOPE MUST TRANSLATE TO ACTION***, to Union-wide reform, to treaty change."*

CHRISTELLE SAVALL
President of JEF Europe

"Hope is a fighting force to really **STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY***. And that is why, with JEF Europe, we decided to launch the EurHope campaign."*

AXEL DAUCHEZ
President & Co-Founder of Make.org

5 Institutional VOICES

You have proven your ability to reach out to citizens across all the 27 member states in a multilingual digital environment. And not only that: you have surpassed your own ambitions by going beyond 1 Million votes you were determined to have on board of the campaign. I congratulate you on this significant achievement." **Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice President for Democracy and Demography**

We want to hear what young people have to say and what they expressed in the EurHope consultation, that's why we are proud to work with Make and JEF, it's close to my heart and the EESC". ***Oliver Röpke, President of the EESC***

"The greatest risk for Europe is to no longer be loved by Europeans. So congratulations for this initiative, which creates an unprecedented dialogue between young citizens all over Europe." **Olivier Véran, former Spokesperson of the French Government, Minister Delegate for Democratic Renewal**

6 The campaign COALITION

The EurHope initiative was designed to combine the transnational volunteer activism of JEF with the innovative digital engagement tools of Make.org. Over the course of one year, both organisations have been tirelessly busy on many workstreams to ensure the initiative's success.

Project Initiators

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

MAKE. ORG

Make.org's teams have been instrumental in launching and conducting the consultation in 27 EU countries, analysing and promoting the Agenda of Hope, and boosting engagement ahead of the EU elections. JEF Europe showcased the significant impact of youth organisations, coordinating actions that involved civil society, EU institutions, and young citizens across Europe. They mobilized a network of over 10,000 activists in 250 sections across 37 countries.

Yet, an initiative as wide and impactful as EurHope would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of a strong coalition beyond the project initiators. EurHope has gathered more than 50 partners including institutions at all levels, academics, private organisations, media outlets, and civil society organisations. Their ambitious commitment to put forward youth priorities ahead of the European elections has strongly contributed to the success of the initiative.

Therefore, we extend our sincere gratitude to our European institutional partners, including the European Parliament for their ongoing support since the project's inception, as well as European Commission Vice President Dubravka Suica for her patronage. We deeply appreciate the support of the European Economic and Social Committee, especially under the leadership of its President, Oliver Röpke and his team, as well as the European Committee of the Regions. We are equally grateful for the support of our national, regional and local institutional partners.

European institutions

European Parliament

Commission européenne

European Economic and Social Committee

European Committee of the Regions

European Citizens' Initiative

Network partner

CIVICO europa

Finally, we extend our gratitude to Civico Europa, whose work was pivotal in the publication of the 9 May 2023 EurHope Op-Ed in media outlets all over Europe (15 outlets in 12 member states and on EU level).

Institutional

toulouse métropole

VILLE DE PARIS

MÉTROPOLE NICE CÔTE D'AZUR

bpb: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung

RÉGION Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Academic

1290 INSTITVTO · IVRIDICO FACULDADE DE DIREITO UNIVERSIDADE Đ COIMBRA

Corporate

ACCOR

UNIBAIL RODAMCO WESTFIELD

Cityz MEDIA

Caisse des Dépôts GROUPE

media transports
Pour une publicité utile

Media

EURACTIV FRANCE

EURACTIV DEUTSCHLAND

arte

france inter

ouest france

Our corporate partners have also played a pivotal role in contributing to the initiative's success. Our media partners have been instrumental in amplifying the voice of EurHope, and we are immensely grateful for their support. On top of that, we extend our heartfelt deep appreciation to our civil society partners, whose actions and commitment have been invaluable. Through communication efforts, event organisation, advocacy, all of our partners, have played a crucial role in making the EurHope initiative a success, fostering unprecedented dialogue among young people and ensuring that youth priorities are heard ahead of the European elections.

Civil Society

Mouvement IMPACT FRANCE

SITRA

PDCS

LOTA'S BOX

DYPALL DEVELOPING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

THE good LOBBY

SOGA ACCÉLÉRER L'ESS NUMÉRIQUE

GroupeSOS Entreprendre au profit de tous

BertelsmannStiftung

oxygono. learn more together

ESN Erasmus Student Network

EUROPE ELECTS

alda European Association for Local Democracy

Mladi u EU MORUGA MLADIH

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SVERIGE SWEDEN

EEB European Environmental Bureau

Assoċjazzjoni Kunsilli Lokali Local Councils' Association Malta

The Bronislaw Geremek Foundation

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

I SUPPORT UKRAINE

CENTRO STUDI SUL FEDERALISMO

IAI Istituto Affari Internazionali

CITIZENS FOR EUROPE

A VOTÉ a-vote.org

OFAJ DFJW

ALLIANZ FOUNDATION

décider ENSEMBLE

European Capital of Democracy

Generation Climate Europe

debating europe

PULSE of EUROPE

Evens Foundation

ACTE ASSOCIATION CIVIC TECH EUROPE

ESU EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION

European Cultural Foundation
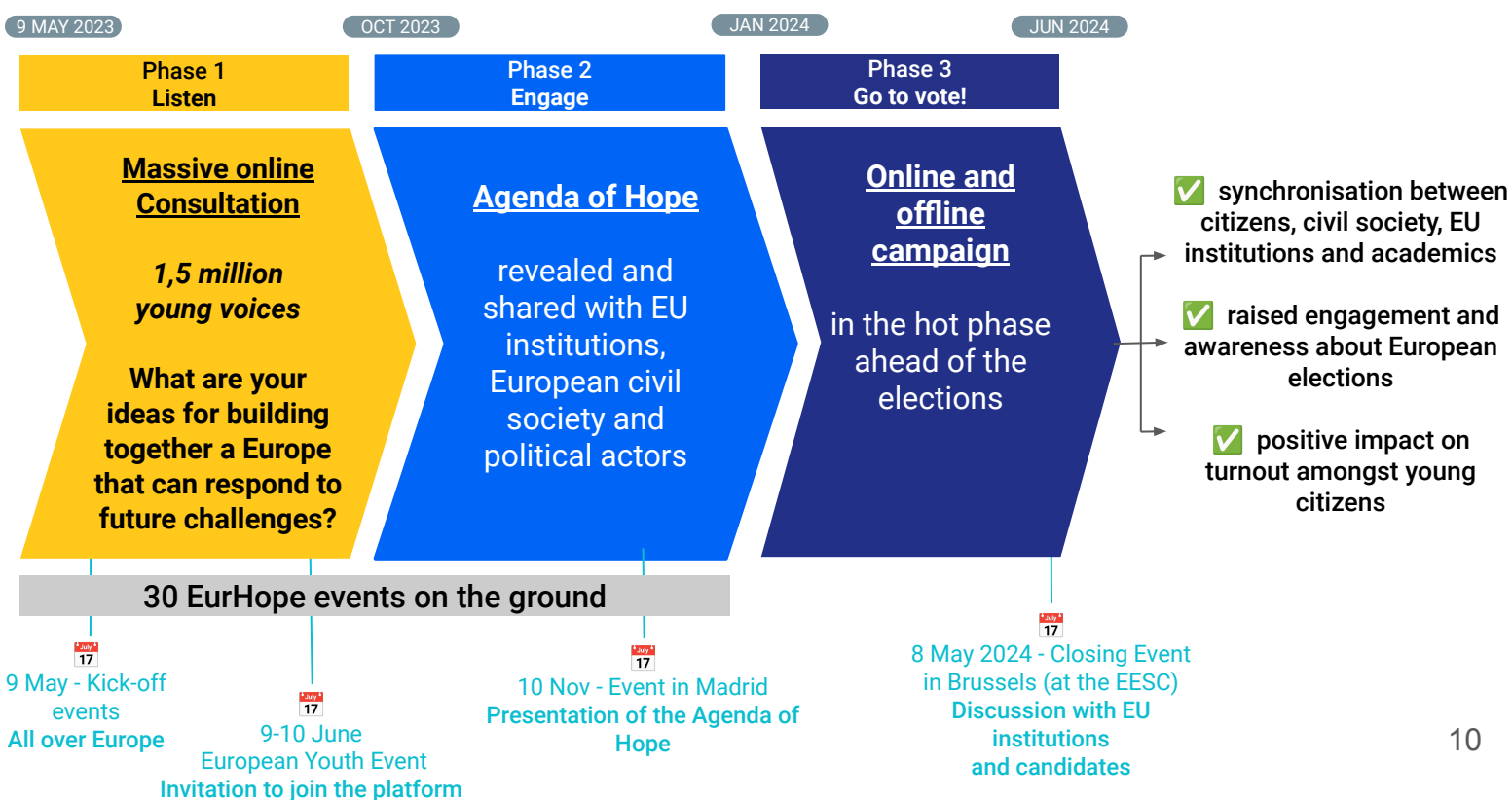
Culture of Solidarity Fund

VOICIFY

7 LOOKING BACK on EurHope

We launched EurHope on **9 MAY 2023 IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG** and in many different places all over Europe. In its first phase, the campaign gathered more than 1.5 million votes from across the European Union and more than 5.000 proposals were submitted to the multilingual online Make.org platform available in all member states in 22 languages.

The proposals emerging from this first phase have shaped the drafting of an **AGENDA OF HOPE**, shared with European institutions and political actors. The Agenda of Hope aimed to put young citizens' priorities in the centre of the public debate ahead of the European elections.

We concluded the campaign with a **LARGE-SCALE EVENT IN BRUSSELS**, hosted by the The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), on **8 MAY 2024** where we presented the results and reflected on learnings of the campaign. The event brought together our partners, young candidates for the European elections and more than 100 young people from across the EU who attended the event to discuss and further elaborate the topics of the Agenda of Hope.

9 MAY 2023	OCT 2023	JAN 2024	JUN 2024

Phase 1 Listen

Massive online Consultation

1,5 million young voices

What are your ideas for building together a Europe that can respond to future challenges?

Phase 2 Engage

Agenda of Hope

revealed and shared with EU institutions, European civil society and political actors

Phase 3 Go to vote!

Online and offline campaign

in the hot phase ahead of the elections

✅ **synchronisation between citizens, civil society, EU institutions and academics**

✅ **raised engagement and awareness about European elections**

✅ **positive impact on turnout amongst young citizens**

30 EurHope events on the ground

9 May - Kick-off events
All over Europe

9-10 June
European Youth Event
Invitation to join the platform

10 Nov - Event in Madrid
Presentation of the Agenda of Hope

8 May 2024 - Closing Event in Brussels (at the EESC)
Discussion with EU institutions and candidates

Looking back on Phase 1

9 MAY 2023

Phase 1 of EurHope kicked off on May 9, 2023, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and decentralised in many European cities. Axel Dauchez, Co-Founder & President of Make.org, and Antonio Argenziano, President of JEF Europe until November 2023, spearheaded the launch event, inviting MEPs from three distinct political groups to officially inaugurate the EurHope consultation. Following the launch, **the consultation went live, welcoming contributions from young Europeans in 22 languages** to ensure broad accessibility and inclusivity.

9 MAY 2023

On the launch day of EurHope, we published the **Op-Ed "To keep Europe's future in our hands, we need the Revolution of Hope"** in 15 different media outlets all over Europe (12 national media and more European outlets).

9 & 10 JUNE 2023

EurHope made its presence felt at the European Youth Event 2023 in Strasbourg, represented by JEF and Make.org. Attendees were encouraged to join the consultation either online, at the JEF stand, or during various discussions organised by JEF.

26 & 27 JUNE 2023

We also participated in in the 2023 EuroPCom conference by the European institutions, providing the angle between young people in politics.

The first phase concluded on 30 September 2023, with the closure of the online participation platform. Ultimately, the consultation united 1.5 million votes on over 5000 proposals, culminating in the definition of the "Agenda of Hope": 15 statistically representative priorities derived from the shared priorities of young Europeans on the platform.

30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Looking back on Phase 2

7 NOVEMBER 2023

EurHope joined the World Forum for Democracy 2023 of the Council of Europe. Antonio Argenziano and Alexis Prokopiev demonstrated how the campaign engaged young citizens on a massive scale and how the results were retrieved.

On November 10, at the heart of Madrid, the Círculo de Bellas Artes set the stage for the exciting **unveiling of the Agenda of Hope** and the EurHope consultation results. Surrounded by partners of the initiative, high-level speakers and hundreds of young Europeans, we delved into the pressing priorities of youth highlighted by the consultation. These results then ignited a spirited debate between civil society and political representatives, among whom were Guy Verhofstadt, (MEP); Agata Meysner (President of Generation Climate Europe); Clara Panella Gómez (Lead candidate for Volt Spain in the 2024 European elections); and Elias Dray (Vice-President of the European Youth Forum).

10 NOVEMBER 2023

Looking back on Phase 3

1 FEBRUARY 2024

JEF Europe & Make.org were invited to present EurHope at the Business for Better Tomorrow event organised by Mouvement Impact France.
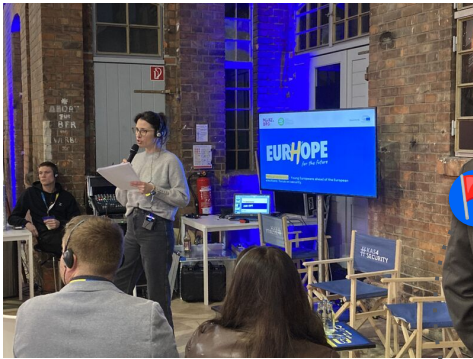
19 FEBRUARY 2024

EurHope was presented during the "Young Europeans ahead of the European elections: focus on security" panel during the second edition of the Cafe Kyiv in Berlin.

4-7 MARCH 2024

EurHope was invited to participate in the EESC's 2024 Civil Society Week. Sharing our experience with citizens and other civil society organisations, we showcased the transformative power of youth activation for shaping the future of Europe.

18-19 MARCH 2024

During the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Mons, the first version of the EurHope.org platform was showcased for the first time.

18 MARCH 2024

EurHope was at the heart of the EU&U Dialogue on "Defining Youth Priorities for the European Elections".

20 MARCH 2024

Make.org and JEF Europe were honoured to present the EurHope initiative during the Plenary session of the EESC.

2 APRIL 2024

During an event gathering young French and Germany young people, Make.org presented the priorities of the Agenda of Hope.
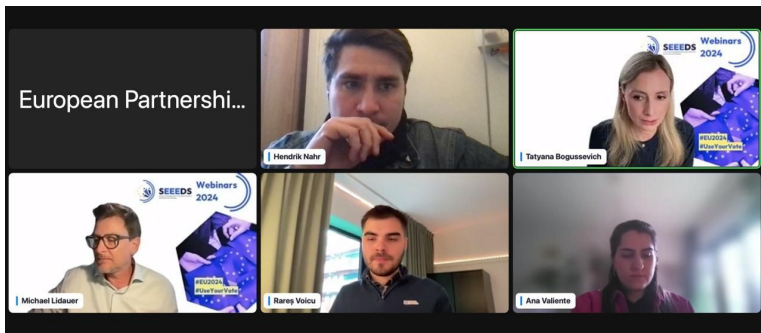
16 APRIL 2024

We joined the SEEEDS webinar on youth participation organised by the European Partnership for Democracy & Election-Watch.EU

29 APRIL 2024

During the 2024 Maastricht Debate between lead candidates, Christelle Savall, President of JEF Europe, got a chance to present EurHope and ask a question based on the Agenda of Hope.

Looking back on Phase 3

08 MAY 2024

The **eurhope.org result platform was launched**, featuring the responses of European political parties to the Agenda of Hope and the contribution of civil society.

7 young candidates to the EU Elections engaged in an enlightening debate on the priorities of the Agenda of Hope

Young citizens formed small working groups each focusing on a dimension of the Agenda of Hope. Their goal: to formulate policy proposals in answer to one or several priorities of the Agenda.

We brought together over a hundred bright young minds from every corner of Europe, united in a collective effort to shape the future of Europe.

23 MAY 2024

The EurHope team joined the 2024 Eurovision Debate in the European Parliament, featuring five Lead candidates of European political parties: Ursula Von der Leyen, Nicolas Schmit, Terry Reintke, Sandro Gozi & Walter Baier.

15

Looking back on Phase 3

25 MAY 2024

JEF Germany organised an EurHope escape game in Frankfurt, with a discussion space and meet-up with candidates.

30 MAY 2024

JEF Finland organised a EurHope election and expert panel centered around youth priorities for the future of the EU.

1-2 JUNE 2024

Sections of JEF Europe organised stickering, flyer distribution, and civic education activities to get citizens to the poll during our weekend for EurHope.

10 MAY – 6 JUNE 2024

JEF France organised a EurHope tour with 15 stops with street actions, civic education and conferences..

MAY – JUNE 2024

EurHope shopping center poster campaign in many languages and EU member states by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield.

6-9 JUNE 2024

European elections in all 27 Member states

8 The EurHope CONSULTATION

THE RESULTS IN 3 STEPS

1 **EURHOPE**
in numbers

👉 PAGE 18

2 **DEEP DIVE into the**

AGENDA of HOPE

+ ⚡ **Divisive Ideas**

👉 PAGE 19

3 **MAIN TOPICS**
of the consultation

👉 PAGE 98

1 | EURHOPE in numbers

Our Approach:
Diverse & massive participation

EurHope sparked an **unprecedented dialogue** among young citizens in the **27 member states** of the EU, ahead of the 2024 European elections.

We reached out to EU youth in all its diversity.

With our unique outreach methodology, we ensured to also include voices from minority demographics in our massive offline and online outreach campaigns.

🗳️ **Votes:** **1.500.330**

💡 **Proposals:** **5.069**

🚩 located in 27 EU member states

👄 in 22 languages

⏳ from 15 to 35 years old

🧑 of all genders

🎓 with every education background

The massive consultation united over 1.5 million voices

The unprecedented character of the EurHope initiative mainly stems from the **massive activation of young people** throughout the consultation process. Over the course of five months, JEF Europe, Make.org and the project coalition have been leading an **extensive outreach campaign**. It was based on JEF's wide network of sections across Europe, combined with an online campaign led on social media platform. The campaign was designed to ensure that the consultation would reach young people from diverse background, origins, genders and age groups.

2

DEEP DIVE
into the Agenda of Hope

AGENDA of HOPE
for the future

➔ **15 POPULAR IDEAS**

➔ **Consensus** amongst young Europeans based on their votes

➔ Statistically representative

Based on that, we established the…

The EurHope consultation aimed to develop an agenda of the most pressing issues for young people. Rather than emphasising disagreements and conflicts, our approach prioritises **consensus to underscore the ideas that resonate with the majority of young people**. The resulting agenda intends to serve as a valuable resource for policymakers at both European and national levels.

and also identified…

On top of establishing the Agenda of Hope, identifying **divisive ideas** is another important aspect of the consultation process. It sheds light on issues where young people hold differing perspectives. Understanding these points of disagreement provides valuable insights into the diverse viewpoints within the youth demographic, enabling policymakers to address contentious issues more effectively.

➔ **12 DIVISIVE IDEAS**

➔ Based on **division** amongst young Europeans in light of their votes

➔ Statistically representative
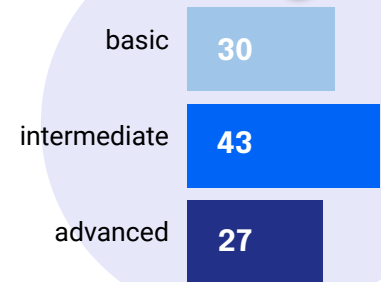
19

The AGENDA OF HOPE speaks for all EU youth

We secured representative results by mirroring the composition of European Youth (age 15-34), based on Eurostat data (2022). This data reflects four (📌) factors.

In the context of the EurHope consultation, it was necessary to establish results that actually speak loudly for many young Europeans - not only a few. Therefore, representativeness of the Agenda of Hope was key. Therefore, we first had to consider who are young Europeans that must be represented.
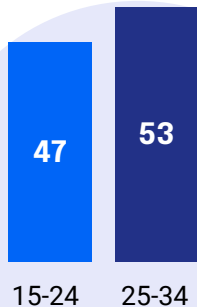
⚙️ Method Info

Thanks to the 2022 Eurostat data, we were able to define our target demographic more accurately. In that context, we identified four key factors which provided the basis of statistical representativeness of the Agenda of Hope: Age, Education, Gender and Location.

Education 📌

basic	30
intermediate	43
advanced	27

Gender 📌

female	male
49	51

Age 📌

15-24	25-34
47	53

Location 📌

proportional representation according to sizes of young populations
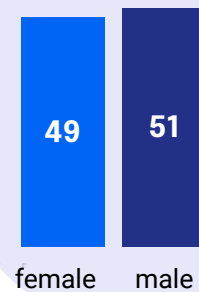
DE
FR
IT
PL
ES
PL
NL
RO
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SE
CZ
PT
GR
HU
AT
DK
BG
FI
SK
IE
HR
LT
SI
LT
EE
CY
LU
MT

How we **identified** the **AGENDA OF HOPE**

Clearly, a main challenge was the identification of a few most important agenda points, on the basis of thousands of proposals and millions of votes. Therefore, the EurHope data team applied the standing Make.org methodology to get from 5.096 submitted proposals to 15 priorities in the Agenda of Hope.

5 069 SUBMITTED PROPOSALS
*Before being published, proposals submitted by citizens had to be **validated** by the moderators of Make.org, in accordance with the law and our **moderation guidelines**.*

1.

4 313 VALIDATED PROPOSALS

2

100%

We identified the
consensus zone.
Proposals with
over **60% of votes in favour**.

3

most popular proposals
have more than **65% of votes in favour** and a significantly **high number of votes**.

4

463

5

HOPE

Qualitative clustering established
15 popular ideas, the **AGENDA OF HOPE.**

45%

We also identified the
division zone.
Proposals with
60% – 30% of votes in favour
and **55% – 15% of votes against**

most divisive proposals
60% - 30% of votes in **favour**
and **55% - 25%** of votes **against**

397

Qualitative clustering established
12 divisive ideas.

49%

3%   **rejected proposals**
received a majority of
votes against

3%   **neutral proposals**
received a majority
of neutral votes

Method Info

The basis of this methodology are the 4.313 validated proposal that passed the moderation guidelines check. Then, the votes play a crucial role: proposals with more than 60% approval entered the consensus zone, those with 65% approval become the most popular and part of the Agenda of hope.

