



European
Movement
International

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL REPORT
2019

REVITALISING
EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY





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INTRODUCTION

2019 was marked by the European Elections and our network's efforts to mobilise citizens to vote. Aside from the changes in the EU's leadership, 2019 saw citizens, civic movements and organised civil society stand up for the issues and values they care about and become a driver of social and political change. Last year, many EU Member States experienced their highest voter turnout ever for the European elections. Millions of citizens across Europe used the opportunity to defend the issues and values they cared about, cast their vote in the elections, encouraged others to do the same and connected with fellow Europeans.

Tied in closely with the European Parliament's 'This Time I'm Voting' campaign, the European Movement organised a range of different activities while streamlining its network's communications, to strengthen the voice of citizens at a time when authoritarian and anti-European ideas continue to gain ground.

POLICY AND INFLUENCING

The 2019 European elections saw a large number of Europeans go to the polls to make their voice heard. But regardless of whether it is an election year or not, citizens want to see their concerns and aspirations taken seriously and their priorities turned into actions.

Only through working together can we provide common solutions to the challenges Europe faces and ensure that Europeans' wishes are reflected in the EU's work throughout the next five years and beyond. To help guide our activities and allow citizens, policy-makers and organisations across Europe to connect with us through our priorities and demands, we produced a **summary highlighting our key policies** in 2019.

Democracy and citizen participation

- Publication of a **policy position on engaging citizens**, inviting leaders gathered for the Sibiu Summit in May to commit to the implementation of a transparent, representative and consistent consultation tool;
- Presentation our **network's experience** on the European Citizens Consultations at the Committee of the Regions' public event;
- Contribution to Committee of the Regions' report on the future of the European Citizens' Consultations: '**From local to European: Putting citizens at the centre of the EU agenda**';
- Three meetings of the **European Democracy Group**, discussing the future of European democracy, digital democracy and civic participation.



Protecting EU values

- Publication of an opinion-piece following the Polish general elections, based on the findings of our Listen to Europe research and looking at the attitudes that drove Poles to support the PiS party;
- Communication throughout 2019 around the topic of protecting the rule of law in Europe.

Sustainability

- Publication of a policy position on 'Moving Towards a Sustainable Europe' by addressing environmental, economic and social aspects;
- Public event on 'Citizens for Change | The Role of Civil Society in Environmental Policies' as part of the EU Green Week.

Brexit

- Advocacy on the benefits of EU membership in the context of Brexit and information and communication on the different scenarios;
- Roundtable event with Stefaan de Rynck, Senior Advisor to Michel Barnier, EU Chief Negotiator for Brexit.

Foreign and Security Policy

- Publication of a policy position on 'Strengthening the European Union's Position on the Global Stage'.

Enlargement and Western Balkans

- A letter to the European Parliament President David Sassoli, encouraging him to visit the Western Balkans and show support for accession candidate countries;
- Event on 'Making a success of Europe | Expectations from & Opportunities for Central Europe and the Balkans'.

OUTREACH & FOLLOWERS

4.8

MILLION

OVERALL
REACH

3.8

MILLION

REACH EP
ELECTIONS

45

THOUSAND

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

84

THOUSAND

WEBSITE
VISITS

COMMUNICATION

In 2019, we managed to continuously increase our social media following and **reached over one million people** with our posts on Twitter alone. Hashtags from events such as Democracy Alive and the Women of Europe Awards had a particularly wide reach.

In addition to its Weekly European Agenda, the European Movement International also published two 'EU at a Glance' calendars in 2019, in partnership with the **Romanian and the Finnish Presidency** of the Council of the EU.

OUR NETWORK GATHERINGS

Members' Council

On 11 April, the European Movement network met on the Dutch island of Texel where the European Democracy Festival took place. Gathering around 75 delegates coming from all over Europe, the Members Council offered an opportunity to discuss key policy issues and share views on the European election campaigns within the European Movement network.

Federal Assembly

On 8 November, Members of the European Movement International met in Helsinki to discuss the state of the network, debate the big issues that Europe is facing and set out its priorities for 2020. Ahead of the Federal Assembly, hosted by the European Movement Finland, members participated in a side event on 'The Future of Europe - Legacy of the Finnish EU-Presidency'. Guest speakers on both days included representatives of civil society, Members of the European Parliament, the Finnish Minister for European Affairs, Tytti Tuppurainen, and the Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, Alexander Stubb.

