



February 2021

Conference on the Future of Europe: A how-to guide for consultation, feedback and impact

The **Association Civic Tech Europe** (ACTE) was founded in December 2019 to represent civic techs at the European level.

Civic tech actors are independent of any political or economic movement and rely on technological innovations to strengthen citizens' participation in democracy and forge new links between voters and institutions.

The main objective of ACTE is to contribute to **creating a mutually beneficial relationship** between its members and the European institutions.

Conference on the Future of Europe:

a how-to guide for consultation, feedback and impact

Key principles



Inclusiveness and diversity

tools must be accessible to all, simple to use, allowing for broadest possible uptake, from the hyper-local level to the Pan-European one. Tools must also help to address the objective of inclusion by leveraging data & digital.



Transparency

the methodologies used to collect, sample or analyse data must be explicit.



Data protection & cybersecurity

compliance with GDPR and cyber-security standards must be proven and explicit.



Anti-fake news and anti-trolling

actors must investigate the use of these systems to prevent inaccurate results.



Interoperability of systems

to make a global synthesis possible, partners must ensure that they deliver consultation reports following a common template, and that data collected is available to CoFoE members.

Key phases

PHASE 1

Multilingual digital and non-digital consultations at pan-European level

“What are your priorities for the Future of Europe?”

When ? During the first months of the CoFoE

Output: Identification of key “**Citizen Priorities**” among European citizens

PHASE 2

Creation of the Conference’s “Citizen Agenda”

When ? During the first months of the CoFoE, following the massive consultations

Output: A global and statistically robust synthesis of key “Citizen Priorities” leading to the writing up of the “**Citizen Agenda**”

PHASE 3

Deliberative online and in-person panels building consensus around “Citizen Agenda”

When ? During the last six months of the CoFoE

Output: A mature and thorough picture of citizen’s needs in specific areas to prepare on-the-ground experimentations

PHASE 4

Analysis and on the ground Proof of Concept: creation of an “Impact Agenda”

When ? In the six-eight months following the CoFoE

Output: EU-backed challenge to tackle issues identified in conjunction with the EU Strategic Agenda

PHASE 5

Institutional validation and implementation of the “Impact Agenda”

When ? Twelve months following phase 4

Output: Concrete solutions to European citizens that move the needle on the issues they have themselves identified and co-created. Use digital tools to organise and empower the community of local ambassadors with material, database etc.



Executive Summary

The Conference on the Future of Europe seeks to understand what citizens want from the European institutions. **ACTE proposes a step-by-step approach to understand, analyse, but also implement the outcome of the Conference.**

I. Key phases

❖ Phase 1

Multilingual digital and non-digital consultations at pan-European level, identification of key "Citizen Priorities"

❖ Phase 2

Analysis & synthesis of key "Citizen Priorities": creation of the Conference's "Citizen Agenda" to complement the EU Strategic Agenda

❖ Phase 3

Deliberative online and in-person panels building consensus around "Citizen Agenda"

❖ Phase 4

Analysis and on the ground Proof of Concept: creation of an "Impact Agenda"

❖ Phase 5

Institutional validation and implementation of the "Impact Agenda"

II. Key principles

- ❖ **Inclusiveness and diversity:** tools must be accessible to all, simple to use, allowing for broadest possible uptake, from the hyper-local level to the Pan-European one. Tools must also help to address the objective of inclusion by leveraging data & digital.
- ❖ **Transparency:** the methodologies used to collect, sample or analyse data must be explicit.



- ❖ **Data protection and cybersecurity:** compliance with GDPR and cyber-security standards must be proven and explicit.
- ❖ **Anti-fake news and anti-trolling:** actors must investigate the use of these systems to prevent inaccurate results.
- ❖ **Interoperability of systems:** to make a global synthesis possible, partners must ensure that they deliver consultation reports following a common template, and that data collected is available to CoFoE members.

