

# TEA - Final recommendations

## Introduction

The Transnational European Assembly project consists of a series of citizens assemblies involving 15 countries: France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Romania, Poland, Portugal, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Austria, Netherlands, Greece, Hungary, Sweden.

The process is coordinated by the NGO European Alternatives, which has over a decade of experience in running innovative transnational projects engaging citizens in European democracy. With offices in Paris, Berlin and Palermo, it has a transnational reach and internal linguistic capacity to work in 7 languages.

## Partners of the Transnational European Assemblies:

- EUMANS is a recently created association that has an office in Rome and in Brussels, and experience running European citizens initiatives and petitions to the European Parliament in innovative ways, mobilising citizens who would not normally be aware or involved with these tools. EUMANS has organised assemblies in Italy, Poland and Belgium, on topics related to health rights and civil liberties
- Desire Foundation in Cluj-Napoca has over a decade worth of experience in working with Roma and Sinti populations in Romania and in Eastern Europe in general. It has been a pathbreaking organisation in relating environmental degradation to racism through the concept of ecological racism in Eastern Europe, and has done extensive work on the issue of housing poverty in Romania.
- Aroa Foundation was founded in 2003 in Barcelona with the mission of upholding the human right to health through a feminist approach. Since its inception, it has built up a multi-disciplinary team with specialists in medicine, psychology, social education, political science, sociology and pedagogy. The foundation's activities include prevention, direct support for people with psycho-social disorders, research and advocacy from local up to international level.
- European Alternatives Berlin was created in 2009 and has experience in running projects with mobile Europeans, people of African descent and citizenship education projects, as well as expertise in online event management and moderation, and the use of online tools for democracy

## Objectives:

- Promoting democratic deliberation between citizens across borders: the event will touch on the overarching theme of the project in creating permanent citizens assemblies, with 24 participants coming from 8 countries who previously participated in an assembly, joined by new participants
- Influencing the manifestos of European political parties, ensuring their relevance to citizens: the recommendations of the assembly will dialogue with the political parties

- about their manifestos, and representatives of the political parties, including MEPs, will be invited to participate and respond to the ideas of citizens
- Countering disinformation: the event will feature expert input from academics and journalists on what the EU is doing to renew democratic processes following up on the Conference on the Future of Europe

## Methodology

The Transnational European Assemblies aim to innovate with the methodology of citizen assemblies offline and online to ensure a better participation of women and people from minority groups. It also uses a methodology which can become a best practice for civil society organisations in running assemblies, which do not have the same resources or constraints as states and governments, but also have an interest and responsibility to involve a wide and diverse population in their work.

Identifying participants:

Participants are chosen randomly by the following methodology: in advance of each assembly, associations, informal groups and NGOs working on the topic, or with relevant target groups, are contacted and invited to propose at least 3 potential participants for the assembly with different characteristics (gender, age, education level, self-identification with a discriminated group, employment status). This information is anonymised, and then the participants to the assembly are randomly selected.

The advantages of this methodology of selection are to ensure a diverse participation of people from groups less likely to participate in European democracy, whilst at the same time building wide awareness, interest and support for the process amongst a wide network of civil society actors.

## Recommendations

### Bremen Assembly: For ecological syndicalism!

- i) promote civil society organisations, unions and activists working together in new formats to collectively address the poly-crisis;
- ii) secure and empower the participation of the most marginalised and at risk
- iii) the extension of rights at work and the right to live in a stable climate must go together

## Paris assembly: Address the cost of living crisis!

- i) Capping energy costs: whether on gaz, petrol or electricity, prices should be capped depending on their levels of inflation, with quickly implementable mechanisms while ensuring this doesn't create too much fluctuation or instability in global prices
- ii) Taking this energy cost crisis as an opportunity to accelerate the green transition towards renewable energies, which will also support EU energy independence from other regions of the world
- iii) Protection of the most vulnerable population:
  - an "energy cost" safety fund for the most disadvantaged people, to prevent cases of extreme poverty and homelessness
  - A "food stamp" system for the same above reasons
- iv) Supporting banks in limiting loan interests, to ensure people are still able to get mortgages which will ensure housing independence and limit real estate speculation

## Brussels Assembly: Rights at the end of life

Recommendation about "Decisions on refusals of treatments and access to palliative care"

i) We recommend that in the EU, palliative sedation is accessible to all terminally and/or irreversibly ill patients, provided they can make an informed decision about their choice to refuse treatment, and that this practice is standardized.

ii) We recommend EU Institutions to promote awareness of the right to palliative sedation and refusal of treatment (after diagnosis of terminal and/or irreversible illness) within the European convention of human rights (through, for example, the inclusion of health topics of self-determination at end-of-life in secondary education and art).

