

EGD Call for Applications

Thessaloniki, 7-10 September 2022

Humans vs AI, do you accept the challenge?

If you are concerned about the role of AI in our lives, and want to make an impact on the direction the EU will take in the coming years on this issue, sign up for the third EGD event in **Thessaloniki, Greece, from 7-10 September 2022**. This will be a 4-day international experience where you will have the opportunity to exchange views on the future of AI in Europe with **65 young people from 12 countries**.

You will take part in an **Oxford-style debate** and a **Citizens' Assembly** where you can contribute to building a more digitally secure Europe. Be part of the change and engage in decision-making!

Why?

As digitization takes more space in all aspects of our daily lives, AI is playing an increasingly important role. We live in a society where machines make decisions for us all the time: from the most banal aspects, such as the film I'm going to watch at night, or the posts I see on social media; to essential aspects such as the selection of candidates for a job.

This is undoubtedly a great step forward, as it allows us to save time and concentrate our attention on other matters. However, it also has important implications for our security. It is therefore important to consider what role the EU should play in regulating AI, and what direction policymakers should take.

How does AI affect the labour market, privacy, freedom, democracy...? These are some of the essential questions that need to be answered urgently, as **our future depends on them. Help us answer them!** Machines already make enough decisions for you, don't let others make the decisions about Europe's future and get involved.

It's time for another European digital adventure!

One Event, Two Engaging Formats: the Oxford-style Debate and the Citizens' Assembly

In EGD Thessaloniki you will have the opportunity to experience two formats: first, an Oxford-style debate to get more familiar with the topics; and second a Citizens' Assembly where you will deliberate on the proposed topics in order to draft a series of recommendations that will be passed on to various MEPs.

The aim of Oxford-style debate is to fuel food for your thoughts on some of today's hot topics, such as:

- [Do you think it is necessary to constrain AI innovation and development in order to protect people's jobs?](#)
- [Do you think European citizens are prepared and have the necessary skills to adapt to such a rapid AI disruption?](#)
- [Do you think AI will undermine democracy in Europe, eroding fundamental rights and citizens' freedom?](#)

If you're wondering what **an Oxford-style debate** is all about, here's the answer you seek: a competitive debate format featuring a sharply framed motion (topic) that is proposed by one side (pro) and opposed by another (con). Participants will be divided into debaters and audience (see the section below).

The **Citizens' Assembly** seeks to promote citizen participation by deliberating on a controversial issue and proposing recommendations on how to address it. This time we will answer the following question:

- [How can we prepare young European citizens to live in a world marked by digitalisation and AI?](#)

The participants will be divided into 10 groups of 6-7 people. All groups will work on the same question. Each group will propose a recommendation and an expert jury will evaluate them and select the best three.

The process of deliberation and proposal of recommendations will be preceded by a learning stage in which experts on the topic will intervene.

The experiential learning method of the activities will allow you to connect immediately with the topics, increase your confidence in civic participation, engage with your peers and decision-makers to promote policy change. With this experience, you can be the amplifier for the voice of many young Europeans to have their say regarding Europe's digital future.

We are excited to share that all these topics are aligned with the policy proposals that are now under discussion at the European institutional level. Now is the time to make your voice count!

And you will not be alone in this endeavor: you will be guided by our facilitators in the preparation of the debate and the drafting of the recommendations.

We want this event to be tailored to your interests, so we would like you to participate as co-creators of it. For this reason, upon your selection, we will invite you to join us in a Zoom call and in a series of online onboarding activities where you will help us define the final agenda, speakers, and the topics of the debates and assembly! Your voice will count in making your event suitable to your needs! Likewise, if you are aware of any relevant document or audiovisual material that could help the rest of the participants to prepare the topic, let us know (we will provide you with a Drive folder with materials for you to prepare for the event).

Choose your involvement

During the first day, in the **debate**, you will be able to be part of one of the following 2 groups:

1. Debaters: 24 debaters will be subdivided into 6 groups of 4 people. There will be three contemporary debates. Each debater will have 4 min to speak.
2. Audience: the rest of the group will be subdivided into 3 groups to follow the debates. Each audience group will have to prepare at least 8 questions to ask the debaters for additional clarifications or input and provide social media coverage of the debate.

During the second day, in the **citizens' assembly**, all participants will take part in the round tables. When they return home, each participant will present themselves their recommendations to a national and European policymaker.