How we ensured representativeness of the AGENDA OF HOPE

1.5+ million voices

1
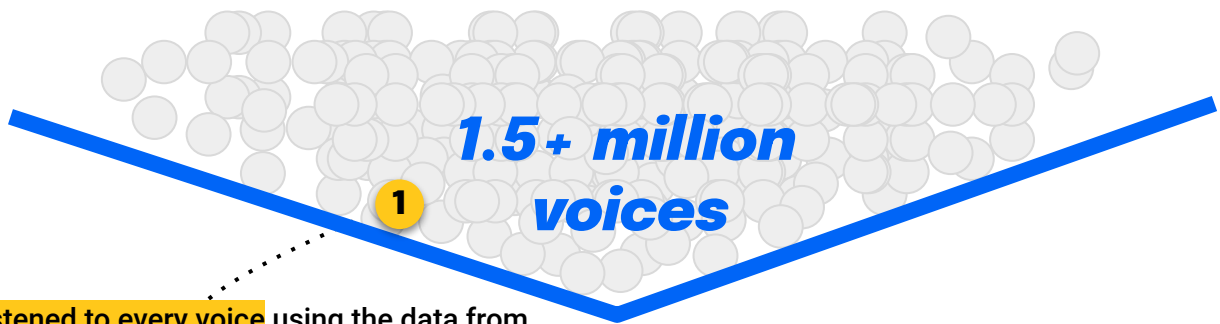
We listened to every voice using the data from the massive online consultation.

2

Thanks to our robust statistical model that addresses any data imbalance...

3

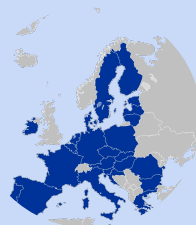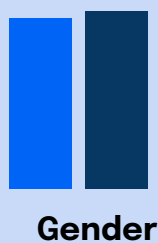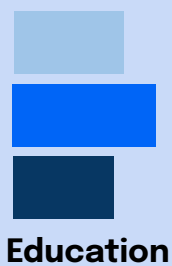...we established the AGENDA OF HOPE, representative of aspirations of the European youth...

...accounting precisely for the distribution of demographics of the European youth.

4

AGENDA of HOPE

Education

Gender

Country

Age

Mirroring Eurostat data (2022)

9 the AGENDA of HOPE

Democracy & EU institutions

1 Reinforcing transparency and ethical conduct of elected officials
2 Strengthening the efficiency of European justice systems
3 Increasing citizen participation and their understanding of the EU

Climate change and environment

4 Developing more efficient and accessible rail transport
5 Strengthening sustainable European industries and recycling
6 Promoting innovation in European agriculture and sustainable farming
7 Increasing the protection of biodiversity within the EU and beyond
8 Accelerating the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions

Economy, social justice and employment

9 Promoting easier access to employment, especially for the youth
10 Encouraging "Made in Europe"

EU in the world

11 Strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy

Health and education

12 Enhancing measures at the European level to improve and coordinate education
13 Strengthening EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare systems

Human rights and migration

14 Creating a more efficient European legal framework for immigration

Research and innovation

15 Supporting research, innovation and technology in Europe

These ideas gathered over 65% votes in favour

⚡ Divisive ideas

🏛 Democracy & EU institutions

1 Moving towards a federal Europe
2 Favouring a Europe where national governments hold more power and the EU has less control
3 Strengthening the powers and competences of the EU

🌱 Climate change and environment

4 Empowering the EU to lead the ecological transition
5 Limiting air transportation

⚙ Economy, social justice and employment

6 Introducing a tax system that better corrects inequalities
7 Building a more social Europe

🌍 EU in the world

8 Establishing a European army
9 Increasing the EU's support to Ukraine

⚖ Human rights and migration

10 Substantially reforming the EU's global migration policy
11 Guaranteeing LGBTQIA+ and reproductive rights at EU level
12 Promoting Christian and religious values

These ideas gathered on average over 45% of votes in favour and over of 40% of votes against
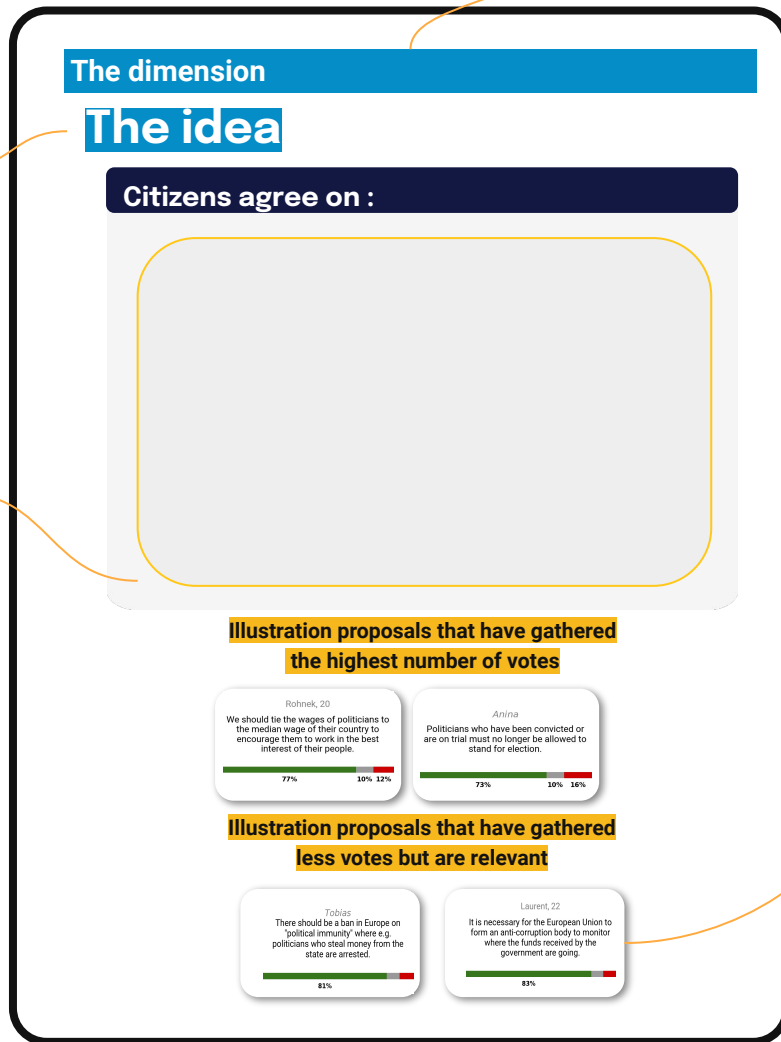
How to read the results ?

🧭 **Method Info**

The structure outlined below details the presentation of the results in this report. It is designed to help the reader's understanding of the analytical framework and methodology.
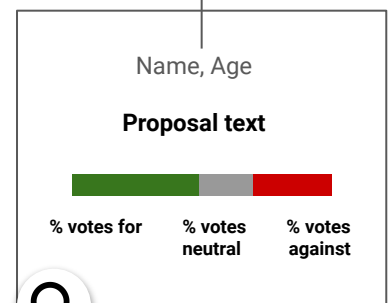
The ideas are grouped under umbrella **dimensions**

A sentence that encapsulates the essence of the different proposals that constitute the idea

The dimension

The idea

Citizens agree on :

Participants were invited to indicate their age, but it was not obligatory

The in-depth analysis of the idea based on the proposals and the vote patterns.

Name, Age

Proposal text

% votes for   **% votes neutral**   **% votes against**

Illustration proposals that have gathered the highest number of votes

Rohnek, 20
We should tie the wages of politicians to the median wage of their country to encourage them to work in the best interest of their people.
77%   10% 12%

Anina
Politicians who have been convicted or are on trial must no longer be allowed to stand for election.
73%   10% 16%

Illustration proposals that have gathered less votes but are relevant

Tobias
There should be a ban in Europe on "political immunity" where e.g. politicians who steal money from the state are arrested.
81%

Laurent, 22
It is necessary for the European Union to form an anti-corruption body to monitor where the funds received by the government are going.
83%

For each idea

Youth coalitions' response

JEF Europe formed a coalition with European civil society organisations to respond to young Europeans' priorities and provide a path to their realisation.

European political parties' response

All European political parties with 10 or more members in the European Parliament (in February 2024) were invited to provide their responses to the Agenda of Hope.

DEMOCRACY & EU INSTITUTIONS

Popular ideas — AGENDA of HOPE for the future

1 Reinforcing transparency and ethical conduct of elected
2 officials
3 Strengthening the efficiency of European justice systems
   Increasing citizen participation and their understanding of
   the EU

Divisive ideas

1 Moving towards a federal Europe
2 Favouring a Europe where national governments hold more
   power and the EU has less control
3 Strengthening the powers and competences of the EU

Partners' position

"

In Europe, where youth is often seen as less eager to engage in European debates and where there's concern about high abstention rates among young people in European elections, the results of the EurHope initiative might come as a surprise.

European Youth has proved to be massively engaged in the debate and participants from all over Europe from diverse backgrounds have shared their proposals on how the European Union should move forward.

This is most interesting to observe when it comes to the category of *Democracy and EU Institutions*, topics that are often qualified as "complicated" or "obscure". Participants, however, have not shied away from crucial issues concerning EU governance and citizen representation. On the contrary, the largest share of validated proposals is of an institutional nature.

This is also the first of three key takeaways that the results teach us:

Institutional debates are important for young Europeans and they want to have a say in them.

Complex issues such as federalism, subsidiarity, and efficiency were put on the table, and discussed, ideas were approved, and sometimes rejected. Even though participants were divided on a certain number of issues, there is consensus on the fact that the European Union needs to be effective, responsive, and bring about concrete results. This echoes Robert Schuman's declaration in which he famously stated "*Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.*"

Expectations are high in that regard and this is equally true for the topics of rule of law and democratic representation, which leads us to the second key takeaway:

European youth expects that the European values as inscribed in article 2, Treaty on the European Union be respected and put into practice.

A well-functioning EU democracy which is representative and in which the judicial system works effectively and independently to respond to challenges such as criminal matters, the protection of human rights, and corruption forms the core of young Europeans' concerns for the future.
Participants have high expectations and faith in European values, but they prove to be very critical observers of EU actions.

This is, finally, the third key takeaway of this survey:

Young EU citizens want to be part of the discussions and want to have a real say, but they also demand to be better informed about the European Union, its functioning, and its policies.

A real effort, therefore, has to be made in taking young European voices seriously and in providing the information they need so that they can form fact-based opinions. This should be achieved on the platforms on which they are active, mostly online.

These key observations teach us that young Europeans are ready to join the conversation. Conducting the initiative in all official European languages likely contributed to its significant success. This lesson should be considered when discussing institutional and democracy-related issues at EU level: when EU citizens are addressed in their own language and given the opportunity to express their views, they are more likely to participate actively and, as a result, have a genuine chance to shape the future of the European Union.

Partners' position

Bertelsmann**Stiftung**

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European youth demands institutional reforms for more democracy in the EU.

In these dramatic times, young Europeans speak with one voice: for the EU to successfully confront the current 'polycrisis' it needs to reform. Democracy and EU institutions should be the center of reform effort in the future. The EU needs more citizen participation, greater transparency and more efficient institutions. These are the core findings of the unique Europe-wide participative initiative EurHope, supported by the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

2019 – 2024: The Conference on the Future of Europe and the new push for EU democracy.

The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen started her term with a call for a new push for European democracy with a number of concrete actions following suit. Building on the experience of European Citizens Dialogues, in 2021 the European Commission launched the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE). For the first time, European Citizens Panels were set up. Randomly selected citizens voiced their views on the future of the EU and called for a comprehensive EU reform and Treaty change. As a follow-up to the CoFE, the Commission launched a new citizen participation instrument – the European Citizens' Panels on the key legislative proposals.

The partners' position continues on the next page

Furthermore, the establishment of the Competence Center on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy aimed to equip policymakers and administrators with knowledge and increase awareness of citizen participation. The launch of the online multilingual European Citizens Engagement Platform provided a platform for citizens to contribute to critical European policy discussions. In 2022 the European Parliament issued a Resolution calling for a European Convention for the change of the EU Treaties, followed by a special report in 2023 on the comprehensive reform of the EU decision-making, institutions and democracy. These efforts have created a visible momentum for the EU reform.

Further reform: lacking political commitment.

The reform process, however, faces serious challenges. The Council of the EU has shown reluctance in responding to CoFE citizen demands, initiatives of the European Commission and the reform proposals prepared by the European Parliament. Participatory instruments are underutilized: the European Citizens Panels are organized on topics of little political significance, one and only successful European Citizens' Initiative is not implemented. Despite rhetoric promoting citizen participation, there's a gap in political commitment. Additionally, a study by the Bertelsmann Stiftung reveals that European citizens barely know about participation opportunities available to them and use them even more rarely. Achieving EU reform with greater citizen participation and more efficient institutions seems unlikely in this context.

New EU reform agenda needs stronger political will and courage.

In order to implement the demands of young Europeans, European democracy needs a renewed and stronger push in the forthcoming legislative period of 2024-2029. EU democratic and institutional framework require substantial enhancement, with citizen participation emerging as an effective catalyst and tool for that. The EU should improve existing and develop and implement novel, more innovative, and more ambitious participatory instruments (participatory infrastructure) based on joint inter-institutional endorsement and adequate financial support from the EU budget. Citizens need to be involved at critical moments of defining EU strategic priorities, transformative projects, preparing for future enlargement and adapting EU institutional system for the challenges of 21st century. The EU leaders should involve Europeans more systematically, timely and effectively. This necessitates a resolute and clear political will, unwavering commitment, strategic foresight and courage from EU leaders and policymakers.

Anna Renkamp and Andrey Demidov, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Dimension: Democracy & EU institutions

1 Reinforcing transparency and ethical conduct of elected officials
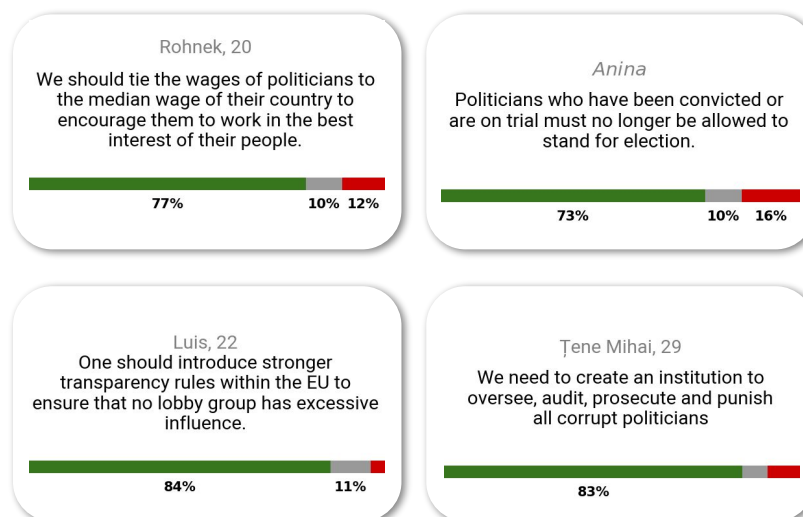
Citizens agree on :

Bolstering transparency and accountability in EU governance and increasing integrity, as well as responsiveness in EU politics.

Citizens envisage **stricter transparency regulations to temper influence by organised interest groups**. Participants advocate for more limitation on lobbying activities and for the setup of more efficient **institutions to tackle corruption.**
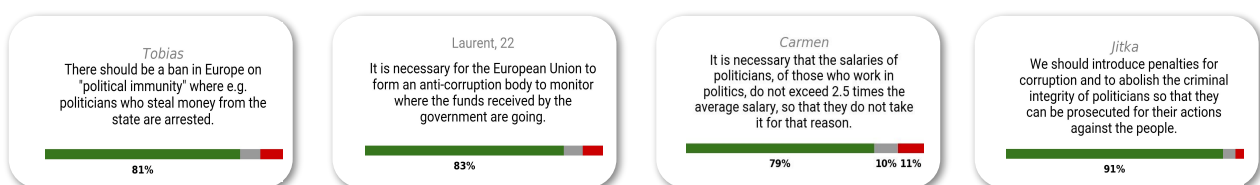
The proposals draw ideas on improving political integrity and accountability by ensuring that individuals with **legal verdicts do not hold public offices**. Besides, legal immunity of representatives is also discussed, with the goal to reduce the risk of **unethical behavior** and **misconduct in politics.**

There is consensus on the idea of **linking the income of political actors to the median income of their constituency**. Participants highlight their **perception that politicians are overpaid** and should share **the same financial responsibilities** as any other citizen.

Main popular proposals

Rohnek, 20

We should tie the wages of politicians to the median wage of their country to encourage them to work in the best interest of their people.

77%   10% 12%

Anina

Politicians who have been convicted or are on trial must no longer be allowed to stand for election.

73%   10% 16%

Luis, 22
One should introduce stronger transparency rules within the EU to ensure that no lobby group has excessive influence.

84%   11%

Țene Mihai, 29

We need to create an institution to oversee, audit, prosecute and punish all corrupt politicians

83%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Tobias
There should be a ban in Europe on "political immunity" where e.g. politicians who steal money from the state are arrested.

81%

Laurent, 22

It is necessary for the European Union to form an anti-corruption body to monitor where the funds received by the government are going.

83%

Carmen
It is necessary that the salaries of politicians, of those who work in politics, do not exceed 2.5 times the average salary, so that they do not take it for that reason.

79%   10% 11%

Jitka
We should introduce penalties for corruption and to abolish the criminal integrity of politicians so that they can be prosecuted for their actions against the people.

91%

31

Popular idea

1 Reinforcing transparency and ethical conduct of elected officials

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS   THE *good* LOBBY

Although the EU ethics system is one of the most advanced among OECD* countries (and above the average EU member state), the lack of ethical behaviour adopted by national or EU officials remains. One recent example is the Qatargate scandal, revealing allegations of influence-buying involving Qatar and Morocco in the European Parliament. Frequent cases of revolving doors, at all levels, - where public and elected officials join the private sector and vice-versa - serve as a reminder that EU ethics rules are unfit for purpose. It is necessary to tackle corruption within the EU and improve ethical standards throughout institutions.

A common European solution

Citizens see a need for **stricter rules on transparency, conflicts of interest and revolving doors**. Instances of these forms of soft corruption often do not breach EU rules. The EU's ethics code should be strengthened throughout institutions and we should ensure it is applied evenly. Amendments to EU Civil Servants Staff Regulations and Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) would establish stricter rules against revolving doors, second jobs, and conflicts of interest.

Interest groups and companies routinely fail to report the true extent of their EU lobbying activities, which citizens want to limit. **The Transparency Register should be comprehensive and cover all EU officials and be made fully binding** through a Regulation, not just an interinstitutional agreement. A failure to comply should lead to sanctions. Officials and lawmakers from the institutions should only accept meetings with registered lobbyists and these meetings published in a public centralised database, together with meetings with officials from Permanent Representations.

Citizens see that the EU would benefit from a **single independent EU Ethics Body with the capacity to enforce decisions** and ensure common minimum ethical standards to all institutions. As foreseen in President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines, the Commission proposed the establishment of a Common Ethics Body in 2023. The proposal was criticised by the Parliament, who viewed it as unambitious. Yet the suggestions made by MEPs would not provide it with sufficient sanctioning powers which remain split under the domain of the respective institutions, European Public Prosecutor's Office and the European Anti-Fraud Office. An interinstitutional agreement between the Commission, Parliament and Council could be gradually expanded to all other EU institutions, agencies, and bodies.

*Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Popular idea

1 Reinforcing transparency and ethical conduct of elected officials

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

Transparency, accountability, and integrity are fundamental principles of democracy. We have zero tolerance for corruption, which threatens democracy and undermines public trust. Through the EU Ethics Body and its strengthened Transparency Register more transparency in lobby efforts must be ensured across EU institutions. The powers of both the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the future European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) must be strengthened to increase accountability and trust.

alde PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

ALDE Party fights corruption through reforms to earn citizens' trust. We want to build a space where politicians connect with citizens, create fair, efficient, and transparent institutions, and hold accountable those that breach the rule of law. We advocate for anti-corruption policies, reinforcement of national anti-corruption agencies and a functioning European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), ensuring national cooperation and adherence to recommendations.

European Greens

European Greens stand for increased transparency & accountability of decision-makers. We want a more democratic EU, with a strong role of the European Parliament (EP) as directly elected body by its citizens. In and outside of the EP, we Greens have been fighting for the creation of an EU ethics body. And our Group in the EP has given itself additional rules on top of the general rules of procedure of the EP to ensure transparency and ethical conduct.

European LEFT

The Party of the European Left considers the transparency of democratic institutions to be a major element in the development of quality democracy. Transparency must be applied in all areas of politics, but it must also involve the private sector. In this sense, public administrations, the different branches of government and the different political spheres must be transparent in their management and always be open to public scrutiny.

Parti Démocrate Européen PDE EDP European Democratic Party

We want to ensure transparency in the funding of political parties and election campaigns and ban international interference, as well as encouraging citizen participation to guarantee greater transparency. On 9 April 2024, our Secretary General went to the European Commission to sign the "Code of Conduct for the 2024 European Parliament elections" to guarantee the ethical conduct of our elected representatives.

European Free Alliance

EFA is a strong supporter of transparency, ethics and accountability in politics. We call for an obligatory code of conduct for EU officials, and we support calls for an ethics body that can enforce it. We also want to see protection for whistleblowers so that nobody is punished for calling out unethical practices. We believe cleaner, more open politics is essential for public trust and democracy.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

2 # Strengthening the efficiency of European justice systems
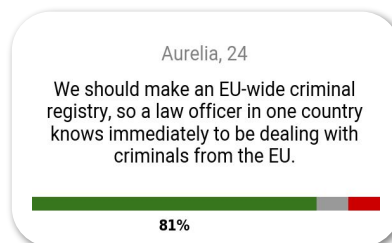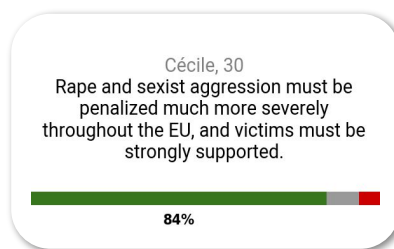
Popular idea

Citizens agree on :

Strengthening the legal framework for **protecting individuals, especially children**, from various forms of violence.