Recommendation about "Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: legislations on voluntary death with medical support"

iii) We recommend using the language of the World Federation of Right to Die societies: Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), instead of Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia, by either self administered or doctor administered drug.

iv) We recommend the EU to recognize that every human being has the fundamental right to choose how and when to end their own life. Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is NOT a medical, not political, not financial and not family decision but an individual and personal decision.

v) In cases of VAD it is the person's own definition of unbearable suffering that is taken into account. This includes terminal illness, irreversible illness, chronic illness, mental illness, or even just life completion (for example in Switzerland after 75 years of age).

vi) We recommend advanced healthcare directives both for when the individual is still capable of refusing treatment and for the right to voluntary assisted dying after losing capability (for example with illnesses such as Dementia, ALS, brain injury, etc.)

vii) We recommend that health professionals are better educated in facilitating the decisions and implementation of said decisions. Health professionals must also be supported both in terms of end of life choices for their patients and cultural, religious, and ethical aspects related to dying.

Recommendation about “Living Will and End of Life Decisions within and among different EU Member States”

viii) We recommend EU Institutions to develop a European Directive, or otherwise encourage the introduction of legislation in member states, on Advanced Healthcare Directives based on the Declaration of Human Rights.

ix) We recommend EU Institutions to mutually recognize living wills across borders.

x) We recommend EU Institutions to use the EU Health Standards to document and communicate this will.

xi) We recommend EU Institutions to create a European database that stores advanced healthcare directives, to ease the access of medical information and limit the burden of medical personnel.

xii) We recommend EU Institutions to facilitate awareness through the development of information infrastructure and validate end-of life decisions.

## Barcelona Assembly - Healthcare for all!

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v. We recommend EU Institutions to facilitate awareness through the development of information infrastructure and validate end-of-life decisions.

## Cluj Assembly - decent housing is a fundamental right!

- i) Increasing the number of social-public housing units, including affordable housing for students
- ii) A significant increase in the number of social-public housing so that their share of the total housing stock reaches 50% by 2050, ensuring their distribution according to actual local needs. We call for 15% public non-profit housing stock by 2030.
- iii) Obligation for public administration authorities to build a stock of social-public housing according to the real needs in the city and to ensure that applicants have effective access to housing at least two years after the first application.
- iv) Creating a special budget for the construction of public social housing, fed by special taxes on real estate transactions and on the profits made by real estate developers/investors and banks on real estate loans.
- v) Establishing a structure within public administrations responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring the development of public social housing.
- vi) Establishing state-owned construction companies to build social-public housing on a non-profit basis, reducing production costs.
- vii) Socialising the stock of public housing by creating tenants' associations or cooperatives to participate in decision-making on the management of public housing.
- viii) Transfer 25% of the apartments built by developers to public ownership, making them a public good managed by the municipality together with tenants' associations or housing cooperatives. 10% of what is built by private developers to become a public good by 2030.
- ix) Expropriation of buildings that have been unused for more than five years and their inclusion in the stock of social-public housing.
- x) Turn unused public buildings into social-public housing or community housing.
- xi) Change the eligibility criteria for public social housing so that people who are studying or working temporarily (without residence) in the locality are also entitled to public housing.
- xii) Ensuring that students have access to public social housing or state and university subsidised hostels so that the number of places covers the real needs of students.

#### Regulation of the housing market, rents and energy

- xiii) Regulate the number of privately owned homes to stop property speculation.
- xiv) Regulate the price of housing.
- xv) Capping and regulating private rents, ensuring that the cost of rent does not financially overburden tenants (not exceeding 20% of their income), under transparent contracts of at least five years.
- xvi) Special regulation of short-term rents so that they do not contribute to the general increase in rents in the city.
- xvii) Capping and regulating electricity and gas prices.
- xviii) Ensure universal access to water.
- xix) Protecting the tenants in areas undergoing urban regeneration programmes so that those living there do not have to move due to rising rents.

#### Adequate income to cover housing costs

- xx) Cover from minimum income a decent minimum consumption basket, a good part of which is spent on housing costs (rent, bank payments, utilities, home improvements).
- xxi) Housing costs should not exceed 20% of people's income.

