

Catholic Youth Convention on the Future of Europe *'Our Dream of Europe'*



SERIES OF 3 ONLINE EVENTS:
3 – 10 – 17 June 2021

#TheFutureIsYours



CATHOLIC YOUTH CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: 'OUR DREAM OF EUROPE'

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[#TheFutureIsYours](#)

Dear participant,

In the context of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), the contribution of young people is fundamental to consolidate European democracy and to meet ecological, digital and inclusive transitions while recovering from the COVID-19 crisis. This is why COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU, invites you to design a future for the EU that matches your dreams, in line with [Pope Francis' message for Europe](#). The Catholic Youth Convention will bring together around 100 young Catholics, mainly delegated by the Bishops' Conferences of the EU and by the COMECE Youth Platform.

*Together, and throughout a series of webinars, you will reflect and formulate concrete proposals on three main thematic areas: the **Just Social Recovery**, the **Ecological and Digital transitions** and **Democracy and European values**. The results will be fed into the Conference proceedings. Each webinar will consist of an inspirational keynote speech on the respective thematic area and a 10-minute contribution from two EU experts to provide a state of play of EU policies so far. After that, you will be split into working groups and have 45 minutes to exchange and formulate proposals on your expectations for the future of Europe.*



JUST SOCIAL RECOVERY
Building a Europe
of Solidarity and Fraternity

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm

ECOLOGICAL AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS
Caring for Our Common Home

THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm

DEMOCRACY AND EUROPEAN VALUES
Shaping Tomorrow's Europe

THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm



#TheFutureIsYours



JUST SOCIAL RECOVERY: BUILDING A EUROPE OF SOLIDARITY AND FRATERNITY

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm



17:00-17:05: Welcome

H.Em. Cardinal Hollerich, COMECE President

17:05-17:15: Inspirational speech

Luca Jahier, former President of the European Economic and Social Committee

17:15-17:40: EU-experts introduction

Carolin Moch, European Coordinator of the International Young Christian Workers (IYCW)
Laura Rayner, Policy Analyst on EU social policy at the European Policy Centre (EPC)
Moderated by Alix de Wasseige, COMECE Policy Adviser for Social and Economic affairs

17:40-18:30: Working groups

- 1- Boosting Youth employment and innovation
- 2- Supporting Education, upskilling and learning
- 3- Promoting inter-generational and inter-regional solidarity

18:30-18:45: Reporting

Go to *SLIDO*

18:45-18:55: Conclusion by EU experts

18:55-19:00: Closing

Fr Manuel Barrios Prieto, General Secretary of COMECE

WORKING GROUPS' QUESTIONS

1- Boosting Youth employment and innovation in a rapidly evolving labour market

How do digitalization and the COVID-19 pandemic affect youth employment? What could the EU do to address precarious working conditions and promote accessible and decent work? How to tackle in-work poverty? How can the EU support SMEs and innovation to recover from the crisis?

2- Supporting Education, upskilling and life-long learning in the aftermath of COVID-19

How can the EU strengthen exchange programmes in the EU and ensure better coordination between educational institutions and vocational education and training (VET) providers? How shall the EU tackle the digital divide in education, foster inclusion of all in schooling and training and promote learning of environmental sustainability?

3- Promoting inter-generational and inter-regional solidarity in an ageing continent, leaving no one behind.

How to tackle the generational divide and promote inter-generational solidarity? How to ensure that persons, families and communities are strengthened through sound public policies and through the involvement of young and older people alike? How to address the rural-urban demographic, social and economic gaps in times of crisis and beyond?

ECOLOGICAL AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS: CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm



17:00-17:05: Welcome

Michael Kuhn, COMECE Senior Advisor on Ecology and Sustainability

17:05-17:15: Setting the scene

Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE General Secretary

17:15-17:40: EU-experts introduction

Cinzia Verzeletti, European Laudato Si' Alliance (ELSiA)'s coordinator
Fr Eric Salobir, President of OPTIC Technology
Moderated by Bernd Hirschberger, FIMCAP Europe Co-President, member of the COMECE Youth Platform

17:40-18:30: Working groups

- 1- Integral Ecology in our lives and society.
- 2- Sustainable (digital) society.
- 3- Protecting consumers and people digital rights.

18:30-18:45: Reporting

Go to SLIDO

18:45-18:55: Conclusion by EU experts

18:55-19:00: Closing

Michael Kuhn, COMECE Senior Advisor on Ecology and Sustainability

WORKING GROUPS' QUESTIONS

1- Integral Ecology in our lives and society

How to ensure that EU green policies are successful and can have long-lasting just environmental and societal impact? How to shape sustainable and energy efficient housing and buildings for all, while preserving their aesthetic value? What can young people, member states and the EU do to promote integral ecology (e.g., Food and agricultural planning, sustainable transport, sustainable clothing, waste management...)

