



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 27 September 2021  
(OR. en)

10957/1/21  
REV 1

AG 68  
INST 277  
INF 236

## COVER NOTE

---

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conference on the Future of Europe - Update of National best practices

---

Delegations will find in the annex an overview of the updated best practices as regards the Conference on the Future of Europe national events. Further information on activities organised by Member States in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe can be found in the previous version of this document (ST 10957/21).

## Table of Contents

AUSTRIA .....	2
BELGIUM .....	5
BULGARIA .....	6
CROATIA .....	7
CYPRUS .....	8
CZECH REPUBLIC .....	9
DENMARK .....	12
ESTONIA.....	13
FINLAND .....	15
FRANCE.....	17
GERMANY .....	22
GREECE .....	24
HUNGARY.....	26
ITALY.....	29
IRELAND .....	30
LATVIA.....	31
LITHUANIA.....	33
LUXEMBOURG .....	35
MALTA .....	37
NETHERLAND.....	41
POLAND .....	42
PORTUGAL .....	44
ROMANIA.....	47
SLOVAKIA .....	49
SLOVENIA.....	51
SPAIN .....	53
SWEDEN.....	55

## AUSTRIA

- Austria attaches great importance to a broad-based debate on the future of Europe. Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, therefore initiated the national discussion process as early as June 2020.
- The formal launch of the Conference was then used to raise awareness of the conference in Austria. The entire digital "Europe Day" 2021 in Austria was dedicated to the launch of the Conference. Since the official opening, a large number of events have taken place in Austria. [EU Zukunftskonferenz | Veranstaltungen \(eu-zukunftskonferenz.at\)](https://www.eu-zukunftskonferenz.at).
- A logo has been developed for the national process, which can be used by participants in addition to the official Conference logo.



- In Austria, there are numerous activities and events organised by the federal government, regional and local authorities, national and regional Parliaments, civil society organisations, social partners, associations and citizens.
- Citizens must be at the heart of the Conference. In this context, we attach special importance to the involvement of the younger generation. Their voice is of particular importance when it comes to questions about the future of Europe.

### National website

Since 9 May, a dedicated national website is up and running, on the initiative of Federal Minister Edtstadler and the Federal Chancellery. The website <http://www.eu-zukunftskonferenz.at> ("Unser Europa. Unsere Zukunft") links to the Commission's platform and offers not only information about the Conference on the Future of Europe, but also support and material for organising activities (calls for action, videos). A specific website calendar informs about events in Austria. Another section of the page regularly provides news updates concerning the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Content regarding the Conference is also constantly shared on the social media outlets of the Federal Chancellery, with a focus on Facebook and Instagram.

## Events in Austria since 9 May

On average, events related to the Conference have taken place about every 2<sup>nd</sup> day throughout Austria since the formal launch in May. Various events have been aimed directly at young people and pupils. A number of events have been organised by and for “*Europa-Gemeinderätinnen und Gemeinderäte*”. These municipal Counsellors focusing on EU affairs are members of an initiative launched in 2010. There are around 1.280 Municipal Counsellors in Austria.

Find an overview of events with participation of Federal Minister Edtstadler:

### Citizens, especially Youth

- Federal Minister Edtstadler travelled to all regions / "*Bundesländer*", discussing with citizens, especially young people. It is important for us to reach as many people as possible from all walks of life.
- Related to the younger generation, an event in May organized in the Bundesrat (2<sup>nd</sup> chamber of AT Parliament) was of particular importance. Young people discussed with Federal Minister Edtstadler, Bundesrat-President Buchmann, EP-Vice-President Karas and Commission Vice-President Šuica and shared their ideas on the future of the EU.
- On 9 June Federal Minister Edtstadler held an exchange with young people on the future of the EU and youth participation. Further events are envisaged.

### “Europa-Gemeinderätinnen und -Gemeinderäte” / municipal Counsellors

As representatives at regional and local level, municipal Counsellors are in constant direct contact with citizens. This initiative has been growing over recent years. Once a month, Federal Minister Edtstadler invites the "*Europa-Gemeinderäte*" to an exchange of views. In addition, information on EU issues is regularly provided to the "*Europa-Gemeinderäte*".

### Experts, stakeholders and conferences

- Events in various formats, e.g. “*Zukunftsdialoge*” (future dialogues) and “*Zukunftslabore*” (future labs). These discussions have so far covered climate change and innovation, industry, energy, a single and secure data space in the EU, health, migration, rule of law and others.

- Discussions on the future of Europe also took place within the framework of conferences and panel discussions, for example, the well-established Forum Alpbach, which resulted in a joint declaration at Minister Edtstadler's initiative – "[\*Alpbach Declaration on the Future of Europe\*](#)" ([EU Zukunftskonferenz | Aktuelles \(eu-zukunftskonferenz.at\)](#)).

The most important topics of discussion at events in Austria so far are:

- The opportunities to involve citizens more; the existing great interest of citizens in shaping European policy;
- Climate change as a challenge that we can only solve together;
- Especially the youth wants to be heard and actively shape the future;
- The Resilience Fund and the EU budget must strengthen structures, promote innovation and competitiveness;
- Europe must not fall behind in international competition;
- Subsidiarity and regions must be strengthened;
- CFSP, Europe must speak with one voice.

## BELGIUM

In terms of the BE initiatives pertaining to the COFE, an opening ceremony is planned on 8 October 2021 in the guides of **a citizen dialogue** where the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sophie Wilmès will give a keynote speech (participation from the EU institutions tbc). Subsequently, a panel will focus on the subject “the place of the EU in the world”.

In the course of the month of October **a national citizen panel** will be launched, in which 50 randomly selected citizens will come together for three weekends to discuss the topic of “European Democracy” and how citizens could be involved better in EU affairs. The OCDE, and pan-European citizen panel guidelines will be followed. A scientific committee will assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on process, content and reporting.

Belgium’s **German-speaking Community** will organise two debates. In November, a structured dialogue between citizens will take place concerning the topic of “living in a border region”. In January, a participative event on climate will start for secondary schools. A task force was created to assist these initiatives. The task force consists of members of Parliament, the Government and the MEP of the German-speaking Community. The representatives of these three Institutions will participate in the panels of both events. Furthermore, they will also be present on the plenary sessions of the CoFEU.

On 23 November, **the Flemish Government** will organise a panel on the topic of digitalization and sustainability.

The Parliament of Wallonia is setting up a hackathon on the weekend of 20 and 21 November 21 which will focus on two themes: (1) The impact of healthy lifestyles and climate change on quality of life ;(2) Barriers to employment for young people.

## BULGARIA

- Bulgaria expects a structured bottom-up debate, focusing on topics with practical dimensions, on which we could achieve a real added value in the near future.
- We have already started to promote the digital platform in our country, aiming at broader involvement of Bulgarian citizens. To this end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs encourages the use of the platform among the state administration and the non-governmental sector, including trade unions, employers' organizations, as well as at the regional level.
- Building on experience gained from the European Citizens consultations, our efforts will be focused on holding the Conference in the most inclusive and accessible manner, including the national parliaments and all layers of society, especially the young people.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepared a framework position and action plan regarding our country's participation in the initiative. We have already consulted all relevant ministries, as well as a number of NGOs concerning their interest in joining the Conference.
- We are in full coordination with the representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament in Sofia, for the purpose of organizing joint events and using their regional centres around the country and contacts with civil society organizations. On 16th July this year European Parliament's Office in Sofia together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a kick off event in hybrid format with the participation of Bulgarian MEPs and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, all of them delegates to the Conference, and representatives of the citizens. Several local events have been scheduled in the big universities cities, organized with the assistance of Europe Direct centres, first one on 17 September.

## CROATIA

Task Force on the activities under the Conference, chaired by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, with co-chairs from the Office of the Prime Minister and State Secretary for Europe (who is also a GAC minister) was established.

The members of the Task Force include a wide range of representatives, from government bodies, national parliament, local and regional authorities, as well as civil society.

Task Force compiled ideas and plans from all the relevant participants for conducting national activities. The implementation of national activities is gaining momentum with events organized in different parts of Croatia, on a variety of topics. Regarding the activities on the digital platform, different NGOs, universities, think tanks have registered their events. Some also in cooperation with partners from the neighbouring non-EU countries.

Dedicated link for the Conference was created on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, at and we use Conferences' hashtags on the social media. Following the completion of the tender published by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs for financing the projects of the non-governmental actors linked to the Conference, 23 projects were chosen. Some of them are already being implemented and are added to the digital platform.



## CYPRUS

- Regarding our internal planning, as the objective of the Conference is the wide participation of civil society, we see the process of organising events as a decentralised one.
  
