

Meet the ActEU Civil Society Network

ActEU Activating European
Citizens' Trust in Times of Crises and Polarisation



Funded by
the European Union

Table of Contents

Citizens' participation

2-3

Migration

4-5

Youth

6-7

Gender Equality

8-9

Climate

10-11

Multi-level governance

12-13



Daniela Vancic

European Program Manager
Democracy International

CITIZENS'
PARTICIPATION

Daniela Vancic has been the European Program Manager at Democracy International since 2017, where she manages the organisation's keystone EU-level projects. She monitors and acts on EU policy developments that regard EU citizens' participation and the democratic future of the EU. She is an expert on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) and works extensively on the tool including promotion and education, including for the ECI Forum under subcontract of the European Commission. Daniela lives in Cologne, Germany, holds a Master's of International Relations and worked as a campaigner with the US Michigan Democratic Party before joining the team of Democracy International.

Democracy International is an NGO based in Cologne, Germany that was formally established in June 2011 after running as a loose network of democracy activists since 2002. Democracy International aims to strengthen direct democracy and citizens' participation on the local, national, and transnational levels across the globe and stands for a democratization of transnational decision-making processes. It organizes the annual Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy, the world's largest conference on direct democracy, and has working expertise on deliberation mechanisms such as citizens' assemblies and on transnational citizens' participation instruments such as the European Citizens' Initiative.

GET IN TOUCH



CITIZENS'
PARTICIPATION

Assya Kavrakova

Executive Director
European Citizen Action Service

Assya Kavrakova is the Executive Director of the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS). With twenty-five years of experience in senior management positions leading national and international teams of experts and NGOs, Assya has a thorough knowledge in European Citizenship, EU law, EU structural and Cohesion Policy, European Rights framework, and EU civic participation formal and informal mechanisms. She has extensive knowledge of SEE civil society and regional development issues and in-depth expertise of the post-accession state of affairs in the ten new member states from CEE. A keen promoter of digital empowerment of citizens, with a forward-looking attitude towards digital democracy and digital management, Assya has a Certificate from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management for a QiLeader (Leading authentically in digital times) and is acknowledged as one of the 21 Digital4Development influencers to be followed in 2021 by the European Digital Development Alliance. She is a member of the Chancellery of the European Citizen's Prize of the European Parliament 2020 - 2024.

The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is an international non-profit association, based in Brussels, with a pan-European membership and more than 30 years of experience in empowering citizens in order to create a more inclusive and stronger European Union by promoting and defending citizens' rights and developing and supporting mechanisms to increase citizens and citizen organisations' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU. ECAS believes in an inclusive, transparent, citizen-centric and democratic European Union in which citizens' rights are at the heart of decision-making at all levels and in which citizens are informed, consulted and active participants.

GET IN TOUCH





Paul Zoubkov

Program Manager for Europe
Democracy Reporting International

CITIZENS'
PARTICIPATION

Paul Zoubkov leads the strategic and programmatic work of DRI across Europe, and previously oversaw DRI's digital democracy efforts worldwide. He has over two decades of experience in the fields of anti-corruption, good governance, human rights and organisational development. This includes global and regional roles with Transparency International and as an expert advisor to a range of multilateral institutions, development agencies and INGOs (e.g. Council of Europe, OECD). Paul is the author of several international standards, including on lobbying reform and whistleblower protection, and has previously also worked in the mental health field. Paul holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degrees in Law, and a BA in Politics and Philosophy from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Democracy Reporting International (DRI) is an independent civil society organization committed to advancing democracy worldwide. Based in Berlin, Germany, DRI operates through a network of local partners, and offices in MENA, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. The organization's work is focused on the five key themes of Justice, Elections, Local Governance, Democratic Discourse, and Human Rights, advanced through a strategic blend of advocacy, research, capacity building and convening. Throughout its work, DRI emphasizes the role of citizens as active participants in public life, and advocates for democratic governance based on international law. In its EU portfolio, DRI is particularly active in protecting the rule of law and advancing a more resilient and democratic space online. DRI also leads the Horizon Europe Nets4Dem project, establishing a pan-European network of academics, policy-makers and civil society on democratic innovation, participation and civics education.

