



# EU ELECTIONS SO WHAT?

CONNECTING EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY TO YOUR FUTURE

## WHAT?

The event emulates the World Café methodology to create an active learning experience based on a conversational environment in which participants reflect on the value of their interactions with the EU.

The event calls for young participants willing to reflect on EU democracy from a critical angle, exploring alternative “connections” between them and the EU beyond elections: experiencing deliberative democracy, art and cultural interactions.

A panel of experts from academia and civil society will be in charge of activating the discussion tables by elucidating on these “connections” in different phases of the session.

The aim is to fill the room with a plethora of small conversations (five people per table) that together conform a kaleidoscopic vision on alternative connections with European democracy.

## WHEN & WHERE?

Venue: **Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg (KVS)**, Lakensestraat 146, 1000 Brussel.

Time: **May 15th 2019, 13.30 – 18.00 // 19.00** (Social gathering)

## REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.ies.be/other/save-date-youth-cafe-eu-elections-so-what-connecting-european-democracy-your-future>

## PROGRAMME

- 13:00 – 13:30**    **Registration** – Coffee and tea will be provided.
- 13:30 – 13:40**    **Opening**  
Caroline Pauwels (video message) (tbc)  
*VUB Rector*  
  
Karen Celis  
*Research Professor and academic coordinator of the EDGE Programme (VUB)*
- 13:40 – 13:50**    **Introduction to the Youth Café**  
Luciano Morganti  
*Senior Researcher Communication Sciences (VUB)*
- 13:50 – 14:30**    **PANEL 1: Connecting to the EU through national, supranational and deliberative democracy**  
  
Didier Caluwaerts  
*Assistant Professor of Public Policy (VUB)*  
  
Louise Hoon  
*FWO PhD Aspirant in Political Science (VUB)*  
  
Alexander Mattelaer  
*Academic Director of the IES (VUB)*
- 14:30 – 15:20**    **YOUTH CAFÉ 1: Shaping your future in the EU through national, supranational and deliberative democracy** (discussion tables)
- 15:20 – 15:40**    **Reflection on Youth Café 1**  
Luciano Morganti  
*Senior Researcher Communication Sciences (VUB)*
- 15:40 – 16:20**    **PANEL 2: Connecting to the EU through public spaces, art and new party politics**  
Pepijn Kennis  
*Strategic Coordinator, Toestand vzw*  
  
Marcela Valkova  
*MEP-Candidate, Pan-European party Volt*  
  
Michiel Vandevelde  
*Choreographer, curator, writer and editor*
- 16:20 – 17:10**    **YOUTH CAFÉ 2: Shaping your future in the EU through public spaces, art and new party politics** (discussion tables)
- 17:10 – 17:40**    **Reflection on Youth Café 2**  
Eline Severs  
*Assistant-Professor Political Science (VUB)*
- 17:40 – 18:00**    **Closing remarks**  
Eline Severs  
*Assistant-Professor Political Science (VUB)*
- 18:00 – 19:00**    **Reception** – Drinks and music for the participants

## WHO?

Didier Caluwaerts

*Assistant Professor of Public Policy (VUB)*

His research interests include deliberative and participatory democracy, democratic myopia and democratic regression. He recently set up a lab experiment on deliberation and long-term thinking regarding environmental policy. Didier was awarded the 2012 ECPR Jean Blondel PhD award and the 2016 Ignace Vanderschueren PhD Prize. He is also the winner of the 2010 ECPR Dirk Berg-Schlosser award, and co-organizer of the G1000 citizens' summit (2011). In 2013 and 2014, Didier was a Democracy Fellow and a Frank Boas Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

Louise Hoon

*FWO PhD Aspirant in Political Science (VUB)*

Her PhD focusses on the effects of Eurosceptic voting and EU-issue voting on policy congruence between political parties and voters. Broader research interests are EU democracy, voting behavior and public opinion, European elections and the European Parliament. Louise teaches research methods in the political science programme of the VUB.

Alexander Mattelaer

*Academic Director of the IES (VUB)*

His research interests include the politics of European integration, transatlantic relations, defence policy-making, and the ongoing redefinition of state sovereignty. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations, and a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. As a Fulbright Schuman fellow he completed research stays at Harvard University and at the National Defense University. He sits on the scientific committee of the Belgian Royal Higher Institute for Defence. He obtained his PhD in Political Science from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Master degrees from the University of Bath and the University of Leuven.

Luciano Morganti

*Senior Researcher Communication Sciences (VUB)*

His research scrutinizes the interaction between (new) communication technologies and democratic processes, while reflecting upon the concept and idea of the European Public Sphere. He is also interested in social, political and communicative aspects of citizens' empowerment and participation. Luciano is known to be an enthusiastic teacher who loves to share his knowledge with the students and is always open to a critical and intelligent debate during his classes. As a professor and senior researcher at the VUB/ES in the Communication Department, he teaches in the international master New Media and Society in Europe.

Pepijn Kennis

*Strategic Coordinator, Toestand vzw*

Toestand vzw aims to reactivate forgotten or abandoned buildings, terrains and (public) spaces by means of temporary and autonomous socio-cultural centres.

Marcela Valkova

*MEP-Candidate, Pan-European party Volt*

Marcela Valkova considers herself a European woman, a working mother and a community leader. Born and raised behind the iron curtain in former Czechoslovakia, lived across Western Europe for the past 17 years. Most of her career, Marcela has served the European project and currently works as case handler in the European Commission in Customs Tariff department. Due to the recent political developments, Marcela decided to enter politics in order to protect the European values and threats of fragmentation of the

European family. As a political orphan, never a member of a political party, she discovered Volt, the citizen-led pan-European movement, in summer 2017. Shortly after, she became the first country lead of the Belgian chapter and co-founded the non-profit organisation linked to the political party. Currently, she is the treasurer of Volt Belgium and the lead female candidate for the up-coming EP elections 2019.

Michiel Vandeveld

*Choreographer, curator, writer and editor*

Michiel Vandeveld studied dance and choreography at P.A.R.T.S., Brussels. He is active as a choreographer, curator, writer and editor. As a freelance curator he worked or works for: Extra City Kunsthof, Het Bos, Bâtard festival, Z33, Precarious Pavilions. He is involved as an editor in the Disagree. magazine and he has written articles for Etcetera, De Witte Raaf, Rekto: Verso, Mister Motley, etc. From 2017 to 2021 Michiel Vandeveld is artist in residence at Kaaitheater. In his work he investigates the elements that constitute or obstruct the contemporary public sphere. He explores which other social, economic and cultural alternatives we can imagine in order to question, challenge and transform dominant logics and ways of organizing. He has been developing a variety of projects both in public space and in (performing) art institutions.

Eline Severs

*Assistant Professor at the VUB - Political Science Department*

Eline Severs is an assistant professor at the Department of Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her research interests fall within the field of democratic theory. She is especially interested in democratic representation, the relationships between civil society and democratic governance, citizens' conceptions of democracy, and what it means to include historically disadvantaged groups. Her research on the legitimacy of representative democracies seeks to shed light on the meaning of the so-called crisis of representation in contemporary democracies. Eline holds a PhD degree in Political Science from the University of Antwerp (2012). From 2012 till 2015, she was the scientific coordinator of the Policy Research Centre on Equality Policies (PRCEP) ('Steunpunt Gelijkekansen'), an inter-university research consortium funded by the Flemish Government Departments on Science and Equal Opportunities (2012-2015). It conducted policy-preparatory research for the Flemish Minister of Equal Opportunities.