

CREATE | REACT: POLICY

Wednesday 17.02.16

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

14:00 – 14:30
Registration

14:30 – 14:45
Welcome and moderation by Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ (European Civic Forum)

14:45 – 17:30
The State of Participation in the EU: what are the participation rights and tools? How does it work in practice?

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

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

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

Speakers (tbc): Valentin DUPOUEY (European Civic Forum), Serap ALTINISIK, European Women's Lobby, ECI campaigners (Right2water, Stop TTIP and Wake up Europe), Carlotta BESOZZI, Civil Society Europe

18:00
Dinner

Thursday 18.02.16

EP (TBC)

8:30 – 9:00
Registration

9:00 – 10:30
Building links with policy makers

Welcome and moderation by Jackson OLDFIELD (European Alternatives)

Over the last decades, civil and social dialogue becomes one of the major tools in policy-shaping and decision-making processes at European level. Participants engage in discussion with representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Dutch EU Presidency on:

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

Speakers (TBC): Malin BJORK, MEP, Julie WARD, MEP, Sven GIEGOLD, MEP, Marie-Hélène BOULANGER, European Commission, Waltraud HELLER, FRA

10:30 – 11:00
Coffee break

11:00 – 12:45
Time to declare a State of Democracy Round table on claiming fundamental rights in Europe

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

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

Welcome and introduction:
Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ (European

Civic Forum) and Niccolo MILANESE (European Alternatives)

Speakers (TBC): Frans TIMMERMANS, European Commission Vice-President for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Emily O'REILLY, the European Ombudsman, Sophia IN'T VELD, MEP (ALDE), Claude MORAES, MEP (S&D), Laura FERRARA, MEP (EFD), Marta PARDAVI, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary), Barbara GRABOWSKA-MOROZ, Polish Helsinki Human Rights Foundation

Moderator (TBC): Oli HENMAN, Civicus

12:45 – 13:00
Claim your rights student competition results

13:00 – 14:30
Lunch break

14:30 – 17:00
Location: Mundo J

Networking for policy change

Welcome and moderation by Niccolo MILANESE (European Alternatives)

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

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

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

Speakers (tbc): Pierre BAUSSAND, Social Platform, Liva HENSCHER, Better Regulation Watchdog, Allan PALL, European Youth Forum, Sabine TERLEKI, Concord, Audrey FRITH, LLL Platform

18:00
Dinner

Friday 19.02.16

Location: Mundo J

9:30 – 12:30
CREATE REACT: next steps
Discussion on action and follow-up of the project.
Presentation of upcoming activities and activities of participants.