GET IN TOUCH





Rasmus Alenius Boserup

Executive Director
EuroMed Rights

Rasmus Alenius Boserup is the Executive Director of EuroMed Rights. A Danish national, Rasmus Alenius Boserup has a background in social science research and organisation management. Until 2019, he worked as Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies focusing on power and politics in the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to this, he served as Executive Director of the Danish-Egyptian Dialogue Institute in Cairo from 2008 to 2011. An expert and opinion writer in Danish and international media, Boserup holds a doctoral degree in culture and civilisation from École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and a Ph.D. degree in Arabic Studies from the University of Copenhagen.

Since its inception in 1997, two years after the adoption of the Barcelona Declaration, EuroMed Rights has become one of the most prominent and most active actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region on human rights protection and democracy promotion. In 25 years, its membership has grown and its structure has been consolidated. Today, the network represents 68 organisations active in 30 countries, with offices in Copenhagen (headquarters), Brussels, Tunisia and a presence in Morocco. The organisation still stands by universal human rights principles and believes in the value of cooperation and dialogue across and within borders. As such, the network pursues its mission through networking and exchange between its members and partners, capacity building as a way to improve their skills, monitoring and documenting human rights violations and abuses, and advocacy work.

GET IN TOUCH



MIGRATION

Eva Valentová

Program Director
Association for Integration and Migration

Eva Čech Valentová has worked for over 15 years at the NGO Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI) in various positions, and currently serves as Programme Director. Specialising in issues related to the integration of migrants at the local level, the development of intercultural services, the status of women in migration, and the mental health of migrants and those who help them, she contributes through publications, lectures, and interdisciplinary collaborations. She also represents the non-profit sector in various expert platforms and networks, both at national or European levels. Also, she has been part of a core team for shaping the migrants' integration strategies of the City of Prague and their participation in a international project led by EUROCITIES. Additionally, Eva is a Board Member and Vice-President of the Czech Women's Lobby, an umbrella of Czech feminists organisations.

SIMI, founded in 1992 during the Yugoslav refugee crisis, is a human rights organisation defends the rights of migrants, provides them with comprehensive support regardless of their background and supports integration, coexistence, and strives for a fair and open society. It offers free legal, social, and psychosocial counseling to around 2,500 migrants annually in Czechia. SIMI advocates for an open society that embraces migration as a positive aspect of life, providing information accessibility and individualised support. Through media appearances, seminars, and collaborations with schools and universities, SIMI promotes tolerance and fights xenophobia. It also engages in advocacy efforts to influence migration legislation and public policies, participating actively in Czech and European human rights networks such as the Consortium of NGOs working with migrants, Czech Women's Lobby, PICUM, ENAR, and the European Network of Migrant Women.

GET IN TOUCH





Mirna Buić

Head of the Minorities and
Human Rights Program
PiNA

MIGRATION

Mirna Buić serves as a senior project manager at PiNA and heads the Support Environment program pillar. She oversees the regional NGO resource center of Istria and Karst and leads initiatives in the areas of inclusion, minorities, and migration. With expertise in human rights, social inclusion, migration, and minorities, she coordinates the Coordination Body for Integration and Migration of the Municipality of Koper. Additionally, Mirna acts as the deputy NGO representative in the Government Council for the Integration of Foreigners and has been a member of the expert group for the Local Action Plan for Integration. Furthermore, she covers the field of international development cooperation, focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina, sustainable tourism, and economic empowerment of women. She is involved in preparing and co-implementing support programs for women's entrepreneurship and enhancing their general competencies. Mirna is also a project evaluator for the E+CMEPIUS National Agency and a member of the evaluators' pool for Interreg Slovenia-Croatia, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development.

