

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Network of Organizations and Towns for the European Elections (NOTE)
Participant:	European Citizen's Rights, Involvement and Trust Foundation (ECIT Foundation)
PIC number:	921220641

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	Tools for boosting citizens' engagement
Type:	Online Seminar, workshop, expert tables
In situ/online:	Online and hybrid
Location:	Brussels
Date(s):	14.06, 19.07, 11.10 & 31.10 . 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.facebook.com/projectnoteuropeanelections
Participants	
Female:	57
Male:	46
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Italy]:	15
From country 2 [Spain]:	8
From country 3 [Lithuania]:	7
From country 4 [Romania]:	6
From country 5 [Bulgaria]:	7

From country 6 [Portugal]	2		
From country 7 [Croatia]	5		
From country 8 [Greece]	2		
From country 9 [Poland]	8		
From country 10 [Belgium]	39		
From country 11 [Germany]	2		
From country 12 [Latvia]	2		
Total number of participants:	103	From total number of countries:	12
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

Target groups:

policy makers, civil society organizations, activists, youth, local actors, high policy makers

Description of the event and its activities.

This Work Package event was executed in four connected parts between June and October 2023, precisely on: 14.06, 19.07, 11.10 and 31.10 2023.

The aim of the events, which together constitute WP3 of the project, was to bring young people closer to European Parliamentarians and EU institutions in view of the next European Elections in 2024, to discuss participatory democracy and the European elections on the local level.

Brussels-based ECIT Foundation, the host of the WP3, requested the possibility of moving the execution of this Work Package 3 from Month 7 (July) to Month 10 (October) to better achieve its desired objectives. Taking place over separate days allowed the project participants to focus on a few topics, give them time to “digest” the information received, inform themselves and then attend the sessions in October, coinciding with one of the days of the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC).

June: 14.06, 14.00-15.30**Tools for Boosting Citizen Engagement - Impressions and Outcomes from Street Debates from Partner Countries**

Moderator: Bastien Fillon, Officine Cittadine (via zoom)

This was an interactive session. Participants: FACEES (FACilitators for the European Election), young people, students, representatives of the partners; target groups: policy makers. FACEES shared their impressions and the outcomes from Street Debates and debates they organised together with the project partners in April, May and June 2023.

Presented examples and good practices:

- Lithuania - Vsi Kauno regiono pletros agentura
- Poland - LGD "Dolina rzeki Grabi"
- Italy - Fattoria Pugliese Diffusa

Presentations:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rjUSdViKm66dXD1r-HXg1xRQZ56UC-Ji>

July: 19.07, 14.00-16.45

Tools for Boosting Citizen Engagement: Participatory Democracy & European Elections on the Local Level

The July session consisted of modules specifically dedicated to the European elections, youth participation in the European and local campaign, knowledge of the together.eu platform, the opportunities that the European Union offers at local level through it, and to the Parliament Europe communication campaign. In this session the participants were allowed to learn about what the EU does in their area, which projects are financed with European funds and how the EU impacts their daily lives. This event consisted of two panel presentations/seminars focused on increasing citizen's engagement, mapping the context of the next European Union elections and youth participation at the local and European level.

Agenda:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HGKM_xtlgS7Kq-onSblCoCrxyrcWuwc1/view?usp=drive_link

14.00 - 14.15 (CET) – Introductory Session

Presentation of ECIT's draft statute on European Citizenship, brief presentation of the activities of the day, the ECIT Foundation and NOTE project.

Speakers: Tony Venables, ECIT Founder

14.15 - 15.30 (CET) – Communicating the European Union and Mapping the Context of the next European Elections

Speakers: Giulia Busolin, Civil Society Outreach Unit of the European Parliament, Daniela Vancic, European Programme Manager at Democracy International, Philippe Ternes, Coordinator European Democracy Rally, Florentina Pemescu, Communications Consultant, Coconut Work.

Moderator: Tony Venables, ECIT Founder

The first part of this session involved a brief presentation from each of the speakers (5-10 minutes), followed by some questions for discussion:

- What will be the main aims, target groups and timescale for the European Parliament's campaign?
- How can civil society and volunteers like VWB get involved?
- What help can they expect in terms of useful materials, networking and outreach?

