

# ECoD NPO Activity Report 2024

## Introduction and overview

**Democracy delivers. Democracy is power to the people. Democracy is vibrant. Democracy is not just a form of government. It is a fundamental human right that ensures freedom, justice and equality for all members of our societies.**

We created the European Capital of Democracy to show that democracy delivers for citizens. To celebrate ground-breaking innovation together with democratic front-runners, sharing best practices and learning from one another. Together with civil society and all citizens, they will help shape the future of European democracy.

Cities are incubators of and strongholds for democracy. As breeding grounds of democratic innovation, they bring together people from different backgrounds, creating a vibrant and dynamic public sphere that fosters democratic values and practices. They have the power to tackle big challenges, from climate action to social cohesion.

Every year, a different city is designated as European Capital of Democracy, creating a hub and stage for strengthening and innovating democratic practice in Europe and beyond. Our Citizens' Jury, a network of up to 4,000 engaged Europeans from 47 states, awarded the title for the first time to the City of Barcelona. In November 2024, Barcelona passed the torch to Vienna, the next European Capital of Democracy.

## Table of Contents

Introduction and overview.....	1
About ECoD NPO.....	2
Citizens' Jury.....	4
European City Network (ECN).....	5
Selected activities in 2024.....	7
January.....	7
February.....	8
March.....	8
April.....	9
May.....	10
June.....	12
July.....	12
August.....	13
September.....	13
October.....	14
November.....	15
December.....	16
Communication and dissemination.....	17

# About ECoD NPO

**ECoD gemeinnützige GmbH (ECoD NPO) was founded in 2021 by The Innovation in Politics Institute GmbH, an independent and non-partisan organisation that identifies, develops and implements innovations in the private and public sector in order to strengthen democracy in Europe.**

As a non-profit organisation, ECoD NPO's mission is to promote democratic governance and to strengthen social cohesion by fostering and expanding participation and awareness across the Council of Europe member states.

For this purpose, a European Capital of Democracy is designated every year, starting with Barcelona in 2023/24 and Vienna in 2024/25. In cooperation with civil society and citizens, the designated city will curate, organise, and implement a Programme Year, featuring a wide range of activities and events. Visitors from all over Europe are invited to join and to participate.

To ensure long term societal benefits, ECoD NPO focuses on

- **Participation**

Participation projects enable citizens to play an active role in decision-making processes. This strengthens citizens' sense of identity, as well as society's awareness of and confidence in democratic principles.

- **Future orientation and technology**

Rapidly developing technology will profoundly shape the future of democracy. The opportunities presented by digitisation are infinite – and so are the challenges it poses. That's why ECoD NPO focuses on future generations by promoting education, participation and digital literacy among children and young people.

- **Sustainability**

Sustainability projects aim to foster an international discourse, supporting citizens and cities in ensuring that radical climate transformation is a democratic process, and not just a technocratic one.

The objectives of ECoD NPO are achieved through a variety of activities:

- Events like conferences, panels and workshops
- Competitions and awards for outstanding democratic achievements
- Promotion of networking and knowledge exchange in support of relevant democratic and (civil) society actors via networks and platforms
- Supporting and enabling participatory and decision-making processes, e.g. with the Citizens' Jury, a Europe-wide network of democracy defenders
- Publishing electronic and printed media of various kinds

ECoD NPO's office is located in Vienna, Austria, with an international team and a network of partners in many European countries. Our organisation is driven by a diverse team of nine employees, including founder Helfried Carl and CEO Stefan Sindelar. Please find the current team at <https://capitalofdemocracy.eu/meet-the-team/>.

An **Advisory Board** serves as an independent sounding board for ECoD NPO and contributes by providing the experience and know-how of its members. It provides advice, suggestions and recommendations regarding the Democracy Year and the further development of the initiative. Please see the current members at <https://capitalofdemocracy.eu/the-advisory-board/>.

An **Experts' Jury** - made up of highly respected experts and practitioners in the field of academia, civil society, arts, and business - assesses the level of ambition, innovation and creativity of democracy projects based on the fair and transparent selection. Please see the current members at <https://capitalofdemocracy.eu/ecod-experts-jury/>.

The **Citizens' Jury, a network of over 4,500 engaged citizens**, selects the next European Capital of Democracy (see "Citizens' Jury").