The proposals put forward the need for **stricter measures** to combat crimes against children, including **increasing penalties** for child abuse. There is a significant emphasis on the need **to raise penalties for offenses related to rape and sexist assaults across the EU.**
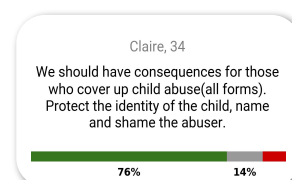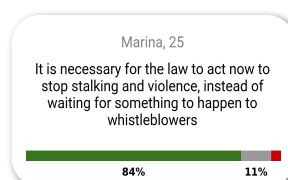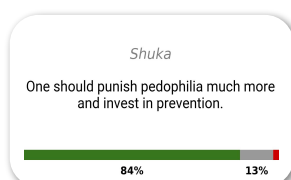
Additionally, there is a strong commitment to **providing comprehensive support for the victims** of such crimes, ensuring their well-being and recovery are prioritised. **Participants also suggest speeding up procedures and judicial intervention in the field**.

Main popular proposals

Cécile, 30
Rape and sexist aggression must be penalized much more severely throughout the EU, and victims must be strongly supported.

84%

Mitta
We should triple penalties for child trafficking, paedophilia and child abuse from a minimum of 20 years in prison. Children are the future

82%   **10%**

Aurelia, 24
We should make an EU-wide criminal registry, so a law officer in one country knows immediately to be dealing with criminals from the EU.

81%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Shuka
One should punish pedophilia much more and invest in prevention.

84%   **13%**

Marina, 25
It is necessary for the law to act now to stop stalking and violence, instead of waiting for something to happen to whistleblowers

84%   **11%**

Claire, 34
We should have consequences for those who cover up child abuse(all forms). Protect the identity of the child, name and shame the abuser.

76%   **14%**

Popular idea

2 Strengthening the efficiency of European justice systems

Youth coalitions' response *by* YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

European societies are built on principles of democracy, rule of law and protection of human and fundamental rights. We see security and justice as cornerstones of our societies. The trust in the judicial system and fair proceedings combined with prevention of crimes are all pillars of a just and safe society. If crime does not respect national borders, why should prevention of crime be confined to them? Criminal justice and prevention of crimes largely fall into the competence of the Member States. Lack of resources and competence at the EU level and national political interests can weaken action against cross-border crime when Member States choose to stay outside of cooperation.

A common European solution

Young people want to see strengthened and more efficient European justice systems. To do so, the EU needs to have well-resourced agencies for judicial cooperation and law enforcement, such as the European Public Prosecutor Office, Europol, and Eurojust, with the necessary competences to ensure that these structures have the capability to facilitate investigation and prosecution for crimes everywhere in the Union. **Participation in and cooperation with European level agencies within the justice and law enforcement areas should be mandatory to all Member States**. These agencies are fully tied to national authorities such as courts and police forces.

Young people also want Europe to take action to protect individuals from violence, support and protect victims of crimes, and prevent and prosecute crime. More effective prevention and prosecution of crime on the European level requires **the European level to have broader criminal law competence, shared with the Member States, to the extent necessary to make possible the use of regulations instead of directives**. This requires amending the treaties of the European Union.

A complete European level judicial system independent of Member State level requires the adoption of an **EU criminal law** to uphold the principle of legality. Such a European criminal law would make it easier to p**revent, investigate and prosecute cross-border organised crime**. This legislation should be adopted by the European Parliament. **A European solution on effective judicial systems requires transparency and trust of the citizens**. This requires upholding the separation of powers between legislative, executive and judicial branches, and creating an independent European level criminal justice system under European democratic oversight. Such **democratic control and separation of powers are necessary to ensure the rule of law and the protection of human and fundamental rights**.

Popular idea

2 Strengthening the efficiency of European justice systems

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

Fair and independent justice systems are the foundation of the EU and essential to protect citizens against all crime. That is why we want clear rules and sanctions, using all available instruments to ensure that no EU funds reach governments that are not willing to respect the rule of law. We must strengthen the EU's police and judicial cooperation through a stronger Europol, to better fight cross-border crime. We insist on the creation of an independent EU Child Centre to combat child abuse.

alde PARTY ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

Cross-border and organised crime has increased, and some governments are more and more ignoring the supremacy of EU law and EU court rulings. We are committed to tackle crime, slash corruption and address rule of law breaches regardless of the perpetrators, whether governments or individuals, while advocating for targeted sanctions to avoid punishing innocent citizens and businesses. Make it conditional to receive EU funding to cooperate with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)

European Greens

Justice is one of the founding principles of the EU. As Greens, we stand for judicial independence, we stand firmly for a democratic separation of powers and against any violations of the rule of law in the member states, and we are fighting for equal access to justice for everyone, especially also marginalized communities. Overall, the European Greens stand for enhanced cooperation and coordination across the EU to better fight e.g. organized crime.

European LEFT

Judicial systems are an essential power of the state and a public service that must guarantee equality among citizens. Judicial services, like other public services, need to be publicly resourced. In times of lawfare we must take care of judicial independence.

PDE EDP Parti Démocrate Européen European Democratic Party

Making European justice systems more effective is essential. It builds confidence in the EU's laws and institutions and ultimately contributes to the Union's ability to effectively address cross-border challenges and uphold the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. More precisely, we must also eradicate gender-based violence and children violence, which remains a major problem in Europe.

European Free Alliance

We support cooperation and information-sharing among police forces. In general we do not support centralised police forces, as we believe they need to be closely tied to their local communities. But they should be required to build Europe-wide networks. We need more common standards in European justice systems regarding certain types of crime: in particular, we want gender violence to be recognised as a Eurocrime so that all member states have common definitions and provide support to victims.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Popular idea

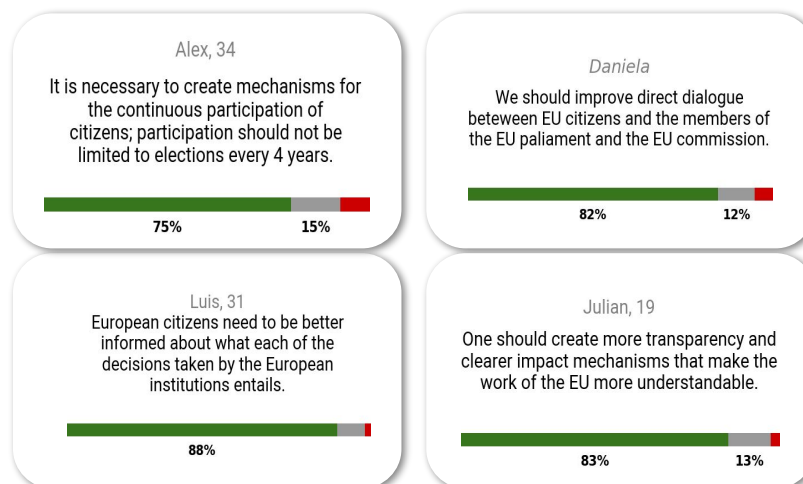## 3 Increasing citizen participation and their understanding of the EU

Citizens agree on :

Actively involving citizens in political decision making processes and better informing them about EU institutions.
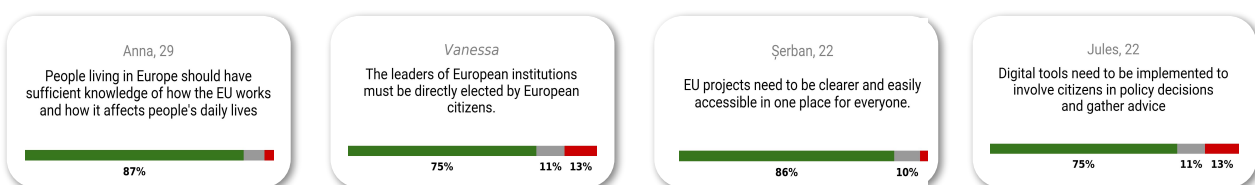
The proposals aim to **reconnect citizens with European politics** by creating **permanent participation mechanisms**. Participants advocate for enhancing a **direct dialogue between citizens and institutions** through **consultations on specific subjects** or digital participation tools : **online platforms or apps** to engage citizens in the political decision-making process. Finally, there is consensus on the idea of system where **all leaders of EU institutions are selected through direct elections.**

There is also agreement on the need for improved transparency and communication about the EU: European citizens should have a **clearer understanding of how the EU operates**. Participants want to make the **EU's work more transparent and understandable.** The EU is asked to **communicate more effectively about its projects**, in order to inform, build trust, and ensure accountability within the Union.

Main popular proposals

Alex, 34
It is necessary to create mechanisms for the continuous participation of citizens; participation should not be limited to elections every 4 years.
75%   15%

Daniela
We should improve direct dialogue beteween EU citizens and the members of the EU paliament and the EU commission.
82%   12%

Luis, 31
European citizens need to be better informed about what each of the decisions taken by the European institutions entails.
88%

Julian, 19
One should create more transparency and clearer impact mechanisms that make the work of the EU more understandable.
83%   13%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Anna, 29
People living in Europe should have sufficient knowledge of how the EU works and how it affects people's daily lives
87%

Vanessa
The leaders of European institutions must be directly elected by European citizens.
75%   11% 13%

Șerban, 22
EU projects need to be clearer and easily accessible in one place for everyone.
86%   10%

Jules, 22
Digital tools need to be implemented to involve citizens in policy decisions and gather advice
75%   11% 13%

37

Popular idea

3 Increasing citizen participation and their understanding of the EU

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS · DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

The Conference on the Future of Europe, an essential exercise in citizen participation in European integration, highlighted the need for comprehensive institutional reform for a further democratic deepening of the EU. It still lacks appropriate follow-up. Furthermore, the current participatory processes within the EU have proven themselves to be imperfect, be it in their legislative framework, technical aspects, or lack of institutionalisation. At the same time, a complicated institutional framework and diverging decision-making processes make it hard for people to understand the EU.

A common European solution

Citizens want to see **mechanisms for continuous citizen participation. A reform of the European Citizens Initiative** (ECI) is needed to ease it (longer collection period, lower signature number and signing age of 16) as well as give legislative followup to successful ECIs as well as a second opportunity of submission (under an increased signature threshold) should the legislative outcome of each ECI not be satisfactory, and the possibility of triggering an EU-wide referendum with a double majority (majority of electorate and majority of Member States) for the referendum to pass.

A **direct dialogue between citizens, and EU institutions** is deemed key by young people. **EU Citizens Panels should be held on a regular basis** with a bottom-up selection of topics, based on successful European Citizens Initiatives, as well as the development of better feedback tools and the incorporation of best practices recommended by citizens assemblies experts. Similarly, following the Conference on the Future of Europe and the November 2023 resolution of the European Parliament to start treaty reform, this process should be made through an **inclusive, democratic and participatory European Convention with an active citizen involvement**.

Young people also see the need to **make the EU more understandable.** There should be more **civic education** about the EU, in particular in schools, beyond civil society programs like JEF's Europe at school. The EU should also reform its treaties, so that, like in most democratic countries, the **Parliament has legislative initiative powers**, currently held by the European Commission only. An **harmonisation of the Electoral law** for the election of the European Parliament would help set up Union-wide criteria to stand for election and set up an all-EU voting age to 16 and. Likewise, the **Spitzenkandidat system should be reinforced**, as lead candidates for European Parties clarify the link between voting in European elections and the election of the European Commision President. Setting up **transnational lists** for European elections would also help citizens debate and choose based on European topics.

Popular idea

3 Increasing citizen participation and their understanding of the EU

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

Hundreds of citizens took part in the Conference on the Future of Europe, fully supported by PES. It shows that citizens want to be more involved in EU decision-making. To keep citizens more involved, the European Parliament should have the right to initiate legislation, and we must recognize the value of trade unions and civil society and promote their engagement across all institutions. They are vital in voicing citizens' concerns to decision-makers, and in communicating the EU to citizens.

alde PARTY – ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

It is time to develop functional mechanisms to earn citizens' trust and allow for a meaningful involvement. Only through stronger EU institutions and vital channels of communication such as open consultations the citizens' concerns and aspirations will be adequately represented in the decision-making processes. ALDE Party advocates for transnational voting lists, streamlined EU processes, and Commission reform.

European Greens

We want to make voting in EU elections more accessible & increase participation. Online voting should be piloted in 2029. We advocate for transnational lists for the EP alongside national lists, creating an EU-wide constituency. To make policy-making more inclusive, we want to introduce citizens' panels & strengthen the framework for petitions & the European Citizens Initiative to open more channels to influence for citizens & oblige the institutions to respond with legislative proposals.

EuropeanLEFT

Citizen participation is a basic pillar of democracies. Participation systems need to be strengthened at different political levels, from municipalities to cities to European institutions. That is why we defend measures such as participatory budgets and other similar measures.

PDE EDP – Parti Démocrate Européen – European Democratic Party

Direct involvement in the political life of the Union is essential if we want to bring Europe and its institutions closer to citizens. Waiting for the EU elections every 5 years is no longer enough to encourage real citizen participation. We propose introducing a Citizens' Agora mechanism. By offering citizens this platform to actively express themselves, we will boost direct participation in EU integration and strengthen the sense of belonging and commitment of all citizens to EU politics.

European Free Alliance

EFA strongly supports all efforts to make the EU more democratic and closer to its citizens. We want a reform for the ECI, so that the Commission cannot ignore it like it did for the Minority Safepack. We want legislative initiative for the Parliament. We want a better way of electing the Commission President. We want the Committee of the Regions to have a real role. We support the use of citizens' assemblies. Democracy should be constant and ongoing, not just an election every 5 years.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

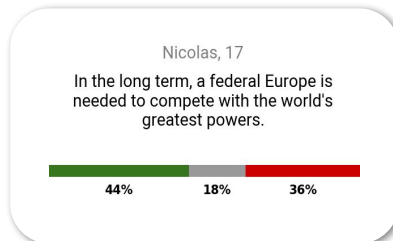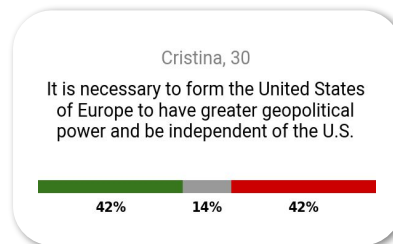These European political parties did not provide a response.

Divisive idea

1 Moving towards a federal Europe
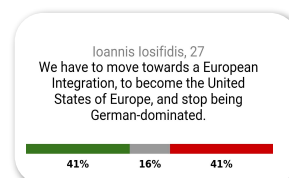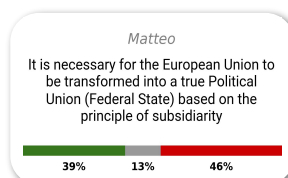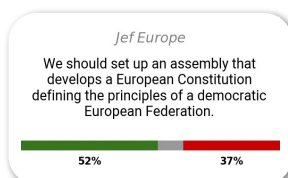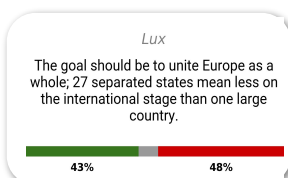
Citizens are divided on:

Establishing the "**United States of Europe**" to compete with the world's major powers and enhance international influence.

The participants are actively discussing these issues. They have differing viewpoints on whether or not a European federation is desirable. Issues on **centralisation,** as well as **subsidiarity were raised**.

Main popular proposals

Cristina, 30

It is necessary to form the United States of Europe to have greater geopolitical power and be independent of the U.S.

| 42% | 14% | 42% |

Nicolas, 17

In the long term, a federal Europe is needed to compete with the world's greatest powers.

| 44% | 18% | 36% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Lux

The goal should be to unite Europe as a whole; 27 separated states mean less on the international stage than one large country.

| 43% | | 48% |

Jef Europe

We should set up an assembly that develops a European Constitution defining the principles of a democratic European Federation.

| 52% | | 37% |

Matteo

It is necessary for the European Union to be transformed into a true Political Union (Federal State) based on the principle of subsidiarity

| 39% | 13% | 46% |

Ioannis Iosifidis, 27

We have to move towards a European Integration, to become the United States of Europe, and stop being German-dominated.

| 41% | 16% | 41% |

Divisive idea

2

Favouring a Europe where national governments hold more power and the EU has less control

Citizens are divided on:

Devolving greater powers to the member states.

The participants are divided on the idea of shifting more power to member states and **reducing the power of the European Commission.**

The results show a division of opinion on whether or not a return to a Europe of more sovereign nations is desirable. It would imply that **each member state retains full autonomy to determine its own policies, encompassing both ideological and economic dimensions.** Such independence would count for both, an ideological, as well as an economical dimension.

Main popular proposals

Leoš Pavlica, 16

The EU should be transformed into a purely economic organisation, which will not have any influence on the internal policies of the Member States.
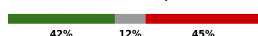
| 38% | 13% | 48% |

Noel, 34

We should give more power to the countries and less power to the EU Commission.

| 50% | 15% | 34% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Konrad

There should be a return to a Europe of Homelands, where each country pursues its own independent policy ideologically, as well as economically.
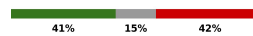
| 42% | 12% | 45% |

Pablo, 26

It should be remembered that each EU country should be separated economically and politically from the EU. The EU has no right to interfere in the affairs of countries.

| 45% | 14% | 40% |

Klaus

We should return to the EEC. Common security and economic policy is okay, the rest belongs to the nation states.

| 41% | 15% | 42% |

Mit

The EU must be excluded from intervening in the economic decisions of EU countries, whatever their choices. The EU is not a dictatorship.

| 50% | 11% | 39% |

41

Dimension: Democracy & EU institutions

Divisive idea

3 # Strengthening the powers and competences of the EU

Citizens are divided on:

The extent of the **EU's authority over the domestic policies of its member states.**

Participants are divided over proposals **to enhance the EU's capabilities and efficiency,** which could involve **abolishing the member states' veto rights**.

Proposals on concrete cases in which the EU should intervene are also divisive. **An example is the state of the Rule of Law in Poland or Hungary.**
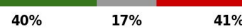
Main popular proposals

Salvatore, 21

The unanimity principle should be abolished, so that individual countries can no longer prevent important projects for the entire EU.

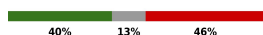| 48%	18%	32%
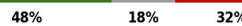
Katalin

The European Parliament must be further strengthened. Its decision-making powers must be increased.

40%	17%	41%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Igor, 17

The powers of the European Parliament should be increased to counteract the situations we are currently seeing in Poland and Hungary.

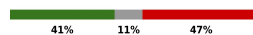| 40%	13%	46%

Josu, 31

It is necessary to put an end to the Unanimity Rule, a rule used by countries such as Hungary to hinder the European process with their vetoes.

51%	10%	37%

Jef Europe

We should have a European Parliament that enjoys full law-making and budgetary powers in all areas.

41%	11%	47%

Hristo Kisev, 16

We should not allow some nations to block proposals agreed on by the majority of Europe and its people.

49%	10%	40%
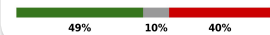
CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Popular ideas

AGENDA of H'OPE *for the future*

4. **Developing more efficient and accessible rail transport**
5. **Strengthening sustainable European industries and recycling**
6. **Promoting innovation in European agriculture and sustainable farming**
7. **Increasing the protection of biodiversity within the EU and beyond**
8. **Accelerating the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions**

Divisive ideas

1 **Empowering the EU to lead the ecological transition**
2 **Limiting air transportation**

Partners' position

Europe on the right track with public long-term investors

Mobility has ever lied at the heart of the European project. As it accounts nowadays for nearly a quarter of Europe's emissions, as stated by the European Environment Agency, decarbonising mobility becomes an imperative for all territories and a top priority for the EU. While it is a significant challenge, the values of solidarity, openness, and innovation it carries can also make it the European project for the 21st century.

The results of the Eurhope consultation have highlighted the importance of strengthening and developing the rail transport in this regard. Rail, by the solidarity it generates between the local, the regional, the national and the Continental levels, echoes Caisse des Dépôts Group *raison d'être*. As a public long-term investor, we have provided the financial resources and nurtured collaboration for the sustainable development and connection of all French territories for over two centuries. It is with the same level of engagement that we now provide the resources to innovative low-carbon mobility services among which regional and metropolitan express rail services. Our subsidiary Transdev operates local and regional rail lines connecting millions of Europeans every day in Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Solid links.

Climate change and environment

Partners' position

Over the previous years, a trust-based partnership has developed between the EU and national long-term public investors to allow to channel European funds towards local and impactful mobility projects. Drawing on our expertise, it has systemized the fruitful combination of national public financial instruments and European grants to develop the trans-European transport network of the 21st century: charging points for electric vehicles along roads and railways, hydrogen recharging infrastructures for road, river, and maritime transport... Europe enables us to go further in our mission and we enable Europe to come closer to the needs of the citizens.

We stand ready to contribute to the next phase of our partnership with the EU for the future of the European mobility and a narrower and more sustainable Continent.

Philippe Blanchot, Director of institutional, international and European relations, Caisse des Depots Group

Popular idea

4 **Developing more efficient and accessible rail transport**
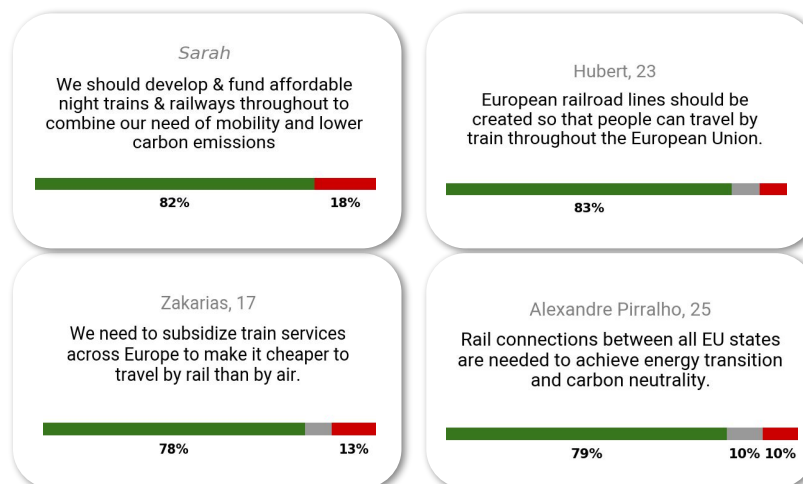
Citizens agree on :

Creating more sustainable and cost-effective train travel, with a focus on the role of mobility in meeting European environmental and energy objectives.

Participants put forth the development of comprehensive European railway lines as a way to improve cross-border connectivity within the EU. They highlight the critical importance of **establishing robust rail links between all EU member states,** particularly as a means to **facilitate the energy transition** and **achieve carbon neutrality goals.**

The proposals recommend **increasing subsidies for railway services** across Europe to make train travel a more cost-effective alternative to flying. They emphasize the necessity of creating and financially supporting **affordable train journeys**, including **year-round night trains.**

They also stress the idea of using railways as a more sustainable and **efficient means of good transportation**. According to participants, it would lessen the dependency on road freight.