- Having said that, the central point of contact for the Conference within the government will be the General Secretariat of European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close collaboration, wherever possible, with the EC representation in Nicosia, as well as the Press and Information Office of the Republic as regards the organisation of events. The General Secretariat has already began the dissemination of relevant information regarding the Conference and its digital platform to the line Ministries/Deputy Ministries and has invited them to organise their own events involving as many stakeholders as possible. The General Secretariat will also provide guidance to Ministries/Deputy Ministries on substantial issues relating to the topics under discussion.
  
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is itself planning to decide on a number of events on the basis of its priorities and involve other departments of the Ministry depending on the topic. Joint collaboration/co-organisation with other line Ministries is also foreseen. We are in the process of setting up a plan.
  
- On 1 June we organised a launching event with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the head of the EP office, as well as the head of the EC representation, in Nicosia. Given the Conference's focus on youth, our event was focused on matters of special interest to the youth. Representatives of youth organisations, Universities etc. had a central role in it.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

*CZ has centrally organized events of two main types – discussions with general public and awareness-raising events for relevant stakeholders. These primary categories are complemented by events for the youth and events with international participation, as well as dedicated online activities on the Euroskop.cz portal. The design of national activities is based on recommendations of National Convention platform that incorporates relevant stakeholders from state administration, civil society, social partners and academia.*

Centrally organized activities are coordinated by the **Office of the Government**, cooperating closely with the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic, European Parliament Liaison Office and the network of regional communication offices (Eurocenters) and Europe Direct centers. Besides these, other events are being organized by various other actors in Czechia.

The Czech Republic **takes stock of experience and best practices** not only from organizing **Citizens Consultations in 2018** and regional debates held in 2019 on the occasion of the **15th anniversary of Czech accession** to the EU but also from continuous communication efforts throughout the whole country endeavored by regional Eurocenters since 2006.

1. **Flagship events for general public** take place **in the capital** (opening and closing debates) and **every regional capital** across the country.

### National opening event

- CZ officially launched COFE at national level **in Prague** with an innovative discussion in hybrid format due to pandemic situation on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.
- The speakers (including VP of the Commission V. Jourová, State Secretary for EU Affairs M. Hrdinková, Mikuláš Bek, Chair of the EU Committee in Czech Senate and J. Soukupová, founder of “Youth Speak-up” project)

- Speakers addressed 10 questions formulated by 100 representatively selected Czech citizens divided into 10 focus groups.

#### *Flagship regional events*

- The opening event was followed by three **regional flagship online debates in June** (Plzeň, Pardubice, Ostrava) incorporating amongst others representatives of regional stakeholders, the youth, influencers and civic society.
- Events organized in remaining CZ regions will follow in autumn 2021 after holding the general elections.
- The series of debates will be concluded by a **stock-taking conference** assessing the conclusions, recommendations and inspirations from flagship regional events. The event will take place in 2022 in Prague (either in a physical attendance or hybrid format), with aim to incorporate also representatives of the youth.
- Other events (workshops, debates, etc.) may be organized in the regions as per local needs and demand.

#### 2. **Awareness-raising events for stakeholders** (including regional and municipal representatives, social and business partners, representatives of civic society, academia, youth, etc.).

- CZ in cooperation with the EC Representation and EPLO organized two dedicated **workshops** (April 26<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>) focused primarily on introduction of the Platform and encouraging participation in the COFE.
- Representatives of the Government also presented the COFE at various events organized by the stakeholders (e.g. the workshop of the Union of Towns and Municipalities in June).
- Stakeholders can also make use of dedicated mailbox for support.

### 3. Dedicated events for the youth and international events

- COFE is incorporated in the educational project „**Decide on Europe!**“; a simulation of legislative deliberations at the EU level for secondary school students. Series of workshops in the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic will be concluded by an international finale in December 2021. The ideas of the young people will be also uploaded to the Platform.
- CZ also plans to provide support to a Youth Conference organized by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the Czech Republic in fall 2021.
- CZ also co-organized a dialogue for the youth with German partners in late spring.
- Another example of international efforts is **Prague European Summit** and its “Future European Leaders Forum” held in July 2021.

### 4. Information provided by Euroskop.cz portal and other materials

- The official portal of the Government on the EU, Euroskop.cz, provides information and **updates** on organization and developments within the COFE at European, national and regional levels.
- These are complemented by an **original series of articles** on the speeches by important Europeans on the future of Europe.
- In order to raise awareness about the COFE, national leaflets providing information on Conference have been produced.

## DENMARK

- The national debate in Denmark is well under way. The overall vision is a broad and inclusive debate where civil society and other non-governmental actors play a central role. The Danish government is working closely with the Danish Parliament to create a conducive framework around the national debate.
- On 24 June 2021, the government and parliament held a joint kick-off event where actors from a variety of sectors, including civil society, trade unions, the private sector and universities, were invited to attend. All actors were encouraged to engage actively in the national debate and to organize events of their own.
- To facilitate and encourage an inclusive and decentralised debate, a designated pool of public funds has been launched under ‘Europa-Nævnet’<sup>1</sup> to support debates and initiatives hosted by non-governmental actors during the Conference. At the time of writing (September 2021), a total of EUR 511,000 (DKK 3,800,000) has been granted to a diverse group of actors (including NGOs, media, youth organisations, cultural institutions, think tanks and research institutes). These actors will be hosting more than 180 debates across Denmark. Approximately half of the debates will be specifically targeted towards young people.
- In addition, a grant of around EUR 81,000 (DKK 600,000) has been awarded to a consortium of local EU organisations, who will be organising 28 debates across the country.
- The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Members of Parliament have already participated in a number of debates hosted by non-governmental actors. They are expected to continue to do so, during the Conference.
- Finally, the government and parliament are planning to organise a series of official events, such as citizen consultations and more traditional panel debates known as the “Eigtveds Dialogue”. The first Eigtveds Dialogue took place in September 2020 and received lots of positive attention. The event was hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Key experts, citizens and other stakeholders were invited to attend either in person or virtually.

---

<sup>1</sup> Europa-Nævnet is a state institution mandated to support and promote debate and information in relation to Europe and the European Union.

# ESTONIA

## Ongoing and future events.

Regional debates: „**How does Europe help moving local life forward?**“ September -October 2021. Public citizens debates are organized, together with the European Commission Representation in Estonia, ahead of the municipal elections. Events take place in 5 regional „hubs“: Tartu (23.09), Hiiumaa (25.09), Tallinn (29.09), Võru (9.10), and Pärnu (14.10). Each citizen debate is moderated by a local journalist and framed by panels that involve representatives of local communities: local entrepreneurs, representatives of culture, education, art and/or science; and representatives of youth, as well as local politicians. Questionnaire concerning the future of Europe is digitally and on paper circulated at each event. Each event can also be streamed on Facebook. Reports are planned from each event and added to the CoFE digital platform. Separately, for communication purpose, Estonian broadcaster ERR will film TV-programmes (interactive conversations with local life representatives and citizens on Europe´s future. The aim of the programs is also to focus on projects (co)financed from the EU budget.) There will also be a social media campaign to promote the CoFE digital platform. Three separate thematic debates will also take place in Kuressaare, Võru and Pärnu, which will be dedicated on energy and climate issues.

## Past events.

CoFE launch event on May 10th focused on the topic „**What has Europe learned from the COVID-19 pandemic situation?**“ and was attended by Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, Commissioner Kadri Simson, MEP Sven Mikser and Member of Riigikogu Urmas Reinsalu. On 13.-14.08 at the Festival of Opinions in Paide there were several debates on EU future on different stages and panels in the open-air format with politicians, opinion leaders, and other decision makers. Main stage debate focused on the topic: “**What kind of changes does Europe need?**“ and the panel included the President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry representatives have taken part or initiated events with focus on young people. On Europe Day, the European Youth Parliament Estonia organized a discussion, where Undersecretary for European Affairs Märt Volmer spoke on the future of Europe. On 21 May, in co-operation with Back to School Non-governmental Organization, the young diplomat Mikael Laidre gave a virtual lecture to the schools “How I can shape the future in Estonia and in the European Union?” On 26 August, the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Foreign Ministries’ officials

and the Minister of State for Europe Mr Michael Roth met in Berlin where they had a joint public discussion with schoolchildren from respective countries. On 4 September, the French Minister of EU Affairs Clément Beaune and the Estonian Undersecretary for European Affairs Märt Volmer held a public seminar "**The Future of Europe: vision of France and Estonia**" at Tallinn University, which was broadcasted also in Zoom.