III. Detailed phases

Phase 1: Massive & Inclusive high-level consultations

- ❖ **What:** a large-scale, multilingual consultation effort asking millions of European citizens about their priorities for “the future of Europe”
- ❖ **Why:** identify what are the main priorities for European citizens to issue key “Citizen Priorities”
- ❖ **How:** structure around one broad question e.g., “What are your priorities for the Future of Europe?” asked through digital and non-digital means (includes: “idea box”, online discussions, polling/questionnaire, voting, interactive mapping...) in all 27 Member States. Gather proposals and votes on those proposals.
 - High level reach on social media, news networks and local ambassadors.
 - Pay particular attention to profiles and zones to meet people feeling “left out” or excluded, using OpenData, local opendata, social networks data, and local ambassadors.
 - Each consultation must deliver a report of key “Citizen Priorities” with common templates
- ❖ **Who: digital consultation platforms & on the field consultations**
- ❖ **When:** during the first months of the CoFoE

Phase 2: Creation of the Conference’s “Citizen Agenda”



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- ❖ **What:** a global and statistically robust synthesis of key “Citizen Priorities” leading to the writing up of the “Citizen Agenda” reflecting those findings, feeding back to participating and non-participating citizens
- ❖ **Why:** producing and publishing bottom-up insights key “Citizen Priorities” from complementary to the EU Strategic Agenda, building up momentum for expanded participation (loyalty-building)
- ❖ **How:** European-built analysis technology with data visualisation tools
- ❖ **Who: data analysts and scientists**
- ❖ **When:** following the massive consultation, with the results of the consultation being announced at a dedicated session
 - e.g.,
 - 1- cross-country, cross-demographic visual representation of results
 - 2- analysis and interpretation from various experts across the political spectrum.
 - 3- justification for areas chosen for the ‘Citizen Agenda’

Phase 3: In-depth consultation by participation

- ❖ **What:** based on the ‘Citizen Agenda’, a participatory and deliberative process enabling detailed exploration of recommended topics and priorities
- ❖ **Why:** create a mature and thorough picture of citizen’s needs in specific areas, away from the politics of the day, to prepare on-the-ground experimentations
- ❖ **How:** deliberative processes such as citizen-assemblies, consensus-building exercises, co-construction
- ❖ **Who: deliberative, consensus-building consultation platforms**
- ❖ **When:** during the last six months of the CoFoE



Phase 4: Recommendation and definition of the “Impact Agenda” (PoCs)

- ❖ **What:** publication of consultation results and launch of an EU-backed challenge to tackle issues identified in conjunction with the EU Strategic Agenda
- ❖ **Why:** activate actors to turn insights and ideas into practical solutions which impact people’s lives
- ❖ **How:** create an operational cell equipped with a budget to issue up to 12 challenges based on Phase 3, invite bids from private, public and third-sector organisations across Member states to propose solutions, and select them and set up an exploration phase
- ❖ **Who: European Commission and partners, Data management platform / community engagement platform to provide a feedback to every citizen**
- ❖ **When:** in the six-eight months following the CoFoE

Phase 5: Institutional implementation of the “Impact Agenda” (PoCs)

- ❖ **What:** implement solutions as Proof of Concept picked as a result of the challenges published in Phase 4, in coordination with the EU Strategic Agenda
- ❖ **Why:** provide concrete solutions to European citizens that move the needle on the issues they have themselves identified and co-created
- ❖ **How:** set up a PoC testing phase with willing Member states, regions, or localities which come forward, and equip them with a methodology to assess the PoC and budget to see it to completion. Use digital tools to organise and empower the community of local ambassadors with material, database etc.
- ❖ **Who: Partners and European Commission**
- ❖ **When:** twelve months following phase 4
 - > e.g.,
 - 1- My Europe app
 - 2- Local EU ambassadors program
 - 3- Debates at the European Parliament on Phase-4 proposals



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IV. The ACTE Who's who?

Consultation platforms:

- ❖ We Build Bots
- ❖ Make.org
- ❖ Novoville
- ❖ Fluicity
- ❖ Civocracy
- ❖ Bluenove
- ❖ Cap Collectif

Consultancy services:

- ❖ Fluicity
- ❖ Bluenove
- ❖ Cap Collectif
- ❖ Tectonica
- ❖ Civocracy
- ❖ Make.org

Community organizing platforms and apps:

- ❖ Novoville
- ❖ Quorum
- ❖ Citipo
- ❖ Tectonica

Data Analytics Platforms:

- ❖ Civocracy
- ❖ Cap Collectif
- ❖ Fluicity
- ❖ Bluenove
- ❖ Quorum
- ❖ Make.org

Data Management platforms:

- ❖ Citipo
- ❖ Quorum



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ANNEX - ACTE'S MEMBERS

 fluicity

MAKE.
ORG

QUORUM

Civocracy 

novoville

 Cap Collectif

 itipo

bluenove
opening organizations:

we.

 TECTONICA