European Commission

More about Civic Engagement

Young people across the EU came together to discuss the topics most important for them and ideas for Europe's future. It is important for them to be engaged in political and civic issues and participate in elections. Public disaffection may be due to a lack of information or a feeling that politics is inaccessible to young people.

During consultations, there was a primary focus on getting young people engaged in EU issues and how to increase participation in elections. The feeling of disconnect from political systems and institutions that don't care about young people was a significant theme that came up. There was a feeling that the EU is too 'far away' and doesn't reach young people, especially those in rural areas as campaigns tend to focus on national capitals and big cities instead.

Another key issue was the promotion of knowledge about the EU and its institutions as young people noted a lack of information and education about the EU in educational systems, which can be perpetuated by negative media reporting. Central information resources for and with young people were seen as a necessity to promote knowledge about the EU and it was suggested that reaching out through media channels, such as YouTube, would be a successful way to share information. In addition, formats to provide factual information in engaging and accessible ways, such as immersive learning experiences, were important.

Overall, unity in diversity was the concept that shone through from the consultations and event reports, and while the question of a European identity was pondered, many people subscribed to the concept of shared ideas, shared wishes for peaceful coexistence and prosperity. Ultimately, they think the European identity is multi-faceted and should be treated as such so as not to lose cultural diversity within Europe.

The infographic focuses on the ideas that arose from the consultations and statistics relating to some of the topics young people believe the EU should prioritise. The next step is to explore the ideas and stimulate discussions based on the information and questions provided.

About the New Narrative for Europe

The New Narrative for Europe aimed to identify a new, encompassing narrative for the EU, accounting for the constant evolution of the continent and addressing Europe's core values of freedom, democracy, human dignity, equality, and respect for human rights.