## FINLAND

Finland has a long tradition of public debate and participation. The Conference of Future of Europe is seen as a true possibility for active interaction with citizens. The bottom-up approach is important for the Government and especially young people will be encouraged to participate.

The Finnish Government sees facilitating direct participation of citizens in the dialogue on the EU's future as one of the most important priority within the CoFE. The Finnish Government has two main lines of activity for achieving this:

- 1) The Finnish government has launched (16.9.) a series of discussions around Finland during fall 2021 and the beginning of the 2022. The government will participate in these discussions at a ministerial level. Minister for European Affairs Tytti Tuppurainen will play a key role, and she will host seven events on the tour. On top of the events hosted by Ms Tuppurainen, 11 other Ministers of Finnish government will host one or more discussions (including the Prime Minister Sanna Marin). In total, there are around 20 planned events. As a one example, Ms Tuppurainen is planning to host the most northern CoFE-discussion of the whole Europe taking place in the municipality of Utsjoki 2.-3.11.2021. Some of the events will also have a cross-border dimension with other MS. The Prime minister's office has launched a website for the series of events (as an information point for the series of events): [www.eurooppaolemmeme.fi/](http://www.eurooppaolemmeme.fi/)

There is no strict format for each event, but the general rules of Conference on the future of Europe will be followed. Each Minister and Ministry can plan and create their event based on the chosen topic & aim. Open and equal citizens' participation must be in the heart of the events, and a report will be made from each event. The feedback will be also used as a base for the work of the plenary members of Finnish Government in the CoFE Plenary. In a close cooperation [with the Europe Information of Finland](#), The Finnish Government has launched a poll for Finnish citizens, to feed in the discussion taking place in these events.



The Prime minister's office is coordinating the series of discussions. Finnish Government and its ministries are cooperating with other entities, such as cities, local authorities, universities, NGOs, the youth organization as well as with the Finnish Parliament, the European Parliament and European Commission Information Offices Finland when planning and organizing the events. As a part of this series of discussions, Finnish Government also intends to organize future-oriented debate on 22.11.2021 within our national EU coordination system (which brings together government officials as well as stakeholders and civil society groups).

- 2) Various other actors – such as the Finnish Parliament, regional and local authorities, the business community, academia, labor market associations and NGOs – are also active regarding the Conference. In close cooperation with the Europe Information of Finland, The Finnish government is encouraging different stakeholders to participate and organize events under the CoFE and its digital platform.

FRANCE



# L'avenir est entre vos mains

Conférences dans 18 régions

Septembre 2021

# Charte des bonnes pratiques

## Sommaire

1. Introduction
2. Calendrier
3. Les bonnes pratiques
4. Que faire avant de publier ?
5. Communication sur les réseaux sociaux
6. Ce qu'il faut éviter

# 1. Introduction

Le 9 mai dernier, le Président de la République a lancé à Strasbourg, aux côtés de la Présidente de la Commission européenne, du Président du Conseil et du Président du Parlement européen, la Conférence sur l'avenir de l'Europe.

La Conférence sur l'avenir de l'Europe est composée d'une série de débats et de discussions menés par des citoyens, qui permettront à chacun, dans toute l'Europe, de partager ses idées et de contribuer à façonner notre avenir commun. Cette concertation est menée au niveau européen notamment grâce à une plateforme en ligne ([www.futureu.europa.eu](http://www.futureu.europa.eu)) et à l'organisation de panels citoyens transnationaux.

18 conférences se tiendront en septembre dans toutes les régions de France.

## 2. Calendrier

La Conférence sur l'avenir de l'Europe se déroulera sur deux week-ends de septembre 2021, dans 18 régions.

### 10 au 12 septembre

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
Hauts-de-France  
Île-de-France

La Réunion  
Mayotte  
Normandie

Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
Pays de la Loire  
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

---

### 24 au 26 septembre

Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
Bretagne  
Centre-Val de Loire

Corse  
Grand Est  
Guadeloupe

Guyane  
Martinique  
Occitanie

# 3. Les bonnes pratiques

Où et quand faire des posts ?

La Conférence sur l'avenir de l'Europe est une initiative inédite de participation citoyenne. Il est normal de souhaiter mettre en valeur votre engagement et votre travail pendant ces débats citoyens !

Si vous souhaitez faire des posts sur les réseaux sociaux, voici les bonnes pratiques.

## Où et quand faire des posts ?

- en vous préparant au week-end
- en allant à la conférence (ex : dans le train, à l'arrivée, etc.)
- pendant les débats citoyens et les panels

Exemples de contenus

## Exemple de contenus :

Une courte story présentant l'activité :

« Ce matin, c'est débat autour de la place accordée à la jeunesse par l'Union européenne ! »

Une photo de votre dossier de bienvenue avec un petit mot :

« Un weekend européen... Au travail ! »

Un post récapitulatif ce que vous avez retenu des débats citoyens :

« Deux jours de débats intenses.. Le changement que je veux pour l'Europe, c'est plus de climat ! De jeunesse ! »

## 4. Que faire avant de publier ?

Avant de faire un post ou de poster des photos sur les réseaux sociaux :

- Vérifiez que les **gestes barrières** (port du masque, distanciation sociale) sont respectés ;
- Veillez à respecter le **droit à l'image** des personnes ne souhaitant pas apparaître sur les réseaux sociaux ;
- Utilisez les **hashtags (#)** de la conférence ;
- Taguez les **comptes officiels**.

## 5. Communication sur les réseaux sociaux



### Hashtags

#COFE2021  
#AvenirEurope  
#LAvenirVousAppartient



### Mentions

@cbeaune  
@francediplo  
@MFesneau



### Relais

Facebook  
Twitter  
Instagram  
LinkedIn

## 6. Ce qu'il faut éviter

Les réseaux sociaux sont un formidable outil de communication. Mais il faut faire attention à ce qu'on y publie, car sur les réseaux sociaux, tout peut être réinterprété et rien ne disparaît vraiment.

Soyez respectueux. Pensez à respecter la vie privée des autres participants pendant la conférence.

Bonne Conférence sur l'avenir de l'Europe à tous !

## GERMANY

- Germany aims at setting up a broad and decentralized dialogue process and would like to involve citizens, civil society, different federal ministries, our national parliament and the regional level. As Federal Foreign Office, we assume the coordination role for the contribution of the Federal Government, together with the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Press Office (for communication).
- Federal press office has set up a dedicated website for informing the German public about the Conference in general and about the Federal Government's events in particular and to promote the digital platform: <http://www.bundesregierung.de/konferenz-zur-zukunft-europas>
- We are aiming at mobilizing as many citizens as possible from all walks of life and from all regions of Germany to engage in the discussion. As Foreign Office, we are particularly interested in organising transnational citizens' events.
- We are aiming at mobilizing as many citizens as possible from all walks of life and from all regions of Germany to engage in the discussion. As Foreign Office, we are particularly interested in organising transnational citizens' events.
- Since the official launch of the Conference on 9 May, the Federal Government has organised a series of dialogue events:
  - o The Federal Foreign Office hosted three transnational dialogues so far: Minister Maas and his Italian counterpart di Maio together with pupils from both countries (11 June); Minister of State Roth and his Czech counterpart Chmelař together with young people from both countries (15 June); German-Baltic Youth dialogue with Minister of State Roth and his Baltic counterparts together with young people from all four countries (26 August);
  - o On 28 June Federal Chancellor Merkel took part in an online dialogue with ten European students.

- o Several other federal ministries organised citizens' dialogues: Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs about the consequences of the pandemic on social questions in Europe (18/19 June); Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture with the participation of Minister Klöckner (30 June); Federal Ministry of Health on health and digitalisation with the participation of Minister Spahn (10 July); State Secretary Dörr-Voß of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy took part in an online dialogue with students (13 July); Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety with the participation of Minister Schulze (1 September); Commissioner for Culture and the Media Grütters took part in an online dialogue on diversity in the European cultural and creative sector (2 September);
- Regional governments (federal states/Länder) have also started organising Conference events. Several Länder foresee transnational dialogues. For examples, Saxony and Baden-Württemberg will organise joint events in cooperation with Polish and Czech regions in autumn. Brandenburg will invite citizens from Belgium and Poland to joint dialogue events. Rhineland-Palatinate and its French Partner region Bourgogne-Franche-Comté will organise a joint citizens' dialogue in October. North Rhine-Westphalia and its French and Polish partner regions, Hauts-de-France and the Silesian Voivodeship, will organise a trilateral citizens' dialogue in November.