All Cities that submit a full application will be admitted to the **European City Network** (see "European City Network"), a strong group of 24 Cities from 15 European countries, providing best practice exchange, access to experts, the possibility of participating and showcasing in the ECoD Programme Year, and access to

- exchange & peer-learning
- tailored programmes, trainings & capacity building
- project cooperation as ECoD partners

The necessary **financial resources** are raised through public and private fundraising, including European Institutions, donations, sponsoring, legacies, and other contributions, such as income from events and business activities necessary for the achievement of ECoD NPO's purpose (e.g. income from consulting, the granting of licences and rights of use, and the production and distribution of products or services).

# Citizens' Jury

**The Innovation in Politics Institute's<sup>1</sup> successful experiences with citizens' juries - the credibility of the evaluation process, the outstanding quality of the results and their broad acceptance - encourages us to expand this instrument and use it with a broader range of effects. To this end, a Citizens' Jury of currently over 4,500 people has been established in 47 European countries.**

Social innovation is the answer to burning issues of our time: a lack of participation and exchange, eroding social cohesion, and even an armed conflict in the heart of Europe. The Citizens' Jury aims to foster open dialogue and to support municipalities, cities, states and European institutions in finding functioning solutions to involve citizens. Complex decisions, the crowdsourcing of tasks and qualitative feedback on multi-layered topics require a completely new approach.

The Citizens' Jury is a prototypical, NPO and NGO-driven advancement of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), which has revealed the urgent need of citizens' engagement and the hitherto non-existing technological possibilities. It covers a broader geographical scope of action, a higher number of involved citizens, provides a platform for further exchange, and countless opportunities to engage and connect.

Over 4,500 Citizens' Jurors from all CoE member states and Kosovo select a European Capital of Democracy every year and serve as a unique sounding board and network for social issues such as participation, democracy, sustainability and intergenerational justice forms. This network creates completely new opportunities for citizen participation and social research. An online, mobile-first platform will serve as a central hub for information, activation, exchange and participation in surveys and votes.

In January 2023, the members of the Citizens' Jury selected Barcelona to become the very first European Capital of Democracy. Vienna has taken over in November 2024. Building on the learnings from the first two editions, we are building a community and preparing an exchange platform. Furthermore, the Citizens' Jurors are invited to select their level of participation, preferred communication channels and activities.

To get things started, we hosted online capacity building workshops together with Alliance4Europe and coordinated the selection and training of 50+ change-makers for the European Elections together with ALDA Europe and partners in seven European countries. Since October 2023, selected representatives from our ECoD City Network host monthly information sessions ("Cities learn" and "Cities teach" webinars) on current topics - see "European City Network".

---

<sup>1</sup> ECoD NPO has been founded and is owned by the Innovation in Politics Institute

# European City Network (ECN)

**The European Capital of Democracy initiative has built a strong network of twenty-four cities that fosters participation and provides a platform for cities to showcase how we can change our world for the better. Representatives of the cities come together regularly to share their expertise and best practices in democracy promotion at the municipal level.**

## **Our twenty-four City Network members come from fifteen countries across Europe:**

Antwerp (BE), Barcelona (ES), Bologna (IT), Braga (PT), Bratislava (SK), Brussels (BE), Burgos (ES), Cascais (PT), Durrës (AL), Gdańsk (PL), İzmir (TR), Kraków (PL), Kyiv (UA)<sup>2</sup>, Leipzig (DE), Linz (AT), Metz (FR), Opole (PL), Rotterdam (NL), Rzeszów (PL), Sarajevo (BiH), Sofia (BG), Tirana (AL), Valongo (PT), and Vienna (AT).

## **European City Network members benefit from:**

- **Collaboration:** Network members host regular in-person meetings, as well as online workshops, which foster and strengthen pan-European collaboration.
- **Training:** Knowledge sharing, peer learning and capacity building enables our members to gather new skills and provides opportunities for professional development.
- **Access:** International expertise for mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as ECoD Programme Year events to showcase their work.
- **Exchange:** Sharing best practices creates a supportive environment which inspires the development of impactful interventions in their communities.
- **Participation:** Contribute and be a part of the Programme Year in the title-holding ECoD City, as well as the online and in-person City Network meetings.