This session was dedicated to how the European elections can be communicated, and how best to connect local citizens, especially young people, to the EU across the election period.

15.30 – 15.40 (CET) – *Coffee break*

15.40 – 16.40 (CET) – Exploring how to make the European elections relevant at local level and the toolkit needed to get local people involved

This session was intended to form an interactive session between speakers and NOTE project participants.

Speakers: Tony Venables, ECIT Founder, Daniela Vancic, European Programme Manager at Democracy International, Philippe Ternes, Coordinator European Democracy Rally

Moderator: Carla Donohoe, ECIT Intern

For this session, each partner was asked to prepare to discuss their plans for the European Elections, with most of the time dedicated to discussion between NOTE participants and speakers on questions such as:

- What type of information is required to make the EU relevant at the local level?
- How to involve local people through street debates, games or cultural events? Going out to reach hard-to-reach groups?
- Engaging with parties and candidates through questionnaires, debates and more formal town hall meetings?
- Can the European elections provide an opportunity to experiment with local and cross-border citizen deliberations on European issues following the example of the Conference on the Future of Europe?

This session was specifically thought for NOTE partners, but also open to the general public. For instance, it was designed for actors at the local level such as municipalities but also civil society.

16.40-16.50 (CET) – Wrapping up and closure of the event

Speakers: Tony Venables, ECIT Founder

Final impressions of the event, feedback from participants and reminders to prepare for the second event in October for the [European Week of Regions and Cities](#).

October: 11.10, 14.30-16.00

GETTING LOCALS INVOLVED IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: Is Citizen Participation the Answer?

The October event focused mainly on the local action of the European Union, to tie in with the theme of regions and cities of the EWRC: it talked about the involvement of young people and civil society as local actors and how they can be involved in the decision-making process. The first explored the topic of town assemblies, taking the example of the Conference on the Future of Europe and transposing the idea to the local level.

Background briefing and questions for participants

This political lab discussed local citizen participation in areas where there is significant EU funding as one way to achieve the objective of European electoral participation. The 2019 elections reversed a trend of declining participation. Could that average turnout of just over 50% be improved upon in the elections next June? In its communication campaigns for the elections, the European Parliament has in the past placed emphasis on supplying information on “what the EU does for you in your region”. If citizens were more aware of the level of investment from EU cohesion policy and other programmes in their community, would they not be more convinced of the relevance of the elections to their everyday life and vote? Information is important, but is it enough? There is a strong argument for going further and turning citizens from spectators to partners. There is a widespread paradox across the EU: it is often in the regions which benefit most from EU funding that the rates of abstention are highest. The 5th objective of cohesion policy 2021-2027: “A Europe closer to citizens by fostering sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives” also implies that there should be a high level of citizen participation.

In the run up to the elections, how to follow up the Conference on the Future of Europe and turn its experiment with citizens panels into a more permanent feature of EU policy making will be highlighted so that reforms can be put in place by the next legislature. For example, the European Parliament’s report on “Parliamentarianism, European citizenship and democracy “ (A9-0249/2023) of 14 September is advocating an online one stop shop for citizen participation and an annual European Agora for face-to-face deliberation. Similarly, “Engaging citizens in cohesion policy -DG Regio and OECD pilot project “ (OECD public governance working paper no 50) reflects similar concerns and contains a detailed set of recommendations, including the need to go further than experiment and find institutional solutions.

EURegionsWeek 2023: ECIT Foundation & European Capital of Democracy
 AGENDA OF THE EVENT – 90 mins

<https://regions-and-cities.europa.eu/programme/2023/programme/5440>

Presentations

A brief introduction to the European City of Democracy, Alliance 4 Europe and the NOTE project.