Ban and prevent forced evictions, improve housing conditions for all  
xxii) Ban by law forced evictions, meaning all evictions that leave evictees without adequate alternative housing.  
xxiii) Improve living conditions for people living in informal settlements (transport, roads, sanitation, utilities).  
xxiv) Implement solutions for informal settlements that respect the rights of those living there.

Eliminating racism and housing exclusion of LGBTQ persons and couples  
xxv) Implement mechanisms to sanction and eliminate racism against Roma, refugees and immigrants that make it difficult for them to access adequate housing.  
xxvi) Implement mechanisms to sanction and eliminate homophobia and exclusion from housing for LGBTQ persons and couples.

## Gdansk Assembly - Transnational Feminist rights!

i) promote the discourse about how civil society actors in different European regions can learn from the challenges and solutions others had found already before, for a transnational feminist learning;  
ii) empower refugees and migrants from non-EU countries (Belarus, Ukraine, etc.) to participate in EU policy debates, as they are very often confronted with discrimination even more than natives;  
iii) support civil society actors in regions at risk where right-wing forces and political parties foster a hostile climate towards women\*, migrants, and refugees.

## Milan Assembly - Ensure rights for parents and children!

i) It is recommended that the staff of social services (social workers, psychologists) be adequately trained, in order to give all possible tools to effectively pursue the best interests of the child, taking into account both the importance, where possible, of maintaining the link with the family of origin, and the need to give children a new home.  
ii) It is recommended to implement the procedure for obtaining the decree of suitability for adoption, providing for more streamlined times and ways for obtaining it.  
iii) It is recommended (in implementation of Italian Article 40 of Law 149/2001) that the National Database, currently used by all juvenile courts, be created and made operational, and that the data contained therein can be processed to guide policies for the reception of children in protection systems throughout the national territory.  
iv) It is recommended, in order to overcome any discrimination, to open adoptions to all forms of family, to single people, de facto couples and same- sex couples and to LGBTQIA+

people, with possible and appropriate amendments to Law 184 of 1983 and Law 76 of 2016 in Italy.

v) It is recommended to regulate Pregnancy for Others (GPA) in the solidarity form by providing for certain requirements such as, for example, access to single persons, same-sex or different-sex couples; that the pregnant woman has had at least one child and successfully passes a psycho-physical check for fitness and meets a minimum income.

vi) The Civic Assembly drawn by lot on social parenthood commits the Municipalities and Regions to encourage moments of in-depth study on the theme of pregnancy for others, in consideration of the need to introduce adequate regulations to regulate the path of Pregnancy for Others, in order also to convey to the legislator the need to adequately deal with the issue.

vii) It is recommended to amend Art. 5 of Law 40/2004 in Italy, providing access to medically assisted procreation techniques also for single persons and same-sex couples living together or in a civil union.

viii) The adoption of a Single European Certificate of Parentage is recommended.

ix) It is recommended that local authorities such as Municipalities and Regions promote initiatives of knowledge, study and in-depth study of the evolution of family models, such as a listening observatory.

x) It is recommended to draw up guidelines, to be proposed to all Italian municipalities, on the transcription of birth certificates of minors.

xi) We recommend that the ECP is provided by the European Union throughout dedicated EU register offices in all member states. The ECP should be initially provided upon application in three ways: in person, by mail, online. The application online should be provided with an easy form. We recommend that in the future the ECP will be automatically provided, for children born in the EU, and included in the European Citizenship to reinforce the right of circulation in the EU.

xii) We recommend the creation of an EU registry of birth collecting national databases collected from national register offices.

xiii) We recommend the necessity to provide information in institutions and online about the possibility of getting the ECP and the process needed, and the need of a campaign informing on that.

xiv) About children born outside the EU from EU parents, we recommend that, until they are recognized as legal parents in their EU country, they can apply for the ECP in dedicated EU support offices in the national embassies.

xv) We recommend a form of legal support accessible to parents on EU level that allows implication of their rights as parents against national discrimination.

