



Citizen's Voice: Street debate on “As citizen, how can I change Europe?”

With the two first street debates we asked citizens what they were thinking about Europe and the change they were hoping for the future of Europe. For the last one we decided to ask how as citizens they could contribute to the future of Europe

We don't need the magic to change the world: we already have inside us all the power that we need, we have the power to imagine better things that they are now.

Biagio, 24 y.o

As citizens, and not as consumers, I can change the world. As citizens we have rights and duties. We should feel citizens of the world to understand that these rights are universal. To change Europe, we have to put the priority to the human being and give back value to human relations.

David, 36 y.o

I can change everything alone, but I can do these few things:

- 1 To understand with who I should be in solidarity.
- 2 To be in solidarity.
- 3 To understand for what I should fight for.
- 4 To fight for.

Francesco, 34 y.o

I spend my life voting even now that I'm 78 years old. I do believe that I can make a change. When I was born, women couldn't vote. Now that I have the right to be an 100 % citizens I feel the duty to do it. I would like to do more but I'm isolated and now everything is on Internet. It sounds nice for young people but for me it's useless. Now people are discussing and debating with their phones, when I was younger we were spending hours to argue with friends or neighbours. We need to meet each others to make politics that what's we need.

Maria, 78 y.o

I think that as citizens we can not do anything. Only powerful people can change the world. It's the jungle law.

Fabio, 31 y.o

I think that it's in all the small things of life that we can be citizens. You don't need to be a super "activist" or leader to make a concrete change. In my daily life I try to cooperate and promote positive values. I pay my tax, I recycle and I grow my child in love. It's my contribution.

Angela, 38 y.o

I'm participating to political life through online petition. I don't have time to be part of political party or association. So when I have few minutes at work I became an e-citizen.

Roberto, 34 y.o

We are very good to critic politician but every time we keep going to vote them. But we forget that they are working for us. Me at work if I don't do what my boss want, he use to shoot me and kick my ass. So I do the same with my deputy, I control them, if they go to the working session, what do they vote. And when I'm not happy I contact them to share my views.

Elena, 42 y.o

Me I'm interested in politics as much as politician are interested to me ! I'm young and without a stable job, so I'm not very optimist for my future. Maybe I should make a political career and become minister or deputy. At least I could have a job and probably do something for my peers.

Enrico, 23 y.o

For me to be a responsible citizens start with the work I'm doing. I'm farmer and I grow vegetable in an organic way. I don't want to impact negatively my planet. However It's very difficult to earn money and I'm still depending on my wife income. I hope that one day people will support us and pay the fair price for what they consume. Today consumption is a political act.

Giuseppe, 41 y.o

In my country, I was fighting for more democracy. But because of the harassment and the violence of the police I had to leave everything. Now I'm living in a "democracy" but I can't vote. But I don't give up and I keep going to be active in my association.

Ahmed, 35 y.o

We should go to elections every time.

Igor

It begins in changing ourselves. The leverage to it is the fact that verb is creative. Everything we say with strength and consistency ends up taking shape in reality. It is therefore important to say what you want to see being, including when you make observations from the past. When a group of people has a strong and constant idea, it is called an egregore. Capitalism is an egregore. Another constant thought is: "it's useless, it can't change". It feeds what you want to see disappear. However, it is possible to have a world of respect, sharing etc. When you want to take a shower, you have to get wet! So let's go, strength and consistency to say "it's possible!"

Yvonne, 56 y.o

There's a lot of work to do!

We must change the relationship between people, change the value of market goods and go through exchanges that promote human and environmental well-being. Things that should naturally be taken for granted instead of pushing for individualism, consumption and accumulation of goods, everything that is being done now.

Jérémie, 36 y.o

There are so many things I can do! It involves my way of life, my relationship to consumption and society, but also trying to convince those around me who still believe that solutions will come from the same people who create or participate in problems. So I would say: regain power over myself, over my environment and over the very notion of citizenship.

Bill, 39 y.o

Smile at everyone and all the time. It's really a powerful weapon. Open up to others, demonstrate by example.

Georgia, 33 yo and Gaël, 37 y.o

For example, I don't have a car, when others use it for superfluous things. We must live in a more eco-responsible way, with less packaging and waste, and make our own simple cleaning products instead of buying hyper-chemical products that kill the environment. It's not easy to change your lifestyle, but you can start with a group of people to exchange tips, and it's fun too!

Jérôme, 48 y.o and all his teeth (c'était écrit comme ça)

By taking ecological actions, paying attention to water, consuming locally, and changing jobs!

Arnaud, 36 y.o

In our daily lives to change things, to consume less water because it's going to be a very big problem. We are talking about climate change and it is water that will eventually run out. I'm ready, but for example here: disposable plastic cutlery, disposable plastic plates, disposable plastic cups, in a festival like this, it shouldn't be.

Yves, 66 y.o

As Rockin' Squat says, the solution is individual before it is collective! With your question you will get answers like "go to vote" when it is useless in our "democracies". I am aware of everything: food is shit, the coltan from our smartphones is picked up by 6-year-olds in Gabon, but without your smartphone you don't do anything in our society anymore! I think that if we don't change our habits it's because we're afraid of losing our comfort.

Nicolas, 41 y.o

Everyone can make changes in's own environmental and through that we make changes also in Europe.

Alen

We can't make changes in Europe because whole Europe in being corrupted.

Sebastijan

By taking an active role in an NGO, becoming an official member & contributing to development of an organization that works on a topic you think is important. Volunteering, donating, initiating activities, promoting recognition of organizations is the way everyone can contribute to change Europe for the better!

Anonymous

Europe is our wide spread home. To stay so, we have to preserve it as we wish to have it now in Slovenia - save and peaceful.

Martina

By being open minded, embracing diversity and tolerance and giving example to other around you! By standing in front of racism, homophobia, gender, violence and inequality and fighting against them. You can change Europe by changing yourself, and trigger small changes in your friends & family, whether it is in their habits, their attitude or their vision fo the world.

Anonymous

Of course one can change something. I understand that refugees is important topic now. I know that some people have been imprisoned when they have helped refugees. Maybe something could be changed in this field?

Tairi, 23 y.o

For example, I would create some kind of an employment system in EU where it is not possible to see the nationality of the candidate applying for a job.

Marko, 28 y.o

I would look up to the Scandinavian countries and introduce one ID number for everything you need in the administration.

Martina, 32 y.o

I would like to have a community where young people could not only develop themselves, but also feel that they can stay and contribute at the constant improvement of that community on a long period of time.

Alexandra, 18 y.o

I would start with myself. With our own changes we have the opportunity to change the environment, and therefore the society and the community. Step by step.

Marko, 29 y.o

We (citizens) are the one who must change because those thieves in power will not.

Stjepan, 62 y.o

I would change the meaning of happiness in society.

Ivan, 55 y.o

Smaller groups of people such as local communities should be organised in order to make neighbours cooperate.

Jelena, 41 y.o

Today society looks like a drama movie where everything is going down and there is no happy ending. We need to start change first us, start to change our mentality, opening our minds; accept all shortage of the world and start to change them slowly.

Katarina, 25 y.o

By changing the television programmes and the way we raise our children.

Biljana, 49 y.o

I cannot change my community because I am not a hero. I am just a youngster who wants to get involved in some activities, to mobilize the other youngsters around me to take action and perform their favourite activities, so that all of us build a big youth community where we respect, meet, understand each other and eventually the atmosphere will be great for us

Darius, 14 y.o

I could change the community by including everyone in as many activities as possible and by calling out for youngsters to take action with me

Georgi, 17 y.o