## GREECE

- ❖ The national participation, including communication with the National Parliament, other ministries and authorities, the Commission's Representation and the EP's Liaison Office, is coordinated by the Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs (in charge of EU affairs), assisted by an MFA Task Force and a Special Envoy.
- ❖ The national priorities were established at government level and a concept paper with these priorities was distributed to all MS.
- ❖ Guidelines on organizing events were drafted and distributed to all potential organizers, by the MFA, in cooperation with the Commission's Representation and the EP's Liaison Office in Athens. These guidelines are based on the official Conference guides.
- ❖ A national digital platform was set up ([www.futureu.gov.gr](http://www.futureu.gov.gr)), which actually promotes the EU-level platform, links it with the national perspective and encourages citizen participation.
- ❖ We tried to profit from this year's double anniversary: 40 years since the country's accession to the then European Communities and 200 years since the Greek Revolution. We are building on this happy coincidence to raise public awareness. This was the concept of our hybrid high-profile event on May 27th, in Athens, which marked the official launching of our national campaign for the Conference, and was honoured by the Greek President, the PM, PM Costa, President Sassoli, President Michel and President Von der Leyen. An event at the EP premises (exhibition on 40 years in the EU and possibly a discussion) could be organised, if the public health conditions allow it.
- ❖ The national deliberation is already underway. Its main components are:
  - Raising awareness through articles, interviews and other contributions in the Press and the social media.
  - Organizing consultation events at the level of the country's 13 Regions, with a thematic focus for each event, taking into account the Region's priorities and outstanding challenges. The first events took place:

- ✓ in Patras, Region of Western Greece, on 4 June (focus on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation),
- ✓ in Lamia, Region of Central Greece, on 30 June (structural funds and cohesion policies),
- ✓ in Athens, Region of Attica, on 8 July (rule of law),
- ✓ in Thessaloniki, Region of Central Macedonia, on 15 September (Enlargement).

We seek to ensure the participation of officials from other MS or/and the EU institutions in these events. Depending on the topic, we also encourage the participation of regional partners who are not members of the CoFE Plenary, with the aim of enriching the dialogue, enhancing pluralism and making the exercise more representative and inclusive. For example, the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean was invited to address the event on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation; officials from the Western Balkans took part in the discussion about Enlargement in Thessaloniki.

- Mobilizing stakeholders such as Municipalities, Chambers, professional organizations, Universities, schools, the Academy of Athens, the Orthodox Church and various other bodies of our civil society at large, and encourage them to organize their own events and participate actively in the deliberations.
  - ✓ According to our information, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Delphi Economic Forum, the European Public Law Organisation (EPLO), the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), the Confederation of Multi-Child Parents, the Young European Federalists network and other stakeholders have already organised or are planning to hold relevant thematic events.
  - ✓ We intend to organise an online event for Greeks living abroad, in order to facilitate their contribution to the consultation.

# HUNGARY

## 1.- Hungarian best practice regarding the involvement of citizens in the process of decision-making

### *National Consultations*

- **In our view, the Conference on the Future of Europe must focus** on the most important issues in the eyes of **everyday citizens**. We believe that involving citizens in decision-making processes is fundamental for every successful and credible democracy. We welcome the fact that **the European Union has recognized the democratic potential of involving citizens more directly and we encourage the EU to base the whole Conference on the opinions of citizens.**
- In our view, **it is not enough to listen to citizens**; their ideas must also be **integrated** into the decision-making process. To this end, the Government of Hungary has been conducting **National Consultations with Hungarian citizens since 2010** in order to integrate their views into government policy, **touching upon a number of different policy areas**. Our National Consultations proved popular, with **high participation rates**.

## 2.- Hungarian best practices regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe

### *High profile, international conferences*

- Concerning national plans and actions, **we adopted a proactive approach**. In fact, **Hungary was the first Member State to launch the discussion related to the Conference on the Future of Europe**. The Hungarian **Ministry of Justice and the Ferenc Mádlnstitute for Comparative Law** co-organised a number of **high profile international events**, explicitly related to the union-level Conference series, seeking to explore **key topics that are important in the eyes of citizens**.

- Our first conference was held on 25 June 2020, titled “*Keynote discussion to the Conference on the Future of Europe*”<sup>2</sup> followed by “*Dialogue on the Future of Europe: How to build a more effective and genuinely strong Union?*”<sup>3</sup> on 21 September, 2020. Based on the successes of these, a third conference was organised on 21 June 2021, titled “*Dialogue on the Future of Europe: Building a Digital European Union*”.
- Speakers from all relevant professional fields participated in the conferences, covering national governments, European institutions, academia, research institutes, and other international organizations. Among others, speakers included **several Commissioners, the former President of the EP, and other high profile guests.**
- The past two conferences were held within the Delegation Hall of the **Hungarian National Assembly**, symbolising the **vital role of national parliaments in the discussion on the future of the EU.**
- **To ensure inclusivity, and democratic legitimacy, we provided citizens an opportunity to send questions to be asked from the speakers.** We also particularly encouraged youth organisations to participate in our events and ask questions.
- The Ministry of Justice and the Ferenc Mádl Institute for Comparative Law will be organising a **fourth international conference this winter titled** „*Dialogue on the Future of Europe: Is enlargement a key to the future?*”. The conference will be housed in the Hungarian National Assembly.
- **The Ministry of Justice encourages other Ministries, as well as civil society actors, youth organisations, academic actors and other stakeholders to actively participate in the Conference.**
- The Government’s promoting efforts about the Conference on the future of Europe prove to be useful, as **Hungary already counts 167 events in the Conference’s framework.**
- Overall, our conferences aim to address the European context of contemporary questions comprehensively in an effort **to provide a general policy and academic overview, seeking to contribute to policy development on a European Union level.**
- Besides the aforementioned governmental efforts, citizens’ participation is key, therefore we are advocating for the organisation of national citizens’ panels.

<sup>2</sup> Event summary: <http://mfi.gov.hu/en/esemenyek/keynote-discussion-on-launching-the-conference-on-the-future-of-europe/>

<sup>3</sup> Event summary: <http://mfi.gov.hu/en/esemenyek/dialogue-on-the-future-of-europe-how-to-build-a-more-effective-end-genuinely-strong-union/>

## *Call for Papers*

- In order to actively involve the **young generation (up to 35 years)**, the **Ministry of Justice published a call for papers in the subject of the “Future of the EU”**. It invites **young Hungarians to express their opinion in several relevant topics**. The best three papers will be awarded, and the authors’ works are going to be published. We received a large number of entries, which shows that **young Hungarians are enthusiastic about shaping the discussion** on the Future of the EU.

## ITALY

- The position of the Italian Government on the Conference has been updated to reflect the many events of the past year in the revised Italian non-paper, which has recently been circulated.
- In terms of governance structure:
  - the Wisepersons' Committee, co-chaired by former European Commissioner, Amb. Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, and former Minister of Justice, Prof. Paola Severino, held its first meeting on 27 July 2021;
  - at that time, the Committee established four thematic working groups:
    - (i) institutional affairs;
    - (ii) foreign policy;
    - (iii) social and economic issues;
    - (iv) climate, energy and environment.

A working calendar was also approved, with a view to drawing conclusions already by the end of the current year.
- A large event, that will see young people from the EU and the Western Balkans coming together to discuss and envision the future of Europe, will take place in Rome on 22-26 November 2021. Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio and other leaders and personalities will attend the final session, on 26 November. The other large event presented in our previous paper, that will involve young people from the EU and the Mediterranean countries, will be held on 3 December 2021. More information on this event will come shortly.
- At this juncture, the Italian Government is working to increase the participation of citizens to the Conference: to this end, a far-reaching media campaign (including a new website and a podcast) will shortly be released, in order to raise as much awareness on the Conference as possible to different publics.
- At the same time, national and local institutions are promoting meetings, discussions and seminars on European issues with the aim of fostering a public debate on the themes covered by the Conference.
- As we consider youth participation a key point, we are also working closely with schools and universities, including through live and online events, competitions, and scholarship initiatives.

## IRELAND

Since the last update in July, a number of Conference events have been held in Ireland. All events have been held online with the intention that once public health conditions allow, physical events will take place towards the end of the year/early 2022.

Four regional seminars organised by European Movement Ireland (in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs) have taken place, which have canvassed the views of citizens living in the four Irish provinces and the Irish diaspora based in other EU Member States. A second round of in-person regional events will take place in early 2022. A series of sectoral events will take place during autumn/winter. It is expected that these sectoral events will focus on young people, minority groups, EU citizens living in Ireland and Irish speakers.

