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**E12: The Future of Europe in 2019**

**Background**

EAPN has been engaged with discussions on the Future of Europe since 2017, under the leadership of EAPN Spain, who led on the creation of an [EAPN position paper on the Future of Europe.](https://www.eapn.eu/the-future-of-europe-eapn-contribution-to-the-discussion-on-the-future-of-europe/) This paper has been used at the national and European level by EAPN members and EAPN Europe in order to try to influence the debate around the Future of Europe (launched by the Commission’s [White Paper](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/white_paper_on_the_future_of_europe_en.pdf) in 2017).

Our 2019 Work Programme commits us **“Ensuring strong EAPN engagement in the Future of Europe debates at national and European level”,** highlighting EAPN’s ‘Future of Europe’ paper (and other associated positions) in key discussions and consultations around the Future of Europe, specifically the ongoing EC consultation, and the dialogues organised by President Macron. Some EAPN members have already been engaging in these spaces.

We have prepared a standard EAPN response (Document E12a) to the Commission consultation on the Future of Europe, which we encourage all members to use as the basis of their response to the consultation. (See table below for details)

**What is the Future of Europe?**

The Commission’s [White Paper on the Future of Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/white_paper_on_the_future_of_europe_en.pdf) kicked off these discussions in 2017. The Institutions have used Brexit to stimulate ‘big’ discussions on the future of the Union, via a series of online and offline discussions. This whole period will culminate in the informal European Council meeting in Sibiu, Romania, on 9 May 2019 – “the first meeting of the EU leaders following the UK's withdrawal and the last meeting before the European Parliament elections”.

**How EAPN members can be engaged in the debate**

EAPN members can engage in these debates at the national and European levels in the following ways:

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| **ONLINE** |
| **National** | **European** |
| Follow and contribute to the hashtags #EURoad2Sibiu #EUDialogues and #futureofeurope  | Either copy and paste the standard EAPN answers to the EC consultation (Doc E12a) and respond directly to the consultation ([here](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/future-europe/consultation-future-europe_en)), or contextualize the answers to match the specifics of your country / organization. **Deadline is 9 May** |
|  | Let us know if you have done this! Email leo.williams@eapn.eu  |
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| **OFFLINE** |
| **National** | **European** |
| Participate in the remaining citizen’s dialogues (see [here](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/future-europe/consultation-future-europe_en) [here](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-dialogues) and [here](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events_en?facet__select__field_core_event_collection=2065&field_event_date_value%5Bdate%5D=25-03-2019&facet__checkboxes__field_event_external_event=off)). These dialogues have included Commissioners and other representatives of European, national, regional and local authorities. All members of the Commission travelled to regions and cities across Europe to engage in dialogue with citizens and listen to their views and expectations concerning the future of the Union. | Participate in remaining Future of Europe related meetings at the Institutions |
| Write to your Heads of State in advance of the Sibiu meeting, with key points on the Future of Europe. | Participate in EAPN’s election campaign, aiming to shape the future of the European Parliament |
| Let us know what you have done! Email leo.williams@eapn.eu | Write to new leadership of the Institutions, outlining key expectations. |
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**EAPN Standard Response to the consultation**

This consultation response was drawn up based on numerous EAPN positions, including: EAPN’s Future of Europe's Paper, the Make Europe Poverty Free campaign, “Wealth, Inequality and Social Polarisation in the EU”, “Poverty and Inequality in the EU”, “Gender and Poverty in Europe”, “Financing Social Protection Reflection Paper”, “Migration-Position Paper and Action Plan”, recent PeP reports, EMIN papers, various papers related to the Semester process, and documents from our ongoing Strategic Thinking process.

**Moving forward**

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