Roundtables debate

The first part of the event will continue with three simultaneous roundtable debates, each focusing on one main question:

- *What could the EU learn about online and offline participatory democracy from advanced cities like Barcelona?* – European Capital of Democracy
 - *Roundtable host: Laura Thomas (ECoD)*
- *What are the tools to involve local citizens and, in particular, first voters in European elections?* – European Capital of Democracy and ECIT Foundation
 - *Roundtable host: George Bandy (A4E)*
- *How to incorporate participatory democracy practices in the design, implementation and evaluation of structural funds operations?* – ECIT Foundation
 - *Roundtable host: Tony Venables (ECIT)*

Getting Locals Involved in the European Elections: Is Citizen Participation the Answer?

Intervention on the lessons learned from the Future of Europe conference and subsequent proposals to make participatory democracy, through citizens' assemblies and an online platform, a more permanent feature of democracy at the European level. Our main starting question will be: "Why not also at the local level?"

Moderator: Laura Thomas (ECoD)

- **MEP Alin Mituta**, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on "Parliamentarism, European Citizenship and Democracy"

October: 31.10, 14.30-16.00

How did Union Citizenship come about? What has been the track record? A public relations exercise or the first post-national citizenship of the modern era? Such contrasting views expressed at the time of the Maastricht Treaty have tended to converge. There has been extensive case law in the European Court and updated legislation to strengthen European rights to freedom of movement in the areas of residence rights, access to social security and recognition of qualifications. Yet many barriers still remain especially for job seekers, minorities, and low-income groups.

The 30th anniversary should be about taking the plunge and imagining how this unique transnational citizenship could become more relevant to all Europeans and strike the popular imagination.

The first session in the afternoon was part of the Work Package 3 "*Tools for boosting citizens' engagement. Participatory democracy of the* NOTE (Network of Organisations and Towns for the European elections) project, funded by the CERV programme of the EU. The partners in the project joined on-line to explain the focus of the project on street debates to involve voters in the 2024 European elections.

PROGRAMME

9.00 a.m. — Welcome and introduction to the themes and organisation of the event

Introduction by **Tony Venables**, Founder of ECIT Foundation, on the origins of Union Citizenship

9.30 – 10.30 a.m. — What has been achieved by Union Citizenship after 30 years? What are its prospects for the future?

Speakers:

- **Harry Panagopoulos**, DG Justice
- **Alexandre Geulette**, Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union
- **Maite Pagazaurtundúa**, MEP and Rapporteur on implementation of the Treaty provisions on EU Citizenship

10.30 – 11 a.m. — Coffee break

Three consecutive sessions brainstorm about the future of European Citizenship and take a forensic view of each chapter of the new version of the Statute on European Citizenship proposed by the ECIT Foundation.

- **Rights (11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.)**
 - **Chair: Suzana Carp**, Deputy Executive Director at Cleantech for Europe & ECIT Board Member
 - **Speakers: Jeremy Bierbach**, Attorney at Franssen Advocaten; **David de Groot**, Policy Analyst, European Parliament;
 - **Rapporteur: Dora Kostakopoulou**, Chair of the Scientific Committee of Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, Professor at KU Leuven University & ECIT Board Member

12.15 – 1.30 p.m. — Meeting of the Cross-Party Group of MEPs on European Citizenship

Speakers: João Albuquerque, MEP Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (Portugal); **Cristian Voicu**, Assistant to MEP Yana Toom, Renew Europe (Estonia)

LUNCH BREAK

- **Participation (2.30 – 3.45 p.m.)**
 - **Chair: Alvaro Oleart**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for European Studies (ULB) & ECIT Board Member
 - **Speakers: Kalypso Nicolaidis**, Chair in Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute; **James Mackay**, Democratic Odyssey Project Coordinator; **Gosia Wochowska**, NOTE Project Coordinator
 - **Rapporteur: Daniela Vancic**, European Program Manager, Democracy International

This session was specifically thought for NOTE partners, but also open to the general public. For instance, it was designed for actors at the local level such as municipalities but also civil society.

3.45 – 4.15 p.m. — Tea and coffee break

- **Belonging (4.15 – 5.30 p.m.)**
 - **Chair: Julian Culp**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, American University of Paris
 - **Speakers: Nora Siklodi**, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Portsmouth
 - **Rapporteur: Niccolò Milanese**, Founder of European Alternatives

5.30 – 6.30 p.m. — Final Session: What priorities for Union Citizenship for the next 30 years?