The ECN is an exclusive group of dedicated cities that are frontrunners in democracy promotion. All participating cities have successfully submitted applications for the ECoD Call. Cities nominate representatives from departments dealing with questions of democracy and civic participation who actively participate in network activities.

There are three types of activities:

### **1. Physical Workshops: "Cities meet"**

3-day long City Network Meetings focus on the host city's field of expertise. They consist of an interactive mix of workshops, field trips, and exchange with local organisations and stakeholders, plus networking opportunities.

### **2. Online Meetings: "Cities teach"**

90-minute long webinars in which 3 member cities of the ECN present their best practices in the topic field to a wider audience. Outline: Introduction, best-practice presentations, breakout sessions (3 in parallel), and a summary with the whole group.

---

<sup>2</sup> Kyiv is a full member of the European City Network, but currently with a special status, since they could not compete for the title due to the on-going war-time situation in the country.

### 3. Online Meetings: “Cities learn”

60-minute long webinars with external experts, proposed by the host city. Outline: Introduction, experts’ input, followed by Q&A.

#### The focus topics of each of the host cities:

- Barcelona (Spain): Digital transformation & democracy in the city
- Brussels (Belgium): Climate, green city & biodiversity
- Antwerp (Belgium): Youth participation
- Braga (Portugal): Senior & Intergenerational Participation
- Cascais (Portugal): Inclusive, Social-City Development
- Bologna (Italy): Diversity & inclusion

#### Timeline:

- Kick-off Meeting in October 2022 in Vienna, Austria
- Network meetings in 2023:
  - February 2023 in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
  - May 2023 in Warsaw (Poland)
  - June 2023 in Valongo (Portugal)
  - October 2023 in Barcelona, the first European Capital of Democracy
- Network meetings in 2024:
  - 25-27 March in Brussels (Belgium): Climate Adaptation & Green Cities
  - 14-16 May in Antwerp (Belgium): Youth Participation
  - 15-17 October in Braga (Portugal): Senior & Intergenerational Participation

The ECN is co-funded by the European Union’s CERV / Network of Towns Programme.

For more information, please refer to our website:

<https://capitalofdemocracy.eu/ecod-city-network>.



## Selected activities in 2024

ECoD NPO was established in December 2021 to prepare and implement the European Capital of Democracy initiative. In accordance with the organisation's purpose (to promote democratic governance, strengthen social cohesion by promoting and expanding democratic participation and awareness, and by strengthening established and new forms of democratic practice in Europe), activities have included the following highlights.

### January

- Final meeting and submission of the **"SCALEDEM" Horizon Europe** project proposal, which was accepted later in the year. Democratic innovations, whether participatory, digital, or deliberative, have proliferated in recent years thanks to more than 300 transnational projects involving researchers, civil society organizations, and public authorities. However, despite these experiments, knowledge about their scalability and political impact remains limited. SCALEDEM aims to overcome these challenges by helping to disseminate these innovations beyond experimental projects. More information at <https://missionspubliques.org/pf/scaledem-scaling-democratic-innovations/?lang=en>



*The SCALEDEM Consortium under the Lead of Missions Publiques in Brussels at the project kick-off in December*

- Implementation of the **TALE - Take the Lead in EU Elections** project under the lead of ALDA Europe (<https://www.alda-europe.eu/tale-take-the-lead-in-the-eu-elections/>) together with foster europe (<https://www.foster-europe.org/>), aimed to reach and engage a greater number of voters, reduce the gap of voters turnout among the various EU member states, and, through participatory processes, activate and empower them to play an active role and thus vote in the European parliamentary elections in 2024.



*One of our numerous EU workshops at Austrian schools together with foster europe*

## February

- TALE workshops at schools (ongoing project until June, 2024)
- Press conference for the announcement of the European Capital 2024/25 together with the City of Vienna:  
[Official Winner's Trophy presented to Mayor Michael Ludwig of Vienna, the 2024/25 European Capital of Democracy.](#)
- ECoD Barcelona 2023/24 highlights:
  - Meeting with Barcelona Deputy Mayor Eugenia Gay Rosell and the Barcelona delegation at the ECoD Offices in Vienna to discuss the remainder of the 2023/24 ECoD Programme Year.
  - [Truth, Lies & Democracy - Call for Local Teams](#) to participate in the Fake News game jam
- ECN webinar on 22 February, [Cities Learn: Sweating to Make Data-Driven Policies a Reality](#) (103 participants from 29 countries): [Pau Palcells, Programme Manager of the Municipal Data Office of the City of Barcelona](#), presented the challenges and opportunities of using data to drive municipal policies.