Main popular proposals

Sarah

We should develop & fund affordable night trains & railways throughout to combine our need of mobility and lower carbon emissions

82%   18%

Hubert, 23

European railroad lines should be created so that people can travel by train throughout the European Union.

83%

Zakarias, 17

We need to subsidize train services across Europe to make it cheaper to travel by rail than by air.

78%   13%

Alexandre Pirralho, 25

Rail connections between all EU states are needed to achieve energy transition and carbon neutrality.

79%   10% 10%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Laurent
We need to harmonize and coordinate Europe's rail nework, so that peaople can travel easily by train across the continent.

91%

Jules, 21
We need to develop rail freight within and between European countries as an alternative to road freight.

87%

46

Popular idea

4 Developing more efficient and accessible rail transport

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS   Generation Climate Europe

Rail travel works relatively well in a lot of European countries. However, with the current limitations to crossborder travel, rail is not able to compete with aviation. Indeed as soon as one wants to cross a border, there are rarely enough trains and stops are often needed to switch staff or locomotives.

Similarly, ticketing systems are national, so one will often have to buy multiple tickets to travel through Europe, which is more complicated and often more expensive. Additionally, it often means a new ticket for the next train is to be bought in case a connection is missed, as it is not fully protected by EU passenger rights.

Train tickets are often expensive, partially because of unfair taxation. Kerosine is not taxed, while the electricity used by most trains is. Value-Added Tax (VAT) on cross-border railway tickets also remains, whilst there is none on international flights.

A common European solution

Railway network planning needs to be coordinated on a European level to ensure that not just national connections, but also **cross-border connections are prioritised, including by opening more night train options**. Infrastructure managers should be made to coordinate based on EU-level plans for international rail and the number of exemptions to standardisations removed to create a **Single European Railway Area**.

An **integrated ticketing system** is needed which enables you to book a single ticket for a journey by rail across multiple countries. The EU should legislate in order for an international ticketing system to be created, as the call for operators to do it independently has not been sufficient.EU passenger rights should be taken into consideration while setting up this system to cover interconnections.

To **make rail more affordable** and help shift demand, both for people and for goods, **taxation should reflect the environmental impact of various modes of transport**. Kerosine should be taxed, and VAT should at the very least be applied in the same way to international aviation as to international rail. An EU kerosine tax should be created creating a new **EU own resource**, that would increase the EU budget and with it its investment in green policies. Moreover, there should be an EU-wide exemption of VAT on international rail as it is the case on international flights.

Dimension: Climate change and environment

Popular idea

4 Developing more efficient and accessible rail transport

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

To support the green transition and reduce carbon emissions, we push for affordable and safe railway usage to encourage citizens to use rail transport as a more sustainable method of transportation. We support enlarging the railway network in the EU to make public transport more accessible and affordable to people in all regions. We want to assist regional and local authorities to increase green and affordable transport by exploring free travel for the young, elderly, and low-income families.

alde | PARTY ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

ALDE Party fights for enabling decarbonisation of passenger transport through infrastructure development; including the completion of missing cross-border transport connections, electrification of public transport as well as using sustainable and innovative technologies to allow decarbonisation.

European Greens

We want to increase investment in and coordination of rail transport; in particular under-served regions. We will invest in night train infrastructure and create a European Ticketing Platform to make booking cross-border journeys on sustainable transport easy. Besides taxing air travel properly where climate-friendly alternatives are not available, we want to introduce a frequent flyer levy, with exceptions for island regions, and ban short-haul where alternatives are available.

European LEFT

Rail as the most environmentally friendly and accessible means of transport should be a priority in all EU countries. Public transport is an essential service for commuting to work and school. We advocate an integrated, local rail network, not just high-speed trains.

Parti Démocrate Européen PDE EDP European Democratic Party

Prioritising sustainable and cost-effective rail transport across Europe is essential to meet our environmental and energy goals. We call for the development of comprehensive European railways to improve cross-border connectivity within the EU, underlining the importance of robust public transport networks. For young people in particular, accessible and affordable train travel promotes mobility and sustainability, in line with our commitment to a greener and more connected Europe.

European Free Alliance

EFA sees the opportunity to transition to a low-carbon future and to revitalise disadvantaged regions concurrently by investing in rail networks. For us, it is very important that Europe's railways connect not only the capital cities, but also smaller towns, rural areas, and cross-border regions. These areas need better infrastructure links to realise their potential. Short distance plane journeys should be replaced with rail alternatives. We also support more integration in ticketing systems.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Popular idea

5 Strengthening sustainable European industries and recycling
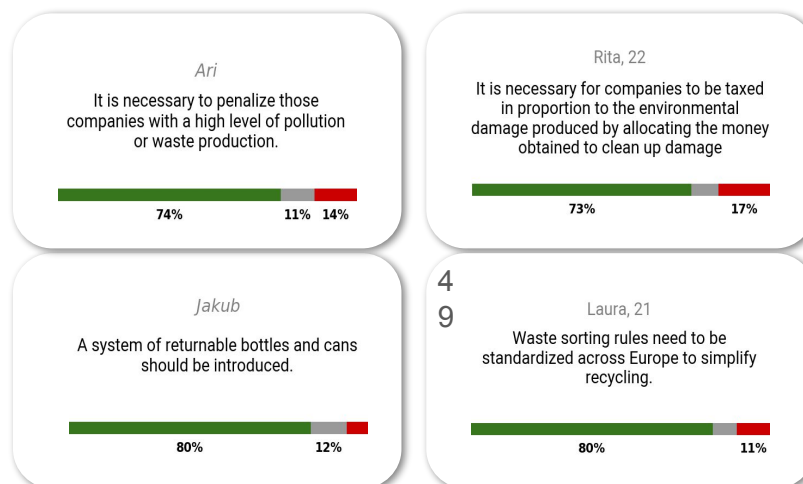
Citizens agree on :

Encouraging **more responsible corporate practices** to reduce environmental harm as well as **funding efforts** to protect and restore the environment.

Participants suggest **introducing penalties or additional taxes for companies with high pollution records** or waste production. These actions could **discourage companies from greenwashing.**
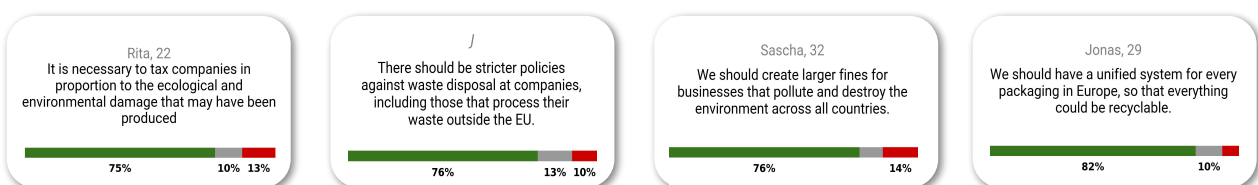
At the same time, these actions would strengthen waste management and circular economy. Citizens call to **improve recycling practices** in first place: **reducing plastic pollution**, and **promoting environmentally responsible actions**. Proposals call for simplifying recycling processes, such as the **implementation of systems for refundable bottles and cans**, and making recycling easier with **clear disposal labels**.

There is agreement on the need to standardise **waste management**, as well as **packaging rules** and improving **citizens' awareness** of environmental rules.

Main popular proposals

Ari

It is necessary to penalize those companies with a high level of pollution or waste production.

74% 11% 14%

Rita, 22

It is necessary for companies to be taxed in proportion to the environmental damage produced by allocating the money obtained to clean up damage

73% 17%

Jakub

A system of returnable bottles and cans should be introduced.

80% 12%

4 9 Laura, 21

Waste sorting rules need to be standardized across Europe to simplify recycling.

80% 11%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Rita, 22
It is necessary to tax companies in proportion to the ecological and environmental damage that may have been produced

75% 10% 13%

J
There should be stricter policies against waste disposal at companies, including those that process their waste outside the EU.

76% 13% 10%

Sascha, 32
We should create larger fines for businesses that pollute and destroy the environment across all countries.

76% 14%

Jonas, 29
We should have a unified system for every packaging in Europe, so that everything could be recyclable.

82% 10%

49

Popular idea

5 Strengthening sustainable European industries and recycling

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS   Generation Climate Europe

Sustainability is widely acknowledged to be one of - if not the - biggest challenges for our society. However, companies and the productive sector are the ones to undertake systemic action to protect the environment as opposed to small and individual gestures. Manufacturing, mining or construction, among other sectors, have a tremendous impact on the environment through their practices. For waste disposal, we observe the difficulties of consumers in obtaining a universal right to repair and repair still being economically inconvenient compared to buying new. In landfills, we see the results of these cross-sectoral issues: increased food, textiles, and electronics that are wasted are never recovered and reused.

A common European solution

Young people want to see **stronger fines and taxation against companies for their polluting activities**. Therefore, there needs to be an EU-wide **shift in the taxing system to target environmentally harmful**, resource-intensive, and high-income activities, industries and individuals. This tax reform would provide the EU with own resources that can be used to **promote the reuse, recycle, and regeneration of secondary raw materials**, as well as to **help regions** whose economies are deeply **dependent on polluting economic activities and energy sources** through the Just Transition and Social Climate funds.

When reusing and recycling is not enough, mining **legislation that regulates and minimises the industrial exploitation of natural resources should be adopted**, under the Do-no-harm principle, with the inclusion of affected communities in mining approval procedures, and for the duration of activities.

Another front where young people express their concerns is on individual's recycling, reuse of materials and waste management. An effective circular economy model, with a **standardised system for sorting and** separate **waste collection,** should be set at the EU level, to make recycling easier and increase people's awareness of environmental rules. **Reusable packaging** and **packaging return mechanisms should also be adopted** as additional standard practices that contribute to reducing waste.

These measures should come hand in hand with a **universal right to repair**, that guarantees transparency and accessibility to spare parts and bans anti-repair practices, to be adopted as an effective method to curb waste generation. Similarly, measures need to be implemented to reduce the impact of construction waste via the adoption of **modular building methods** to reutilise construction and demolition waste.

Popular idea

5 **Strengthening sustainable European industries and recycling**

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

The changes ahead of us require large-scale public and private investment in sustainable energy alternatives and the promotion of the Green Deal and a circular economy, notably for critical raw materials. The way forward is to make responsible use of our resources and materials by introducing ambitious reuse and recycling targets, especially for critical raw materials. We will put forward an Investment Plan for the Green and Digital Transitions.

alde PARTY ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

We want to provide businesses with incentives to invest in sustainable production to decouple economic growth from use of primary resources, via diversification, reuse, and repair. We oppose premature obsolescence and want to empower consumers with better labels, including carbon footprint transparency and new date marking rules for food. Tackle waste efficiently through innovative product design and packaging and an EU-wide deposit return scheme for packaging.

European Greens

Our tax proposals will reduce the burden on workers, increasing taxes for polluters and the ultra-rich. The EU requires greater budgetary resources to face our common challenges: We must extend the carbon border tax to new polluting sectors, apply the polluter pays principle across all sectors, and abolish free quotas earlier than 2034. We will increase existing taxes on plastics. We will fight to revise the Green Taxonomy to make sure that gas and nuclear are not greenwashed as "sustainable".

European LEFT

The strengthening of sustainable and recycling industries must be linked to green transition plans at all levels. The local economy, waste treatment; environmental protection and the defence of existing bio-diversity are priorities for us. Public planning is needed to provide resources for ecological transition plans based on the specificities of each region.

Parti Démocrate Européen PDE EDP European Democratic Party

We pledge to spearhead the shift to a green, circular economy. Europe must lead in combating climate change through investment in renewables, sustainable mobility, and environmental research. At EU level, all packaging must be recyclable, plastic waste drastically reduced, and the use of harmful pollutants like PFAS and BPA in food-contact packaging banned.

European Free Alliance

EFA believes that the greatest burden for the green transition should be borne not by regular citizens or small-scale farmers, but by the biggest corporations and industries that are responsible for the largest degree of emissions and pollutions. These companies can fund the needs of transition through emissions taxes. Recycling practices can be streamlined and improved: European-level systems can help here, but must take into account the different needs of different regions.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

51

Popular idea

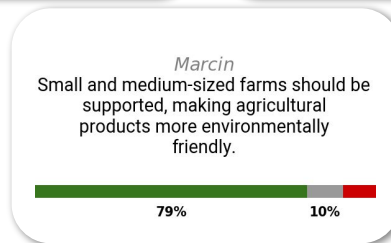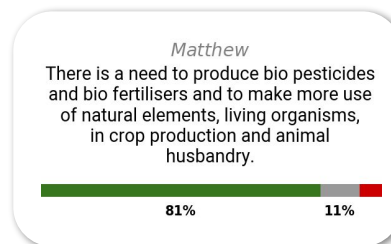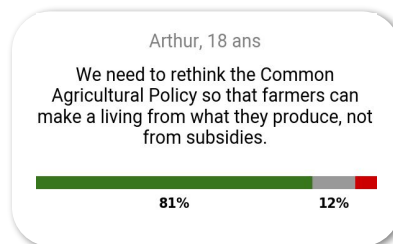## 6 Promoting innovation in European agriculture and sustainable farming

Citizens agree on :

Promoting sustainable and environmentally-conscious agricultural practices while ensuring the livelihoods of farmers.
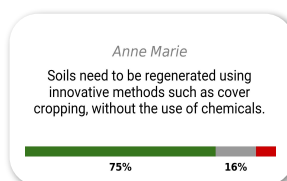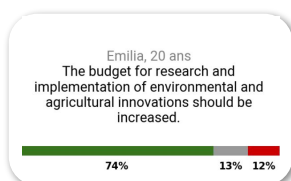
Proposals aim to **reform the Common Agricultural Policy**, prioritising farmers' self-sufficiency over subsidies.

They highlight the need **to support small-scale agricultural entreprises** to foster eco-friendly products and advocate for chemical-free farming methods. Additionally, they call for the implementation of **stricter controls** on the import of agricultural products that fail to comply with European phytosanitary regulations.

Main popular proposals

Arthur, 18 ans
We need to rethink the Common Agricultural Policy so that farmers can make a living from what they produce, not from subsidies.

81%   12%

Matthew
There is a need to produce bio pesticides and bio fertilisers and to make more use of natural elements, living organisms, in crop production and animal husbandry.

81%   11%

Marcin
Small and medium-sized farms should be supported, making agricultural products more environmentally friendly.

79%   10%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Emilia, 20 ans
The budget for research and implementation of environmental and agricultural innovations should be increased.

74%   13%   12%

Anne Marie
Soils need to be regenerated using innovative methods such as cover cropping, without the use of chemicals.

75%   16%

Luis
It is necessary to prohibit the entry of agricultural products that do not meet the phytosanitary requirements for European products.

81%

52

6 ## Promoting innovation in European agriculture and sustainable farming

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS Generation Climate Europe

The Common Agricultural Policy funding structure still allows farmers to profit from arguably unsustainable practices. Subsidies are necessary to ensure stable incomes and food security, however this simultaneously acts to hide the true cost of unsustainable agriculture. The lack of coordination between stakeholders has hampered the emergence of new markets addressing unsustainable aspects of the food system.

A common European solution

Ensuring that farmers can guarantee their livelihood and that sustainable practices and mid-sized farms can thrive is of great importance to young people. They therefore call for a broader and transparent **reform of the Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP), as it is not in line with the Paris Agreement and EU Farm-to Fork or the Biodiversity strategies. The CAP funding model must be reformed within the framework of the European Green Deal and **increase funding to be earmarked for organic farming**, thereby replacing pesticides and fertilisers with organic alternatives. Similarly, methods to reduce the usage of antibiotics in livestock farming, while still combating the spread of diseases should be financially and legally promoted, as an important measure to protect consumers and guarantee a sustainable and quality agricultural food production. Young people want to see the EU provide **technical assistance to small and medium-size farms** on how to achieve EU-level certifications.

To curb the effects of unsustainable farming practices, there needs to be an **impact assessment along the supply chain** to foster the re-allocation of subsidies in the CAP. An important step in this direction is the creation of a "true cost accounting body" to assess the **impact of** both **unsustainable and sustainable practices** so that we can best reallocate funding away from the most environmentally damaging practices toward the most positive, including research funding.

Young people also want to see support for sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices and the research on sustainability in the sector. In the specific area of innovation and research funding, Funded Horizon Europe projects have demonstrated promising results, but they encounter obstacles when it comes to expanding their impact (fundings, lack of competitive solutions, and market entry barriers). It is necessary to **scale up innovative solutions that develop resilient supply chains**.

Popular idea

6 Promoting innovation in European agriculture and sustainable farming

European political parties' responses

PES — SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

European agriculture and fishing must be green and sustainable. We need more funds for small/medium-sized farms. Those meeting environmental/biodiversity criteria should receive rewards. We want to support farmers' income and protect them against price speculation. We act for reduced use of pesticides and plastic/chemical pollution, like PFAS, and for affordable organic food. Water efficiency is key. The CAP must contribute to climate transition, and we must secure long-term EU food production.

alde | PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

ALDE Party fights for a sustainable agriculture system ensuring food production and biodiversity protection. Reform CAP to reduce bureaucracy, support sustainable practices and promote innovation, and investment in technology for efficient resource management; climate change mitigation. The transition to sustainable agriculture is crucial for well-being, providing long-term perspective to make agriculture resilient while preserving natural resources and fostering economic growth.

European Greens

The European Greens call for an urgent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): a fundamental shift away from subsidies for industrial agriculture based on pesticides, monocultures, and animal suffering and towards massive investment into organic farming and agroecological production. The EU must promote a new agricultural model that reduces emissions and supports small- and medium-sized farms, protect the environment; and foster social justice.

European LEFT

We defend the circular and proximity economy, small and medium-sized agriculture. Farmers must be protected from multinationals. The defence of technologically innovative and ecological agriculture is necessary for the future. That is why we are against the use of transgenic or chemical materials that do not respect the environment.

PDE EDP — Parti Démocrate Européen / European Democratic Party

We advocate for sustainable agriculture, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring high-quality food. Food sovereignty reduces dependency and promotes local, eco-friendly production. We aim for an efficient model to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss while supporting farmers, consumers, and rural communities. This requires significant public and private investments in innovation, digitization, education, and training.

European Free Alliance

EFA calls for the reform of the CAP to make it more sustainable and to reward the efforts of small-scale farmers. We support further investments in R&D to develop climate-resilient agriculture systems. When it comes to Free Trade Agreements, we want to make sure European producers can never be undercut by unfair cheap imports. All FTAs must require the same environmental standards as are required of European farmers.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR** PARTY

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Dimension: Climate change and environment
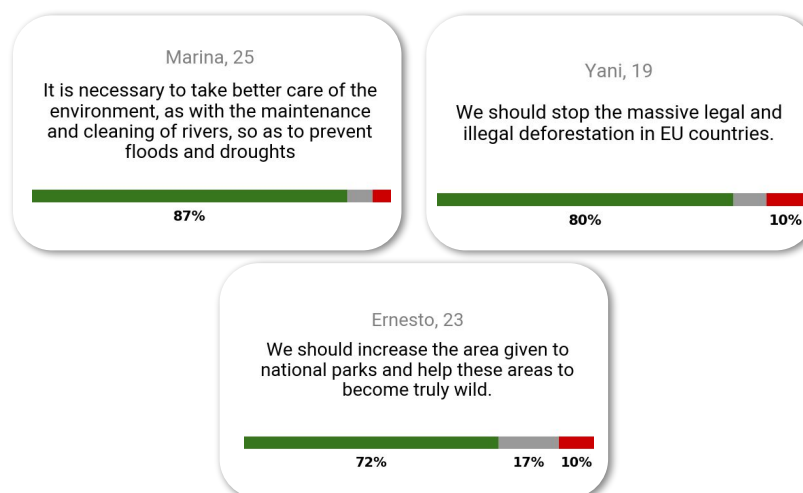
Popular idea

7 **Increasing the protection of biodiversity within the EU and beyond**
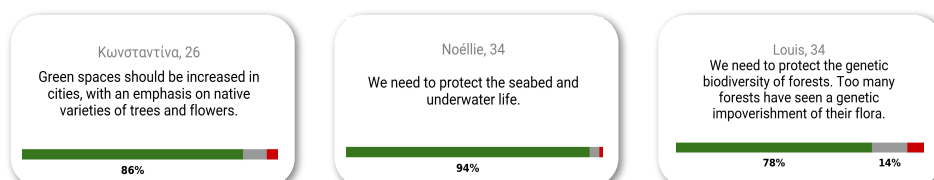
Citizens agree on :

Boosting European policy to protect biodiversity.

Proposals suggest actions in favor of ecological richness. Key suggestions include **halting practices that lead to deforestation**, **increasing the size of national parks** with a commitment to their preservation, **managing and cleansing river systems** to avert both flooding and droughts, **enhancing green spaces in urban areas**, **protecting the genetic diversity** of plants in forested regions, and **ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems**.

Main popular proposals

Marina, 25

It is necessary to take better care of the environment, as with the maintenance and cleaning of rivers, so as to prevent floods and droughts

87%

Yani, 19

We should stop the massive legal and illegal deforestation in EU countries.

80%   10%

Ernesto, 23

We should increase the area given to national parks and help these areas to become truly wild.

72%   17%   10%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Κωνσταντίνα, 26

Green spaces should be increased in cities, with an emphasis on native varieties of trees and flowers.

86%

Noéllie, 34

We need to protect the seabed and underwater life.

94%

Louis, 34

We need to protect the genetic biodiversity of forests. Too many forests have seen a genetic impoverishment of their flora.

78%   14%

7 # Increasing the protection of biodiversity within the EU and beyond

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS   Generation Climate Europe

Biodiversity loss poses severe consequences for ecosystems and human well-being. The current era is witnessing a human-induced mass extinction event, with estimated extinction rates 10,000 times higher than natural historical levels. Human activities, such as changes in land and sea use, overexploitation of natural resources, intensive agriculture, pollution, invasive species, and climate change, are the driving forces behind this. A striking 81% of habitats and 63% of all species in the EU are in poor condition, underscoring the pressing need for action.

A common European solution

Reverting the biodiversity crisis requires swift decisive action to protect and restore ecosystems to a state of environmental well-being. Young people want a **stop to deforestation and the protection of species and habitat,** on land and underwater. This entails investments in ambitious policies with well-defined targets, as well as **robust EU and national accountability mechanisms** to guarantee the timely achievement of restoration goals. Foreign trade policy must also be aligned with such goals.

