

## Working Group Renewal of European Democracy

The CSE working group, 'Renewal of European Democracy' is created specifically with Europe+ alliance in mind. Europe+ is committed to re-launching and strengthening the European debate and civil dialogue between civil society and open and responsive institutions, at all levels of democratic life (European, national, regional, local and grassroots), and builds on the recommendations of the European Year of Citizens Alliance 2013 (EYCA).

This WG is not meant to duplicate any effort of the European civil society. This WG is a space inside Civil Society Europe in which the Europe+ alliance can advance the objectives of Renewal of European Democracy.

The activities of this WG as are not yet defined and will be defined by Europe+.

### ***Objectives of Europe+ as follows:***

- To promote the sharing of information on EU institutions and European democracy with citizens. This includes the provision of tangible and constructive options on how to “engage” with citizens in Europe.
- To work with civil society organisations to provide them with information before and after the European elections that can be used to: educate different audiences on the institutions and reforms that can be carried out.
- To work with candidates ahead of the elections to help them better articulate current concerns and possible policy changes.
- To work with Member States and call on them to engage citizens in a debate on European democratic renewal. Member States need to be held accountable, monitored and reminded of their responsibility to European democracy, and thus should be urged to adopt minimum standards of consultation.
- To provide arguments in favour of a renewal of European democracy (to counter Eurosceptic arguments) and to communicate these to citizens through civil society organisations or directly.
- To encourage institutional reforms and an open and transparent treaty revision process that would reinforce representative democracy, building

on the example of the Convention on the future of Europe. Europe+ members will be facilitated in creating spaces to discuss, advocate and campaign for this.

### **What is Europe+?**

The Europe+ alliance is made of up of international and national civil society organisations and therefore international and national members outside Civil Society Europe are welcome to join Europe+.

The Europe+ alliance is led by its own Steering Committee, made up of representatives elected from the Europe+ member organisations. In addition, Europe+ also has a Communications Taskforce that is responsible for coordinating outreach with representatives of the press and to citizens.

The Steering Committee and Communications Task force both meet up several times a year, whilst all members come together in plenary sessions twice a year.

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**Europe+** works towards this mission by reflecting on ideas and tools for a renewed and better-functioning democracy in Europe.

**Europe+ has its own website at [euplus.org](http://euplus.org).**