## March

- TALE workshops at schools (ongoing project until June, 2024)
- ECoD Barcelona 2023/24 highlights:
  - [European Global Democracy Coalition Forum 2024 \(by Global Democracy Coalition and Political Watch\)](#)
  - [Barcelona Regional Selection Conference of The European Youth Parliament España 2024 \(by European Youth Parliament España / EYPE\)](#)



- ECN webinar on 14 March, [Cities Teach: Climate Assemblies, Green Cities & Biodiversity](#) (127 participants from 24 countries: [Marion Julien, Coordinator for the Climate and Cities in Transition Team for the City of Brussels](#), highlighted the importance of on-the-ground citizen engagement. She presented the City of Brussels' use of a cargo bike to reach citizens where they are, thus lowering the threshold for engagement. [Tiago Koch, from the Environment Division of the Municipality of Valongo](#), presented the BiodiverCities project which aims to tackle the urban heat-island effect and promote and support biodiversity. [Katharina Toth, Energy Planning Consultant for the Vienna Climate Team of the City of Vienna](#), gave us an overview of the Vienna Climate Team process, focussing on the Citizens' Jury.
- ECN Brussels, 25 - 27 March, [Cities Meet: Tackling social and climate challenges with Brussels' solutions](#): 30 representatives from ECN member cities were able to explore how Brussels formulates its public policies through close consultation with citizens and stakeholders across various sectors. Using real-life examples, Brussels' stakeholders illustrated the tools and strategies used to transform the city while engaging both its citizens and other city-users.



- ECoD attended a workshop hosted by the Civil Society Outreach Unit of the European Parliament to discuss the 2024 EU Elections.

## April

- TALE workshops at schools (ongoing project until June, 2024)
- ECoD 2023/24 Barcelona highlights:
  - [Young People's Participation in European Democratic Processes \(by European Parliament - Barcelona Office\)](#)
  - Participation in the [360° Democracy event \(by Democratic Society\)](#)
  - [European Elections 2024: The Moment of Truth for Europe? \(by Palumba EU\)](#) - Alexander Heichlinger, ECoD NPO's Special Envoy in Barcelona gave a keynote

- ECN webinar on [16 April: Cities Learn – Citizens Assembly: How and Why?](#) (125 participants from 24 countries): [Dimitri Lemaire and Louise Humblet from Particitiz](#) walked us through how Citizens' Assemblies are successfully implemented, what basic conditions are required before you begin such a process, and some of the most common challenges faced along the way.

## May

- TALE workshops at schools and student discussion at the University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna (ongoing project until June, 2024)
- [Europe Day Celebrations](#)
- ECoD 2023/24 Barcelona highlights:
  - [Innovation in Politics Awards \(by The Innovation in Politics Institute & European Capital Of Democracy\)](#). Every year, the most innovative political projects in Europe are identified and awarded by a citizens' jury. In spring 2025, the finalists will come to Vienna to present their projects and attend the award ceremony.



*ECoD founder Helfried Carl with Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography*

- [Democracy brunch 'Widening The Lens: A Snapshot of Democratic Innovation Worldwide' \(by European Partnership for Democracy \(EPD\)\)](#)
- [ALDA Festival & General Assembly 2024 \(by ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy\)](#) with contributions and a keynote address by Helfried Carl
- [Truth, Lies & Democracy \(by European Capital Of Democracy, Pla Estratègic Metropolità de Barcelona \(PEMB\), Barcelona City Council\)](#)
- [Manifesta Metropolitan Assembly \(by Manifesta Biennial\)](#)
- Open Government Week (by Open Government Partnership)

- [Truth, Lies & Democracy Game Jam](#), a project that calls on the gaming community in Europe to engage against fake news. Teams develop video games and propose interactive methods to advance the fight against misinformation.