Established in 1998 with support from the Open Society Institute, PiNA is a regional NGO resource centre, an active member of the Council of Support NGOs of Slovenia and a hub for intercultural dialogue. It cares for the multitude through the promotion of cultural, educational, environmental, citizen science, research and arts projects. Its activities focus on three pillars: fostering a critical and inclusive society, strengthening the NGO sector, and engaging in international cooperation. PiNA conducts innovative projects with local, regional, and international partners, employing 17 staff and collaborating with over 40 experts and volunteers.

GET IN TOUCH





Dylan Ahern

Founder
De Kiesmannen

YOUTH

Dylan Ahern is a social entrepreneur, theatermaker and founder of De Kiesmannen & DE/MO. De Kiesmannen is known for its mission to make politics more accessible and engaging for young people. With his election shows, he has managed to attract a significant following among young people, successfully bringing political topics to life. He has a background in Political and Environmental Sciences.

De Kiesmannen is a creative agency specialised in creating engaging and impactful productions. It produces theater shows, podcasts, and campaigns that integrate humor, music, and multimedia elements to engage its audiences. Their work includes addressing various social issues and converting them into compelling narratives for companies and organizations. They have gained notable recognition for their performances in major venues like the Paradiso, ITA, and even the European Parliament. Their efforts have been instrumental in encouraging political participation throughout Europe, particularly among younger people.

