

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES: A WAY TO DEMOCRATIZE DEMOCRACIES



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022, FROM 10.00 UNTIL 16.30
RiHub, IVANA GROHOVCA ST. 1/A, RIJEKA



Our democracies are at risk. More and more people feel detached from politics. Many instruments have been applied to encourage citizens' participation – but it is hard to reach those groups, who are lacking the time, the confidence, or the background knowledge to participate in such formats.

Citizens' assemblies are an innovative approach, which has been tried out in many countries around the globe both on a national, and on local level. Citizens' assemblies can offer solutions to controversial political questions by bringing together perspectives from every part of society. With our conference, we will bring the debate about citizens' assemblies as a new tool to enrich our democracies to Croatia – and to the wider region. We will have discussions with local politicians, academic experts, civil society representatives – and hopefully also with you!

Moderator: Igor Bajok, SMART

PART I: PRESENTING CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES

10.00

OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESS

Marko Filipović, Mayor of Rijeka

Sonja Schirmbeck, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Croatia and Slovenia

10.15

KEYNOTE

Martin Schulz, President of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, former President of the European Parliament (via Zoom)

10.30

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES

Wolfgang Merkel, Director emeritus of the Berlin Social Science Center, Senior Scholar at the Democracy Institute of the CEU/Budapest

Grzegorz Lubaś, City Council of Lublin

Sue Peachey, Former member of a citizens' assembly

11.00

Q&A

11.30

Coffee break and press info

Simultaneous translation Croatian-English will be provided for part I.

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PART II: IN DEPTH DISCUSSIONS & EXCHANGE

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|-------|---|
| 12.00 | INTRODUCTION TO THE 2nd PART OF THE CONFERENCE AND TO THE METHOD |
| 12.10 | <p>WORLD CAFÉ ROUND 1 ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS</p> <p>1) What are suitable topics for citizens' assemblies? Table moderator: Diana Kovačić Table host: Jędrzej Włodarczyk, Councilman in the District Council of Siedlce, City of Gdańsk</p> <p>2) What are key organizational challenges in implementing citizens' assemblies? Table moderator: Ivan Cerovac Table host: Rebekah McCabe, Engagement Lead, Involve, leading UK's public participation charity</p> <p>3) How to link citizens' assemblies with existing political decision-making processes? Table moderator: Jelena Androić Table host: Wolfgang Merkel, Director emeritus of the Berlin Social Science Center, Senior Scholar at the Democracy Institute of the CEU/Budapest</p> <p>4) How to make sure that participants will join the assembly, contribute actively and if possible, stay politically active? Table moderator: Mirela Pašić Table host: Anand Kumar, Member of the citizens' assembly on "Germany's Role in the World"</p> <p>5) How to finance citizens' assemblies? Table moderator: Zvijezdana Schulz Vugrin Table host: Marian Cramers, Director of Development, Democratic Society, international non profit association based in Brussels</p> <p>6) Which digital instruments can be used to increase participation beyond citizens' assemblies? Table moderator: Hana Galogaža Lanča Table host: Roman Huber, Executive Board Member, Mehr Demokratie e.V., biggest non governmental organisation for direct democracy in the world</p> |
| 12.50 | Lunch |
| 13.50 | WORLD CAFÉ ROUND 2 AND 3 |
| 15.00 | Coffee break |
| 15.15 | PRESENTATION OF RESULTS |
| 16.00 | <p>FINAL DISCUSSION ON OPEN QUESTIONS REGARDING CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES WITH Filip Milačić, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Democracy of the Future Roman Huber, Mehr Demokratie</p> |
| 16.30 | <p>CLOSING Sonja Schirmbeck, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Croatia and Slovenia</p> <p>END OF CONFERENCE</p> |

Part II will be held in English only.