2- Sustainable (digital) society.

What processes should we strengthen, in order to make EU economy and finance sustainable, while tackling poverty and social exclusion? (e.g., green investments, fair trade, international cooperation...) How can companies effectively contribute to corporate social sustainability? How can companies support the EU for the digital and green transitions?

3- Protecting consumers and people digital rights.

How to envision digital policies that are inclusive and sustainable? What suggestions can be made to achieve digitalization for all and preserve our privacy, human dignity and social stability? (e.g., regarding digital services and "gatekeepers" such Facebook, Amazon, Google; Artificial Intelligence...)

DEMOCRACY AND EUROPEAN VALUES: SHAPING TOMORROW'S EUROPE

THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm



17:00-17:05: Welcome

Fr Manuel Barrios Prieto, General Secretary of COMECE

17:05-17:15: Setting the scene

Victoria Martin de la Torre, Spokesperson of the S&D Group President in the European Parliament

17:15-17:40: EU-experts introduction

Agnieszka Zarzyńska, Institutional Development Officer at Young Caritas Europa
Gianluca Sgueo, Adviser to the cabinet of the Italian Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition
Moderated by Emilio Dogliani, COMECE

17:40-18:30: Working groups

- 1- Democracy and youth participation
- 2- Cross-border Democracy and European values
- 3- Democracy, media and disinformation

18:30-18:45: Reporting

Go to SLIDO

18:45-18:55: Conclusion by EU experts

18:55-19:00: Closing

Fr Manuel Barrios Prieto, General Secretary of COMECE

WORKING GROUPS' QUESTIONS

1- Democracy and youth participation

Do you feel involved in decision-making processes? How to address current participation of EU citizens, especially young people, in EU decision-making processes? What platforms are (or would be) important to make the voices of all citizens heard and listened to? What can the EU do to make people more aware of its policies and actions?

2- Cross-border Democracy and European values

What is the role of traditionally Christian values such as solidarity, respect and fraternity in times of peace and crisis? What policies should we envision to strengthen solidarity and cooperation on common issues within the EU? How to tackle discrimination and extremism while preserving the beauty of our plurality, diversity and citizens' freedom of expression?

3- Democracy, media and disinformation

How can the EU put in place measures to counteract disinformation and fake news? How can we ensure that media remain trustworthy, and misinformation does not lead to disruptions in European societies? What can be done at EU level to deal with online misbehaviors? How to ensure that media digitalization in information does not deepen inequalities and lead to exclusion or loneliness?

Live topic

Sustainable (digital) society

Type your idea

5 ideas

Popular

Anonymous
3 weeks ago

52

We propose that companies should be more motivated to show transparency the environmental impact of their products and therefore it should be reflected in the price. (ex. discount in cafés with reusable cups).

Anonymous
3 weeks ago

32

Promote awareness of sustainability through educational initiatives. They should be both practical and include an understanding of the values underpinning it. Target all age groups from infancy to older generations (such as growing a vegetable garden, knowing which food is good, and recycling).

Anonymous
3 weeks ago

27

Raise awareness of seasonal availability of products. Regulate or promote the production all over Europe in a way that overproduction is prevented.

Anonymous
3 weeks ago

23

Government should help with providing stable workplaces and possibilities for the young. They should feel that they're important parts of a sustainable economy and they have responsibility regarding the future. E.g. many young go abroad to work but they wouldn't go if they have possibilities locally

Anonymous
3 weeks ago

21

Enable more people to produce and consume local. Educate people in a way that a change of economic systems (not just capitalism against socialism) is cultural accepted.

Live topic

Protecting consumers and people digital rights

Type your idea

15 ideas Popular

- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 46

There should be media campaigns emphasizing the responsibility of parents to teach how to use the internet. Additionally, introduce short videos into the stream of content about the functioning, the chances, and the dangers of the internet.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 43

Provide a basic and cheap internet access kit (subsidized device) to make digital resources available for all, including older generations who may experience digital anxiety, those living below the poverty line or in "working poverty", those without formal identities and those with disabilities.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 39

There should be a EU certificate that proves the credibility of a company selling online given by an independent agency.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 33

Europeans need a deeper digital education: how to use the equipment but also awake critical thought. So that everyone would avoid digital dangers (cybersecurity against hackers, data protection by understanding cookies).
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 30

There is some conflict opposing digitalization and ecology that must be tackled. Could Europe force big tech companies to enter a circular economy and recycle their products?
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 24