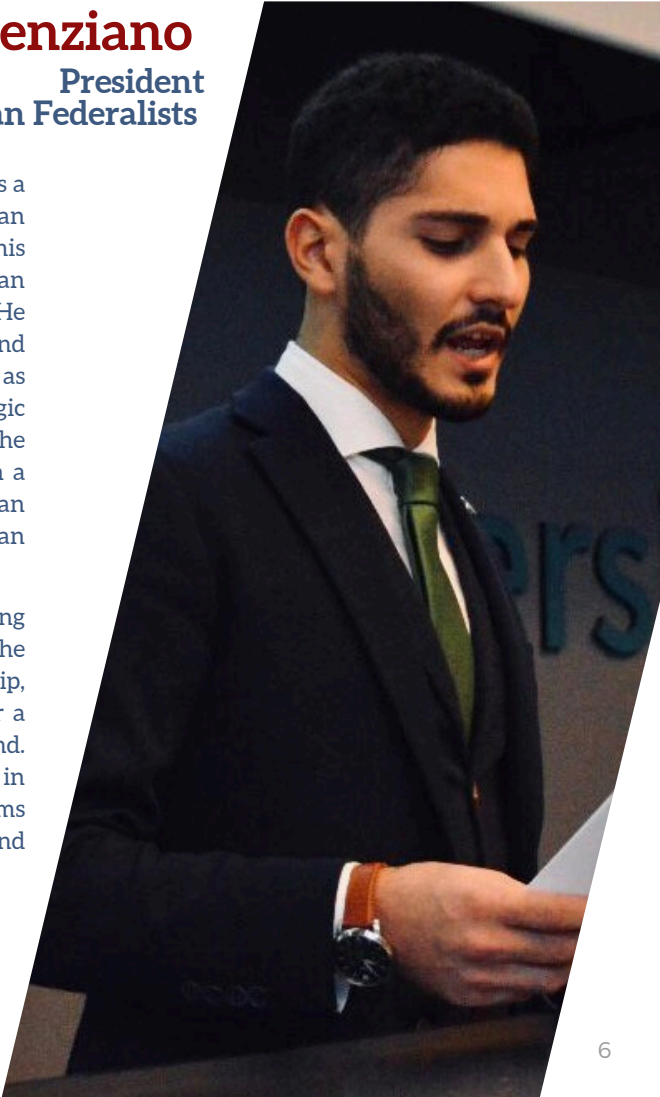
GET IN TOUCH



YOUTH

Antonio Argenziano

President
Young European Federalists

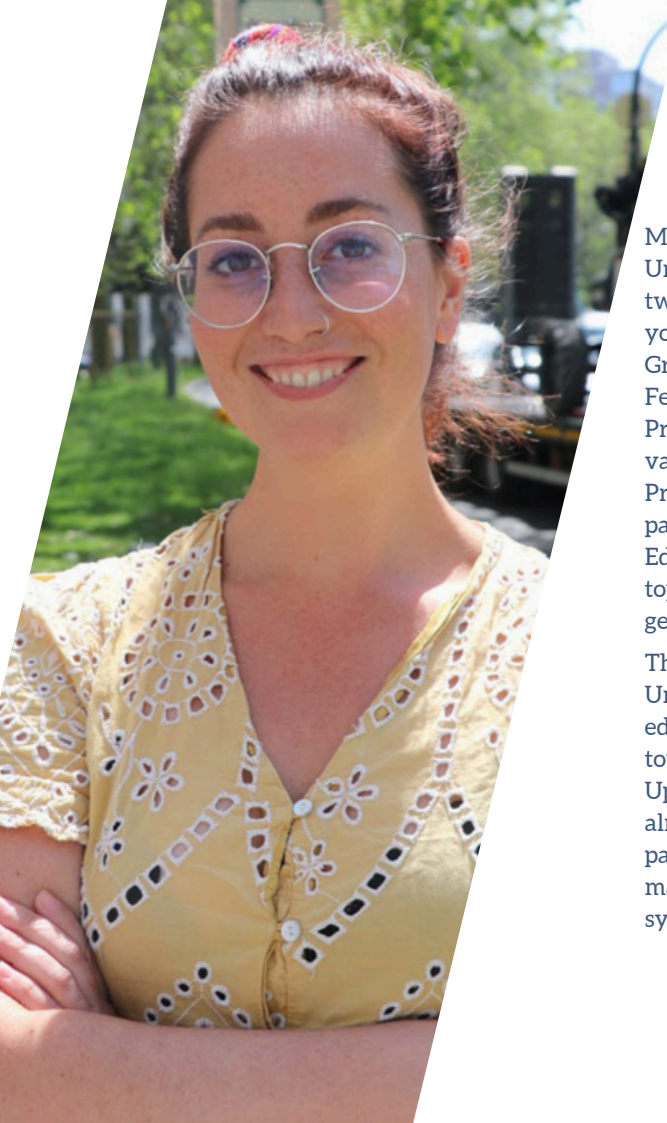


Antonio Argenziano is the President of Young European Federalists (JEF). He has a Master's degree in Modern History and is specialized in the history of European Integration. He has a long activist experience and has always focused his engagement on Federalism and European Affairs. Before being elected as European President, he was National Treasurer and then Secretary General of JEF Italy. He has also been in the Presidency council of the European Movement in Italy and now he is a board member of the European Movement International. He worked as Public Affairs Manager at Euractiv Italy and then as Political and a Strategic Communication Consultant, before moving to Brussels to lead JEF. He has been the producer of two documentaries ("A Good Wind" and "The Compass"), has been a speaker at countless national and international events and seminars on European affairs and, among other things, in 2021 he was nominated by the Italian Government as a member of the Scientific Committee on the Future of Europe.

The Young European Federalists (JEF Europe) is a political youth NGO advocating for the creation of a democratic European federation as a guarantee for peace, the rule of law and human rights. JEF Europe promotes true European citizenship, works for the widening and deepening of the European Union and strives for a more just and integrated society on the European continent and beyond. Established in 1972, the organisation has more than 10,000 activists organised in over 250 national, regional and local sections in 33 countries. The ideals and aims of JEF Europe are defined in the Manifesto of Ventotene, the Political Platform and resolutions adopted by its statutory bodies.