- ECoD joined the Partnership Agreement Reception at the European Parliament to discuss the 2024 EU Elections.
- Participation and presentation of European Capital of Democracy at the Democracy Festival and fair in Leipzig, an ECN member city
- ECN Antwerp, 14 - 16 May, [Cities Meet: ECN on wheels – a ride to the City of Antwerp's youth participation project](#). 32 representatives from 13 European countries within the ECN came together in the City of Antwerp for the 7th European City Network (ECN) Meeting. Over the course of three days the group was inspired by the unique places that have been transformed into spaces which not only welcome the city's youth, but were, more often than not, built up and designed by them too.





## June

- Last TALE workshops at schools
- ECoD NPO present at "Office for Participation" launch event by the City of Vienna
- ECoD Barcelona 2023/24 highlights:
  - [Open Government Week 2024 \(by Generalitat de Catalunya, Open Government Partnership\)](#)
  - Cities Fortifying Democracy Forum (by German Marshall Fund of the United States)



*Stefan Sindelar with ECoD Special Envoy Alexander Heichlinger at GMF Cities*

- ECN webinar on 20 June, [Cities Learn: Growing up in Poverty, a Trauma-Sensitive Approach](#) (135 participants from 20 countries): [Ybe Casteleyn](#) underlined the importance of being aware of the impact of trauma in both our personal and our professional lives, as we learnt that traumatic stress comes in many different forms, including shock, chronic stress and PTSD.
- Preparations and launch of the third call for cities to compete for the title (ECoD 2026)
- Team Europe Democracy Meeting in Brussels, with active contributions by ECoD NPO in two work groups and hosting a stand at the TED members fair

## July

- Promotion of the ECoD 2026 call for cities and information workshops



- ECN webinar on 16 July, [Cities Teach: Youth Participation](#) (116 participants from 24 countries): [Wim Seghers, Play Space Expert at the City of Antwerp's Youth Department](#) gave us an introduction to the "playspace web" method and how it's developed in his presentation "how to create a child-friendly network in your city". [Laia Pineda, from the Childhood and Adolescence Institute Barcelona](#), shared the City of Barcelona's experience of implementing the "Children Have Their Say" project. [Konstantina Chrysostomou, an activist at the Estel co-operative](#), presented the "Volem Decidir!" (We want to decide!) process which took place in the City of Barcelona.
- ECN webinar on 31 July, [Cities Teach: Democratic, Social & Digital Inclusion](#), including a European Capital of Democracy 2026 Sneak Peek (114 participants from 25 countries: [Silvia Hackl, Head of Innovation & Participation in the Department for Economy, Innovation, Climate Protection & the EU of the City of Linz](#), presented the Create Your City initiative. [Victoriia Itskovych, Chief Information Officer of the City of Kyiv City](#), presented the city's experience of implementing Citizen-Driven Democracy. The on-going conflict in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus how digital tools are particularly agile and useful in the face of a rapidly changing security situation. [Laura Thomas, European City Network Manager at the ECoD NPO](#), presented a sneak-peek into the 3rd call for the next European Capital of Democracy 2026.

## August

- Promotion of the ECoD 2026 call for cities and information workshops
- Participation in and contribution to the European Forum Alpbach 2024 - "Bold Europe" end of August
- Kick-off of "STRG D - AI for Depolarisation" workshop series by Faktor D, ECoD NPO successfully applied to be selected as one of the 30 carefully curated participants

## September

- Promotion of the ECoD 2026 call for cities and information workshops
- "STRG D - AI for Depolarisation" workshop
- ECN webinar on 12 September, [Cities Learn: Sociocracy, Democracy as it Could Be](#) (150 participants from 22 countries: [Barbara Strauch, Certified Sociocracy Expert CSE and Auditor for Educational Programmes in the Association of German-speaking Sociocracy Centers](#), gave us an introduction to Sociocracy and its four founding principles. She then handed over to the four guest speakers who gave us an insight into their experiences of sociocracy in practice: Naya Tselepi, Florian Bauernfeind, Pia Haertinger, Rita Mayrhofer.
- [Application phase for ECoD 2026](#)
- Participation in the Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and meeting with Secretary General Mathieu Mori and Director Claudia Luciani
- Observer at the Launch of the Democratic Odyssey in Athens - ECoD NPO is a member of DO's Constituent Network and Steering Group