Thomas Byrne T.D., Minister of State for European Affairs, has also met virtually with specific groups to engage with them on Conference topics. These have included young people (18-25 year olds), youth councils, migrant communities and LGBTQI+ organisations. Reports on these meetings have been uploaded to the Digital Platform. In the coming weeks, he will meet with Ireland's offshore island communities, Gaeltacht communities, members of the travelling community and residents of our inner cities and other disadvantaged areas. Ireland is keen to ensure that we canvass as many opinions as possible, both positive and negative, and that those who traditionally do not engage with the EU are included in the Conference process.

The Department of Foreign Affairs continues to work closely with our Conference partners including our National Citizens Representative, our National Parliament Delegation and the European Institutions Offices in Dublin in promoting Conference events.

-

## LATVIA

- From 3 to 10 June, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in association with Latvia's higher education institutions organized a series of online discussions for students. They were aimed at promoting student engagement in the sharing of ideas and opinions on economic, social and security issues that are related to Europe's future. In three discussion sessions, students offered their proposals on how to move ahead on reaching the objectives connected with climate neutrality, and on harnessing the opportunities offered by digitalization, while reducing risks related to data security. The EU's response to the pandemic was also evaluated and ways to ensure quality education and health care services in all Member States, and challenges were discussed in relation to the interpretation of the rule of law in Member States. During the final discussion, the students exchanged opinions on what the EU and NATO cooperation should be in the future, as well as discussing the EU's role in fighting hybrid threats, for instance, disinformation and cyber-attacks
- MFA in cooperation with researchers is carrying out a nationwide poll to understand the expectations and concerns about EU and Latvia's membership. Combined with previous polls, certain conclusions regarding tendencies could be drawn. Additionally, guidelines to our Council representatives and basis for further discussions nationally could be provided.
- The nationwide poll and focus group discussions are expected to be concluded by the end of September. Preliminary results should be communicated by the end of October and the final results and conclusions are expected by the end of December.
- MFA is closely collaborating with the EC and EP representations in Latvia, as well NGO's and think tanks to facilitate participation in the Conference. Representatives from Latvia in the Conference's Plenary (Council, national parliament, MEP and citizen's representatives) are actively participating in various events organized by NGO's to discuss matters of common concern and to raise awareness of the Conference.
- EC representation in Latvia in cooperation with the MFA is organizing series of regional in-person discussions to raise awareness of the Conference to people aged 55+ and to engage them into discussions about the future of Europe.



- Additionally, as we believe that the engagement of youth in the Conference is particularly important, the MFA is organizing series of in-person discussions with pupils from Secondary Schools in Valmiera, Valka, Daugavpils, Ilūkste, Kuldīga and Aloja. Participants will be introduced with the Conference and participation options. Furthermore, pupils will discuss various issues related to climate change and share their opinion on needed EU's reaction to combat climate change. Results from discussions will be uploaded on the Digital Platform.

# LITHUANIA

## *Launch of the Conference:*

- **The national launch of the Conference took place in Vilnius on June 7.** Top political leaders, experts and representatives from the organized civil society participated in a series of live panel discussions followed by an input and questions from the audience. The event was live-streamed by popular internet TV.

## *National events:*

- **As regards to the national events, our approach is a “bottom-up” one as we think that European citizens should play a leading part in building the EU.**
- National citizens’ dialogues will be an essential part of the Conference in Lithuania. Lithuanian MFA, in partnership with think tanks and NGOs, will organize 15 regional discussions, with different audiences and citizens from all walks of life. These events and panels are and will be registered on the Platform, while the partners will provide summaries and recommendations.
- At the same time, we regularly inform various NGOs, youth and other organizations on the Conference and invite them to organize their own events.
- Inclusivity and reaching out to all sectors of our community is at the heart of Lithuania’s engagement with the Conference. We are all-in for the dialogue, listening to our people’s voice, and solving the issues identified.

## *Transnational events:*

- **We are also keen to facilitate involvement of EU citizens from other Member States.** Therefore, some of the events are of transnational nature. We believe that transnational dialogues are an excellent opportunity to discuss the common future from different perspectives.

- We already had a good experience from the debate with the students from the three Baltic States and Germany, organized in the context of 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reestablished diplomatic relations. In addition, French-Lithuanian ministers, responsible for EU affairs, had a fruitful dialogue with French-Lithuanian students.
- In the near future, we will organize further transnational events. This month we will hold a discussion on the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution of May 3, 1791 and later – a debate on the future of our region’s future in the margins of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

***National Parliament:***

- **Lithuanian Parliament has been proactive since the very start of the CFE.** The European Affairs Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee have adopted opinion on the Conference on Future of Europe jointly last October.
- Special plenary marking the official launch of the Conference took place on May 11 in the Parliament, with the participation of the Commission Vice-President Ms. D. Šuica and the Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Portuguese Presidency Mr. C. Santos.
- On September 24, the Parliament together with the European Parliament Information Office will organize a discussion on future of Europe with the Vice-President of the European Parliament Ms. R. Metsola.
- As a follow-up, the Parliament will organize series of quality events devoted to the Conference through 2021.

## LUXEMBOURG

- Luxembourg has supported the idea of this Conference from the beginning. The main priority in this Conference is to listen to citizens, as we believe that the involvement of citizens in the political debates on Europe is key, particularly in the current situation. With the challenges that the EU is currently facing, our attention should go towards delivering concrete results for the EU and its citizens.
- **Events already organized:**
  - On the occasion of Europe Day 2021, which also marked the start of the Conference on the future of Europe, an exchange took place in Schengen between citizens, MEP's and Commissioner Nicolas Schmit on the theme of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Citizens were invited to ask questions about the future of Europe and to make their voices heard.
  - A podium discussion took place on Monday 21 June 2021 with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Jean Asselborn, and the Minister Delegate for European affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Michael Roth. The Ministers exchanged views with German, French, and Luxembourgish high school students.
- **Next steps and priorities:** The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is planning to organize an event on cross-border regions and barriers to free movement.

Further events are currently under consideration by various stakeholders. As such, the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies has launched a national campaign touching on a number of issues identified by the citizens themselves and based on their expectations. As part of the campaign, the Parliament is planning to organize a number of events using new formats over the coming weeks and months that encourage citizens to exchange and pass on their ideas on the future of Europe.

- **National promotion:** The government has set up a [dedicated tab on its website](#), linking to the digital platform. It is available in four languages: FR, DE, EN, and LU. Luxembourg actively supports the participation of citizens in the online platform.

- **National participation:** Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn participated in the first plenary session of the Conference on the future of Europe. Regarding the nomination of a citizen, Luxembourg attaches great importance to the involvement of youth in this process, and therefore the Youth Parliament was offered the opportunity to nominate one of its members to participate as a national citizen in the first plenary.

## MALTA

Since the official launch of the Conference in Malta, held on May 18, 2021, the national organisation committee has been at the forefront in promoting the Conference locally on different fronts through the government agency, Servizzi Ewropej f' Malta (SEM).

### Awareness-raising

In terms of awareness-raising on the multilingual digital platform, various channels are being used, mainly through the following:

- Regular and boosted social media posts on SEM's social media channels to promote the Conference in general and the individual topics of the platform;
- Various radio programmes on the national broadcaster to engage with audiences on the future of the EU in the context of the Conference;
- A diversified mix of broadcasting and print media public awareness promotional material which include radio adverts, full page advertorials on magazines distributed with nationwide newspapers, and articles on both print and online platforms to raise awareness of the Conference on the Future of Europe and informing citizens as to how they can participate both through national events and the Multilingual Digital Platform;

Engagement with civil society organisations has also been continuous through direct communication (mailshots) to encourage them to contribute to the Conference with their ideas, organise events and upload them on the platform.

Engagement was maintained with MT MEPs who form part of the European Parliament's Delegation to the Conference Plenary (EPP European Parliament Vice President Roberta Metsola, and S&D MEP Dr Josianne Cutajar) as well as Malta's EESC Members to ensure involvement and collaboration.

## National Citizens' Events

In terms of the organisation of citizens' events on a national level, the national organising committee is aiming to target different sections of the population from different backgrounds and interests. Citizens' events have so far been limited to a hybrid format, due to the current restrictions by the national Health Authorities for public events.

Participation in Citizens' events is promoted through direct communication with civil society organisations and through social media channels intended for citizens more broadly, and on the agency's website, and also internally within the public service through the government's intranet network.