Overall, your EGD experience will consist of:

1. 7-10 September 2022: 4 days in Thessaloniki with 65 fellow Europeans where you will work in an international team to debate and draft recommendations!
2. During September - Early October 2022: participants are expected to carry out the activities planned during the event as a post-event experience. **The commitment will take no more than two hours per week.** The organizers will provide a detailed schedule with the next steps that participants will be required to follow. It will be a key part of the project, the fulfillment of which will be **necessary to obtain the certificate of participation.** These certificates will be delivered only after the completion of the reporting of the post-event activities.
3. Being active in real life and on social media to encourage more young people to have their voices heard! We'll be using these hashtags: *#EuropeansGoDigital #EGDGreece #ChangeMakers2022 #EU #Youth #ActiveCitizens #AI #EUDigital*

Logistics

1. All the events will be held physically in English in Thessaloniki, Greece (venue to be announced). No remote participation is possible.
2. After you will be selected, book your means of transport to Thessaloniki on your own: we reimburse you up to 150 EUR!
3. For the three nights of the conference, you will stay in shared rooms at Perrotis College (EucA member), provided and paid for by the organizers. Extra nights in Thessaloniki have to be booked and paid for by you independently from organizers.
4. The meals announced in the agenda will be provided by the organizers and we will have a paid dinner all together at the end of the 2nd day of the conference.

What will you get from this event?

1. Participation in this event can be great for your personal and professional development... and for your CV! Active participation will allow you to develop soft skills employers are looking for: teamwork, critical thinking, public speaking, problem-solving are just a few skills you can develop in an international debate and citizens' assembly!
2. You will take back home not only networking opportunities for your future career, but also European friendships that can last a lifetime!
3. The satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to building a better Europe for future generations.
4. You will go out of your comfort zone and discover new points of view, while creating civic initiatives and engaging with your peers and decision-makers!
5. Students who will have participated successfully in the event, post-event activities, and reporting phase will obtain a certificate for their active and enthusiastic participation.

Are you one of us?

1. Are you a university student or a recent graduate (max. 1 year from graduation) from an EU country and/or a EucA college member?
2. Do you have passion or drive to make a change around you?
3. Do you enjoy or want to practice your social skills?
4. Do you enjoy debating and arguing your point of view?
5. More than a thinker, are you a doer eager to test ideas and engage people around you?
6. Are you ready to go out of your comfort zone and face new challenges internationally?
7. Are you willing to commit to a cause bigger than yourself, to spend your time and energy on making a better Europe?

If you said *Oh, yeah!* to at least one of these questions... we want to hear from you!

Selection & participation process

1. Send us your application by filling in this [Google form](#) by 15 June 2022 at 23:59 (Brussels Time). The selection will be done on a rolling basis, so hurry up not to miss your chance!
2. The final results will be announced on 22 June 2022 and you will have to confirm your participation by sending your transportation tickets by 25 June 2022 at 23:59 (Brussels time). In case of any question or need of support for booking your tickets, please contact us at info@euca.eu

Reimbursement policy

1. Please note that **only attendees who took part in the whole event can be reimbursed**. There are no reimbursements for no-shows (including for COVID-19 related reasons) or attendees who participate partially or skip sessions.
2. For all **transportation** expenses, you will get a **maximum of 150 EUR reimbursement**. After the event, you will have to send us receipts of your expenses and your bank account. Only amounts justified with receipts will be reimbursed, so please make sure not to lose any tickets. In any case, the maximum amount you will receive is 150 EUR. **Only economy class tickets will be refunded**.
3. **Arrivals will be expected during 7 September and departures expected on the afternoon of 10 September**. Please check the agenda to make sure you can be punctual.
4. When booking your transportation means, if there is no flexibility allowed for changes, please consider buying insurance. In any case, reimbursement for travel expenses is still up to 150 EUR.
5. We cover students' **accommodation** for the 3 nights of the conference (7-10 September): you will stay in shared rooms with other attendees at Perrotis College, provided and paid for by the organizers. Extra nights in Thessaloniki have to be booked and paid by you independently from organizers.
6. No reimbursement is foreseen for COVID tests (antigenic or PCR) or other related expenses.

7. More information on the reimbursement process will be provided after your conference attendance.

COVID Safety Protocols

All conference attendees, speakers and organizers will have to comply with national legislation which will be in force at the time of the conference by the Greek national and local authorities.

It will be the responsibility of the participants to be aware of the measures and requirements for traveling to and from Greece. You can find useful information at the following link: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en>.

Cancellation policy

1. Considering the development of the pandemic due to Covid-19, if the organizers cancel the event, we will reimburse the travel expenses you will have booked and lost up to 150 EUR.
2. If you cannot attend the event, for any reason that is not linked to the organizers' decisions, you won't get reimbursed for your travel expenses.

For more information or if you want to say hi, please contact us at info@euca.eu

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