The adoptions of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy and the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework are commendable steps forward in fostering intergovernmental cooperation for biodiversity protection. However, it is imperative that **countries ensure their national plans and strategies reflect the necessary level of ambition**. These should be centered around nature-based solutions, which leverage natural processes to address both climate change and biodiversity loss, especially in urban settings. There should be targets for the share of polyculture cultivation, conservation agroforestry and permanent cover crops, in order to achieve the goals set out at the European level.

Biodiversity policies should ensure **conservation efforts are inclusive and equitable**. To reach the 30x30 objective (protect 30% of the planet by 2030), protected areas should be designed with inclusive governance models to foster collaborative planning and management. Establishing inclusive platforms for civil society engagement, such as citizenship conventions, and decision-making bodies with representatives from local communities, affected people, young people, and indigenous groups is key.

There should also be **financial incentives for regenerative practices** and the removal of subsidies and quotas for those practices that lead to loss of biodiversity, water depletion and land degradation, through transparent and equitable support for farmers.

Dimension: Climate change and environment

Popular idea

7 Increasing the protection of biodiversity within the EU and beyond

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We need to restore Europe's forests, air, sea, water, and soil, reduce deforestation through sustainable forestry, and protect natural reserves. We must provide incentives for carbon capture, water filtration and clean air provision, reduce microplastics released in sea, air, and soil, as well as ban intentionally added microplastics in products. We promote environmentally friendly pest control systems, reduced use of chemical pesticides, and fostered animal welfare standards by legislation.

alde PARTY – ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

We must harness the opportunity of renewables, innovative technologies, and nature-based solutions to move to a circular and sustainable economy. This will not only improve our quality of life, but also secure vital resources, make less waste and protect the environment and biodiversity.

European Greens

We demand that from 2026, 10% of the EU budget must be spent on biodiversity objectives. As set out in the Nature Restoration Law that we fought for, we want to restore degraded natural areas and ecosystems across the EU. Working with farmers, fishers and local communities is key to protecting biodiversity and fighting climate change. The EU must fulfil the international commitments made and take ambitious action in biodiversity protection and restoration.

European LEFT

We consider environmental protection as a fundamental element to guarantee the sustainability of life itself. It is therefore an absolute priority. The protection of biodiversity must have greater legal and legal protection.

PDE EDP Parti Démocrate Européen European Democratic Party

At the EU level, we must safeguard biodiversity with an environmentally-respectful agricultural model. Regions abundant in biodiversity, like overseas territories, should pioneer climate solutions. Sub-national governments should engage in global climate and biodiversity treaties for effective action. Priority lies in preserving soils, animals, and biodiversity. Local and regional authorities should play a key role in climate and biodiversity policies through sub-national diplomacy.

European Free Alliance

We consider it very important to protect Europe's biodiversity and the natural landscape. We want to see landscape recognised as part of the intangible cultural heritage of Europe's peoples, and thereby be subject to protective measures. Local people should be given a bigger stake in community ownership, especially of energy projects, to make sure they are in harmony with the needs of the community. Farmers should be supported to set aside parts of their land for biodiversity.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.
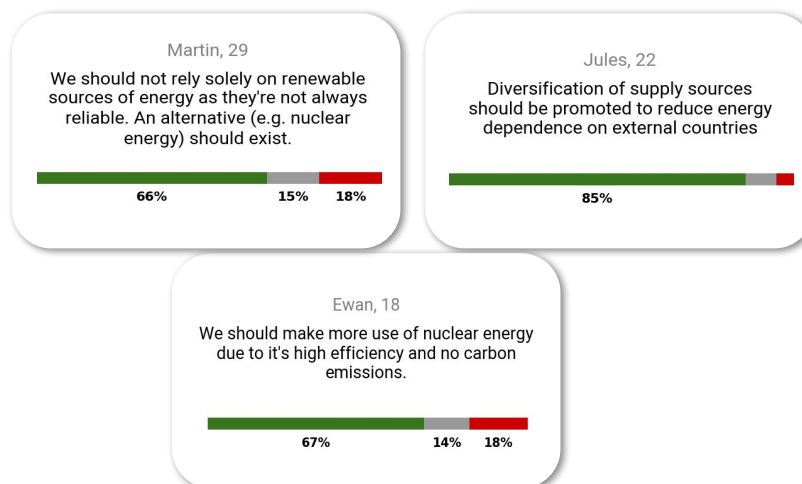
Popular idea

8 Accelerating the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions
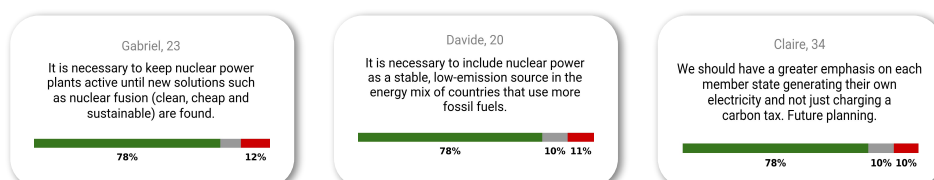
Citizens agree on :

Diversifying energy sources to enhance reliability and decrease reliance on non-EU countries.

The proposals recognise the **importance of renewable energy** but consider that it cannot be the EU's only source of energy. They advocate for the development of other energies, such as **nuclear power, in order to lower greenhouse gas emissions**. The central aim is to **secure a reliable and efficient energy supply**, decreasing reliance on imports and bolstering energy security.

Main popular proposals

Martin, 29
We should not rely solely on renewable sources of energy as they're not always reliable. An alternative (e.g. nuclear energy) should exist.

66%   15%   18%

Jules, 22
Diversification of supply sources should be promoted to reduce energy dependence on external countries

85%

Ewan, 18
We should make more use of nuclear energy due to it's high efficiency and no carbon emissions.

67%   14%   18%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Gabriel, 23
It is necessary to keep nuclear power plants active until new solutions such as nuclear fusion (clean, cheap and sustainable) are found.

78%   12%

Davide, 20
It is necessary to include nuclear power as a stable, low-emission source in the energy mix of countries that use more fossil fuels.

78%   10% 11%

Claire, 34
We should have a greater emphasis on each member state generating their own electricity and not just charging a carbon tax. Future planning.

78%   10% 10%

8 # Accelerating the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS | Generation Climate Europe

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report warns of surpassing the 1.5°C global warming limit, challenging EU policies misaligned with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal. Despite EU efforts like the Green deal, the Climate Law and Renewable Energy Directive, concerns persist about fairness. Policymakers often prioritise "emissions reduction" over a necessary phase-out of fossil fuels, evident in ambitious net-zero goals conflicting with record subsidies of €7 trillion to fossil fuels in 2023.

A common European solution

Explicit subsidies to and exemptions for fossil fuels must be removed, and corrective taxes imposed to raise fuel prices at national, European and global levels. This shift would encourage businesses and households to consider environmental costs, significantly cutting carbon emissions, improving air quality, and providing fiscal flexibility. The **reform of the EU energy taxation** directive is however currently blocked by vetoes. The need for unanimity and delays associated could be removed through an EU Treaty reform. Furthermore, the EU could spearhead a new global treaty, utilising a Pillar Two formula - for the taxation of multinational companies - to tax CO2 emissions globally, even in countries lacking a carbon tax.

Measures compensating vulnerable groups affected by energy price increases due to climate policies should be strengthened and subsidy funds could be redirected following the tax reform. The EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to price carbon, the Just Transition Mechanism and the Social Climate Fund to support are positive, but international collaboration and national-level actions are essential for efficiency.

Young people demand the energy transition to focus on reliability and EU production. Indeed, the move to a **Decarbonised Energy Union** is also one away from fossil fuels extraction and dependence on extracting dictatorships. There should also be more research invested into the transformation of resource- and energy intensive industries towards a zero-emission industry, heating/cooling of buildings and energy storing. Finally, the energy transition should prioritise justice, involve youth, and ensure representation of civil society in decision-making.

8 # Accelerating the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We want investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency to achieve strong EU 2040 climate targets and climate neutrality by 2050 at latest. We aim for a completely renewable and clean energy mix. The EU must secure affordable energy supply for all. We will combat energy poverty, high energy prices, and guarantee supply for the most vulnerable. The energy market reform must ensure price stability and affordability, to modernize infrastructures and strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy.

alde PARTY
ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

We must focus on reducing energy use and emissions for growth, innovation, job creation. ALDE Party fights for renewable energy deployment; empowering citizens and businesses, and reducing dependencies. We need to prioritise implementation of targets and rules, expand ETS, and improve EU electricity market. Invest in clean energy, storage tech, and promote efficiency. Simplify energy project licensing and EIB green energy investment are key for competitiveness.

European Greens

We want an EU energy system based fully on renewables, phasing out fossil energy by 2040. Cheaper and safer than other energy sources, renewables helped the EU economy save €100 billion between 2021 & 2023 and bring down energy bills for households. Renewables will ensure a habitable planet; geopolitical independence from autocrats, and a resilient and democratic energy system. Billions of euros from fossil fuel subsidies must be channelled into renewables, energy efficiency and energy savings.

EuropeanLEFT

To accelerate the energy transition and the reduction of carbon emissions, greater involvement of public powers is necessary. We cannot continue breaking international agreements or paying to emit more emissions. Therefore public planning and real commitment to decarbonisation and emissions reduction must be an EU priority.

PDE EDP Parti Démocrate Européen / European Democratic Party

To effectively combat climate change, our party prioritises data-driven pragmatism over ideology, ensuring minimal taxpayer burden. In transportation, we call for equitable economic development; supporting public investment for a carbon-free transition. We advocate for investment in eco-digital transitions and EU strategic autonomy. New resources should fund renewable energy, future tech research, and industrial digitalisation.

European Free Alliance

EFA supports the EU's net-zero goals. We want to see an end to all subsidies for unsustainable energy sources such as fossil fuels, and we should reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources such as Russian gas. We believe Europe's regions can adopt their own strategies to reach common European targets in whichever way best suits their local needs. We want to scale up renewable energy production, but in all cases make sure that it fits the needs of the local communities (no macro-projects).

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR** PARTY

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Divisive idea

4 Empowering the EU to lead the ecological transition
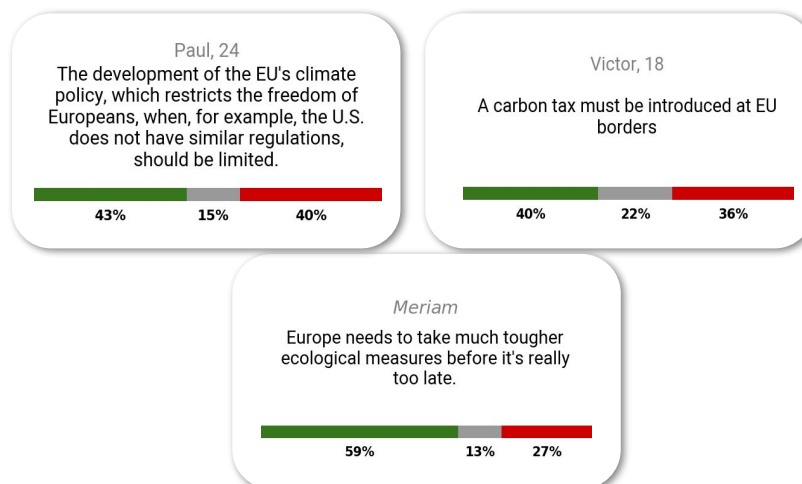
Citizens are divided on:

Implementing stronger ecological policies in the EU.

Some participants tend to oppose the EU's initiatives to step up its action on climate change. **While specific proposals concerning railways, energy, or pesticides find common ground, broader declarations are met with contention.**
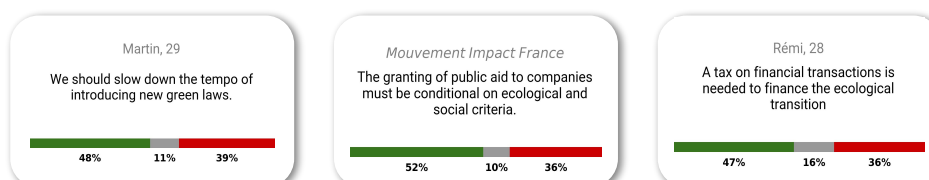
Whenever a proposal is relatively vague and references ecological measures without detailing the specific sector involved, **it becomes a subject of debate.** In these instances, the controversy arises regardless of whether the proposal is for or against such measures.

At the same time, some very specific issues, **such as the introduction of a carbon tax** to combat climate change, do not elicit consensus. It is notable that once a proposal directly links measures with individual impact, this solution sparks controversy.

Main popular proposals

Paul, 24
The development of the EU's climate policy, which restricts the freedom of Europeans, when, for example, the U.S. does not have similar regulations, should be limited.

43%   15%   40%

Victor, 18
A carbon tax must be introduced at EU borders

40%   22%   36%

Meriam
Europe needs to take much tougher ecological measures before it's really too late.

59%   13%   27%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Martin, 29
We should slow down the tempo of introducing new green laws.

48%   11%   39%

Mouvement Impact France
The granting of public aid to companies must be conditional on ecological and social criteria.

52%   10%   36%

Rémi, 28
A tax on financial transactions is needed to finance the ecological transition

47%   16%   36%

Dimension: Climate change and environment

Divisive idea

5 Limiting air transportation

Citizens are divided on:

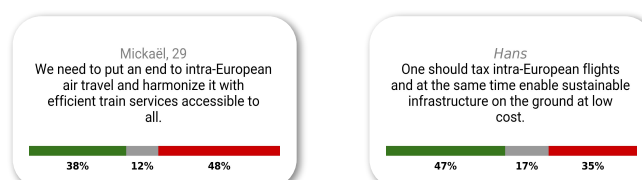Banning private jets and further taxing air travel within Europe.

Participants hold differing opinions on proposals related to air travel. Those include the idea of **prohibiting short-haul flights, limiting air travel to destinations accessible by train within a few hours** or **taxing air traffic in favor of the development of railways.**

The **advancement of rail infrastructure emerges as a widely agreed-upon point in this consultation**. However, **consensus falters when this development is explicitly linked with restrictions on air travel.**

Main popular proposals

Simon, 31

We need to force an end to air routes that could be done by train in less than 5 hours.

| 45% | 16% | 37% |

Antoine, 32

Private jets should be banned

| 44% | 18% | 37% |

Julie

We need to tax air travel and use the money to subsidize rail to encourage the energy transition.

| 44% | 14% | 41% |

Alizée, 22

We need to ban flights of less than 2 hours and create a European rail company to easily serve member countries.

| 50% | | 40% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Mickaël, 29

We need to put an end to intra-European air travel and harmonize it with efficient train services accessible to all.

| 38% | 12% | 48% |

Hans

One should tax intra-European flights and at the same time enable sustainable infrastructure on the ground at low cost.

| 47% | 17% | 35% |

ECONOMY, SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPLOYMENT

Popular ideas

Agenda of HOPE for the future

9. **Promoting easier access to employment, especially for the youth**
10. **Encouraging "Made in Europe"**

Divisive ideas

1 **Introducing a tax system that better corrects inequalities**
2 **Building a more social Europe**

Partners' position

ACCOR

" Hospitality is an industry which is inherently linked to the human experience, with its emphasis on creating emotion and forging connections. Yet, what truly sets the industry apart is its unique social power – what we at Accor call the capacity to be a global social elevator and meaningfully change lives.

Hospitality ranks as the third largest industry globally, contributing significantly to both employment and income generation, comprising 10.5% of the world's workforce with 334 million jobs and 9% of global GDP. Abundant in upskilling opportunities, the industry acts as a powerful social elevator by hiring, training, teaching new skills, mentoring and developing potential for people from all backgrounds across the world, including underprivileged or under-educated ones.

At Accor, we believe that hospitality is a work of Heart. That is why we call ourselves Heartists®. Here, we place people at the heart of everything we do whether it be our guests, our partners, or team members. With more than 330,000 Talents across more than 5,600+ hotels in 110 countries and encompassing over 45 brands from ultra-luxury to economy, we celebrate the diversity of our workforce. As Heartists®, we champion diversity and inclusivity. We provide an environment where they can bring their unique background, personality, and beliefs to the table.

64

Economy, social justice & employment

We wholeheartedly embrace our role as a social elevator and have a major focus on Talents who are seeking better recognition, fair pay, flexibility, and purposeful long-term career opportunities. More than 140,000 people are recruited each year under the Accor brands - the majority of whom have no prior educational background.

We believe that, every interaction is an opportunity to create meaningful experiences for our guests and make a lasting impression on those we work with. They become a pioneer of responsible hospitality that creates positive and sustainable impacts. If we provide the right tools, people have the power to transform their lives and the world. One way in which we do this is by embedding learning throughout our culture and viewing ourselves as a 'School of Life'. The Accor Academy stands as a testament to our dedication to continuous learning and development: with over three decades of history, our Academy offers a diverse array of training programs and hundreds of team members seize the opportunity to embark on new challenges each year, participating in skills enhancement programs and leadership training initiatives. We ingrain learning throughout the Accor career journey and, in 2022, 28% of General Managers across our portfolio had risen to the role having joined hospitality with no educational qualifications.

Transforming lives towards a fairer future includes an important responsibility to the local communities we operate in. We work towards a net positive contributory model whereby we always endeavour to give back more than we take. One direct job created in a hotel supports four external jobs locally (at suppliers, in public services, etc.). Around the world, our teams are committed to implementing pioneering initiatives through mentoring programs, sponsorships and partnerships with associations to address the specific challenges and key priorities of each local community. The Accor Heartist® Solidarity Endowment Fund exemplifies our unwavering commitment to local communities. Embodying our values, it is dedicated to empowering the most vulnerable, enabling them to regain social and professional autonomy.

We believe in creating a supportive and rewarding work environment. From our inclusive company culture to our comprehensive perks and benefits, we ensure that our team members feel valued. Hospitality is not merely an industry—it represents boundless opportunity and a catalyst for transformative change. It is the chance to embark on a life-changing career. Accor, with our steadfast commitment to openness, equality, and social mobility, stands at the forefront of this movement, ensuring that every individual is given the chance to embark on a journey of profound personal and professional fulfilment.

Popular idea

9 **Promoting easier access to employment, especially for the youth**

Citizens agree on :

Increasing accessibility of job opportunities for young people and **providing simplified education and career paths.**

Participants highlight the need to **standardise training programmes in Europe**. This would ensure that individuals receive more harmonised and relevant education, preparing them with the necessary skills for future job prospects. Special attention is given to the **accessibility of trainings, as well as skills related to new technologies.**

They also propose the development of a **single online platform for young people across the EU** that would provide information about internships, scholarships, and job openings. Such a platform would make it easier for young people to find and access these opportunities.

Main popular proposals

Davide, 35

It is necessary to develop alternative and harmonized training paths at the European level to prepare the population for the jobs of the future

75%   14%   10%

Sílvia, 33

It is necessary to create a service or web page that collects internships, scholarships and job offers for young people throughout the EU.

75%   14%   10%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Goga, 28

It is necessary to invest in training geared toward professional practice, emphasizing technologies.

75%   16%

Anima, 30

We should have a minimum standard for some jobs in all of Europe.

75%   16%

Louis, 34

We need a Europe that is more attuned to changes in the job market and new technologies, by promoting training.

80%   10%

Alo

We should increase work freedoms for EU/EEA citizens. e.g. a European citizen card to be able to work in the EU without bureaucracy.

74%   11% 13%

Popular idea

9 ## Promoting easier access to employment, especially for the youth

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS   SGI europe

The green and digital transition is rapidly changing the labour market, with new opportunities but also new skills to acquire. However, while companies are dealing with labour shortages due to lack of skills and the ageing population, the 'youth exodus' translates into a dramatic loss of talent in those particularly vulnerable regions. In 2021, up to 1 in every 7 young people aged 15 to 29 weren't either in education, training, nor employed, showcasing how the youth are particularly affected by the difficulty in joining the labour market, especially since the COVID 19 pandemic.

A common European solution

The EU needs to act more effectively on employment through further integration. Reforms of the European treaties should be pursued to **provide the EU with the political and economic tools** to face the changing labour market, while remaining competitive. The EU could then implement a plan for development and employment, funded by a proper EU budget. In parallel, young people want Member States to simplify and **harmonise standards and regulations in labour markets** and education.

Young people also wish to see effective measures at the European level in favour of quality youth employment. Increased youth mobility programmes such as Erasmus can encourage cross country mobility for young workers. Just like any other citizen, we must guarantee that working young people are offered a **minimum wage** in line with the equal treatment principle and applicable law and policies. To ensure they have **the freedom to stay in their home regions**, we must invest more in quality educational and employment opportunities to reduce brain and skill drain in less economically developed and peripheral regions such as rural and mountainous areas, islands, and outermost regions. Young people also want to ease access to job opportunities, scholarships and internships, with a single multilingual youth platform.

Companies and governments should **invest in lifelong learning** and continuous skilling of the workforce to guarantee access to a quality, competitive job market. Furthermore the EU needs a **system of recognition and validation of learning outcomes**. Policy-makers and social partners must address the lack of investment in skills development by promoting the **strategic role of vocational education and training** in meeting the objectives of the European Green Deal, as well as by setting up a European alliance for green skills. The technical assistance offered to Member States for new European funds for skills, education, and training needs to be intensified and the lack of awareness and understanding on EU funds available for local authorities and smaller companies, needs to be addressed.

Popular idea

9 Promoting easier access to employment, especially for the youth

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We want full youth and quality employment; including for NEETs. We will present a Roadmap for Quality Work and Well-paid Jobs. We envision binding quality standards and more funding for the Youth Guarantee. We fight for accessible, well-funded vocational education and training as well as quality paid traineeships. We push for a fair workers' mobility. We promote lifelong learning, the right to training during paid working time, and equipping workers with new skills to avoid brain drain.

alde PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

Create a truly interconnected labour market by revising the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and academic and vocational degrees to ensure that formal and informal learning is recognised and facilitate remote working across Europe. Grant EU-sponsored summer Interrail passes to all young Europeans completing a vocational degree to reward beneficial career choices to the European economy and to make Europe's riches known to the many, not the few.

European Greens

Work should take place on decent terms & in safe conditions. We will put an end to the practice of unpaid internships. Accessible quality public education, training & lifelong learning should be available to all & funded properly. We will invest in training & access for jobs in the new green industries. With the Erasmus Equality principle, learners who could not otherwise afford Erasmus will receive enough money to fully fund their time abroad, regardless of one's background.

European LEFT

We defend access to quality and stable employment. We also defend the need to reduce the working day. Therefore, it is necessary to provide security to youth through more stable jobs with better remuneration. Precariousness prevents the articulation of life projects.