National Councils' meeting

On 2 October, representatives of the European Movement National Councils met in Brussels to plan joint activities and strategies for the coming year and to discuss the theme of the 2020 Europe Day celebrations.

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PROJECTS

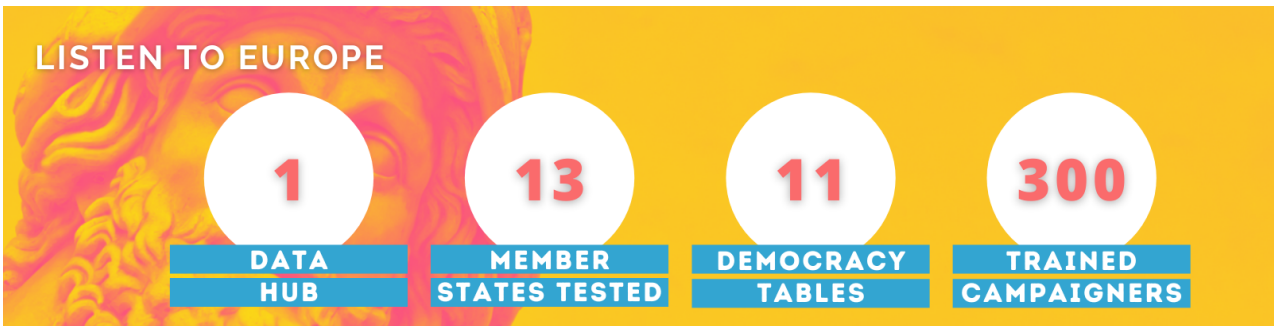
This Time I'm Voting #TTIMV

In 2019, we contributed to the European Parliament's campaign 'This Time I'm Voting' as an official partner, to encourage citizens to engage and vote in the European Parliament elections. As part of the TTIMV campaign, and with the support of the European Parliament, we organised 'Democracy Alive' which took place from 11-13 April 2019 on the Dutch island of Texel and was featured as one of the EP's flagship events in the final few weeks before the elections. Our overall activities and digital actions ahead of the EP elections, **reached 3.8 million people.**



Democracy Alive

Ahead of the European Parliament elections, we organised a European Democracy Festival to bring citizens, stakeholders and politicians together to engage on the important issues of today. After the European elections, we transformed the Democracy Alive website to engage the community of activists from across Europe who gathered at the Festival and took action to defend, strengthen and promote European democracy. The platform now serves as a space which can connect activists, encourage co-operation and taking action.



Listen to Europe

In the run-up to the European elections, together with a group of researchers led by Matthew MacWilliams and with the support of the Open Society Initiative for Europe, we conducted a poll that was fielded by YouGov, exploring the drivers of behaviours and attitudes of citizens in 13 European Union member states towards democracy and authoritarianism. [The results of the poll](#), disseminated across Europe, provided useful campaigning tools and outreach strategies that could be tailored towards the different Member States but also a wider European audience.

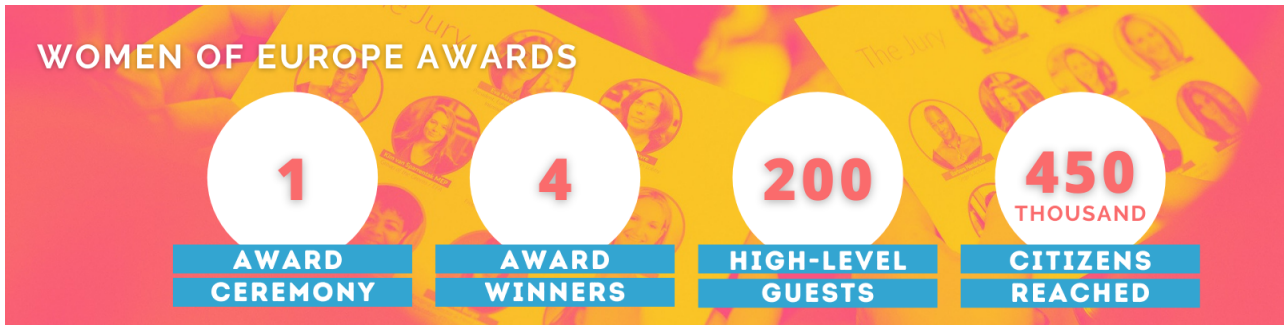


On Our Watch

Together with the European Youth Forum and Citizens for Europe and the broad range of partnering civil society organisations, we transformed the [On Our Watch](#) website to highlight organisations’ election manifestos and pledge campaigns ahead of the European Elections. On top of this, we included an integrated Vote Comparator developed specifically for the elections. We will continue to use the website to showcase a civil society’s demands vis-à-vis policymakers and to use the platform as a resource hub for those interested in the various issues that civil society is working on.



