

“
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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Shape Europe project
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PROJECT
CONCLUDING
PUBLICATION

Practice Solidarity and Shape Europe is a project initiated and coordinated by European House Budapest. Europe has arrived at a turning point today when narrow national interests, anti-EU sentiments, populist views are on the rise. This situation cries for responses and with our programme we turned to the most concerned: citizens. We intended to approach, talk and engage in discussions with ordinary citizens both with those who believe that European cooperation and the European Union is essential in solving these challenges and with the not 'converted' ones, those who are indifferent towards European issues, who are disappointed, disoriented or even having hostile attitudes. But they are all European citizens! By applying various participatory and communication methods we conducted discussions with citizens on topics which are high on the political agenda when speaking about the future of the European project:

(1) A new opening: the European Solidarity Corps

Budapest, 11-12 December 2017

(2) More than a declaration: the Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe

Rome, 15-16 February 2018

(3) An aim and a tool: civil dialogue. A round-table with messages to policy-makers

Prague, 16-17 May 2018

(4) It should not be a lost case: the EU institutional reform

Bratislava, 20-21 September 2018

(5) A useful instrument: the 2017 EU Citizenship Report

Vienna, 20-22 November 2018

(6) The 2019 European Parliamentary elections: a test case for democracy

Berlin, 24-25 January 2019



The project



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A new opening: the European Solidarity Corps
Budapest, 11-12 December 2017



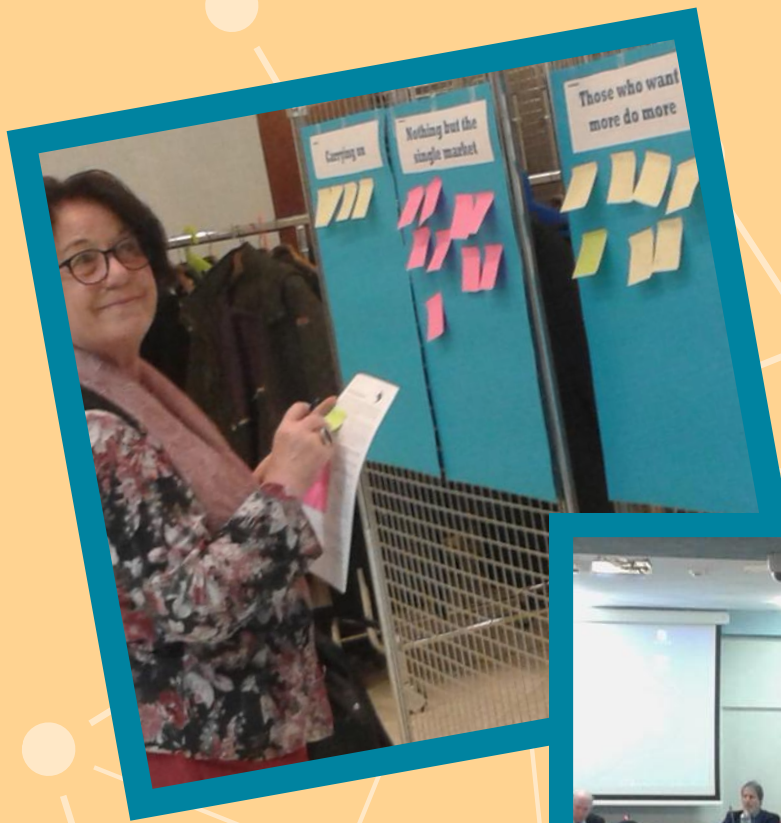
The event focused on the European Solidarity Corps programme and aimed at informing local citizens how to get involved in the ESC programme. The event was divided into a plenary session and later working groups on (1) solidarity and (2) volunteering both on local and European levels. Participants put everything in action as they were visiting and volunteering at the Santa Claus Factory, a well-known solidarity project.

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**More than a declaration: the Commission's White Paper
on the future of Europe**

Rome, 15-16 February 2018



The background document of the event was the White Paper and its proposed five scenarios for the future of Europe. The lively debate went well beyond the paper and focused on how rising populism shape the future of the EU. The plenary session included inputs from Marco Piantini (Councilor for European Affairs of the Italian Prime Minister) and Roberto Santaniello (Representation of the European Commission in Italy). The debate continued in three working groups: (WG1) How would you put European values such as solidarity, democracy and human dignity into practice?, (WG2) How would you reduce the gap between citizens and the EU institutions? (WG3) How would you increase participation at the upcoming European Parliament 2019 elections? Participants also voted on the five scenarios.

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An aim and a tool: civil dialogue. A round-table with messages to policy-makers

Prague, 16-17 May 2018



The round-table focused on the importance of civil dialogue in the local/regional decision making processes. A good example was presented by Petra Pecková, Mayor of Mnichovice on how the city's budget can be planned with participatory involvement of local citizens. Participants also expressed the view that Europe and European issues are not easy to discuss in the Czech Republic. The roundtable was moderated by an expert thus involving participants to the discussion.

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It should not be a lost case: the EU institutional reform
Bratislava, 20-21 September 2018



The event was focusing on current situation after the State of the Union speech of President Juncker. It was overwhelmingly recognized that the EU decision-making process is not easy to understand and follow for an “ordinary citizen”. The work of the Commission and the EP is considered to be much more transparent than that of the Council. The world café method provided plenty of opportunity for participants to put forward proposals.

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A useful instrument: the 2017 EU Citizenship Report
Vienna, 20-22 November 2018



The event aimed at showing how the EU is influencing concretely our daily lives with the 2017 EU Citizenship Report serving as the background document. The three working groups focused on three important fields of the report: (a) common values; (b) participation in the democratic life of the EU and (c) simplifying the daily life of citizens. Participants also took part in the closing civil society event of the Austrian EU Council Presidency.

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**The 2019 European Parliamentary elections:
a test case for democracy**

Berlin. 24-25 January 2019



The closing project event focused on the EP elections giving tips and tricks how to run a campaign. The debate showed that methods to be used capital cities and the countryside should be different. Campaigns in FR, DE on European topics is easier than in DK, CZ, SK or HU. The training also showed tactics how to link local and European topics.

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/en/shapeeu/>



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