Parti Démocrate Européen PDE EDP European Democratic Party

We believe in enabling every young person to thrive, regardless of social, economic or geographical barriers. This means providing financial and logistical support for education and entrepreneurship. We advocate for international skill development and replacing unpaid internships with quality job opportunities. Exploring tax exemptions for under-25 employees is on our agenda. We also want to increase funding for Erasmus and Culture tenfold.

European Free Alliance

EFA wants to see more investment in cross-border training and employment opportunities. For example, qualifications should be more easily recognised across Europe. But we also want to make sure that young people have the opportunities they need to stay and make a good living in their home regions. We want to revitalise Europe's most disadvantaged areas by providing special support and infrastructure to rural areas, islands, mountainous regions, and so on.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Dimension: Climate change and environment

10 # Encouraging "Made in Europe"

Popular idea

Citizens agree on :

Strengthening Europe's industrial autonomy and resilience, promoting homegrown capabilities and innovation, as well as reducing dependencies on foreign markets.
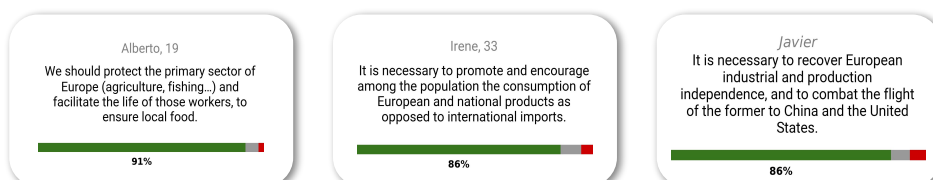
Participants recommend encouraging "Made in Europe" initiatives and prioritising European expertise, by safeguarding **Europe's primary industries**. They also argue for **the enhancement of living standards for agricultural workers.**

Popular proposals also suggest **to boost the consumption of domestic and European products**. According to participants, this could be done by **encouraging people to choose and support products from Europe** and their own country, rather than relying on imports from other markets, such as US and China.

Main popular proposals

Romain, 33
We must encourage "made in Europe" and give priority to European skills and solutions whenever possible.

80%   10%

Jan
We need to relaunch our industries and pool our resources so that we are no longer dependent on the Asian, American or Russian blocs.

85%   15%

Jan
We need to pool our strenghts and ideas to ensure our industrial independence (energy, batteries, medicines, etc.)

86%   14%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Alberto, 19
We should protect the primary sector of Europe (agriculture, fishing...) and facilitate the life of those workers, to ensure local food.

91%

Irene, 33
It is necessary to promote and encourage among the population the consumption of European and national products as opposed to international imports.

86%

Javier
It is necessary to recover European industrial and production independence, and to combat the flight of the former to China and the United States.

86%

10 Encouraging "Made in Europe"

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS · SGI europe · BEUC The European Consumer Organisation

Large scale digitalisation, changes in trade rules, and the climate crisis create new challenges and changes in industrial structures. Competition from China, the United States, and others has reached advanced levels, in a world that is increasingly being defined on protectionist rather than free market terms. The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated the industries' vulnerability and the dependence of EU industry on global sourcing. The need to achieve circularity and minimise the environmental impact implies radical innovations in manufacturing and related value chains. Although the process has started, the speed of change needs to increase.

A common European solution

Strengthening Europe's industrial autonomy and resilience, promoting homegrown capabilities and innovation, as well as reducing dependencies on foreign markets and promoting European product consumption, as opposed to imports, are essential. To that end, it is imperative to **relocate vital industrial activities back to Europe** to cover more of our consumption, ensuring shorter and more resilient supply chains and creating long-term, well-paid jobs for European workers.

Healthy national economies are the basis of a strong economic union. It is therefore of individual and common interest to Member States to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of their economies by implementing structural reforms, especially **deeper fiscal, monetary, and social integration**, that will allow for a coherent European Industrial Policy and promote a systemic shift to social-ecological well being in the labour market. This requires **increasing the number and attractiveness of jobs in the industrial sector**, while at the same time **securing the environmental, economic and social sustainability** for future generations. Member States and regions also need to provide more **training in manufacturing, especially in tech**, with a focus on upskilling older generations and training new industrial professionals.

The industry must fully embrace digital technologies which provide the basis to increasing services around manufacturing and along the product life cycle. Moreover, more effective investment in research and innovation is necessary to see that '**Made in Europe' moves beyond a slogan**. Resilience does not mean protectionism, but to allow European industry to be viable and compete internationally, with a special focus on strengthening strategic industries. Notwithstanding this, competitiveness remains important and consumers must always be guaranteed sustainable choices. 'Made in Europe' must be well defined and the easiest and most affordable choice, most adapted to sustainable practices, including renting instead of buying.

10 Encouraging "Made in Europe"

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We want a Made in Europe 2030 strategy to reduce dependency, increase production capacities and level industry's playing field. It must build on access to clean, affordable energy (through investments in renewables), faster procedures to build factories, investments scaling up strategic sectors (e.g. batteries, pharma), strict social conditionality: reindustrialisation must mean quality jobs, higher wages, and training. We must ensure imports respect environmental, social and labour standards.

alde PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

The Single Market is our industrial strategy and path to open strategic autonomy. To increase industrial production in Europe, we need public support but we mostly need to unleash the power of the private sector through an increase in economic integration and a removal of all internal barriers, notably in services, banking and investment as well as digital (data) and energy. This will enhance competitiveness and job creation.

European Greens

We propose a major investment plan to fund green industries and infrastructure across the EU. The green transition is not abstract; it means new rail lines, new factories, new opportunities everyone. Solving the climate crisis will create millions of jobs in sectors from renewables and construction to industry and transport. The "shovel ready" projects that we would kickstart tomorrow represent 2 million jobs in the short and medium term and our long-term transition up to 10 million.

European LEFT

We defend the circular and local economy, therefore it is logical to defend local production in EU countries.

PDE EDP — Parti Démocrate Européen — European Democratic Party

We back 'Made in Europe', prioritising innovation and enticing industry investments to the EU. Our aim: produce in Europe allows us to protect companies, consumers, the planet and guarantee European sovereignty. Emphasising resilience, sustainability, and reciprocity in public procurement underpins the Net Zero Industry Act.

European Free Alliance

Europe should recognise that we are a world leader in many sectors, and we have the most highly educated and high-skills workforce in the world. Europe's industrial strategy must protect those sectors and make strategic investments in future-oriented areas, to keep our competitive edge against other world powers. In particular, we need to protect Europe's farmers from unfair foreign competition and promote local supply chains.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

6 Introducing a tax system that better corrects inequalities
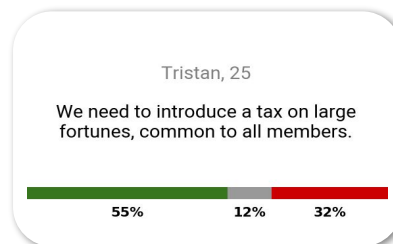
Divisive idea

Citizens are divided on:

Introducing **new taxes at the European level**, particularly targeting wealthy individuals, substantial inheritances or large corporations.
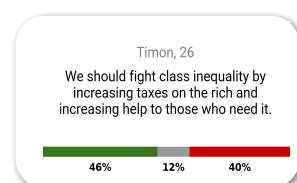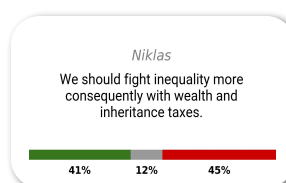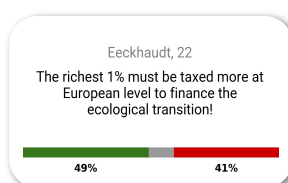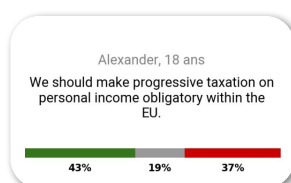
The participants brought forth a large array of solutions regarding taxation. Each proposal on that topic sparked division. They include : taxes on large fortunes; on inheritance; progressive income tax; taxation of the richest 1%...

The different uses to which this money was put did not alter the voting dynamic. Whether it is to finance European initiatives, the ecological transition or the reduction of inequalities, the proposals are controversial.

Main popular proposals

Tristan, 25

We need to introduce a tax on large fortunes, common to all members.

| 55% | 12% | 32% |

Nicolas

We should create a European tax on very high estates in order to finance re-distributive European policies.

| 48% | 16% | 34% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Alexander, 18 ans

We should make progressive taxation on personal income obligatory within the EU.

| 43% | 19% | 37% |

Eeckhaudt, 22

The richest 1% must be taxed more at European level to finance the ecological transition!

| 49% | 41% |

Niklas

We should fight inequality more consequently with wealth and inheritance taxes.

| 41% | 12% | 45% |

Timon, 26

We should fight class inequality by increasing taxes on the rich and increasing help to those who need it.

| 46% | 12% | 40% |

Dimension: Climate change and environment

7 **Building a more social Europe**

Divisive idea

Citizens are divided on:

The idea of enhancing social policies within the EU and prioritising the well-being of its citizens over economic market goals.

Participants engage in discussions about social benefits in Europe, such as **the introduction of a Europe-wide minimum wage** and a universal basic income. Proposals also debated the idea to provide affordable housing, as well as the streamlining of pension levels across Europe.

Main popular proposals

Cristina, 30

An unconditional universal basic minimum income must be introduced to enable everyone to live in dignity

| 54% | 11% | 34% |

Grainne, 30

We should aim for uniformity across the EU with regard to Social Welfare payments and social housing, with the aim to encourage workers.

| 56% | 17% | 26% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Moustafa, 31

Europe must no longer be based on the economic market, but on the well-being of European citizens.

| 45% | 18% | 36% |
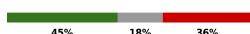
Jose Fernando

We should equalize the minimum wage in all European countries.

| 43% | 12% | 44% |

Josef, 27

One should create a working world in which all members of a company benefit equally financially.

| 40% | 17% | 42% |

M

We should make companies with similar revenues in different EU countries pay the same salaries in all countries.

| 48% | 11% | 39% |

EU IN THE WORLD

Popular ideas · Agenda of HOPE for the future

1 Strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy

Divisive ideas

1 Establishing a European army
2 Increasing the EU's support to Ukraine

Dimension:EU in the world

11 **Strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy**

Popular idea

Citizens agree on :

The importance of the EU making **its own important decisions without being influenced by major global powers** like the United States, China, and Russia.

The goal for the participants is to **bolster the EU's stability and autonomy**, positioning it as a distinct force free from the sway of other nations. This strategy seeks to enhance the **EU's self-sufficiency** in navigating global affairs and safeguarding its own interests. According to participants, the EU should become an independent global actor.

Main popular proposals

Jules, 22
It is necessary to become a third pole independent of both the U.S. and China and Russia

78%   10% 11%

Michal, 32
The EU needs to make its own decisions about Europe, without pressure from the big powers (USA, CHINA RUSSIA). A strong and stable EU needs to be promoted.

83%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Flávio
Europe must stop being militarily, economically and technologically dependent on the US.

75%   11% 12%

Jean, 35
Europe needs to speak with its own voice, not just follow the Chinese or American lead .... Let's make our own proposals!

86%

Gabriel, 23
It is necessary not to be dominated by the pressures of the United States, in order to make the best decisions for Europeans.

83%

Simona, 24
The influence of third countries (the US, Russia, China) should be limited and the sovereignty of the EU should be taken care of.

80%   12%

11 # Strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response *by* YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

The European Union was founded to promote peace and unity after centuries of conflict, yet the resurgence of wars on the continent from Yugoslavia to Ukraine has shown the limits of the current system in the areas of foreign policy and defence. Competing interests abroad, neglected defence capabilities and a reluctance to take an active role on the global stage has meant that the EU has not been able to live up to its potential as a global leader promoting peace, democracy and human rights. In order to uphold international norms in an increasingly turbulent world, the EU will have to become a stronger diplomatic force.

A common European solution

Foreign affairs continue to be decided at the national level, however **a more efficient and democratic foreign policy** is needed for the EU to meet the expectations of its citizens. The European Parliament has comparatively little power in this area which remains largely under the domain of the Council of the EU. Member States have followed different and sometimes conflicting foreign policies as no consensus can be reached. Competencies are also not clearly distinguished between institutions. Thus, **through a revision of Treaties, foreign policy must increasingly become an exclusive EU competence by removing the unanimity principle** in the European Council and giving increased democratic oversight to the European Parliament to ensure the EU's foreign policy is more transparent and representative.

One of the main concerns among young people is Europe's security in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The EU does not have its own defence force and the fragmented national militaries, industries and policies have resulted in inefficient spending, underperforming capabilities and weak geopolitical influence. **Achieving a true European Defence Union** is increasingly important for long-term peace. The defence industries of Member States must be further integrated to create a more unified European defence industry which can meet European defence needs, facilitate common procurement and make Europe self-reliant on security matters. This would facilitate the needed integration of European defence capabilities to establish a European defence force able ensure the security of the union and accountable to the European Parliament.

The EU's relations with the rest of the world need to be guided by European values and interests. **Promoting human rights and multilateralism across the globe must become a core principle of EU diplomacy,** building closer political, cultural and economic links with democratic states and giving more democratic oversight to the European Parliament.

11 Strengthening a sovereign EU voice in diplomacy

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

The EU must be better equipped in securing its interests and values. We promote a stronger CSDP and "Made in Europe" 2030 strategy to reduce dependencies on the US and China. We believe in the rules-based multilateral order to reduce tensions and international conflicts. We put human rights and democracy at the core of external relations. We want an assessment of what EU architecture reforms are needed, with targeted Treaty changes, and move towards more majority decisions in certain matters.

alde PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

The EU has shown that it can be and it is a leading global player. But we can achieve much more to make our Union stronger and act as one voice. We believe in institutional reform to transform the Commission into a democratic executive, with one president at the helm of the EU's executive so the world finally knows whom to call. We should use our power to build partnerships with like-minded countries to strengthen the EU's global influence in order to promote our values.

European Greens

Security policy is at the centre of the EU agenda. We must rejuvenate multilateralism & values-based foreign policy. The EU must work closely with democracies & like-minded partners worldwide & create new ties for multilateral cooperation outside the Global North, working with all parties committed to peace, human rights & international law. The green transition has always been a question of security. More control over our energy system, crucial technologies & vital supply chains, is crucial.

European LEFT

We understand that an independent and no aligned European diplomacy based on the defense of peace and human rights is necessary. We have to defend the peace and not the war.

PDE EDP — Parti Démocrate Européen — European Democratic Party

We must speak with one EU voice internationally. All the more so when it comes to violation of human rights, which we cannot tolerate, so we must take a firm stance against human rights violations in third countries. This also applies to migration issues, where EU rules need to be harmonised to enable the Union to speak with one voice. We also want to develop genuine EU military power and support Europe's strategic autonomy, while preserving the transatlantic relationship with NATO.

European Free Alliance

EFA believes the EU can become a stronger and more independent actor on the world stage. We should work together with those countries that share our values, but acknowledge when our interests differ. That requires us to work better as a continent with a more powerful and united voice. We support a move towards qualified majority voting in foreign policy, so that the EU can be more decisive and self-sufficient – and so that it can promote peace and democracy worldwide.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

Dimension:EU in the world

8 # Establishing a European army

Divisive idea

Citizens are divided on:

The proposal for a **unified European army in response to geopolitical challenges,** aiming to make the EU independent from external forces.

Opinions are strongly divided on **whether or not a European army should be created** in place of national armies. Proposals on this idea highlight that it would reduce the dependence on the US for strategic military assets.

Main popular proposals

Lukáš Valenta, 17

We should create a united European army to help us counter foreign influences from Russia, the US and the PRC.

| 54% | 14% | 31% |

Maya, 20

We should set up a common European army in the face of uncertain global politics.

| 50% | 14% | 35% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Mr.

We should start a slow but sure process to unite the EU in certain necessary areas, like having one army.

| 50% | 41% |

Nicola

It is necessary to create a European army instead of individual armies; we would reduce the purchase of military arsenal from the U.S. by self-producing

| 45% | 12% | 41% |
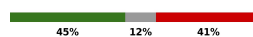
Davide, 35

It is necessary to form a common European army to defend ourselves against the enemies of democracy and freedom

| 42% | 15% | 41% |
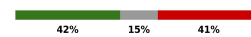
Mäx, 27

One should introduce a European army and establish a common European foreign policy.

| 43% | 13% | 43% |

Dimension: EU in the world

9 # Increasing the EU's support to Ukraine

Divisive idea
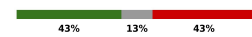
Citizens are divided on:

On the EU's position toward the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the possibility of an EU membership for Ukraine.

Participants do not reach a consensus on this topic as due to the presence of conflicting viewpoints.
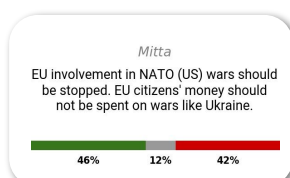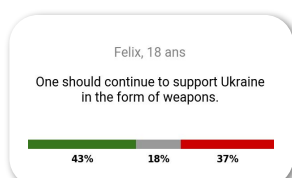
There is no agreement regarding the rise of military support for Ukraine, be it in terms of financial assistance or the direct provision of military equipment.

Beyond military support, the participants **also disagreed on whether or not Ukraine should join the EU after the war.**

Main popular proposals

Damien, 26

We must stop financing the armament of Ukraine, which is helping to aggravate the risk of war between the EU and Russia.

| 39% | 17% | 42% |

Jules, 22

It is necessary to start negotiations to facilitate Ukraine's accession to the EU as soon as the war ends

| 39% | 19% | 40% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Felix, 18 ans

One should continue to support Ukraine in the form of weapons.

| 43% | 18% | 37% |

Mitta

EU involvement in NATO (US) wars should be stopped. EU citizens' money should not be spent on wars like Ukraine.

| 46% | 12% | 42% |

Thomas, 32 ans

It is necessary to help Ukraine more strongly and decisively, as its citizens are dying for European values and for wanting to be part of the EU.

| 44% | 16% | 39% |

Sebby, 30 ans

Ukraine should to be admitted to the EU as soon as realistically possible.

| 35% | 18% | 46% |

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Popular ideas

Agenda of HOPE for the future

1. Enhancing measures at the European level to improve and
2. coordinate education
3. Strengthening EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare systems

12 # Enhancing measures at the European level to improve and coordinate education

Popular idea

Citizens agree on :

The need for educational reforms in the EU.

Proposals stress, for example, the importance of ensuring **high-quality education by increasing teachers' salaries and modernising training methods**.

Participants highlight the necessity to adjust teaching methods to the current job market. They propose to move forward by **facilitating collaboration between schools and companies**. This would provide students with more practical knowledge and experience.

Participants emphasise on the need for improved **economic literacy for children**, with a focus on everyday life decisions. Those would cover areas like responsible spending, budgeting, and understanding tax documents.

Finally, they recommend guaranteeing **free education for all EU citizens**, from early childhood to university, as well as promoting accessible and inclusive education across the EU.

Main popular proposals

Timon, 26
We should guarantee free education for every EU citizen. No matter if it is preschool or University.

76%   15%

João, 31
It is necessary to change teaching methods to meet the current realities of the labor market.

75%   16%

Oll, 33
A high level of education should be ensured, including by raising salaries and modernizing the way future teachers are trained.

83%

Zuzana, 20
We should teach kids more about finances: how to reasonably spend them, how to create a proper budget, and what tax documents actually look.

86%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Samuel, 22
We should support the partnerships between secondary vocational education schools and companies so that the students receive more expertise.

83%

Oll, 33
Ensure access to education and proper supervision of compulsory education so that every child can complete at least elementary school

90%

12 # Enhancing measures at the European level to improve and coordinate education

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS · ✳ESN Erasmus Student Network · ᵕᵕᵕ ESU EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION

The higher-than-average unemployment rates of young people, the increasing social inequalities and the widespread lack of EU knowledgeability showcase that the education policies in Europe do not fulfil their role as a tool meant to decrease inequalities, raise awareness and promote values, while also preparing young people for the labour market and the entrepreneuring scene. The EU does not address these problems suitably, while it tolerates inequality to access to high quality education and the existence of a multi-speed system in the European Higher Education Area.

A common European solution

Young people view education policy as pivotal to diminish social inequalities and see it as an accessible and inclusive public good. In this context, there is broad support that **all levels of education should be free** for everyone in the EU, while sizable inflation-adjusted scholarships should enable universal access to learning opportunities and to educational mobility, especially to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Skills and knowledge acquired through non-formal learning need to be better recognised. Income inequalities and barriers to educational mobility must be alleviated via a European plan for the **construction of affordable student residencies**.

An ambitious, inclusive and interdisciplinary **EU Citizenship Education Policy** is necessary for our education system to fulfil its social role. A **cross-sectoral approach to Active European Citizenship Education** through Erasmus+ must be adopted. Member States and EU institutions must develop together an interdisciplinary European Active Citizenship Education curriculum through participatory educational methods, on acquiring competences and EU knowledge. In addition, **education must be added as a specific area of action in the European Semester**, the EU framework for coordination and surveillance of economic and social policies. More targeted financial support for youth organisations involved in civic education must be granted.

Europe's diversity is rightfully reflected upon the diversity of our education systems. However, we need **common minimum standards for student participation in the administration** of educational institutes and for inclusion and anti-discrimination. Additionally, Member States and European institutions must take measures to ensure that the **Bologna Process fulfils its role to lead to the cohesion of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**, as it is currently devolving into a multi-speed system. Finally, it is indispensable for all university diplomas to be automatically recognised by all employers and authorities in Europe in an unbureaucratic way.

12

Enhancing measures at the European level to improve and coordinate education

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We call for universal access to free quality education at all levels, including for NEETs. We support creating the European Education Area by 2025, including through automatic mutual recognition of degrees. We want to ensure qualifications and skills needed for a just and sustainable transition. We fight for a widened Erasmus+, recognizing non-formal and informal education, reinforced youth work structures, better working conditions for teachers and an EU Plan on the student housing crisis.

alde | PARTY
ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

Ensure every European child learns at least one foreign language starting from primary school. Embrace education strategies that foster opportunities for all children regardless of their background while preparing our children for the digital and green transitions ahead. Extend the Erasmus+ programmes to students at all educational levels to ensure that everyone is skilled to contribute to our labour force. Support the Bologna Process and further develop the European Universities Initiative.

European Greens

Education investments are key to our proposals to finance the transition, to give everybody the chance to learn and provide the skills we need for the future. We will invest in comprehensive, life-long approaches, such as universal access to early childhood education & care. Early childhood education & care must be counted as social investment in the EU fiscal framework. We fight for decent pay for the jobs in the key sectors for the future from construction & care to energy & education.