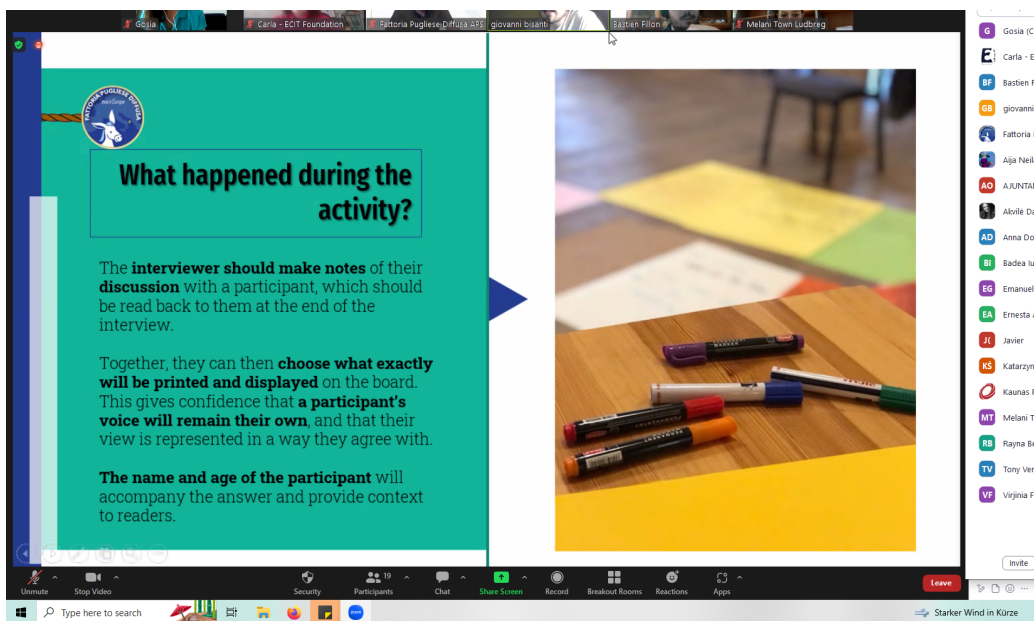
Co-Chairs: Tony Venables and Suzana Carp, ECIT Board Members

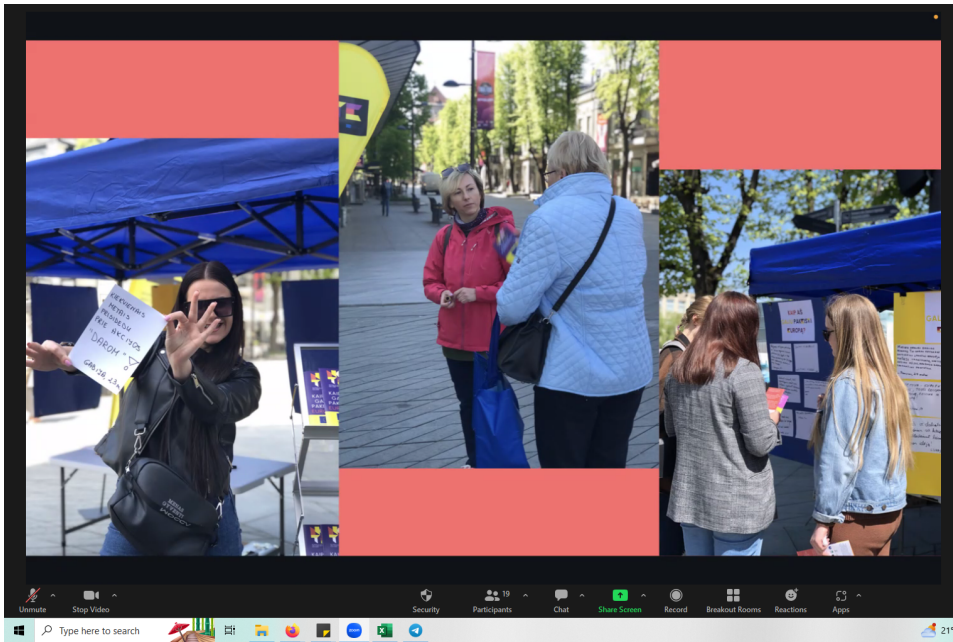
Speaker: Hildegard Schneider, Professor of European Law at Maastricht University

Conclusions by the Rapporteurs from the sessions on rights, participation and belonging. Discussion and adoption of a declaration for publication on 1 November, the 30th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty.

