

jubel festival

22 September 2018

Prototyping a contribution
to a lively European democracy



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**jubel
festival**

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Jubel festival

Drivers -context

How to propose a model to make sure that civic considerations are part of the decisions and reshaping processes, while enabling an open space for dialogue and creativity ?

The European Union, having survived a number of difficult crises over the past years, is looking to the future. European politics have been plagued by increased polarisation and the rise of populist, anti-EU parties in many member states. Some member states are led by eurosceptic governments.

The challenges for Europe and the world are huge: poverty, migration, threats on employment due the digital transition, new disruptive business models and artificial intelligence, climate change, etc.

Europe needs to reconnect with citizens and build a stronger, more democratic Europe. Based on participation and ownership.

Connecting “Europe” (European Institutions, European elites) to its citizens is a long lasting quest marked by failed (or, at least, reserved) attempts - from French & Dutch referenda to European

elections campaigns, from civil society initiatives to institutional communication efforts.

The question is how to create a stronger link between citizens and elites and thus help overcoming the EU’s legitimacy crisis. The Jubel Festival could be a first step in this process.

Mostly led by institutions, several initiatives are currently undergoing. French President Macron called for **“Democratic Conventions”** all over Europe. His proposal was endorsed by other European heads of state and government, although downsized to something closer to citizen consultations than proper conventions: the consultations will mainly consist of debates organised by national authorities, and other institutional actors like companies, trade unions, established NGOs, universities or high schools.

The European Policy Centre is building

a network of civil society organisations working on or interested in the ECCs, at national or European level.

The European Commission launched the **"Citizen's Dialogues"** : 100 randomly selected citizens met in Brussels and defined a questionnaire regarding the future of Europe, which will be open to all Europeans during Summer 2018. The questionnaire results will be presented to the Oct. 2018 European Council.

Jubel wants to reinforce and complement these initiatives and look into methods that lead to "bridging the gap" and help identify European concerns and aspirations with sharpness. Jubel wants to give space and consideration for the informally organized civil society. Jubel wants to strive to diversity of participants, in a context where usually 50 year-old

educated and pro-European males are more likely to participate. Jubel wants to build a process for the long term, on a supranational level and by focusing on a proper conversation between European citizens.

Jubel Festival could be imagined as a useful, colourful and original process - without forgetting the imperative of humility, leading us to consider an iterative process based on what makes the success of Democracy Festivals.

Jubel festival

Origins

Jubel, the European Democracy Festival is inspired by and capitalizes on the rich tradition of similar festivals founded in the Nordic and Baltic countries, such as Almedalsveckan in Gotland in Sweden, Folkemødet in Bornholm in Denmark and Arendalsuka in Norway.

Every year, in each of the Nordic and Baltic countries, politicians, organisations and citizens come together for a democratic convention with dozens of events, happenings, debates, forums on the agenda, where all sorts of topics are being addressed. We call these conventions 'democracy' or 'conversation' festivals as they are eminently democratic in their way of bringing together all stakeholders, but also do so through discussion.

The tradition of democracy festivals can be traced back to 1968 when Olof Palme, Sweden's minister of education at the time, held a speech, standing in the back of a flatbed truck. The truck was parked in the Almedalen park and a couple of hundred



people gathered to listen to what he had to say. Most likely these people – including Palme – had

no idea they had changed history in the whole Nordic-Baltic region and that, 50 years later, democracy festivals would be a part of the DNA of these countries. In the meantime, festivals have been created in Germany and the Netherlands. Each year a new festival is being created. New ones could be created shortly in Belarus, France and the UK. All together, these manifestations attracted last year (2017) 430.000 people.

As they exist, these festivals offer obvious possibilities for any organisation to engage in dialogue with important stakeholders, to start with the general public. As such, they are incredible platforms that we would like to harness in two ways: use their best practices to succeed at once in our endeavour to create a festival at the supranational level and, at the same time, use the country-based festivals to ask for the involvement of the people in ten countries to define in a structured way what their desire for Europe would be.

“We see Jubel as a mix of the relaxed atmosphere of summer universities, the vibrance of Porto Allegre, the method of Davos WEF and the effervescence of a COP21”

- Alain Deneef, founder of Jubel-

Jubel festival

the concept

The Jubel festival wants to **propose an innovative approach in engaging a dialogue with citizens about their concrete concerns and proposals regarding European democracy and the functioning of the European Union.**

The Jubel festival wants to identify alternative methodologies to consult and dialogue with citizens.

The core question at the heart of the “Jubel European Democracy Festival” is: **how to strengthen democracy in Europe, identify European citizens’ priorities, concerns and ideas for the EU’s future and their place in this future ?**

The festival wants to contribute, by means of a bottom-up approach, to the idea of citizen consultations launched by French president Macron and endorsed by his fellow heads of state and government, as well as the consolidated initiative of the European Commission, with the help of a structured output about the future of the European democratic project and the current functioning of the European Union.