# Cluj Holding Space Assembly - Let's claim our rights in all our spaces!

## Physical space:

- i) Housing rights movements are overall very well organised across the cities and are organising more and more transnationally. Although the housing crisis is the consequence of broader issues encountered by the most vulnerable, it makes visible deeper dysfunctions
- ii) Being in an ill-housed situation brings other forms of marginalisation and exclusion, such as difficulty of access to public services (public transport, health, education etc), culture, the job market. Municipalities, or at default the regional administration, ought to knowledgeable these inequalities and invest to limit them

## Digital space:

- iii) Inequalities existing in in-person life are not only echoed but amplified when transferred into digital spaces. Public support such as student grants and scholarships should include this factor
- iv) The market of data needs to be better regulated to protect EU consumers and EU internet users

## Mental space:

- v) Mental space should be included as key component of fundamental rights, as it should be considered equally important to the right to physical integrity
- vi) Working rights and regulation should include mental health as a valid reason for challenging validity of work contracts
- vii) Campaigns raising awareness about mental health and particularly about PTSD including for victims of sexual violence should get special support from the EU

## Berlin Assembly - Create Social Trust in Assemblies

i) promote deliberative and public spaces of trust (like citizen's assemblies) where civil society groups can start engaging in and/or strengthen their democratic practice and learn from the challenges and solutions in other European regions. Especially within the polycrisis and amidst the rise in disinformation, public spaces are necessary to re-establish trust in democratic institutions and amongst citizens. These deliberative spaces should always focus on creating trust between participants to allow for everyone to speak. Inspiring formats that actually serve the needs of the communities can be used as an outreach tool to include a more diverse audience.

ii) support underrepresented civil society actors (precariously employed or unemployed, migrants, refugees and youth) to participate in deliberative processes (like citizens assemblies) to rekindle trust in democratic institutions and civil society, eventually uplifting voter turnout and community engagement rates. The aforementioned (i) public spaces should strongly focus their outreach and engagement on the underrepresented population. Many of these citizens and residents have strong community network ties and can mobilize their community towards community and civic engagement. The political potential of aforementioned groups should not be underestimated and rather fostered through



supporting participation supporting multi-language participation, childcare and financial travel and participation support.

iii) strengthen the civil society awareness on mechanisms of democratic participation to counter the spread of paralysis and uncertainty caused by the rise in (mix)-disinformation campaigns. This would heighten CSO awareness of existing initiatives and fuel agency, instead of fostering a climate of mistrust and working in silos where groups do not feel heard or connected.

Those recommendations for [building a permanent citizens assembly were compiled into a Blueprint](#), as the basis for a crowdsourced document and as a stimulus for further public debate.

## Marseille Common Space of Alternatives Assembly

To address the pressing challenges of our time, it is essential to contextualise Europe's history of colonialism and acknowledge its lasting impact on still existing current global dynamics within the EU. This understanding helps to frame the aggressive nature of contemporary neoliberal policies that exacerbate inequalities and exploit vulnerable populations, particularly within the agricultural sector, where migrant workers often bear the brunt. A critical element in this discourse is the importance of self-reflection, encouraging us to evaluate and amend the systemic injustices that persist. Highlighting Europe's global responsibility is crucial in promoting accountability and fostering a more equitable world, for more social justice. Central to this effort is the empowerment of migrant leadership within movements, which not only amplifies diverse voices but also enriches the collective struggle for justice. By enhancing global connectivity and solidarity, we can build stronger, more inclusive alliances that are essential for addressing these complex issues. But this form of liberation can only happen once injustices and oppressions are officially recognised and called out. This means that EU leaders have to acknowledge the historical responsibility of the EU in former slavery, its colonial past and still on-going forms of oppression both in the EU and outside.

There is a growing democratic crisis that is both causing and being exacerbated by the rise of the far-right, revealing significant discrepancies between the existence of legal rights and their actual enforcement. To address these issues, it is crucial to foster more comprehensive discussions on the social impacts of technology, particularly the exploitation involved in the production of electronics and the pervasive threats to privacy and data protection. In an era where technology deeply permeates every aspect of life, we must also consider the urgent need for robust legislation on artificial intelligence to safeguard human rights and prevent the misuse of personal data. By shedding light on these interconnected problems and advocating for stronger legal frameworks, we can begin to understand and tackle the root causes of democratic erosion and social injustice.

Our democratic systems are currently in a state of decline, necessitating the promotion and support of new forms of democratic civic participation beyond national elections. In addition

to transnationalising the European elections and giving more importance to local elections, this involves developing a platform or process with a long-term vision that can advocate for radical demands, facilitate continuous learning, and prevent conflicts. Emphasising inclusivity, addressing power imbalances, and building trust across diverse movements are essential components of this effort.