

“without active and  
engaged citizens’  
involvement Europe is  
doomed to failure”

# PRACTICE SOLIDARITY & SHAPE EUROPE

a European civil society project

2017-2019



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# The project

Practice Solidarity and Shape Europe is a project initiated by European House to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe initiated by the European Commission.

Europe has arrived at a turning point today when narrow national interest, anti-EU sentiments, populist views are on the rise. This situation cries for non-conventional responses and with our programme we turn to the most concerned: citizens.

We intend to approach, talk and engage in discussions not the 'converted' ones, not the 'usual suspects' but mainly those who are indifferent towards European issues, who are disappointed, disoriented or even having hostile attitudes. But they are European citizens!



# Our aims

During the 18 months project period we plan to

- contact directly and indirectly a broad circle of citizens;
- increase the understanding of a significant number of ordinary citizens not only on how the EU and its institutions function but most importantly how to influence through public engagement the EU decision-making processes;
- aim at conducting debates through which citizens understand how decisions taken seemingly somewhere „above“ influence their daily life;
- challenge the broadly shared view that the EU is only an economic undertaking; playing with figures in euro seems to be relatively easy but how to measure the situation in the Member States in terms of democracy, solidarity, rule of law or human dignity, in other words in commonly shared European values?
- manage to point out that the idea of civil dialogue (see the Lisbon Treaty) can only be implemented if a) institutional guarantees are provided with the active involvement and joint position of CSOs and b) the whole exercise is based on a bottom-up approach.







## Project events

- ➔ **A new opening: the European Solidarity Corps information session**  
Budapest, 11-12 December 2017
- ➔ **More than a declaration: the Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe a citizens agora**  
Rome, 15-16 February 2018
- ➔ **An aim and a tool: civil dialogue a round-table with messages to policy-makers**  
Prague, 16-17 May 2018
- ➔ **It should not be a lost case: the EU institutional reform a forum for innovative ideas**  
Bratislava, 20-21 September 2018
- ➔ **A useful instrument: the 2017 EU Citizenship Report a learning exercise**  
Vienna, 20-22 November 2018
- ➔ **The 2019 European Parliamentary elections: a test case for democracy an information session**  
Berlin, 24-25 January 2019



## Project partners

**HU** European House – project coordinator  
**AT** Interessenvertretung Gemeinnütziger Organisationen  
**CZ** Agora CE  
**DE** Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement  
**DK** Nyt Europe  
**FR** Maison de l'Europe de Paris  
**IT** European Movement Italy  
**RO** Asociatia Pro Democratia  
**RS** Local Democracy Agency Subotica  
**SK** Slovak Foreign Policy Association



For more information:  
<http://europeanhouse.hu/shapeeu/>



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