Digital policies could be used as a tool to reinforce European democratic process. Build a platform that make governance participative and transparent.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 24

We must guarantee data protection to everyone. For example essential and privacy related data should be decentralized and stored locally, and not be available in the Cloud.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 20

Europe should be a united digital front so that it can set up digital tax for gatekeepers and forbid companies to make money from private data.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 19

The EU should support the research in green technologies and give positive motivation to companies to develop and employ them.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 16

Enable more People to produce and consume local. Educate people in a way that a change of economic systems (not just capitalism against socialism) is cultural accepted.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 16

European Union should support a European server architecture that embodies common digital values and compete with gate keepers.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 15

Raise awareness of seasonal availability of products. Regulate or promote the production all over Europe in a way that overproduction is prevented.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 14

In politics, at least some decisionmakers should have expertise in IT and each government should have minister of privacy and digital innovations.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 13

Launch of an annual EU Digital Framework Conference with public and private stakeholders to showcase in very concrete terms how complex legal and desirable ethical concepts can be practically taken into account in the creation & implementation of services.
- Anonymous** 3 weeks ago 12

A compulsory national day in each EU member, before the start of university to learn key digital literacy principles and be awarded a digital-literacy certificate. This will help the diffusion of key concepts to the youth from all social and educational background, bringing knowledge to the masses.

Live topic

Cross-border Democracy and European values

Type your idea

12 ideas

Popular

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

41

Support European media initiatives to inform, to announce and make problems of all country members more visible. Make all countries equally visible, because out of knowledge we could increase sense of solidarity and fraternity between countries

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

31

To teach young people to live their faith, to know their faith more deeply, in this way we can also improve solidarity between religions by focusing on the similarities.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

29

Build a platform to have more dialog between members about different topics such as refugees, national identity, so that everyone can share and feel member of the EU and reinforce and strengthen values as solidarity, respect and fraternity.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

28

Ensure that borders are always open for medical aid, this is a key part of solidarity between member states of the European Union.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

18

The church should support reform and synodality processes. A lot has to change, especially in ultra-conservative issues such as abortions and discrimination against women and LGBTQ + Christians!

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

16

Increase the dialogue between people (nations, religions, localities, generations...) through encouraging meetings, experiencing the diversity at all ages and true listening.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

15

Launch of a fund that supports the youth through philanthropic children's extracurricular activities applying Christian values by contributing to the local community and by going out of one's comfort zone.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

15

Encourage participation in youth organisations where the members will benefit from intercultural learning and non formal education.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

14

Give more decisional space in the EU to smaller country members.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

13

Teach our youth about the value of all life and equip everyone with the right knowledge to make them willing and able to help women who are unwantedly pregnant and protect unborn children by preventing abortions.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

12

Society is built on individuals. Positive values should be anchored in each of us. It stands on families and schools to protect and value them with young people.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

4

How is the defense of every life since conception a super conservative issue?

Live topic

Democracy, media and disinformation

Type your idea

11 ideas

Popular

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

43

Education in order to develop critical thinking so that people can be able to recognize fake news, develop analysis skills as well as observation and understanding that sometimes "neutral headlines etc" are not so neutral, there might be hidden messages behind like discriminations.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

39

A kind of news recommendation algorithm that doesn't show you what confirms your beliefs, but rather other articles that challenge it - Support non-profit organizations working around fake news/awareness who can find these articles and connect them to the fake news/disinformation articles

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

32

Teaching critical analysis skills in school. Teaching how to contrast information and select what is true in each news item, in each article.
Give prizes to young european scientists that develop projects to fight frauds and fake news (e.g. technologies to recognize deep fake)

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

18

There's a silent majority who is afraid to speak up because they think they might be alone. We can encourage these people in two ways: 1) grants for people from minorities to go in journalism, 2) anonymous polls about people's opinions on news articles

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

15

We would need an EU constitution based on democratic and Christian values (because that is what the EU's founders envisioned) and the members would be (in case of a violation) heard through the courts and not parliament, which is the essence of a democratic legal system.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

14

Establishing an EU wide obligation to show your sources to reach more transparency. It should be followed by an educational program about critical analysis of sources and how to deal with them. It is too late to learn it in university.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

13

Introduce measures of funding or grants in order to support little journals, which promote a model of virtuous and honest journalism and often risk to disappear in the global market.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

11

Invest in research and development of technological tools to identify and flag potentially fake news.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

9

Introduce in the EU a public rating system information in order to give value to ethical and true information.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

2

Inforce laws on extremism and discrimination we already have.

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

1

The EU should support NGOs that train media competence in non-formal events