GET IN TOUCH





María Sierra

Head of Secretariat
European Student's Union

YOUTH

María Sierra De Las Heras is the Head of the Secretariat of the European Students' Union (ESU), where she has previously worked as the Project Manager for more than two years. She gathered previous professional experience and volunteered in other youth and human rights organisations in France, Cyprus and the UK (European Grassroots Anti-Racist Movement; Politistiko Ergastiri; the International Youth Federation). Due to her expertise in project management, she keeps guiding the Project's department in initiating, planning, executing, and closing the organisation's various projects. In the last six years, Maria has developed a sound knowledge of Project management, EU advocacy and running a Civil Society organisation. Her passion is also vinculated to youth work and facilitating/providing Human Rights Education training. She has facilitated several non-formal trainings on various topics, such as meaningful youth participation, sustainability and climate justice or gender equality in workspaces.

The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 40 countries. ESU aims to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and, in particular, the European Union, Bologna Follow-Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents almost 20 million students in Europe. ESU aims to ensure and strengthen students' participation and to increase student input into higher education policy and decision-making at the local, national and European levels. ESU promotes a higher education system based on quality, equity and accessibility for all.

GET IN TOUCH



YOUTH

Wim Gabriels

Director
Erasmus Student Network

Wim Gabriels is the Director of ESN and he has a thorough experience in project management of European-level projects and a deep understanding of the educational landscape in Europe. He has experience in project coordination, grant-specific regulations, project reporting, contact with stakeholders outside the partnership and strategic planning. Wim has also worked at the International Relations Office of Vrije Universiteit Brussels and he has represented ESN in various other roles, notably as a Board member in the Erasmus Student and Alumni Association, where he has built extensive knowledge of non-EU projects and programs in order to build global awareness of European higher education. Active in the field of Diversity and Inclusion and Community Engagement, Wim strives to make Internationalisation of Education contribute to society.

Erasmus Students Network (ESN) was born after 32 former Students returned from their exchange, with the idea of "students helping students". Currently, it is the biggest European student organisation acting in the field of student mobility and internationalisation of higher education. ESN is a non-profit organisation of more than 520 local sections in 42 countries, connected to more than 1000 Higher Education Institutions, gathering 15 000 volunteers. It provides support to over 350,000 international students and works for their needs by facilitating their mobility before, during and after their exchange, focusing on access to mobility opportunities, engagement with the local community and enhancing intercultural awareness among both the students and the hosting community. ESN contributes to the further development of learning mobility and active citizenship and aims to safeguard student participation in education and youth work policies at European, National and local levels by providing non-formal education opportunities to build capacity in its members.

GET IN TOUCH





Ivonne Pokropek

Europe Board Director
International Alliance of Women

GENDER
EQUALITY

Yvonne Pokropek is a passionate and emphatic HR consultant focusing on leadership programs, mentoring and diversity issues. Prior to becoming a consultant, she worked as an HR Director in major international companies for over 20 years. Having worked in a very male-dominated industry all her working life, she realized that increased equality and diversity don't come without hard work. As a result, she has devoted a great deal of time over the years to starting up and finalizing numerous initiatives focused on these subjects. Among others, mentoring programs aimed at promoting more women into management positions have developed a diversity game that has been used by many companies. The aim of the game is to broaden perspectives and define the prejudices that stand in the way of greater diversity. Yvonne has always been committed to various organizations, even as a young teenager she worked with the Red Cross. In 2022 she was elected to the board of Fredrika Bremer Förbundet, Sweden.

Founded in 1904 and based in Geneva, the International Alliance of Women (IAW) is an international NGO comprising 44 member organizations involved in the promotion of the human rights of women and girls globally. The IAW has general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and is accredited to many specialized UN agencies, has participatory status with the Council of Europe and is represented at the Arab League, the African Union and other international organizations.

GET IN TOUCH



GENDER
EQUALITY

Réka Sáfrány

Chairwoman
Hungarian Women's Lobby

With 20 years of experience in the civic and social sector, Réka Sáfrány is an effective leader who strives to advance gender equality, human rights, and social justice through policy and advocacy. She has a strong background in international relations, political science, sociology, gender studies and pedagogy and contributed to multiple publications and projects on these topics. She serves as the Chairwoman of the Hungarian Women's Lobby and was the President of the European Women's Lobby where she collaborated with diverse stakeholders and partners to promote women's rights and interests at the national, regional, and global levels.