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Women of Europe Awards

For the fourth year running, the 2019 edition of the Women of Europe Awards, organised with the support of the European Women’s Lobby, featured inspiring winners from Romania, Bulgaria, Germany and Czechia: **Laura Codruța Kövesi**, Chief EU Public Prosecutor Elect (Woman in Power), **Milena Kadieva**, Human Rights Lawyer (Woman in Action), **Eleonora Azzaoui & Vera Günther**, Founders of Mimycri (Women in Business) and **Johanna Nejedlová**, Co-Founder of KONSENT (Woman in Youth Activism).

European Democracy Group

The European Democracy Group is a joint initiative of Carnegie Europe and the European Movement International, involving regular discussions between analysts, civil society representatives, and policymakers in Brussels to explore ways to improve democratic participation in the EU. In 2019 we organised discussions with around 30 experts from civil society, think tanks, foundations and the EU, around the future of civic participation in Europe as well as the impact of digital technology on European democracy.

Investing in the Future of Europe

As part of the 'Investing in the Future of Europe' series, a partnership between the European Movement and European Investment Bank, we organised events in Budapest, Helsinki, Prague and on Texel in 2019. The debates offered a chance to highlight the benefits of European integration and to discuss how to best invest in the European Union and the well-being of its citizens. Overall, the 'Investing in the Future of Europe' debates that took place in 2019 welcomed 24 speakers and 240 participants.

Europe Day

In 2019, members of the European Movement International network celebrated Europe Day by holding events, discussions and activities throughout Europe in May, ahead of the European elections. From Finland to Croatia, and from Ireland to Turkey, celebrations and events of all kinds took place in EU member as well as non-Member States.





OUR EVENTS IN 2019

- 11 December 2019: EU Security and Defence - State of play & Future Challenges
- 4 December 2019: Women of Europe Awards 2019
- 13 November 2019: Wednesday Social | Climate Change and Business
- 7-8 November 2019: European Movement Federal Assembly 2019 Finland
- 5 November 2019: Making a success of Europe | Expectations from & Opportunities for Central Europe and the Balkans
- 8 October 2019: Investing in the Future of Europe | Budapest
- 26 June 2019: Investing in the Future of Europe | Helsinki
- 5 June 2019: Citizens for Change | The Role of Civil Society in Environmental Policies
- 23 May 2019: European Green Party | What Will the Next European Parliament Look Like ?
- 15 May 2019: On Our Watch Re-Launch
- 14 May 2019: Socialists & Democrats | What Will the Next European Parliament Look Like ?
- 10 May 2019: Democracy Table, Copenhagen – Listen to Europe
- 9 May 2019: Democracy Table, Warsaw – Listen to Europe
- 8 May 2019: Democracy Table, Berlin – Listen to Europe
- 7 May 2019: European People's Party | What Will the Next European Parliament Look Like ?
- 2 May 2019: Democracy Table, Tallinn – Listen to Europe
- 29 April 2019: ALDE | What Will the Next European Parliament Look Like
- 15 April 2019: Democracy Table, Paris – Listen to Europe
- 10-13 April 2019: DEMOCRACY ALIVE, First European democracy festival
- 12 April 2019: Investing in the Future of Europe - Texel
- 11 April 2019: Democracy Table, Texel – Listen to Europe
- 10 April 2019: EMI-METRO Wednesday Social | Plastics...Not so fantastic! Responsible Business in the 21st Century
- 8 April 2019: Democracy Table, Brussels – Listen to Europe
- 5 April 2019: Democracy Table, Barcelona – Listen to Europe
- 4 April 2019: Democracy Table, Madrid – Listen to Europe
- 2 April 2019: Democracy Table, Vienna – Listen to Europe
- 27 March 2019: Democracy Table, Rome – Listen to Europe
- 20 March 2019: Brexit Briefing with Stefaan De Rynck
- 6 March 2019: Investing in the Future of Europe - Prague



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