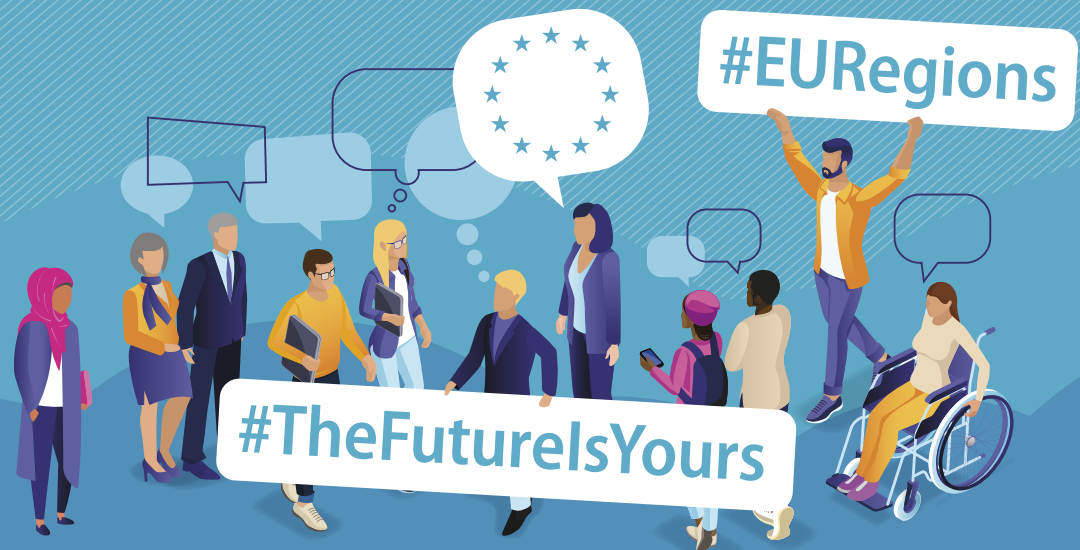




European democracy, citizens' participation and the role of regions and cities



Working Conference 27 June 2022 | 14:30-18:30 | Brussels – CoR, JDE 52



European Committee
of the Regions

| BertelsmannStiftung

European democracy, citizens' participation and the role of regions and cities

Following up on the final report on the Conference on the Future of Europe and its recommendations on a permanent European Citizens' Assembly, this working conference will discuss the following questions:

- What are the lessons learned from the Conference on the Future of Europe for the link between participatory and representative democracy and citizens' assemblies at local, regional, national and European level?
- How should we link local citizens' assemblies to EU-level debates?
- What do regions and cities need to establish citizens' assemblies in an EU context?
- What will the European Committee of the Regions do to put the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe into practice?

Jointly organised by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung, these questions will be reflected upon with invited politicians, citizens and experts from local and regional governments as well as from EU institutions and bodies.

The objective of this working conference is to deliver recommendations on how to take citizens' participation in EU policy-making and its link to representative democracy to the next level and make it a permanent reality. Those recommendations will be developed by three working groups in meetings. The opening and closing sessions will be web streamed and interpreted in EN/FR/DE/ES/IT while the deliberations of the working groups will not. The results of the working conference will be summarised in a report and comprehensive proceedings will be made public soon after the event.

AGENDA

14:00-14:30 Registration and welcome coffee

14:30-15:15 Opening session

Moving towards a European Citizens' Assembly: How, what topics and when?

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions (video message)

Christophe Rouillon, Mayor of Coullaines, France, President of the PES group in the CoR

Daniel Freund, Member of the European Parliament, The Greens/EFA

Camila Jensen, National Citizens' Representative Denmark at the Conference on the Future of Europe

Stephanie Hartung, National Citizens' Representative Germany at the Conference on the Future of Europe

Moderator: Dominik Hierlemann, Bertelsmann Stiftung

15:30-17:30 Parallel workshops

Linking the levels of democracy in Europe: What are the next steps?

Workshop 1: Benefits of citizens' participation at different levels of democracy

Statements:

Daniel Freund, MEP, The Greens/EFA

Jelena Drenjanin, Member of Huddinge Municipality, Vice-President of the EPP group in the CoR

Moderators: Anna Renkamp (Bertelsmann Stiftung), **Carol Thomas** (Council of European Municipalities and Regions),

Bert Kuby (European Committee of the Regions)

Note takers: Stephanie Hartung (National Citizens' Representative Germany at the Conference on the Future of Europe), **Ward Den Dooven** (Democratic Society), **Sanne De Ryck** (European Parliament)

Workshop 2: How to involve regions and cities in a “European Citizens’ Assembly”?

Statements:

Domènec Ruiz Devesa, MEP, S&D group

Kieran McCarthy, Cork City Council, Ireland, President of the European Alliance group in the CoR

Moderators: Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul (European Commission), **Inês Roseta** (European Committee of the Regions), **Anthony Zacharzewski** (Democratic Society)

Note takers: Cécile Molle (Particitiz), **Adrienn Nagy** (European Committee of the Regions), **Timo Peters** (State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg)

Workshop 3: How to do capacity-building and networking on citizens’ participation?

Statements:

Helmut Scholz, MEP, The Left/GUE/NGL

Francois Decoster, Vice-President of the Regional Council of Hauts-de-France, President of the Renew Europe Group in the CoR

Moderators: Antoine Vergne (Mission Publique), **Anastasia Deligkiaouri** (School of Law and Government, Dublin City University Ireland), **Yves Dejaeghere** (FIDE - Federation for Innovation in Democracy Europe)

Note takers: Anna Paola Quaglia (European Commission), **Katja Reppel** (European Commission), **Martin Gosset** (European Committee of the Regions)

17:45-18:15

Final session

The European Citizens’ Assembly and the regions and cities of Europe: What next?

Reports and take-aways from the workshops:

Stephanie Hartung, National Citizens’ Representative Germany at the Conference on the Future of Europe

Cécile Molle, Particitiz

Anna Paola Quaglia, European Commission, Competence Centre for Deliberative and Participatory Democracy at the Joint Research Center

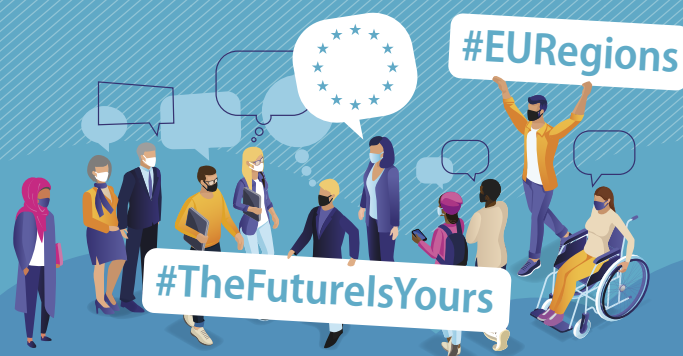
Concluding remarks:

Vasco Alves Cordeiro, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

Moderator: Ian Barber, European Committee of the Regions

18:30-20:00

Reception for participants



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Created in 1994, the European Committee of the Regions
is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives such as regional presidents
or city-mayors from all 27 Member States, representing over 446 million Europeans.

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