The Jubel festival wants to be something completely different than anything that has been seen so far under the European sky. In expression, content and crowd.

“ Revitalize, re-think and re-design the European participatory democracy. To make it stronger and fit to handle the world challenges of tomorrow. “

As a target, Brussels Jubel Festival should :

- gather participants from **all over Europe**
- look for a **broad and diverse** range of participants (*Socio-Professionnal Categories, Age, Gender, Opinions, etc.*)
- offer a **friendly, relaxed and festive moment** for those who attend

- **take the time** it takes to build trust and to deal with complex issues
- work as a **conversation** (rather than a consultation, or a conference, etc.)

- still...
- **be connected to the European global political agenda**
- find ways to **capture, restate and debate Europeans real concerns** and aspiration about Europe
- be conceived as an **iterative process** throughout years (2018 Edition = prototype)

These objectives are also challenges.

Democracy Festivals are national-based and politically, geographically and linguistically close to their public. Not only is it harder to define something like “a European political body” in its all magnificent diversity, it is also quite a challenge to “gather” it in Brussels, a city which has a relaxed link - but through the elites - to the 27 member countries that are not Belgium. It will probably take methodological inventiveness to make the “European real worlds” irrupt in the capital of Europe.

Positioning of the festival. The organising committee is not aiming to gather only the pro-european elites. The focus will lie on the conversation which will lead to an outcome regarding Europe and European democracy, positive or negative. In that sense, the festival is **neutral**.

“as CEO of the Danish Folkemödet festival,
I consider myself as politically neutral.
As the name of my festival says it, it is a
meeting of people whatever the opinion of
these people might be”

- Mads Akselbo Holm, Director
Folkemödet-

“ Jubel Festival“

The name, the atmosphere

Jubel is a name full of joy, celebration and feast, short and easy to remember. It is not too institutional or formal. The name refers to the name of the Jubelpark in Brussels and the 50th anniversary of the first democracy festival in Sweden.

#feast

#celebration

#jubilee

#jubilation

#expression

#loudshout

#happiness

#50year-celebration

#jubelpark

Jubel stands for:

A SENSE OF URGENCY

Jubel is about urgency in the face of the daunting challenges confronting Europe. Jubel is a room to talk about, investigate and develop solutions for the urgent questions for Europe and its citizens. Jubel will be the place to be, to meet the innovators, policymakers and stakeholders of our future

A RADICALLY BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

Jubel builds on a strong belief in the collective intelligence of Europeans. We have all it takes to create a better world together. Jubel is a festival with a radically bottom-up perspective. It aims at training the big European democracy muscle and at making sure the governments out there are really listening to the voices of citizens, regions and cities and stakeholders of all kinds.

A WAY OF NURTURING CONVERSATIONS

If we want to save democracy, we have to walk outside of our usual way of doing. Now. Jubel is an occasion for all Europeans to do so. Jubel will nurture open and appreciative conversations between the ‘system’ and the citizens, breaking professional silos, encompassing generations, countries, cultures, interests and opinions.

PARTICIPATION AT ITS BEST

Jubel is driven by participation, fights for participation and is about participation. With the broadest possible repertoire of tools and techniques, it ambitions to be in itself a showcase of how engaging democracy can be when it is defined by and with the people.

A TOOL TO RECONNECT

Jubel will bring European democracy closer to the citizens who will reconnect emotionally with shared dreams and inspire common solutions

THE WOW FACTOR

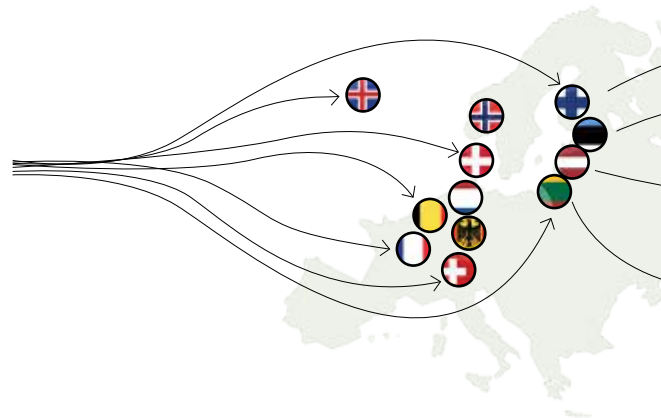
Jubel will show that democracy and conversations about society and politics can also be fun and surprising for all. It will offer an inspiring and energizing platform for everyone who has something to say. The first edition intends to build an ambitious, but cool prototype, to test partnerships, organisational principles, event design and communication all together. In other words: let the participants be the judges on what works and what doesn't.

