

Wednesday 17.02.16

EESC (room JDE 3252), Rue Belliard, 99, Brussels

14:00 – 14:30
Registration

14:30 – 14:45

Welcome and moderation by Jackson OLDFIELD (European Alternatives)

14:45 – 17:30

The State of Participation in the EU: what are the participation rights and tools? How does it work in practice?

The Lisbon treaty, through Article 11, makes participatory democracy a tool to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the European Union and therefore a principle of governance, as a complement to representative democracy.

After a brief insight on the rights and mechanisms for citizens to take part in the democratic life of the EU, participants will engage in interactive discussion to explore the potential and limitations of these tools, how citizens and civil society organisations can make best use of those rights and make sure their voice is heard by the institutions.

Introductions by the speakers will be followed by small group thematic discussions.

Guests: Valentin DUPOUEY (European Civic Forum - ECF), Pierluigi BROMBO, EESC, Serap ALTINISIK, European Women's Lobby, Anne-Marie PERRET, ECI Right2water, Pierre-Arnaud PERROUTY, ECI Wake up Europe, Carlotta BESOZZI, Civil Society Europe

19:30
Dinner

Thursday 18.02.16

Maison de la Francité, 18 rue Joseph II, Bruxelles

8:30
Registration

9:00 – 10:30

Building links with policy makers

Welcome and moderation by Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ (European Civic Forum)

Over the last few decades, civil and social dialogue has become one of the major tools in policy-shaping and

decision-making processes at the European level. Participants will engage in discussion with representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Fundamental Rights Agency on:

- # What are the needs for policy input (from institutional side)
- # What are the expectations in terms of impact (from civil society side)
- # How to bridge the gap?

Guests: Julie WARD, MEP, Paul NEMITZ, European Commission, DG Justice, Waltraud HELLER, Fundamental Rights Agency, Pierre BAUSSAND, Social Platform

10:30 – 11:00
Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00

Time to declare a State of Democracy: round table on claiming fundamental rights in Europe

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail. Article 2 has a prominent place in the EU treaties, yet a vast gap exists between these rights and values and their exercise and implementation.

Participants in this debate will look at what kind of mechanisms at the EU level could address violations of the rule of law and fundamental rights by Member States. A policy report developed within the Citi-Rights Europe project will serve as background for the discussions.

Welcome and introduction: Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ (European Civic Forum) and Niccolo MILANESE (European Alternatives)

Speakers: Tanja FAJON, MEP, Vice-President S&D, Marta PARDAVI, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary), Barbara GRABOWSKA-MOROZ, Polish Helsinki Human Rights Foundation, Israel BUTLER, European Liberties Platform (Belgium), Adrienne CHARMET-ALIX, La Quadrature du Net (France), Tomislav DOMES, activist, political scientist (Croatia).

Moderator: Oli HENMAN, Civicus

13:00 – 13:15

Claim your rights student competition results

13:15 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 17:00

Networking for policy change

Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, Brussels

Welcome and moderation by Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ and Valentin DUPOUEY (ECF)

This session will provide participants with space for interactive exchanges on major challenges in EU policy making in the social, youth and education fields. Professionals from EU NGO networks will inter-act with participants on:

- # What are the issues at stake?
- # How can civil society make the difference? What does it take to bring about policy change?

Introductions by the speakers will be followed by small group discussions.

Guests: Livia HENTSCHEL, Better Regulation Watchdog, Pierre BAUSSAND, Social Platform, Allan PALL, European Youth Forum, Audrey FRITH, LLL Platform

19:30
Dinner

Friday 19.02.16

Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, Brussels

9:30 – 12:30

CREATE REACT: next steps

Discussion on action and follow-up of the project.

Presentation of upcoming activities and activities of participants.

CREATE | REACT: POLICY