



Intergenerational Solidarity Dialogue for Democratic Participation

To mark the **European Day of Solidarity between Generations**, the Young European Socialists (**YES**) and the European Seniors Organisation (**ESO**), together with the Party of European Socialists (**PES**) and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (**FEPS**), are organising an event with the aim to bring together young and old activists and policymakers to reflect on how civic education can empower people to exercise their right to participate.

On 24 February 2022, the PES Presidency stated both that “We fight for the right to participate at all ages” and that “young people must be empowered to make the changes Europe needs.” At a time of great uncertainty socialists and democrats are united in harnessing old and new forms of participation to promote fairness, sustainability and respect.

This event will feature in-person panelists and attendees and will be live-streamed online.

Moderator: Magda De Meyer, European Secretary General of the International Council of Women, former member of the Belgian House of Representatives

Online streaming: It can be followed on the [PES](#), [YES](#) and [FEPS](#) Facebook pages, or through the [FEPS](#) Youtube channel

Event website: <https://www.feps-europe.eu/events/upcoming-events/845-intergenerational-solidarity-and-democratic-participation.html>

FB event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/369761425159265/>

Agenda



18:00 - Introductory Speeches

- Maria João Rodrigues, FEPS President and PES Presidency member

18:05 - First Panel: Transmitting knowledge, transmitting values: promoting citizenship education that fosters intergenerational solidarity

Citizenship education is an essential part of the democratic process. In equipping us with the tools to decode the world around us, it creates the space in which a shared understanding of our common challenges can emerge. On climate action, gender equality and minority rights, young activists often feel ignored by institutions built by their parents and grandparents, while older activists resent being caricatured as outdated and out of touch. What changes should progressives push for to bridge this gap and give all generations the tools to participate equally in democratic debate?

Panelists

- Evelyn Logghe, YES Vice President
- Elisa Gambardella, Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator, SOLIDAR Foundation
- Laura Sparavigna, Florence City Councillor, chair of the Education, Training and Employment committee

18:45 - Second Panel: How can progressive parties and organisations support intergenerational solidarity in political participation?

Progressive parties must think of new ways to involve both the young and elderly so that they collaborate mutually and learn from each other. Only in this way will we be able to lead our movement into the future while keeping our fundamental pillars and social achievements intact. In a process where everyone needs to display some degree of openness, inclusion and introspection, how can our seniors and youth organisations harness the structures of our parties to promote the political participation of citizens of all ages?

Panelists

- Victor Negrescu, MEP, Vice-chair of the CULT committee, President of PES Activists Romania, Founder Foundation for a Democratic Left (FEPS member organisation)
- Jos Bertrand, ESO President
- Ana Pirtshkalava, YES Secretary General

19:25 - Conclusion Keynote Speeches

Speakers

- Alicia Homs Ginel, YES President, MEP, member of the EMPL committee
- Jos Bertrand, ESO President