The Hungarian Women's Lobby, established in 2003, is an umbrella organisation dedicated to advocating for the women's human rights agenda as laid down by international norms. The Hungarian Women's Lobby recruits, unites and represents the interests of Hungarian women's organisations with a gender equality and human rights-based agenda, particularly those that advocate for the rights and equal opportunities of women. The Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) is the Hungarian member organisation of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the largest gender equality-oriented umbrella organisation in the EU with more than 2500 member organisations. As such, the Hungarian Women's Lobby represents the national women's organisations' agendas internationally, while at the same time it takes up, represents and campaigns for gender equality issues that are relevant Europe-wide and concern Hungary as well.

GET IN TOUCH





Fiona McKay

Board Member
Gender at Work

GENDER
EQUALITY

Professor Fiona Mackay is a Scottish feminist political scientist whose work examines how gender inequality is reinforced through political, legal, and social institutions. She is interested in the extent to which institutions may be designed or reformed to promote gender justice, inclusion, and women's human rights. She is a Professor of Politics at the University of Edinburgh and served twice as Dean and Head of the School of Social and Political Science. She was the inaugural director of GENDER.ED, the University's interdisciplinary hub for gender and sexualities studies, as well as founding co-director of the Feminism and Institutionalism International Network. Since 2020, she has served as a Board member of Gender at Work.

Gender at Work is a global feminist knowledge network that envisions a world in which women's human rights and cultures of equality, especially gender equality, are valued and respected. For this to happen, systems of power that hold inequality in place, relationships between people, institutions and organizations must be shifted. With this goal, Gender at Work brings together new knowledge on deep structures of inequality and discriminatory social norms with innovative approaches and tools to uncover and challenge these formal and informal barriers to gender equality. To transform organizations and communities, Gender at Work engages with analysis and action premised on feminist inquiry and intersectional principles, so as to bridge theory and practice in ways that nurture collective understanding and shift discriminatory social norms. Our resources draw from grounded experiences of change interventions in organizational and community settings which also involve mind-body work.

GET IN TOUCH





Pegah Maysa Moulana

Secretary-General
Youth and Environment Europe

CLIMATE

Pegah Maysa Moulana is the Council of Europe Rapporteur on young people and the climate crisis and the Secretary General of Youth and Environment Europe. She is a proactive and passionate young researcher with extensive experience in facilitating dialogue around youth issues in international settings. She is a capacity builder with over 4 years of experience in working with policy-related topics across Europe and Commonwealth, and over five years of experience in managing international youth work/NGO work at regional and international levels. An activist from the age of 11, she has been advocating for young people's access to rights on a local, national, European and international scale.

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an independent European network of environmental youth organisations, uniting 48 member organisations from 25 countries, dedicated to promoting environmental awareness, sustainability and youth engagement across Europe since 1983. YEE aims to unite youth non-profit organisations in Europe to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crisis through building capacity and awareness of youth and youth organisations on the field and by strengthening youth participation in environmental and climate decision making processes.

GET IN TOUCH



CLIMATE

Andreas Beckmann

Regional CEO
WWF CEE

Andreas Beckmann is the Regional CEO of WWF Central and Eastern Europe. Under his leadership, WWF-CEE seeks to preserve the "Green Heart of Europe" and promotes sustainable local development. Previously, Andreas worked at WWF as deputy director for the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme. Andreas currently serves on the boards of WWF-Hungary, WWF-Slovakia, WWF-Romania, WWF-Bulgaria, WWF-Ukraine as well as the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. He also served for several years on the board of Greenpeace Czech Republic, Nadaci Ekopolis (Slovak Environmental Partnership) and WWF-Adria.

