



Other Potential Topics for Discussion

European Democracy

Contributing to European democracy means making your voice heard, both by participating in European elections, where citizens directly elect Members of the European Parliament every 5 years, and also outside of election periods. The last European elections, held in 2019, had the highest turnout in 20 years, with over 200 million voters and a sharp rise in young voters.

At the same time, democracy in the EU and its countries is facing challenges such as a rise in extremism, disinformation and a perceived distance between people and their elected representatives.

What is the EU doing?

High participation rates are the hallmark of healthy democracies. People want to be more involved in the way decisions and policies are shaped at European level, and not just at election time. That is the purpose of the Conference on the Future of Europe. There are also a number of other EU initiatives that support public participation, such as Citizens' Dialogues, European Citizens' Initiative and petitions addressed to the European Parliament.

Faced with rising extremism and fake news, the EU has adopted a [European Democracy Action Plan](#) to promote free and fair elections, uphold media freedom and step up the fight against disinformation.

Want to find out more on this topic?

- [A new push for European democracy](#)
- [The European Democracy Action Plan](#)
- [Fundamental rights in the EU: what the European Parliament is doing](#)
- [Democracy and human rights: what the European Parliament is doing](#)

Migration

Addressing migration requires a modern European Union migration and asylum system, border management, cooperation with partner countries and fighting migrant smuggling. It also means protecting those who are fleeing violence and integrating newcomers.

What is the EU doing?

For the EU to provide common solutions, migration requires a balanced and inclusive approach.

The Commission has proposed a number of legislative proposals under the umbrella of its "New Pact on Migration and Asylum", as part of a comprehensive approach to address migration. It looks at improving cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, ensuring effective procedures, safe legal pathways, successful integration of migrants who have the right to stay in the EU, and return of those who do not. The EU's focus is also on the strengthening of the external border, improving border management, including by rolling-out new information systems, and fighting migrant smuggling.

Want to find out more on this topic?

- [New Pact on Migration and Asylum – proposal of the European Commission](#)
- [Migration: what the European Parliament is doing](#)
- [Asylum and migration: facts and figures](#)
- [Asylum and Migration - EU migration policy \(Council of the EU\)](#)
- [Strengthening the external borders \(Council of the EU\)](#)

- [IT systems supporting Asylum and Migration policies \(Council of the EU\)](#)

[Education, Culture & Sport](#)

Education, culture, youth and sport policies primarily fall under the responsibility of Member States. Still, the EU supports and complements their actions by facilitating cooperation between them. This includes financial support and related activities, such as the Erasmus+ programme for transnational mobility and the Creative Europe programme supporting the Cultural and Creative sectors.

What is the EU doing?

The EU supports efforts to provide the best possible education and training. It promotes multilingualism in Europe, encourages mobility of students, trainees, teachers and young people, and facilitates exchanges of information and experience.

The EU also safeguards and promotes its cultural heritage, its cultural and linguistic diversity and supports the cultural and creative, including audio-visual, sectors.

In order to give young people more opportunities in education and the job market, and to make sure they can participate fully in all areas of society, the EU has developed various programmes, in dialogue with young Europeans and through the Erasmus+ programme and the European Solidarity Corps.

The EU promotes sports in Europe through several initiatives, such as the [European Week of Sport](#) and the [#BeActive awards](#).

Want to find out more on this topic?

Education & Youth

- [Education and training](#)
- [European Education Area \(Council of the EU\)](#)
- [Erasmus + programme \(Council of the EU\)](#)
- [Erasmus+: what the European Parliament is doing](#)
- [European Youth Event \(EYE\): European Parliament event for young people](#)
- [Youth employment \(Council of the EU\)](#)
- [European Youth portal](#)

Culture

- [Europe's cultural heritage](#)
- [Events – Creative Europe](#)
- [Creative Europe programme 2021-2027 \(Council of the EU\)](#)

Sport

- [Sport in the EU](#)