### 'The Future of Education and Training in Europe and Malta'

In June and July, five National Citizens' Events (panel discussions) were held with educators and citizens to discuss the five pillars of the new Strategic Framework for Education and Training 2030. The five themes were: 'Improving Quality, Equity, Inclusion and Success for all'; 'Making Lifelong Learning and Mobility a reality for all'; 'Enhancing Competences and Motivation in the education profession'; 'Reinforcing European Higher Education'; 'Supporting the Green and Digital transitions in and through education and training'. The sessions were held in close collaboration with the and the Ministry for Education.

The citizens' events were held in a hybrid format (a panel of experts physically present in a boardroom and online participation by stakeholders) and featured the participation of over 215 educators and citizens. The outcome of each of the citizens' events were uploaded in separate thematic events on the Multilingual Digital Platform.

### 'The future of Europe with and for Children'

In order to reach out to and involve youth and children in the Conference, a series of 26 citizens' events for children attending the government-run summer school – '*Skolasajf*' – were held in July and August in 26 centres across Malta and Gozo, reaching some 260 children aged 9-12 years. Titled, 'Building Tomorrow... Today', these citizens' events allowed children to engage in a discussion and come up with ideas on how they would like to see their own future as European citizens.

To facilitate the discussion a poster was designed specifically for the purpose, portraying in the following four themes: child-friendly societies; healthy lives; education for life, and; protection for security. The poster included blank spaces where the respective class facilitator could write the children's ideas.

At the end of the events, the filled-in posters were collected and the ideas were compiled together under different themes and headings.

The conclusions and recommendations of the events were presented at an activity held on September 2, by two of the participating children to the Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Carmelo Abela and the Minister for Education, Justyne Caruana.

The children's responses highlighted their aspirations to see the value of RESPECT practiced and safeguarded for them to have a better future. While children wish to be respected and protected, they also claimed that they are ready to respect others so that they can live in a society in which acceptance and equality are practised and promoted.

The full set of conclusions has been uploaded on the multilingual digital platform.

#### 'The Europe I would like to see'

Currently, a series of three NATIONAL Citizens' Events are being held: September 16, on a European Union for Health; September 30, on the European Way of Life, and; October 14, on the green and digital transitions for a fairer society.

Each event will see a panel of around eight participants (physically present at a chosen venue) discussing the respective topic with a journalist from the national broadcaster. The panel of experts in the field are joined by online participants from different backgrounds, but mostly related to the topic being discussed.

Citizens will be invited and encouraged to follow the national citizens' events through virtual connections and will also be invited to intervene with remarks and queries to ensure that they have a central role in the deliberative process.

The outcome of each of the citizens' events will be reported on the multilingual digital platform.

#### 'Sowing Seeds'

This is the theme of this year's European Researchers' Night to be held in Malta on September 24-26. SEM's participation, in collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Malta, will target youths through a number of performances on the European Green Deal. Following the performance, SEM officials will hold focused citizens' events with youths to elicit their contribution to build a greener future and the EU's initiatives for the green transition.



### ‘Freshers’ Week on Campus’

Between October 4 and 8, SEM, in collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Malta, will promote the Conference among University students (young adults). Freshers’ Week represents the opening of the University scholastic year and serves as an event where various entities, including student organisations, can engage with students to familiarise them with aspects of students’ life and students’ organisations. In this regard, students will be invited to share their ideas on the Future of Europe, via an idea tree.

### Way forward

Apart from continuing to promote the Conference through various channels, in the coming months, further collaboration will be sought with different organisations to encourage the organisation of citizens’ events by civil society.

## NETHERLAND

- The Netherlands has actively picked up the organization of citizens consultations. It will be focused on the wishes and desires of Dutch citizens from the EU.
- The citizens consultations will consist of 2 elements:
  - 1. The Netherlands institute for social research will provide an addition to the report of 2018, the previous citizens consultations. This consisted of quantitative and qualitative research.
  - 2. The organization of citizens dialogues, executed by an independent third party. The government selected a third party to design and organize the dialogues. The dialogues started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, the reports will be available ahead of the thematic plenaries.
- The dialogues consist of several parts. The 1<sup>st</sup> of September, the online part was launched, consisting of a questionnaire and a simplified selection tool where citizens can give their preferences, wishes and recommendations. The questionnaire is publicly accessible and distributed within a selected representative and inclusive group of citizens. In October and November, in-depth online and offline dialogues will be organised, also to reach young people and hard-to-reach target groups. Prior to each upcoming plenary, the results of the national citizens' consultations will be presented in a report.
- We will consider engaging ministers in the public debate at a later stage, based on the outcomes of the consultations.
- Lastly, specific attention is paid to the communication of the Conference, as well as the consultations. We actively inform organizations, unions, citizens and others on the Conference. A national website has been launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September for citizens to fill out the questionnaire, use the simplified selection tool, sign up for the thematic online and offline dialogues and find other general information about the Conference.
- The Dutch parliament has indicated their intention to be active in the public debate, and possibly organize event(s) and/or dialogues around the Conference.

# POLAND

## 1. *The visibility of COFE:*

Polish government encourages the citizens to directly contribute to the discussion on the future of Europe. In order to increase the public interest and the civil society engagement PL government promotes the Conference and the Multilingual Digital Platform via social media and on the official government's website: <https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/konferencja-w-sprawie-przyszlosci-europy>

## 2. *General approach:*

Poland sees the national level activity within the Conference as a decentralised process, yet also engages in dialogues with NGOs and other interested stakeholders. A strong emphasis is being put on ensuring a wide variety of participants and diverse formats of organised events, both on governmental and regional level.

## 3. *National events and activities:*

### ***Governmental engagement:***

- *Conference on the strategic autonomy organised by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister*

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland is conducting a conference in cooperation with leading Polish think tanks active in the field of international affairs and EU policy, including the Polish Institute of International Affairs, the Sobieski Institute, the Centre for Eastern Studies and the Institute for Western Affairs. The panelists will discuss a number of topics related to international challenges the EU is facing nowadays, in order to answer a general question of the meeting: Is strategic autonomy the right EU response to a changing world? Debates will be conducted within thematic panels:

- Towards greater EU independence in strategic sectors?
- Euro as a tool to strengthen the EU international position ?
- Could the EU benefit from US-China rivalry?

Event will be held in a hybrid form – the panelists will be able to participate both physically and virtually. A wide spectrum of guests was invited to participate, including academic researchers, experts and students. Moreover, it will be broadcasted live online. Event was also registered on the Multilingual Digital Platform, where a report from the debate will be published:

<https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/OtherIdeas/f/7/meetings/43165>

- *Joint event by PL Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the European Commission Representation Office in Poland (tbc)*

Currently joint event is being planned between the PL Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Representation of the European Commission in Poland. A discussed format includes physical participation of a diverse group of participants from various backgrounds. It will take a form of a quasi-seminar, with general debates and thematic working groups. The intention is that the discussions will cover the Conference leading topics. The outcomes will be published on the Multilingual Digital Platform.

Estimated event date is late November 2021.

#### ***Local engagement:***

At the regional level the Regional Centers for International Debate in cooperation with NGOs, universities and with support of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs are organising a number of public seminars and conferences. The topics of discussions cover the thematic areas of the Conference.

Events are being conducted in all of the 16 Polish regions, most of them are broadcasted on-line. So far around 25 events were organised in both physical and virtual format.

#### ***Parliamentary engagement:***

[Within Polish Sejm \(lower chamber of the Parliament\) a special subcommittee for the Conference on the Future of Europe was established, which discusses the topics related to the Conference. Moreover, the European Affairs Committee of the Polish Sejm presented a few position papers concerning the Conference.](#)

# PORTUGAL

## Objective

Citizens' active participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe is an important priority for Portugal. To this end, the Government will organize a series of national and transnational events designed to act as engagement multipliers. The aim is to promote the greatest possible number of citizen-led events in Portugal. The Multilingual Digital Platform is key towards achieving this goal. It is crucial to promote the registration of citizen-led events in the Platform to stimulate public interest and participation in the Conference, namely youth participation (a particularly important target group for Portugal).

## Implementation team

Portugal has formed a task force to coordinate the Conference related national events and to communicate with the Conference's central organizers. The Government joined forces with the National Parliament, the national Economic and Social Council, the National Youth Council, the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities and the delegations of the European Parliament and the Commission in Portugal to organize nine events spread throughout the country. The government will take the lead in the organisation of the opening and closing events, as well as two of the regional events. The Portuguese Parliament will lead the organisation of two others; the Representation of the European Commission in Portugal will take responsibility for two more events and the Representation of the European Parliament in Portugal for one event. The Government is also working on a forthcoming transnational event with Spain and possibly another transnational event with Slovenia.