WWF believes that the conservation of life on earth is possible by protecting the most exceptional ecosystems and habitats. Places like no other - from the Danube River Basin to the Carpathian Mountains, we call our region the Green Heart of Europe. For thousands of years, this natural landscape has been shaped by its people and is blessed with an incomparable wealth of history and culture. WWF Central and Eastern Europe - a great team from over seven nationalities and offices in five countries - thrives to ensure that future generations will also enjoy this incredible legacy and live in harmony with nature. Their mission is to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. To deliver this mission, they work to conserve biodiversity, the web that supports all life on Earth; reduce humanity's ecological footprint; and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources to support current and future generations. WWF celebrates and respects diversity in nature and among the people, partners and communities with whom they work.

GET IN TOUCH





Charlotte Billingham

Senior Associate
European Climate Foundation

CLIMATE

Charlotte Billingham is a Senior Associate in the Climate Governance team at the European Climate Foundation (ECF), and based in Brussels. Her work areas currently focus on national climate laws and planning processes, climate assemblies and citizens' engagement, as well as monitoring EU climate governance mechanisms such as the EU climate law, NECPs and Long-Term Strategies. Before joining the ECF in June 2021, Charlotte worked for 13 years at the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), helping establish the organisation from its creation and building up the climate, energy and environment portfolio. Charlotte is keen to ensure that decarbonisation to climate neutrality happens as quickly as possible across all sectors, whilst ensuring the transition is socially just and inclusive.

Climate change is a problem that affects all, and therefore it is a problem to solve together. Politicians have to do their part, but so do financial institutions, businesses, private investors, and citizens. The European Climate Foundation plays a vital role in supporting this crucial societal consensus and enabling forward-thinking solutions. ECF hosts a network of hundreds of organisations devoted to solving the climate crisis from every angle, through helping to set the agenda, innovate and strategise on a socially responsible transition to a net-zero emissions economy, design and run our own activities where others are not yet active, and raise new funds for the field. The ECF strengthens European climate leadership at every level, from supporting local campaigns to informing EU policy-making, as well as closely working with their partners to drive a 'whole society' approach to climate action and build a positive vision of the future with a path to reach it.

GET IN TOUCH





Ophélie Masson

Deputy-Director
European Alternatives

MULTI-LEVEL
GOVERNANCE

Ophélie Masson coordinates transnational programs aiming at implementing sustainable tools of participative democracy such as Popular Assemblies and ECIs. She also co-coordinates the Citizens Take Over Europe coalition. She focuses on defining new common narratives for citizens and residents of Europe who wish to enhance their political participation through innovative and alternative processes. As such, she is deeply involved in expanding European Alternatives partnerships with pan-European and local CSOs and movements that focus on training key individuals who develop and replicate diverse experimental Popular Assemblies methodologies. She has created and led campaigns at the EU level, engaging with actors ranging from grassroots organisations to European institutions. Ophélie is also an LGBTIQI activist and Board Member of IGLYO.

European Alternatives works to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation-state to imagine, demand and enact alternatives for a viable future. They believe local and regional initiatives benefit from going beyond national boundaries and being brought to a transnational dimension, thus creating a culturally open and diverse society as a precondition for sustainable alternatives to emerge. As their main goals, they aspire to articulate a radical, long-term vision of democratic, just and culturally open politics and society beyond the nation-state, as well as to build the capacity, mutual awareness and connection of members, activists and organizations. For this reason, European Alternatives aims to provide the space for citizens and residents of Europe to network and ensure their activities and events give space for the co-creation of forms of action that contribute to effective transformative change in political institutions and society.

GET IN TOUCH



MULTI-LEVEL
GOVERNANCE

Adam Nyman

Director
Debating Europe

Adam Nyman is the Director of Citizen Outreach and Engagement at the Brussels-based think tank, Friends of Europe, where he founded and runs Debating Europe, an initiative tasked with engaging the collective intelligence of citizens across the EU to generate policy ideas for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe by 2030.

