

Digital Democracy Day 2017

Rejuvenating Europe: Opportunities in the Digital World

BIP, Rue Royale 2-4, 1000 Brussels



 #DDD2017

Background information

In vibrant democratic societies, effective participation is about creating opportunities for citizens to be involved in shaping, influencing and contributing to policies. Although youth engagement is crucial to this process, there are often challenges in getting young people's voices heard by policy-makers.

Research has shown that young people are not keen on using traditional forms of participation as currently practiced and prefer to use digital tools to express their opinions on public issues. At the same time, decision-makers are not exploiting digital tools in full to reach out to young people and include their perspectives in policy-making.

Our Digital Democracy Day 2017 is being organised in the framework of the Erasmus+ project [Deep-linking Youth](#), which has tested out ways of engaging young people in the EU's democratic life. Experts in the field have been invited to identify the most common challenges to youth participation in European policy-making and propose several concrete solutions to them by using digital tools.

The conference will feature two panels of expert speakers and will explore:

- **Challenges facing young people today**, especially youth participation in policy-making
- **Potential solutions to addressing youth engagement** through digital tools

Agenda

- 9.00 – 9.30** Registration
- 9.30 – 9.45** Keynote Speech
- **Villu Varjas**, Estonian Presidency of the EU
- 9.45 – 11.00** Panel 1: Millennials Today – what are they thinking and are their voices being heard?
- Moderator: **Assya Kavrakova**, Executive Director, ECAS
- **Maria Freitas**, Policy Adviser, FEPS, Millennials Report
 - **Isabelle Dochy**, Programme Coordinator, European Broadcasting Union
 - **Paul Mihailidis**, Emerson College
 - **Alexandre Alaphilippe**, Disinfo Lab
 - **Roslyn Fuller**, Author and Academic, Solonian Democracy Institute
- 11:00 – 11:15** Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:30** Panel 2: Initiatives for engaging youth in policy-making – exploring the digital potential
- Moderator: **Daniel Van Lerberghe**, Director, Innogage
- **Fraser Henderson**, TCI, DEEP-linking Youth
 - **Chloé Berthelemy**, Policy Officer, Young European Federalists
 - **Anthony Papadimitriu**, CaféBabel, Partnerships and communications officer, ASK
 - **Ekaterina Petrikevich**, International Project Manager, D21
 - **Daniela Vancic**, European Programme Manager, Democracy International
- 12.30 – 13.00** Concluding remarks by **Brando Benifei**, MEP – Awards to digital competition winners
- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch and exhibition of projects
- **EUth** – “Tools and Tips for Mobile and Digital Youth Participation In and Across Europe”, Evaldas Rupkus, Project Manager for Marketing & Deployment
 - **Apptivism**, Simon Day and Alex Tupper, Co-Founders
 - **ASK**, Matthieu Amare and Safouane Abdessalem, CaféBabel