## National Events – thematic and geographical distribution

The national multiplier events, aimed to stimulate the involvement of civil society in the Conference on the Future of Europe, are scheduled to take place until April 2022 and will be geographically and thematically distributed as follows:

- Lisbon (launch event)
- Algarve (“The future of European democracy”)
- Azores (“The importance of the Atlantic dimension in international security in the context of the EU's global role”)
- North (“Social justice, equality, health and territorial cohesion”)

- Center (“Digital transformation, innovation and entrepreneurship”)
- Alentejo (“Migration and international partnerships”)
- Lisboa and Vale do Tejo (“An economy that benefits citizens + the fight against climate change + agricultural policy”)
- Madeira (“Education, culture, youth and sports + tourism) - Porto (closing session).

These events are expected to take place in partnership with local authorities (e.g. municipalities), universities, schools, social partners, local civil society organisations, among others. The objective is to listen to citizens’ interventions in these events and to stimulate their active participation. Therefore, most of the speaking time will be allocated to them and proceedings will be structured in an informal way, as much as possible. Portugal is keen to attract a diverse audience when it comes to age, gender and education, as well as socioeconomical background and geographical location. Additionally, we plan to keep the same moderator across all events. Preference will be given to an individual with a media background (e.g. a journalist).

A final national report is foreseen for April 2022.

### **Public Communication**

On June 16, a few days before the inaugural Conference Plenary, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Augusto Santos Silva, and two then Co-Chairs of the Conference’s Executive Board - Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, and the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ana Paula Zacarias, – participated in an open, public and transparent discussion with Portuguese youths about their views and idea on the Conference on the Future of Europe.

An inaugural event of the Conference at national level took place on the 28th of July in Lisbon with the presence of the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for European Affairs, representatives of the National Parliament, the national Economic and Social Council, the National Youth Council, the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities and the delegations of the European Parliament and the Commission, as well as of several civil society organizations, including media. The objective of this first session was to launch the debate at national level and to encourage citizens to engage in this debate.

The Government has also created a webpage where essential information and up-to-date event and initiative programming is available (<https://eurocid.mne.gov.pt/conferencia-sobre-o-futuro-da-europa>).

## ROMANIA

The organization of the events is governed by the logic that the consultation process under the Conference on the future of Europe (CoFoE) needs to keep the citizens at its core. The organization remains mainly decentralized, with events that should be generated by citizens, or should engage citizens if organized with the support of public authorities, be it Government, Parliament or local authorities.

The role defined for the Government is twofold, aiming to support communication around CoFoE, the digital platform and the citizens' events, as well as to contribute with content to the conversations around the future of Europe.

Through the participation of high-level officials in events, the intention is to give visibility to the dialogue on the future of Europe or to inject ideas in the public debates. This was the case of the event dedicated to the future of Europe hosted by the President of Romania on July 13, 2021, event that also marked the formal launch of the national debates. Another example is the invitation of students to attend the dialogue on the future of Europe with Commission VP Dubravka Šuica, organized in the margins on the Annual Meeting of the Romanian Diplomacy (8 September 2021). On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, Romanian francophone students attended a debate on the future of Europe, with key note speakers the Romanian and the French secretaries of state for EU Affairs (Bucharest, 14 September). This was a first cross-country event on the future of Europe hosted by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a practice to be continued.

Middle management or experts from the different parts of the administration are also encouraged to engage in the citizens' events, so as to bring informed opinions and expertise on the topics to be address in the framework of the themes included on the digital platform.

Dedicated events relevant for the discussions on the future of Europe are hosted or co-hosted by the administration, with the aim to channel the discussion towards most of the CoFoE themes. As an example, the MFA established partnerships with the European Institute of Romania (organization that also participates in the Europe Direct network), and with the Romanian Diplomatic Institute. These partnerships aim at supporting the organization of a series of events between June 2021 and March 2022, covering a variety of topics, from the kick off debate on the purpose and expectations from CoFoE, to digitalization, sustainable development, post-pandemic economy, agriculture, EU's strategic partnerships, to name few of the envisaged dialogues. The partnership with IER on CoFoE began on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, with a discussion associating MFA's Secretary of State for EU Affairs, as



well as opinion leaders and EU experts, in an online dialogue with citizens regarding the objectives of the Conference, its purpose and results that could be expected.

The format for the events is digital or hybrid, with decisions being taken on a case-by-case basis, after due consideration of the sanitary situation.

MFA is also in close dialogue with the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, as well as with the EP Office in Bucharest, so to ensure coordination and complementarity as regards communication and organization of events. Joint organization of events is planned.

MFA works also with several youth organizations (Romanian Youth Forum, UN Youth-Romania and the League of Romanian Students Abroad) in order to increase the participation of the young generation in the national debates on the future of Europe.

The next envisaged stage is to multiply the debates associating partners from other Members States, either as speakers or as youth co-participants in the debates.

The first citizens' event in Romania was registered on the digital platform on 22 April. The events up to now covered a variety of issues, from digital and climate to education, resilience, role of the civil society, connectivity.

## SLOVAKIA

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021, the Government of Slovak Republic adopted the Conception on the Conference on the Future of Europe. This document sets out basic principles and positions in regards to the whole project. The Slovak model is based on two previously successful pillars – the WeAreEU project (consultations with the general public, discussions at school etc.) and the National Convention on the EU (expert and analytical discussions).
- Slovakia views the process of the Conference on the national level in three main phases – the preparatory phase (May – July 2021), the action phase (August – December 2021), and the assessment phase (January – April 2022).
- **Preparatory phase (May – July 2021)**
  - **Objective:** to ensure the widest possible awareness of CoFoE and its opportunities
  - **Activities:**
    - **9.5.** - The official launch of CoFoE in Slovakia - ceremonial meeting at Bratislava Castle, where the President, Speaker of the Parliament, Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Slovakia together adopted a joint statement
    - **19.5.** – Online discussion – „What kind of EU do we want after the pandemic crisis?“
    - **7.6.** - Press conference of Foreign Affairs Minister and State Secretary for European Affairs introducing CoFoE and the digital platform, inviting citizens to join
    - **8.6.** - Online Kick-off conference
    - **May – July** - introductory speeches of State Secretary for European Affairs at meetings of regional and city councils with the aim of activating local governments
    - **May – July** - preparation for the implementation of the National Convention and the WeAreEU Roadshow
    - **May – July** - addressing representatives of regions, cities and municipalities; civil society; other ministries; parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties; business sector; pensioners; the Youth Council of Slovakia and other interest and professional organizations with a call for cooperation in the organization of CoFoE

- **Action phase (August – December 2021)**
  - **Objective:** organization of events within the 2 pillars of CoFoE - WeAreEU and National Convention on the EU, creation of synergies and support of activities of partner organizations
  - **Finished activities:**
    - **Last week of August – WeAreEU RoadShow 2021**
      - Events in 25 cities all over Slovakia (panel discussions in a mobile stage truck; interactive activities for citizens; discussions with citizens; questionnaire about the future of the EU)
      - Various guests including the Prime Minister of Slovakia, the State Secretary for European Affairs, several MEPs, member of the National Parliament, representatives of ministries, municipalities, influencers and others.
  - **Planned activities:**
    - **September – December 2021 – The National Convention on the EU**
      - 20 expert working groups jointly coordinated by foreign policy think-tank and competent Ministry
    - **September – December 2021 – Nationwide citizens' consultations**
    - **October – December 2021 – CoFoE Back to School** - presentations of representatives of MFA SK and diplomatic staff at primary and secondary schools
    - **October – December 2021 – WeAreEU university students discussions** with the Foreign Affairs Minister and other representatives of MFA SK
    - **November 2021 - Mid-term review conference** on CoFoE in Košice
- **Assessment phase (January – April 2022)**
  - **Objective:** collection of results from civic consultations and expert groups, finalization of recommendations for the Government of the Slovak Republic and the European decision-making process
  - Summary of outputs and recommendations from the National Convention on the EU
  - Summary of outputs from national consultations
  - Recommendations for the Government of the Slovak Republic
  - Final evaluation conference

## SLOVENIA

The Government decided to **actively promote** CoFE and **encourage the civil society** to organize the CoFE related national citizens' panels, register them on the digital platform and publish the recommendations to the plenary.

### **CoFE related events in Slovenia, organized by the Government**

The Government's kick-off event, titled "[National consultations on the Future of Europe](#)", was convened by Prime Minister on May 20 at Brdo pri Kranju, on the highest national political and expert level, with participation of the President of the Republic, his adviser, a former MEP and constitutional lawyers.