Debating Europe is the citizen engagement unit of Friends of Europe, contributing to reimagining a democracy fit for the 21st century, one that: encourages and empowers people to play a greater role in the big strategic and policy decisions that affect their lives, and the lives of future generations; fosters dialogue through which people can develop the skills and confidence needed to involve themselves in the decisions that shape their lives; nurtures a healthy public space to enable democratic change to happen by connecting citizens and policymakers. By rebalancing the relationship between political institutions and citizens, Debating Europe aims to ensure that decision-making processes and policies align with the needs and aspirations of the people they serve, creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and forward-thinking Europe.

GET IN TOUCH





Adrien Licha

Coordinator of the Brussels Office
ALDA

MULTI-LEVEL
GOVERNANCE

Adrien Licha is the Coordinator of the Secretariat and Coordinator of the Eastern Partnership Unit at ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy. Fully convinced that sustainable development has to be reached at the local level, he has been a local government advocate for more than 10 years. In previous positions, he worked alongside many local governments from the Middle East and Western Asia, as well as with European national associations involved in decentralized cooperation. Being based in Istanbul for 5 years, he has gained extensive knowledge of local governance in Turkey and contributed to recognizing the importance of local governments hosting Syrian refugees. His research areas include local governance, participatory processes and city diplomacy. After moving to Belgium, he became Vice-President of the Consultative Council on European Affairs of the commune of Ixelles, which aims to raise awareness of European local policies and promote social inclusion.

ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society in Europe, its Neighbourhood, and all around the World, mainly acting through participative methods and decentralised cooperation. Established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe to promote good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA is a membership-based organisation gathering over 300 members, including local authorities, associations, and civil society organisations, coming from more than 54 countries in enlarged Europe. ALDA benefits from project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors. As a core element, ALDA supports citizens and groups of citizens in their initiatives aimed at improving their local context and building bridges with local authorities to make the change real.

GET IN TOUCH



MULTI-LEVEL
GOVERNANCE

Zora Siebert

Head of the EU Democracy and
Digital Policy Program
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union

Zora Siebert leads the EU Democracy and Digital Policy program at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union in Brussels, bringing over 12 years of expertise to her role. Her focus lies at the critical juncture of civic rights in the digital sphere and strengthening democracy within the EU and its neighbourhood, ensuring that technological advancements serve both people and the planet. Previously, Zora worked in a European Parliament member's team, concentrating on data protection, IT security, and Artificial Intelligence. Zora is the co-lead of the Foundation's Digital Policy Cluster.

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung is a German political foundation affiliated with the German Green Party (Alliance 90/The Greens). Our primary task is political education and advocacy in Germany and abroad. Our main tenets are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, non-violence and justice. In our work, we place particular emphasis on gender democracy, equal rights for minorities and the political and social participation of migrants.

GET IN TOUCH



This document was prepared by the
Trans European Policy Studies Association
(TEPSA)



ActEU

Activating European Citizens' Trust in Times of Crises and Polarisation

How can we conceptualise and empirically measure political trust and legitimacy beyond the usual survey question “How much trust do you have in the parliament?”? Does the multi-level nature of European representative democracies require an identical level of citizen support at the regional, national and EU level? How is social polarisation on key policy issues of our times –immigration, climate change, and gender inequality– challenging political trust in and legitimacy of democratic political systems? And what can policymakers and civil society do to master these challenges?

ActEU aims at finding answers to these questions pursuing two overarching goals. First, we map and investigate persistent problems of declining trust, legitimacy and representation in Europe with particular attention to the polarization of societies and the EU's multi-level structure. Providing an innovative conceptual framework focusing on political attitudes, behavior and representation across Europe, we establish an original empirical infrastructure based on an innovative combination of methods and newly collected quantitative and qualitative empirical data (focus groups, experimental surveys, web scraping). Second, we craft tailor-made toolkits for political and civil society actors, school teachers and university lecturers to deal with issues of declining political trust in representative democracies in flux and counteract a further decrease. We develop context-sensitive solutions for all polity levels and types of polarising policy fields (migration, environment, gender).



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.