European LEFT

The coordination of educational policies at the European level is essential at the school level, at the vocational training and university level. But clear support for public education from the European Union is essential. Public education is a guarantee of equality and youth development.

PDE EDP Parti Démocrate Européen European Democratic Party

Education is vital for an enlightened and prosperous society. We want equal access to high-quality education in Europe, enhancing education systems and promoting lifelong learning. Our goal is to provide top-tier education to youth, that rivals the world's leading universities, which prepares them for the job market. We are committed to offering young people a European civic education, allowing them to feel like fully European citizens and engage in the democratic process.

European Free Alliance

The European Commission often refuses to take action with regard to deficiencies in Europe's education system, arguing that it is not an EU competence. We believe this is unacceptable in sectors where member states are systematically failing their citizens: especially with regard to minority language education. We want to see the EU take a much bigger role in setting minimum standards in education and pushing its member states to meet their commitments when it comes to minority rights.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR** PARTY

These European political parties did not provide a response.

13 Strengthening EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare system
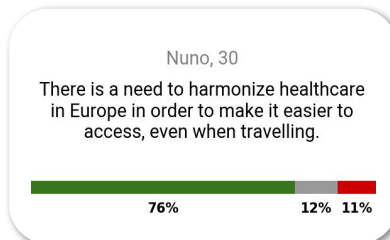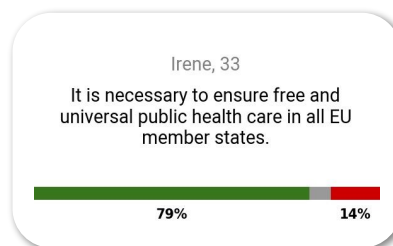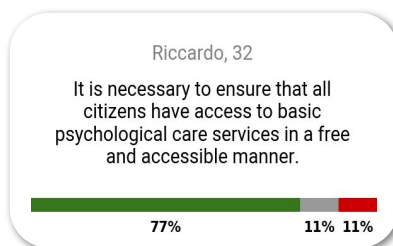
Popular idea

Citizens agree on :

The imperative for **comprehensive and accessible healthcare services across the EU.**

Citizens advocate for the establishment of **universal and free public healthcare across all EU member states**. They call for the harmonisation of healthcare systems to ensure accessibility, even outside their state of residence.
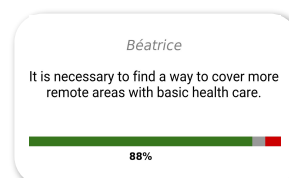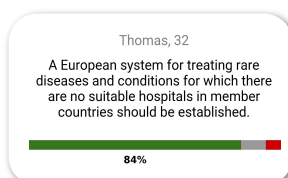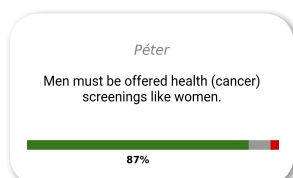
The proposals also tackle healthcare disparities, highlighting the essential need for **access to fundamental healthcare services even in the most remote or isolated regions**. Additionally, they underscore the importance of gender equality in healthcare, asserting that men and women should be offered equal opportunities for preventive care.

Lastly, they recommend establishing a European-wide system to tackle and manage **rare diseases**, considering that specialised hospitals might not be available in every member state.

Participants also call for the accessibility of basic **psychological care services** for all citizens.

Main popular proposals

Riccardo, 32

It is necessary to ensure that all citizens have access to basic psychological care services in a free and accessible manner.

77%   11% 11%

Irene, 33

It is necessary to ensure free and universal public health care in all EU member states.

79%   14%

Nuno, 30

There is a need to harmonize healthcare in Europe in order to make it easier to access, even when travelling.

76%   12% 11%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Péter

Men must be offered health (cancer) screenings like women.

87%

Thomas, 32

A European system for treating rare diseases and conditions for which there are no suitable hospitals in member countries should be established.

84%

Béatrice

It is necessary to find a way to cover more remote areas with basic health care.

88%

13 # Strengthening EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare system

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

The economic crises have led to Member States cutting public spending leading also to reduced capacities in social and healthcare sectors. Besides common action taken during the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU4Health programme, healthcare still largely falls into Member States' capacity. Accessible and affordable high standards of healthcare for all in Europe remains a challenge, especially when travelling.

A common European solution

The EU and its Member States need **more cooperation**, in general and for facing future crises. Through coordination of services across borders, ideally better services can be delivered to people in remote, isolated and border regions as requested by young people. **Common care standards** and coordination could also improve access to cancer and other health screenings as well as to free psychological and **mental health services everywhere** which young people also proposed.

To develop a **European Health Union capable of delivering universal public healthcare that is free or affordable** as proposed by young people, the organisation and funding of health needs to be ensured on the European level through **own resources**. If such structures are established on European level, their funding and control should be on the European level to avoid them from being dependent on shifts in Member State priorities, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

Now the EU can only support and complement national policies with regards to public health. Making **health a shared competence of the EU** through treaty reform to create a European Health Union could improve access to healthcare. The EU could share patient data in a more flexible manner and initiatives such as EU-wide electronic identification would complement the European Health Insurance Card. This would help access services outside the country of residence, beyond emergency health care, as requested by the young people. The EU should support cooperation of health services and the interlinkage of their systems with relevant local authorities.

The EU should continue the **joint procurement** of medicine and medical material started during the COVID-19 crisis and coordinate research across the Union. It could for example establish a permanent European Hospital and Medical Research Institute to **pool resources for treating and researching** the rarest and most complex medical procedures and treatment, in particular for rare diseases as demanded by young people.

13 Strengthening EU action on inclusive and harmonised healthcare system

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

EU-wide access to timely and quality healthcare is key. EU and Member States share competences on public health, and we want a strong European Health Union, supplementing national healthcare systems. We support voluntary joint procurement of medicines and medical equipment. We fight for fair and transparent medicine pricing to prevent shortages, including for rare diseases, initiatives on antimicrobial resistance, a strong European Mental Health Strategy and joint European public research.

alde | PARTY ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

Secure equal and safe access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as abortion and other gender-based care. Incorporate the right to abortion into the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and continue striving for affordable contraceptives and menstrual health products. Introduce an EU-wide ban on conversion therapy. Create the right environment to accelerate the digitalisation of European businesses and the public sector, such as healthcare.

European Greens

A European Health Union should make sure member states provide everyone in Europe with universal health coverage. Our demand that public healthcare systems include mental health care with no additional costs. We will push to eliminate health inequities & guarantee access to affordable medicines & treatment. The EU should create an EU Health Force for cooperation on health emergencies and disaster response. Further, all policies should be looked at from a health perspective.

EuropeanLEFT

We defend the reinforcement of public health systems in all the states of the European Union. Public health is a guarantee of equal development of people. That is why we are committed to greater investment in public health and public and universal health systems.

PDE EDP Parti Démocrate Européen European Democratic Party

Strategic autonomy in healthcare is crucial. Europe must strengthen its capacity and relocate medicine and equipment production within the Union. This enhances our ability to meet citizens' health needs and reduces external dependency, ensuring availability during crises. Common standards and data sharing will leverage technology for citizens' benefit; while fostering major European research centres.

European Free Alliance

We believe that everyone should be able to access similar standards of healthcare and treatment: nobody should be at a disadvantage because of where they live. For that reason, we promote more support for remote or disconnected regions, such as islands or mountainous areas. The healthcare needs of each region can be best delivered through local and regional expertise, but the European level can help, for example by buying medicine jointly and digitalising the European Health Insurance Card.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

HUMAN RIGHTS & MIGRATION

Popular ideas

Agenda of HOPE *for the future*

1

Creating a more efficient European legal framework for immigration

Divisive ideas

1 Substantially reforming the EU's global migration policy
2 Guaranteeing LGBTQIA+ and reproductive rights at EU level
3 Promoting Christian and religious values

Popular idea

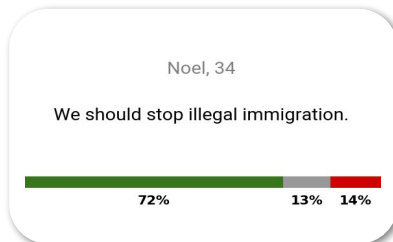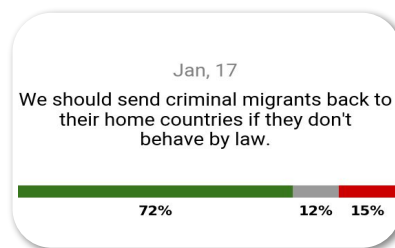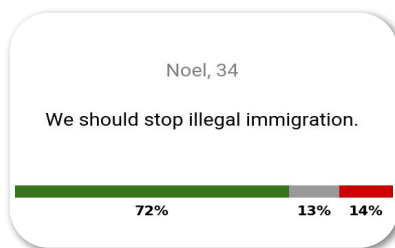14 **Creating a more efficient European legal framework for immigration**

Citizens agree on :

Limiting the number of illegal immigrants in the EU.

They advocate for **ending unauthorised immigration**, by advocating for the establishment of more regulated and lawful pathways for migration. They also call for **law enforcement measures to safeguard the well-being of migrants**, particularly those impacted by migrant trafficking or those being victim of other illegal activities, such as mutilation or forced marriages.

The proposals also call for the repatriation of migrants who engage in criminal activities, sending them back to their home countries if they fail to comply with the EU's and member states established laws and regulations.

Main popular proposals

Noel, 34

We should stop illegal immigration.

72%   13%   14%

Jan, 17

We should send criminal migrants back to their home countries if they don't behave by law.

72%   12%   15%

Noel, 34

We should stop illegal immigration.

72%   13%   14%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Simona, 24

The efficiency of deporting illegals should be increased.

74%   12% 12%

Francisco, 18

There is a need to control illegal immigration more strictly and ensure that immigrants are well integrated into our societies.

80%   13%

Simona, 24

Refugees and immigrants who perform FGM or force marriage on underage children should be expelled from Europe.

85%

Popular idea

14 Creating a more efficient European legal framework for immigration

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS VOICIFY

The EU has proved itself totally unprepared and failed to protect human rights, tackle the humanitarian crisis faced by asylum seekers and protect immigrants from discrimination. Member states are reacting unilaterally and against the common European interest. Negative narratives of media and politicians negate or misrepresent the importance of people with lived migration experiences as an integral part of Europe contributing to its prosperity.

A common European solution

We need **a common policy on migration, asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection** which fully complies with the European Convention on Human Rights and respects the non-refoulement principle. Young people differentiate between unregulated and regulated migration and asylum, and want to tackle so-called "illegal migration". To do so, there needs to be **harmonised, fair and unbureaucratic rules and procedures for asylum and regulated migration**. Furthermore, the EU must enhance safe routes to combat smugglers and human traffickers and restore trust in its policy - for its population and for people seeking shelter or a better future in Europe.

The **Common European Asylum Policy must fully respect EU values, human rights, and rely on responsibility and solidarity,** including with the countries of entry. Moreover, it is crucial that the processing of asylum applications be done in a timely and fair manner. Thereafter, appropriate assistance must be provided to refugees, while those not entitled to asylum must be repatriated. Every case must be examined individually, with respect to the dignity, agency and well-being of asylum seekers. Frontex has to respect European and international law and act in accordance with our values, to search and rescue all in danger in the sea, to abstain from push backs and be held accountable if not. Finally, we must raise awareness about the needed reform of the outdated Geneva Convention, while strengthening monitoring and enforcement to ensure that Member States respect their obligations under the Convention.

The integration of migrant communities requires coherent measures for their inclusion in the social, political and cultural life and for fair chances in education and work. EU institutions and Member states have to establish **mechanisms to assess and match the skills of immigrants with the labour market and to facilitate the recognition of their qualifications** - but also to support them in pursuing their education and upskilling, including a good understanding of the EU and awareness of European citizenship. A long-term vision presupposes cooperation with young migrants and organisations, to create a mechanism to report migrants' discriminatory experiences.

14 Creating a more efficient European legal framework for immigration

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We want a progressive implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. It provides a permanent and binding solidarity mechanism, faster protection for those in need, safeguards for the most vulnerable, clear rules for reception centres, fundamental rights at the borders, effective return procedures, supporting other countries, preventing irregular migration and fighting human traffickers, legal avenues for protection and labour market opportunities, and inclusion in local communities.

alde | PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

Reform the Common European Asylum System, to stop the cynical and inhuman business model of smugglers, improve reception standards, share responsibility, and make asylum procedures human rights-based and more efficient. Prioritise integration, support policies such as the provision of basic skills, applying zero-tolerance for discrimination, promoting intercultural dialogue and language learning. Legal pathways for labour migration, by implementing an EU talent pool.

European Greens

Migration policies that are dysfunctional, unsustainable & inhumane are being normalised. We Greens stand for the EU founding principles & demand a fair asylum system as well as legal, safe & accessible ways for migration as a necessary precondition for ending human trafficking & exploitation. We want to develop a new, comprehensive Migration Code, providing for visa opportunities for family reunification & work at different skills levels, addressing labour shortages across the EU.

European LEFT

Migration policies must be based on respect for human rights and the right to asylum and refuge. But it is essential to act in the countries of origin of migration, not by reinforcing borders but by investing to improve living conditions.

PDE EDP — Parti Démocrate Européen — European Democratic Party

We call for a common approach to asylum and migration policy, prioritising border security while investing in local economies. This includes 'European quotas' for economic migration and the dismantling criminal networks. Human rights and integration are paramount; with a special focus on unaccompanied minors and young migrants, supporting their transition into society and the labour market. By managing the dynamics of migration, we aim to build a secure, diverse and inclusive Europe.

European Free Alliance

Asylum is a universal human right; and European states have a legal obligation to respect it. Europe must remain a welcoming continent for those fleeing violence or persecution, so long as they respect our values. We need to ensure that our asylum policy is humane and respects human rights. That can be done by setting up more safe and legal channels to discourage people from making dangerous journeys. We should not be making deals with third countries that do not respect human rights.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

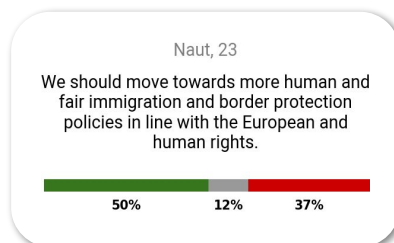**10** # Substantially reforming the EU's global migration policy
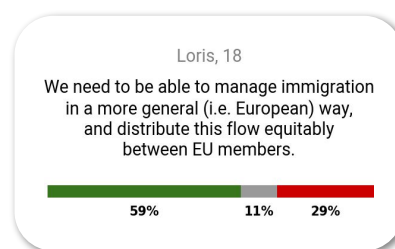
Divisive idea

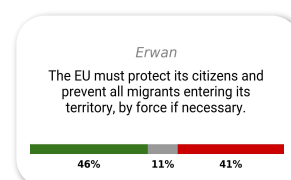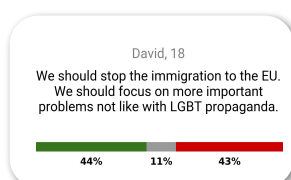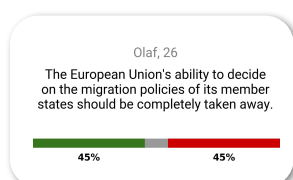## Citizens are divided on:

The EU's migration policy.

While there is consensus on the need to control illegal immigration, **the picture is more diversified when it comes to migration in general.**

Proposals related to migration in a wider context (beyond illegal migration) tend to be controversial. Supranational policies such as **reinforcing borders or creating a common registration process for immigrants** spark great division.

Main popular proposals

Ipster
Borders must be re-established and free movement must be allowed only for Europeans.

60%   11%   28%

Loris, 18
We need to be able to manage immigration in a more general (i.e. European) way, and distribute this flow equitably between EU members.

59%   11%   29%

Naut, 23
We should move towards more human and fair immigration and border protection policies in line with the European and human rights.

50%   12%   37%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Olaf, 26
The European Union's ability to decide on the migration policies of its member states should be completely taken away.

45%   45%

David, 18
We should stop the immigration to the EU. We should focus on more important problems not like with LGBT propaganda.

44%   11%   43%

Erwan
The EU must protect its citizens and prevent all migrants entering its territory, by force if necessary.

46%   11%   41%

Dimension: Human rights & migration

Divisive idea

11 # Guaranteeing LGBTQIA+ and reproductive rights at EU level
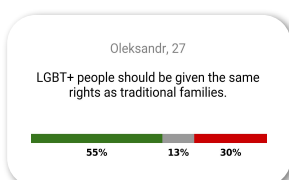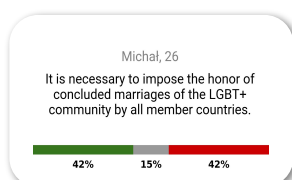
Citizens are divided on:

On the idea of establishing certain **fundamental rights at the EU level**, such as **the right to abortion** and **LGBTQIA+ rights**.

The proposals calling to ensure these rights across the EU are controversial. Among them is the idea that the harmonisation and extension of LGBTQIA+ rights should be a condition for EU membership. Participants also discuss the concept of standardizing same-sex marriage laws throughout the EU.

Main popular proposals

Clara, 20

Certain fundamental rights should be secured at EU level, such as the right to abortion or LGBTIAQ+ rights.

58%   33%

Lukáš Valenta, 17
We should introduce a mandatory condition for the legalisation of LGBTQ rights in the set of conditions for EU accession.

49%   11%   39%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Michał, 26

It is necessary to impose the honor of concluded marriages of the LGBT+ community by all member countries.

42%   15%   42%

Oleksandr, 27

LGBT+ people should be given the same rights as traditional families.

55%   13%   30%

Cosmic

We should make the LGBTQIA+ rights equal for all european countries.

49%   10%   40%

Jeanne, 23
We need to protect the rights of trans people across Europe, to prevent legislative offensives against their rights.

46%   14%   39%

92

Dimension: Human rights & migration

12 **Promoting Christian and religious values**

Divisive idea

Citizens are divided on:

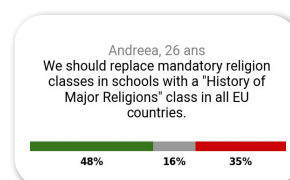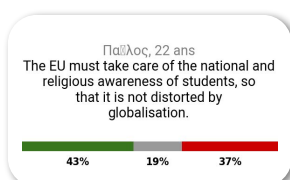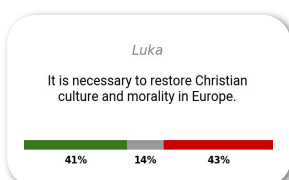The importance of **Christianity in shaping European identity.**

The participants **agree neither on the idea of preserving Christian values** in Europe **nor on the need to protect the religious** awareness of European citizens.

No consensus can be identified in light of this subject: whether it is on proposals to give Christianity precedence over other religions within the EU, or on the contrary, the idea of encouraging more religious diversity.

Main popular proposals

Jules, 22
It is necessary to encourage cultural exchange between religions, recognizing the value of spiritual diversity in Europe

| 45% | 19% | 35% |

Marcin
More emphasis should be placed on religion. Europe's civilization was founded on Christianity, by destroying it we lead to the obliteration of identity.

| 33% | 12% | 54% |

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Balázs, 16 ans
We need to nurture and revitalise national identity and Christian morals in order to create successful societies.

| 41% | | 49% |

Luka
It is necessary to restore Christian culture and morality in Europe.

| 41% | 14% | 43% |

Παῦλος, 22 ans
The EU must take care of the national and religious awareness of students, so that it is not distorted by globalisation.

| 43% | 19% | 37% |

Andreea, 26 ans
We should replace mandatory religion classes in schools with a "History of Major Religions" class in all EU countries.

| 48% | 16% | 35% |

93

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Popular ideas

AGENDA of 'HOPE for the future

1 **Supporting research, innovation and technology in Europe**

Dimension: Research & Innovation

Popular idea

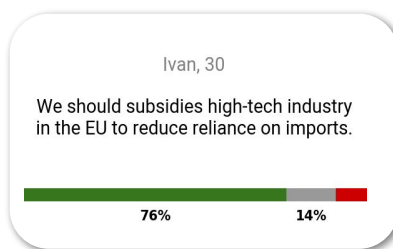15 **Supporting research, innovation and technology in Europe**

Citizens agree on :

The need to **prioritise research and innovation in Europe to remain competitive** on the global stage and **effectively tackle future challenges.**
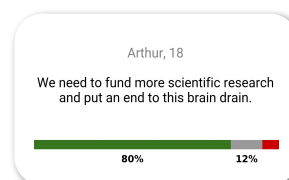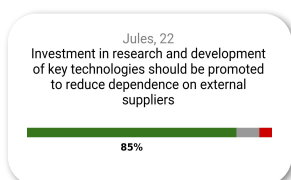
Participants emphasise the need for **a fundamental shift toward enhancing innovation,** reinforcing self-sufficiency in key industries, and driving forward technological progress. These proposed actions are believed to be key in **reducing Europe's reliance on imports.**

They also propose the establishment of **a European research center,** dedicated to scientific and technological innovation, with the goal of creating new job opportunities in these sectors.

Main popular proposals

Ivan, 30

We should subsidies high-tech industry in the EU to reduce reliance on imports.

76%   14%

Louis, 34
We need to build a Europe of research and innovation to face up to foreign competition and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

87%

L

We should massively produce electronic components, including chips, in the EU, to stop depending too much on other countries.

78%   13%

Other popular proposals to illustrate the idea

Jules, 22
Investment in research and development of key technologies should be promoted to reduce dependence on external suppliers

85%

Giacomo
It is necessary to create a European science and technology research center that can provide definite employment opportunities.

77%   17%

Arthur, 18
We need to fund more scientific research and put an end to this brain drain.

80%   12%

Dimension: Research & Innovation

15 Supporting research, innovation and technology in Europe

Popular idea

Youth coalitions' response

by YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS •SOGA ACCÉLÉRER L'ESS NUMÉRIQUE

It is essential to support research and development of Europe's own high tech and digital sector, with strong regulations guaranteeing both compliance and innovation, while also aiming for a socially thoughtful digital transition **involving the social economy**. Skill and capacity building is needed to improve digital literacy, inclusion, and work prospects. The EU should also foster startup clusters or centres of competitiveness dedicated to the general interest.

A common European solution

Young people want to see a **prioritisation of research and innovation** in Europe, to remain competitive on the global stage and effectively tackle future challenges while guaranteeing self-sufficiency. In this area, Artificial Intelligence plays a central role. To that effect, it is essential to **support research on high tech industry, digital affairs and Artificial Intelligence** in the EU, calling on Member States and private actors to mobilise investment. Besides the importance of funding, regulation needs to be a cornerstone of Europe's model of innovation. To that end there is a need to **set in place regulatory/supervisory bodies for Artificial Intelligence and new technologies** that ensure compliance with our values while not hindering innovation.