## October

- Promotion of the ECoD 2026 call for cities and information workshops
- Participation in Team Europe Democracy (TED) webinar on Strengthening Local Democratic Resilience
- "STRG D - AI for Depolarisation" workshop
- ECoD Barcelona 2023/24 highlights:
  - [Forum on Deliberation, Creativity, and Democracy](#)
- ECN Braga, 15 - 17 October, [Cities Meet: Senior & Intergenerational Participation](#) (38 representatives from ECN member cities), learnt more about the common challenges they face in terms of Senior & Intergenerational participation and took inspiration from some of the facilities, initiatives and projects implemented by the Municipality of Braga.



- ECN webinar on 30 October, [Cities Learn: the Intergenerational Approach of Braga's Entrepreneurial Impact Programme](#) (113 participants from 19 countries: [Carlos de Sousa Santos, Co-Founder of the Human Power Hub](#), spoke to us about Braga's intergenerational approach to entrepreneurship, which is fostered and supported by various programmes coming out of the Human Power Hub – the City of Braga's Social Innovation Centre.
- Participation in the IOPD Conference, an annual meeting of local and regional leaders of participatory democracy from 17 to 19 October in Valongo, Portugal - including an ECoD workshop



## November

- Final support for cities participating in the ECoD 2026 call for cities - desk research and Experts' Jury preparation.
- "STRG D - AI for Depolarisation" workshop and project selection (closing)
- ECoD moderates a Panel at the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy 2024 on the topic of "Democracy and Diversity - Can we transcend the divides?"
- ECoD Barcelona 2023/24 highlights:
  - Biennale of Thoughts on Democracy as ECoD special
  - [Closing ceremony of the European Capital of Democracy](#) within the framework of the Smart City Expo World Congress), including "Expressions of Democracy", artistic interventions and collaborative action
- ECoD Vienna 2023/24 highlights:
  - Opening festival of the [second European Capital of Democracy - Vienna](#)
- Participation in Team Europe Democracy (TED) working group on "Rule of Law and Access of Justice"
- ECoD Vienna 2024/25 highlights:
  - Education Fest festival at Erste Campus (HEIV together with the Hub for Education / City of Vienna)



- ECN webinar on 20 November, [Cities Teach: three best-practice examples of Senior & Intergenerational Participation](#) (117 participants from 20 countries):
  - [Andrea Bardyn, Deputy Branch Director at Duo for a Job and Marije Plantinga, Project Leader for Youth Unemployment for the City of Antwerp](#), described how the city works with DUO for a JOB to tackle the issue of unemployment using an intergenerational and intercultural approach to mentoring.
  - [Laura Copete, Digital Inclusion Manager for the City of Barcelona, gave us an overview of the Cibernarium Digital-Skill Test](#). This innovative online tool helps citizens assess their digital skills and offers personalised recommendations for Cibernarium's free, citywide online training activities.
  - [Eva Surovková, Head of Department of Social Support for Seniors and People with Disabilities for the City of Bratislava, and Ingrid Tomešová, Support for Active Ageing and Prevention of Loneliness at the Department of Social Support for Seniors and People with Disabilities for the City of Bratislava](#), presented the "Support for Active Ageing and Participation of Seniors" project, including the "Council of Seniors for the Rights of Elderly Citizens" and the subsidy programme "Bratislava for All" which offers financial support to NGOs which focus on intergenerational solidarity and the improvement of quality of life for senior residents in Bratislava.

## December

- [The Expert's Jury decides on "Longlist" for ECoD 2026](#), ECoD NPO prepares city visits



- [SCALEDEM: Kick-off project in Brussels](#)
- ECN webinars on 12 and 18 December, [Cities Learn: Disinformation in the City](#)
  - Attended by 126 participants from 22 countries (116 from 18 eligible for CERV). [Jessica \(Ika\) Trijsburg, Research Fellow in City Diplomacy at the Melbourne Centre for Cities](#), presented the findings of a collaborative research project she led, looking into how cities connect and collaborate to address shared and complex challenges, in this case, disinformation. [Paul Costello, Senior Programme Manager for the German Marshall Fund's Cities Programme \(Berlin Office\)](#), reviewed the 10 principles that resulted from the collaborative research project. Graham Wetherall-Grujić, Lead Expert for Democracy Technologies at the Innovation in Politics Institute, discussed a notorious example of misinformation against green energy in Germany. [Mathis Dippon, Democracy Year Manager at European Capital of Democracy NPO](#), presented Truth, Lies & Democracy –a key format in the European Capital of Democracy's Democracy Year events.
- ECoD NPO is invited to the Sacharow Price gala in the European Parliament to celebrate the award ceremony for its nominee, Mayor Vitali Klitschko from Kyiv