- Graphical elements and photos of the events.

June 14





July 19

Participatory Democracy & European Elections on the Local Level



Tools for Boosting Citizens' Engagement

Participatory Democracy & European Elections on the Local Level

July 19th, 2023 Online event

SAVE THE DATE

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STREET DEBATE

AS CITIZEN, HOW CAN I CHANGE EUROPE?

ORGANIZED BY

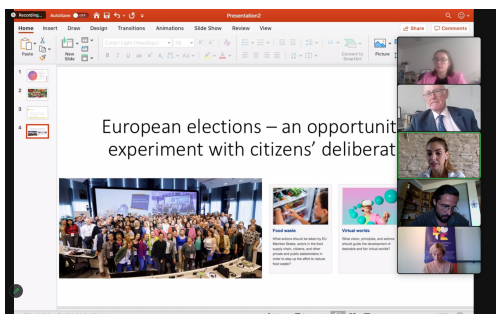


Local event

15th of July, 2023 4:00 p.m.
Brasov
Parcul Nicolae Titulescu

[@project_noe_europeanelections](#) [#project_noe_europeanelections](#) info@noe.ro

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October 11

Getting locals involved in European Elections: is citizen participation the answer?



Photos of the event : <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAXDqb>

October 31

8th ECIT Foundation Annual Conference, 30 years of EU citizenship and beyond











30 YEARS OF EU CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
ECIT'S 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
31/10/2023 • BRUSSELS PRESS CLUB / ONLINE

FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION
NOTE
MOBILECIT

30 YEARS OF EU CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
FOR ECIT'S 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JOIN THE DEBATE ON 31/10/2023

BRUSSELS PRESS CLUB
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

30 YEARS OF EU CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

FOCUS ON:
ECIT'S DRAFT DECLARATION
& THE IMPORTANCE OF EU CITIZENSHIP

7 WE PROPOSE:
ACTIONABLE POLICY OBJECTIVES

TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND EU CITIZENSHIP OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS

Adopt a **Statute** to bring EU Citizenship's scattered features together

Enforce rights to freedom of movement & create a **Free Movement Solidarity Fund**

Europeanise the EU elections & introduce **cross-border universal suffrage**

Make participatory democracy and Citizens' Assemblies a permanent pillar of the EU decision-making process

Introduce a **European Citizens' Card**

Create a new European right to **European citizenship education for all**

Foster a more inclusive and outward-looking **European Citizenship**

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FULL OF DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS ON EU CITIZENSHIP!

REGISTER HERE!



1 NOVEMBER 2023:

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF EU CITIZENSHIP IS A TIME FOR REFLECTION & ACTION

1 NOVEMBER 1993

EU Citizenship was established in the Treaty of Maastricht

SINCE ITS INCEPTION,

EU Citizenship has enriched the lives of over 15 million EU citizens by offering freedom to live, study, and work across the continent...

It has also broken down barriers, and fostered a sense of unity and shared values beyond national borders.

Annual Conference 2023:

First panel: RIGHTS

On the agenda for discussion:


- enforce European rights to freedom of movement
- establish European citizenship education for all
- introduce a European Citizens' Card

Our panel of speakers will include:

- Dr. Dora Kostakopoulou, Chair of the Scientific Committee of Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, Professor at KU Leuven University & ECIT Board Member
- Dr. Jeremy Bierbach, Attorney at Franssen Advocaten
- David de Groot, Policy Analyst at the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

REGISTER HERE!