The establishment of Europe of research and innovation, with a dedicated European centre dedicated to scientific and technological innovation, to reduce unemployment, is also seen as a need by young people. In particular, the EU could create a **European model of startup clusters or centres of competitiveness dedicated to the general interest**, integrating researchers of the human sciences field and players in the Social Economy. The Social Economy, including civil society, has many assets for developing AI and digital centres of excellence in Europe.

Indeed, the push for a renewed wave of technological innovation must involve the wider society and benefit it via an identification and mapping of social needs and set out real economic models for inclusion through training and employment in the digital economy. To mitigate the negative consequences that digital innovation can have in society, setting up **training for all to reduce digital illiteracy** is key. In particular, it is important to **fund the wider digital transition of Social and Solidarity Economy organisations,** so that social economy actors master digital literacy/tools and promote digital inclusion. Being in direct contact with the most vulnerable groups, i.e. those who are far from employment and education, they have a direct way for action to guarantee solidarity and social cohesion.

15 Supporting research, innovation and technology in Europe

Popular idea

European political parties' responses

PES SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

We support research and innovation and fought to achieve NextGenerationEU to finance the digital transformation and make Europe a hub for innovation and technology. We want a digital transformation, respecting EU values and increasing investments in digital public infrastructure and digital education, quality access to internet; research in medical and scientific sectors, digital and AI skills to boost the labour market and sectors with shortages. AI must follow the "human in control" principle.

alde PARTY — ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

We need to focus on investment and facilitating intra-European cooperation across sectors in research, development; innovation and people and attract private investment to make Europe more competitive and sustainable.

European Greens

Support for research & development contributes towards scientific & technological development; as well as other societal goals, and should be increased. Digitalisation can be an opportunity for the EU & its people as long it is truly open & with rights protected by legislation. AI must be regulated to not serve for surveillance states or tech capitalism. We will introduce a European Data Space that opens anonymized social data uses that serve the common good, e.g. medical research.

European LEFT

Public support for research and technological development is necessary. Public universities must be protagonists and must have greater public investment.

PDE EDP — Parti Démocrate Européen — European Democratic Party

We are committed to strengthening Europe's growth and competitiveness and recognise the key role of innovation and research. We pledge to invest heavily in cutting-edge technologies, ensuring inclusiveness across all generations. Embracing the potential of artificial intelligence, we will lead initiatives in research, development and deployment. Rather than fearing it; we see AI as a catalyst for innovation, improving industrial efficiency and creating new economic opportunities.

European Free Alliance

The EU has a highly educated workforce and is a world leader in many sectors. This position must be safeguarded and strengthened. We should build on our world-class education systems by continuing to prioritise funding research and innovation, especially in future-oriented sectors like tech, AI, and electric vehicles. Europe can also regulate in these sectors to make sure they are safe and reflect the public interest; setting worldwide standards while staying competitive.

epp european people's party   **ID**   **ECR PARTY**

These European political parties did not provide a response.

3

THE MAIN TOPICS
of the consultation

These results are based on the entire EurHope dataset and may not representative.

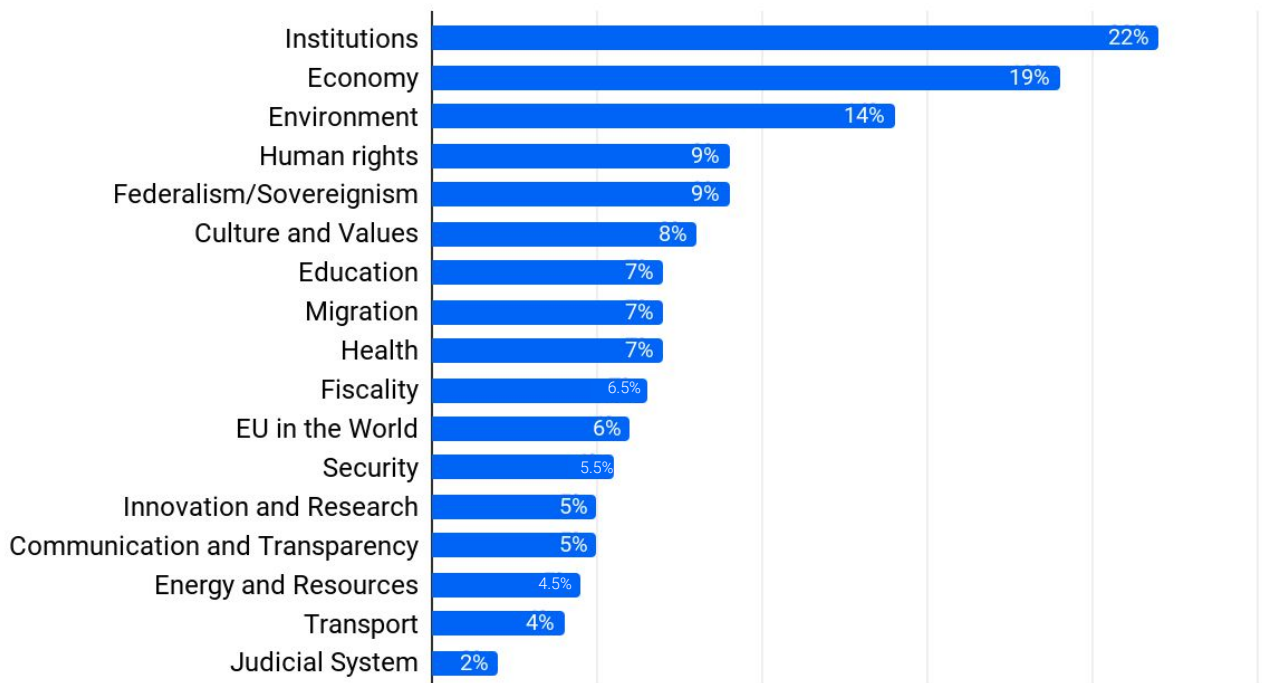## *What young people are talking about in the 4,313 validated proposals*

From the 4,313 proposals validated by moderators, we employed a method of **qualitative clustering** to thematically categorise them. One notable finding was the widespread concern among young people across Europe regarding European institutions and democracy. Additionally, prominent topics included the economy and the environment, indicating these as key priorities for young people.

It is also interesting to note that young people's proposals often addressed **various important topics**, underscoring the multifaceted nature of their concerns and emphasising the **interconnectedness of issues** within contemporary European society.

🧭 **Method Info**

The displayed figures are quantitative findings that display the number of topics referred to in the 4.313 proposals that were validated after moderation in the consultation. The representative results can be found in the Agenda of Hope.

% of validated proposals relative to the topic

Topic	%
Institutions	22%
Economy	19%
Environment	14%
Human rights	9%
Federalism/Sovereignism	9%
Culture and Values	8%
Education	7%
Migration	7%
Health	7%
Fiscality	6.5%
EU in the World	6%
Security	5.5%
Innovation and Research	5%
Communication and Transparency	5%
Energy and Resources	4.5%
Transport	4%
Judicial System	2%

The percentages add up to more than 100% because some proposals are part of more than one topic. Out of 5 069 proposals submitted, 4 313 were validated by the Make.org moderators according to the moderation rules.

Mapping EurHope

On the basis of the all contributions on the platform, we were able to identify from what country came more or less proposals in different categories. Crucially, those categories are the very first quantitative layer of analysis and therefore do not correspond to the representative results and dimensions of the Agenda of Hope (as displayed above).

Still, the following results allow for a broad idea about the frequency of certain topics in different countries.

🧭 **Method Info**

The maps are displayed in absolute numbers. The representative results can be found in the Agenda of Hope.
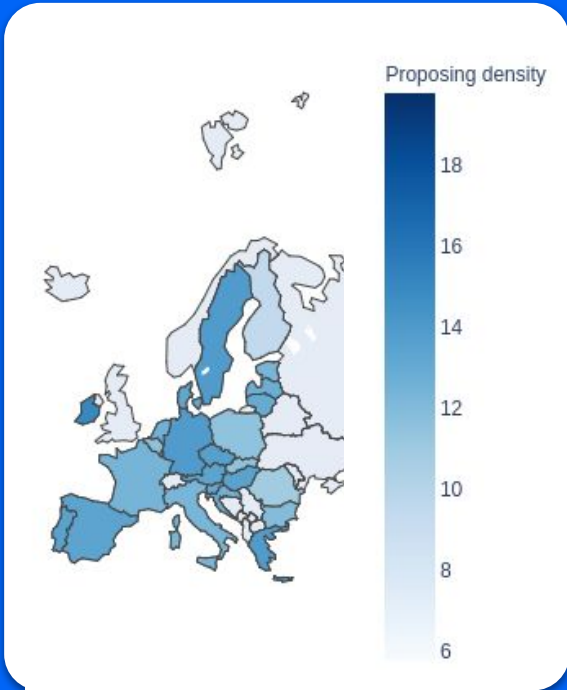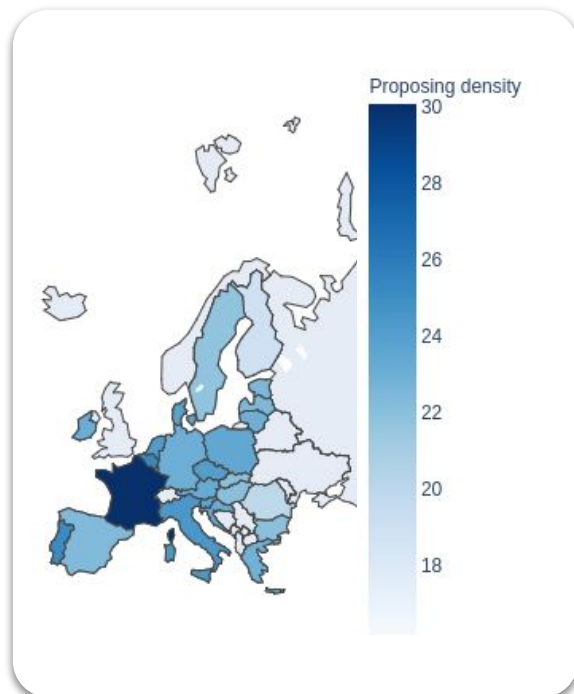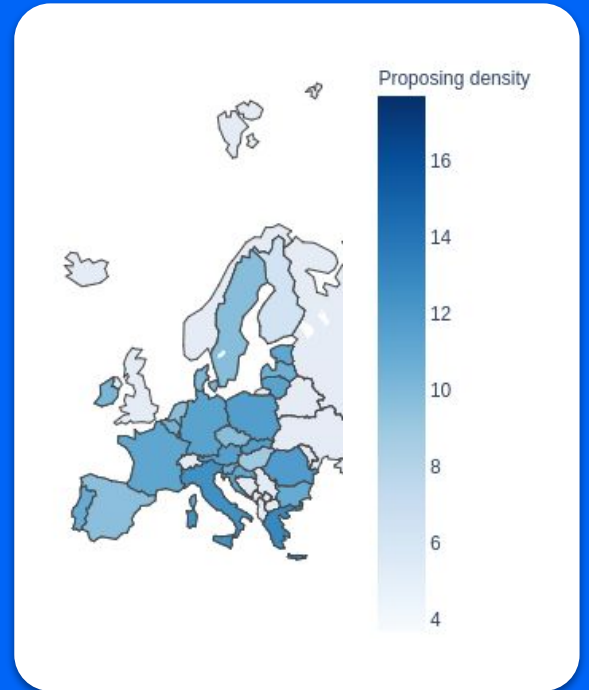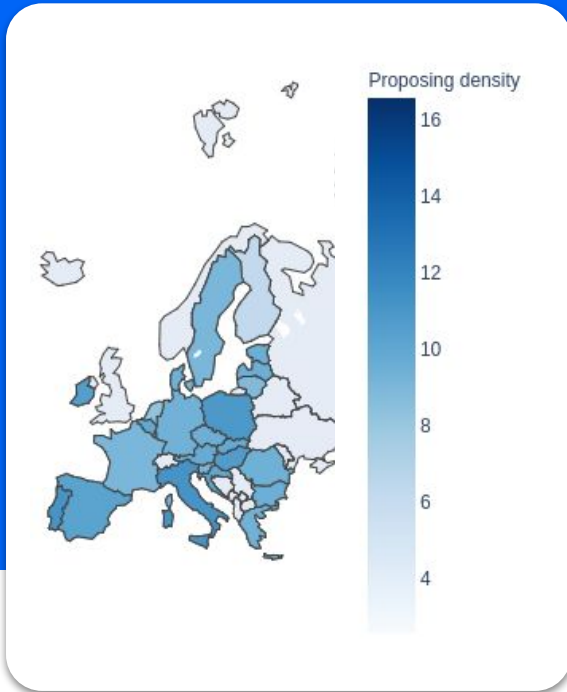
Migration
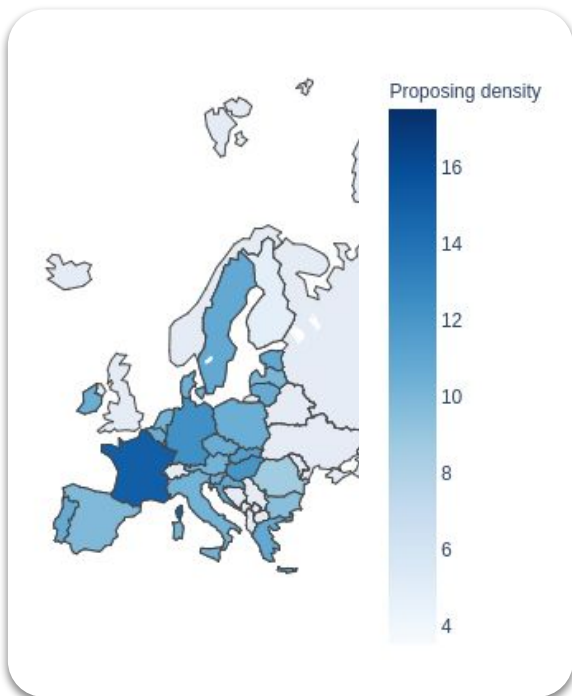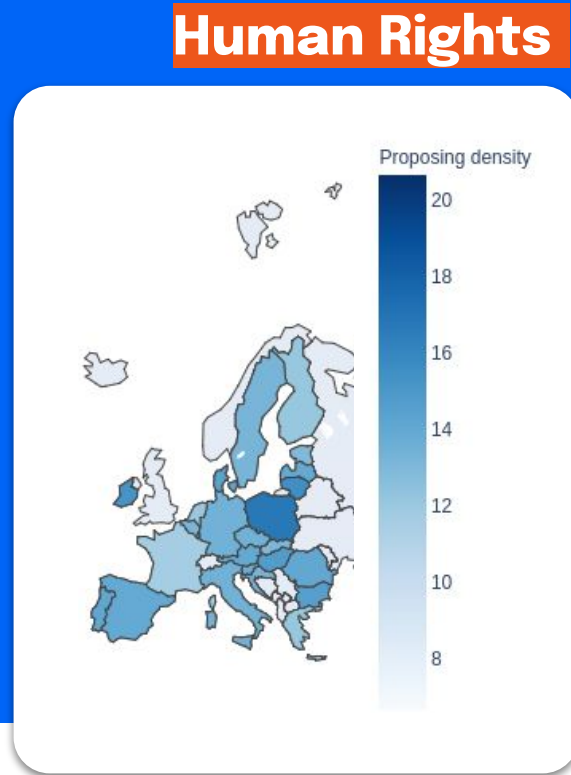
Human Rights

Environment, Transport, Energy & Resources

Culture & Values

The displayed results show absolute quantitative numbers. For more methodological information, please refer to page 99.
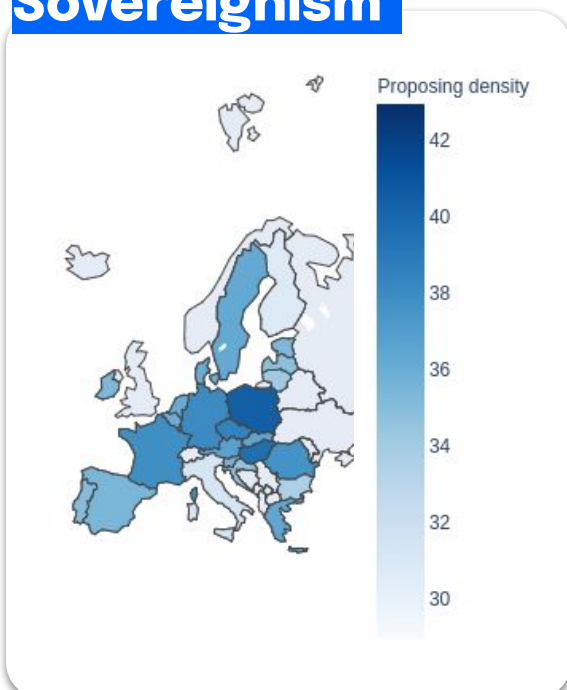
EURHOPE for the future

Health

Education System

Institutions & Federalism - Sovereignism
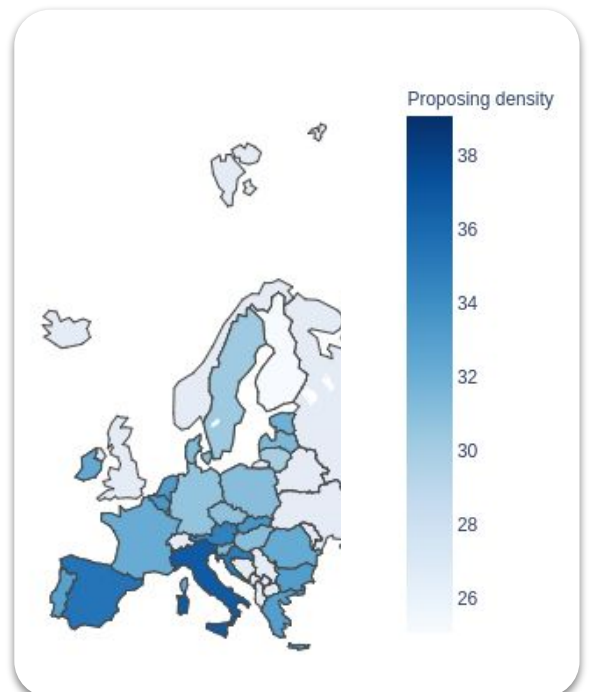
Economy, Fiscality & Innovation and Research

101

The displayed results show absolute quantitative numbers. For more methodological information, please refer to page 99.

1 The Way FORWARD

The EurHope initiative has reached a significant milestone with its final event in May 2024. However, this does NOT MARK THE END OF OUR JOURNEY. In fact, it is just the beginning. The work of amplifying youth priorities continues, and we remain committed to ensuring that the VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE are heard loud and clear across Europe.

One of the key components of our ongoing efforts is to continue spreading the word about the youth priorities that were identified during the EurHope initiative. Until the elections, the EurHope.org platform will help keeping young people informed about how political parties respond to their concerns and priorities. Our coalition of partners plays a vital role in this ongoing mission. Together, we will maintain a robust communication strategy and active engagement on the ground. The activation of JEF national and local sections is essential in this regard. These grassroots efforts will ensure that the MOMENTUM BUILT DURING EURHOPE is not lost. We will continue to foster dialogue, encourage participation, and keep the issues that matter to young Europeans at the forefront of political discourse.

The EurHope initiative was strategically planned to culminate before the 2024 EU elections. However, it is imperative that the priorities highlighted by young people are not forgotten once the elections are over. We will persist in advocating for their interest and priorities, the EU reforms and citizen participation needed to ensure that their voices continue to resonate in the corridors of power. The new MEPs will be reminded of the responses the European political parties and institutions made and of the issues raised during the EurHope consultations. This CONTINUOUS ADVOCACY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT are crucial to hold them accountable and to ensure that the priorities of young people are being reflected into policy during the new legislature.

11 ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

The EurHope initiative was made possible through the strong coalition we formed. This project brought together over 50 partners and engaged even more individuals who joined us in this ambitious endeavor to amplify the voices of young people across Europe.

We extend special thanks to the European Parliament and the European Commission, particularly Vice-President Dubravka Šuica, for her patronage and personal support of the project. Our gratitude also goes to the European Economic and Social Committee and its President, Oliver Röpke, for his personal commitment, as well as to the Committee of Regions.

We deeply appreciate the support from Accor, Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, Caisse des Dépôts, Cityz Media, Mediatransports, Capgemini, Sitra, Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Franco-German Youth Office, Evens Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, Culture of Solidarity Fund, Allianz Foundation, Centro Studi Sul Federalismo, Toulouse Métropole, and Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur.

Additional thanks go to all our partners: CIVICO Europa, ARTE, France Inter, Ouest-France, Euractiv France, Euractiv Deutschland, Ville de Paris, the Federal German Agency for Civic Education (BPB), Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Association Civic Tech Europe (ACTE), Debating Europe, the European Association for Local Democracy (alda), Udruga mladih Mladi u EU, European Environmental Bureau, Europe Elects, Social Good Accelerator (SOGA), GROUPE SOS, Geremek Foundation, Citizens for Europe, A Voté, Décider ensemble, Fondation Robert Schuman, IAI - Istituto Affari Internazionali, Acjazzjoni Junsilli Lokali Malta, I Support Ukraine, Lota's Box, Mouvement Impact France, Oxygono, PDCS, Generation Climate Europe (GCE), EYP Sweden, Universidade de Coimbra, DYPALL Network, Pulse of Europe, Erasmus Student Network, VOICIFY - European Forum for Youth with Lived Migration Experiences, The Good Lobby, European Students' Union (ESU), European Capital of Democracy.

The EurHope project would not have been possible without the dedication of the Make.org and JEF Europe teams. From JEF Europe, we thank Christelle Savall, Antonio Argenziano, Judit Lantai, Inês Consonni, Erica Beccarello, Melanie Thut, Amy McAuley, Lilla Héjas and all JEFers who participated across Europe. From Make.org, special thanks to Alicia Combaz and Axel Dauchez, Alexis Prokopiev, Javier Morales López, Hendrik Nahr, Jules Kuhn, Manon Basset, Katherine Jeffery, Lola Bucciarelli, Rebecca Maumet, Elisa Sharps, Magalie Del Socorro, David Mas, Victor Laymand, Anita Cuccaro, Hazem Al Saied, Solène Lécuyer, and Simon Le Gué-Prual, amongst others.