## Communication and dissemination

In order to publicise European Capital of Democracy as widely as possible, media partnerships with EURACTIV and The European Correspondent and cooperations with 25+ Europe-wide organisations, including Alliance4Europe, have been formed. A cooperation Agreement with the DG COMM at European Parliament has been started for the European Elections 2024 and is set to be prolonged.

In continuation of the long-time patronage of both the Vice-President of the European Commission - Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, we formalised a cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Secretary General Mathieu Mori and Director Claudia Luciani.

Following the approach of being a “network of networks”, ECoD is a formal member of:

- Team Europe Democracy (TED) / Capacity4dev ([https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/team-europe-democracy-ted\\_en](https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/team-europe-democracy-ted_en))
- The Democratic Odyssey (<https://democraticodyssey.eu/home>)
- European Hub (<https://www.europeanhub.org/>)
- Nets4Dem (<https://nets4dem.eu/>)
- Global Democracy Coalition (<https://globaldemocracycoalition.org/>)
- Counter Disinformation Network (<https://alliance4europe.eu/cdn>)
- ECAS - The European Citizen Action Service (application in process, <https://ecas.org/>)

This table gives an indication of the potential theoretical reach of the initiative in 2024:

		<b>Subscribers</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Linkedin</b>	<b>"X"</b>	<b>Instagram</b>	<b>Youtube</b>	<b>Sum total</b>
<b>ECoD/IPI</b>		11.600	7.100	9.800	3.340	1.880	330	<b>34.050</b>
<b>Media Partners</b>								
EURACTIV			59.000	28.000	152.000	12.800	60.800	<b>312.600</b>
The European Correspondent		5.000	600	3.000	800	5.700	-	<b>15.100</b>
<b>Member Cities</b>								
Antwerp	EU	-	108.000	49.802	102.500	115.000	-	<b>375.302</b>
Barcelona	EU	-	239.000	38.968	424.100	214.000	-	<b>916.068</b>
Bologna	EU	-	152.099	20.703	86.100	91.100	-	<b>350.002</b>
Braga	EU	-	130.000	1.347	63.000	41.100	-	<b>235.447</b>
Bratislava	EU	-	57.180	2.870	397	43.300	-	<b>103.747</b>
Brussels	EU	-	33.686	17.552	18.800	11.800	-	<b>81.838</b>
Burgos	EU	-	3.787	1.118	16.400	2.578	-	<b>23.883</b>
Cascais	EU	-	156.000	9.094	3.867	64.100	-	<b>233.061</b>
Gdansk	EU	-	278.952	491	27.800	153.000	-	<b>460.243</b>
Leipzig	EU	-	32.622	6.189	91.700	88.900	-	<b>219.411</b>
Linz	EU	-	61.000	1.398	3.748	23.800	-	<b>89.946</b>
Metz	EU	-	60.406	11.982	24.110	32.000	-	<b>128.498</b>
Opole	EU	-	45.624	-	1.636	10.000	-	<b>57.260</b>
Rzeszów	EU	-	60.000	90	4.954	16.400	-	<b>81.444</b>
Valongo	EU	-	40.000	821	736	6.748	-	<b>48.305</b>
Vienna	EU	-	142.000	25.734	62.200	154.000	-	<b>383.934</b>
Durrës		-	13.805	126	124	1.754	-	<b>15.809</b>
Izmir		-	13.755	737	63.700	27.300	-	<b>105.492</b>
Kyiv		-	17.852	-	5.875	5.827	-	<b>29.554</b>
Sarajevo		-	7.100	141	0	7.891	-	<b>15.132</b>
Tirana		-	37.889	2.025	12.200	37.500	-	<b>89.614</b>
					Total potential reach:			<b>4.405.740</b>