Annual Conference 2023:

Second panel: PARTICIPATION

On the agenda for discussion:

- strengthen representative democracy at European level
- make participatory democracy & Citizens' Assemblies a permanent pillar of the EU decision-making process
- Europeanise the European elections and introduce cross-border universal suffrage

Our panel of speakers will include:

Daniela Vancic,
European Program Manager, Democracy International

Malgorzata Wochowska,
Freelance Project Manager at, amongst others, the European Commission, Horizon Europe, CERV EU and NOTE

Alvaro Oleart,
Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for European Studies (ULB) & ECIT Board Member




30 YEARS OF EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

Annual Conference 2023:

Third panel: BELONGING

On the agenda for discussion:

- foster a more inclusive and outward-looking European Citizenship
- ensure that all EU citizens feel equally included
- extend the benefits of Citizenship to all residents




Our panel of speakers will include:

Julian Culp,
Associate Professor of Philosophy, American University of Paris

Nora Siklodi,
Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Portsmouth

Niccolò Milanese,
Founder of European Alternatives




TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO SIGN UP FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

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Annual Conference 2023: ANNOUNCING OUR FINAL SCHEDULE





30 YEARS OF EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND

- 9:00 – Welcome and Introduction
- 9:30 – 10:30 – What has been achieved by Union Citizenship after 30 years? What are its prospects for the future?
- Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:15 – The Future of European Citizenship: Rights Panel
- 12:15 – 13:30 – MEPs Cross-Party Group
- Lunch break
- 14:30 – 15:45 – The Future of European Citizenship: Participation Panel
- Tea and Coffee Break
- 16:15 – 17:30 – The Future of European Citizenship: Belonging Panel
- 17:30 – 18:30 – What priorities for Union Citizenship for the next 30 years?




THERE ARE JUST 4 DAYS LEFT TO SIGN UP FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

REGISTER HERE!

Thank you!



To everyone who has already registered for our Annual Conference 2023!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!




IF YOU HAVEN'T YET, THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER BUT DON'T DELAY – TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

REGISTER HERE!


TOMORROW: ECIT'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

Last chance to register today!!




Programme overview

9.00 – 9.30 am WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

SPEAKER
Tony Venables, Founder of ECIT Foundation




9.30 – 10.30 am: OPENING SESSION
What has been achieved by Union Citizenship after 30 years? What are its prospects for the future?

SPEAKERS

- Harry Panagopoulos, DG Justice
- Alexandre Geullette, Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union
- Maite Pagazaurtundúa, MEP
- Alberto Alemanno, Founder of The Good Lobby (TBC)




11.00 am – 12.15 pm RIGHTS PANEL

- **Chair:** Suzana Carp, ECIT Board Member
- **Speakers:** Jeremy Bierbach, Attorney at Franssen Advocaten; David de Groot, Policy Analyst, European Parliament
- **Rapporteur:** Dora Kostakopoulou, Professor of Law at KU Leuven University




SPEAKERS

- João Albuquerque, MEP Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (Portugal);
- Cristian Voicu, Assistant to MEP Yana Toom, Renew Europe (Estonia)

12.15 – 1.30 pm
Meeting of the Cross-Party Group of MEPs on European Citizenship




2.30 – 3.45 pm PARTICIPATION PANEL

- **Chair:** Alvaro Oleart, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for European Studies, ULB
- **Speakers:** Kalyso Nicolaidis, Chair in Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute; James Mackay, Democratic Odyssey Project Coordinator; Gosia Wochowska, NOTE Project Coordinator
- **Rapporteur:** Daniela Vancic, European Program Manager, Democracy International




4.15 – 5.30 pm BELONGING PANEL

- **Chair:** Julian Culp, Associate Professor of Philosophy, American University of Paris
- **Speakers:** Nora Siklodi, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Portsmouth
- **Rapporteur:** Niccolò Milanese, Founder of European Alternatives






- Website and/or FB page of the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/projectnoteuropeanelections>

Links where the beneficiaries/partners published this deliverable:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eO7kJ_3Q7F_IGD-pNiKTI-aZH742M2QMW65rFTNdSqU/edit

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).