The Government also dedicated its traditional annual event on high political level "[Bled Strategic Forum](#)" (BSF), which took place on the 1 and 2 September in Slovenia, entirely to the CoFE. It was the main event of Slovenian presidency and Slovenian government in the scope of debates on the future of Europe. BSF offered substantive discussions at the highest level. Over 20 panels held debates on possible strategic approach to common challenges, from post pandemic economic recovery, enlargement of the EU, common values, fighting disinformation with information, future engagements with citizens, economic coercion, decarbonisation of transport, climate neutrality, infrastructural connectivity, digital and transatlantic cooperation, European tourism, to Europe's defence, and relations with Indo-Pacific region, to only name a few. We also made sure that debates reaches beyond the framework of the MS – Western Balkans representatives participated in the discussions as well as guests from Eastern partnership countries.

Under the auspices of BSF, various smaller scale hybrid events, titled "**Overture to the Future**", with participation of citizens, already took place. These events are livestreamed on Facebook and archived on BSF's Facebook wall:

- Slovenian State Secretary for EU affairs had conversations on the future of Europe with his homologues from [France](#) (March) and [Spain](#) (early June) both in a hybrid mode, with participation of students of political science and youth respectively,
- A BSF event on June 17, titled "[Overture to the Future: Act III - EU Enlargement and development of relations with Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood](#)", facilitated a discussion with High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, a former MEP and other guests.

## Other CoFE related events, organized by other institutions and civil society

So far, the following events are posted on the digital platform of the CoFE.

- **Virtual debate on the role and impact of different dynamics of the integration processes on the stability of the EU**, commonly known as differentiated integration, was organised by Centre for International Relations of Faculty for Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana and the Trans-European Political Studies Association.
- **»[Postpandemic future – Between Necessary Green and the Inevitably Digitized Europe](#)«**, (June 17) (with a guest from the Representation of European Commission to Slovenia),
- **[Conference before the beginning of Slovenian presidency](#)**, (June 17), co-organized by the Centre for International Relations of Faculty for Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana and the Trans-European Political Studies Association. The [recommendations](#) from this event have already been published.
- National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia organizes an event, livestreamed on National Television, called **»Between Supranational Constitutionalisation and Subsidiarity«**, moderated by the Chairman of the parliamentary EU affairs committee, with various guests from political life and academia (June 21),
- **[Slovenian evening at the beginning of the Presidency](#)**, organized by Europe Direct's regional antenna (July 1)
- **[The Future of Europe: Monetary Policy Challenges and Citizens' Views](#)**, organized by Banka Slovenije (July 16)
- **[International Session of the European Youth Parliament](#)** (July 31)
- **Supporting local authorities on their path to climate neutrality Focus on Slovenia and Croatia** (September 15), organized by Slovenian and Croatian local authorities
- **Future of EU Constitutionalism**, organized by New University in Ljubljana (September 23-24)
- **»EU Youth Conference«** with a participation of around 150-200 representatives of youth and decision-makers, advocating the interests of all young people across Europe (September 26)
- **Dialogue with young people form the Western Balkans and Slovenia** (September 27), organized by the National Assembly in Ljubljana

## SPAIN

The Government of Spain wants the Conference to be ambitious in its proposals and that all European citizens perceive the achievements associated with it. For that reason, we want to focus on realistic proposals, on innovative measures and to get the interest of the general public, not only of some minority sectors. We want the debate to reach every corner of the country, not only big cities or only specialized groups.

Despite being a European initiative, the aim of the Conference is to be an open process to all EU territories, so close cooperation between Member States and regions is essential.

In Spain, we have an Intensive collaboration with all the Autonomous Regions and with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, as well as with the Spanish Parliament.

### SUBJECTS OF INTEREST

From the contacts we have made by our European Secretary of State on a visit to different Autonomous regions and in contact with civil society, we have identified **four areas of special interest**:

- The European citizenship.
- cities in the European project
- the disadvantages of the territories identified in article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU
- The symbolic elements of the European construction, especially in sports.

### EVENTS

To define the Spanish contribution to the Conference on the future of Europe, we want to encourage the debate in Spain by three different channels:

### THE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Starting in September, we will hold **four thematic events** with the aim of collecting the concerns and expectations of particularly relevant Spanish actors:

- The first would be about an International topic (EU, US and China relations), an event with representatives of the academic world and business.
- Secondly, the Expansion of the European citizenship statute, an event with binational citizens.

- The third event will be about the Role of the regions in European governance: event with a representative of the academic world and another of the associative movements for each Autonomous region.
- Finally, an event about Cities in European governance: event designed by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.

In addition to all that, there will be a **citizens' panel for young people**.

## BINATIONAL EVENTS

Moreover, we are also preparing a series of collaborative BINATIONAL EVENTS with the authorities of other Member States. In principle, it would be Portugal and France, for being our neighbours, and the Netherlands, since recently, we have published a non-paper with the Dutch government about open strategic autonomy.

## THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

On the part of the Autonomous Regions, we intend to carry out a joint exercise with them. These events could be about a number of topics, such as the demographic challenge, the social pillar, health union or sport, among others, although is still an open list. The list of suggested topics responds to the interest of covering all relevant issues at European level.

The idea is that each Autonomous region organize one or more event or citizens' panels together with other Autonomous region and, optionally, an individual event or panel.

**FINALLY**, I would like to add that the objective is to prepare a **final document** that reflect the opinion of the European citizens about the future of Europe, so that we can put it in the platform and then discuss it in the Plenary of the Conference.

## SWEDEN

Sweden has a long tradition of organizing, participating, and engaging with different citizens through our societal and association activities. Hence, Sweden will focus to utilize the channels it has established to raise awareness about the conference and strengthen citizen's dialogues and engagement about the conference. SE aims at maintaining a decentralized approach and views the conference on the future of Europe as a joint exercise between citizens, the government office, national parliament, political parties, social partners, and local- and regional representatives, Civil Society organizations, and other relevant societal stakeholders.

### Approach & Initiatives

- SE will raise awareness about the conference and encourage CSOs and other stakeholders to organize national events, with the participation of ministers/high-level officials.
- SE will utilize media platforms such as social media and public service outlets to **engage in citizens' dialogues** through, for instance, **Q&A sessions**, which the EU minister has participated in.
- SE organizes policy discussions with stakeholders from the civil society and social partners to inform them about the preparation for the conference at the national and EU level and allow them to provide input regarding policy that is debated in the context of the conference.
- SE aims to use the initiative **EU handshake**, which has the purpose to strengthen participation, knowledge, and engagement on EU-related issues in Sweden. The target group in this endeavor are regions, municipalities, social partners, youth movements, and universities.
- SE continues organizing policy discussions with stakeholders as in early spring 2022 as a follow-up and outreach. During these exercises, conclusions will be compiled from the various actors who have actively engaged in the Conference on the future of Europe in 2021 in Sweden.



- SE EU-minister travels to various high schools and universities to engage in interactive debates and Q&A sessions about Europe’s future with students.
- SE celebrates, this year, **100 years of democracy**. To draw attention to and raise knowledge about that, a “**Democracy Cabin**” is on a “tour” in the country in 2021. The cabin will be placed on squares around the country in purpose to be visited by residents and visitors, school classes and others who are interested or just pass by. In the framework of the **Conference on the future of Europe**, the EU-minister is participating in this celebration tour where he is promoting participation in the Conference and engaging in dialogue with citizens at a local level.

### Activities on social media

- New web pages describing the Swedish government’s position on the Conference and inviting citizens to take part in the Conference.
- Spreading information via the Swedish Government’s EU account on Twitter @SverigeiEU
- 360-communication in multiple channels (intranet, Twitter, Instagram, press release, web) to promote the Swedish launch event for the Conference on the future of Europe on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Communication on the EU ministers school visits via web, Twitter and local press releases.
- Connecting the EU-ministers participation in GAC with the promotion of the Conference on the future of Europe.
- Communicating the EU-ministers participation in celebration tour of 100 years of democracy in Sweden where he is promoting participation in the Conference on Twitter and on the Governments website.

## Kick-off event

- On the 10th of May, SE launched the Conference on the Future of Europe, which was organized by the EU-Commissions representation office in Sweden, European Parliament representation office in Sweden, The Government Office, Swedish Municipalities and Regions, National Board of Trade Sweden, Confederation of Swedish enterprise, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies, Swedish Trade Union Confederation and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees.
  - The event covered a citizen's dialogue in an interactive way between youth participants together with the EU-minister, Swedish EU-Commissioner, and a Swedish MEP, where the topic concerned the EU: s future was debated.
  - During the event, the Swedish European Movement announced the award of SE **European of the Year**.
-