JUNE 8 & 9

Kick-Off

THIS SUMMER

Democracy Festivals

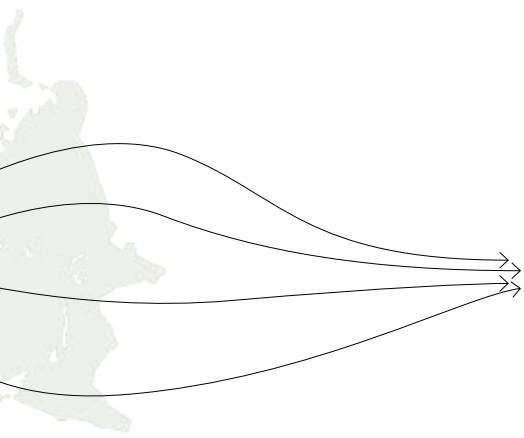
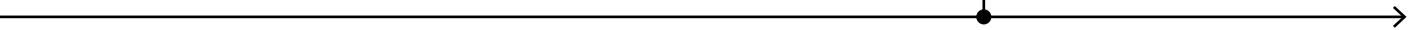


- _ gather democracy key stakeholders from all over Europe
- _ present a set of tools to observe, listen, discuss, understand, ideate, etc, to make the most of the Democracy Festivals
- _ set up a methodology to launch the democratic summer

- 14 - 17th of June : Folkemødet, Denmark
- 29 - 30th of June : Sarunu Festivalis LAMPA, Latvia
- 01 - 08th of July : Almedalsveckan, Sweden
- 16 - 20th of July : SuomiAreena, Finland
- 10 - 11th of August : Arvamusfestival, Estonia
- 13 - 18th of August : Arendalsuka, Norway:
- 07 - 08th of September : Diskusiju Festivalis "Butent"!, Lithuania:
- 07 - 08th of September : LYSA, Iceland

22 SEPTEMBER

Jubel Festival (prototype)



_ use those tools to gather ideas, opinions, goals, needs from the European stakeholders and citizens accross all the festivals and the European movements

_a first prototype as a discussion and reflexion on innovative or reinvented spaces for a re-energized democracy, with as main focus:

- the concept of democracy festival, explaining what exists and how it works and what the potential is for such a festival at the European level
- the concept of captation tools as new ways to capture the feeling and the real issues of the people.

Jubel festival

Location



This first prototype on September 22 will take place in the Léopold park. As from 2019, the festival will move to Parc du Cinquantenaire (or Jubelpark). This is a large public, urban park (30 hectares) in the eastern part of the European Quarter in Brussels, Belgium.





“ Show it, don't tell it. “

Jubel festival

programming

Following examples illustrate the type of events that will be programmed during the Jubel festival:

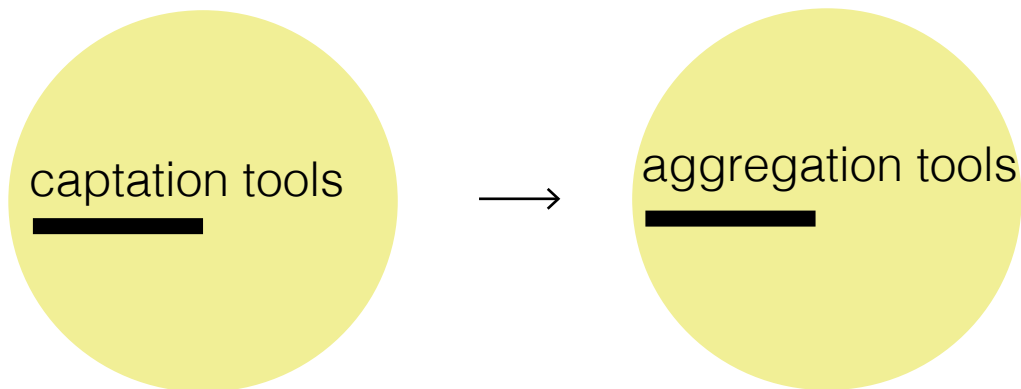
- _ a conversation on stage on the question on a conversation culture in Europe: turn the European Institutions into listening bodies?
- _ some pecha-kucha like input on why we need democracy
- _ Debate between reprz of the political groups
- _ Positive Populism: Talking about Europe in a populist way
- _ the Origins of Euroskepticism throughout Europe
- _ a multicultural picnic
- _ European quizz

The Jubel festival will be composed of a **main stage**, a **civil society village**, a **European canteen** where more informal conversation formats will take place, a set of **captation tools** and several **expositions** in relation to European Democracy (Festivals). One of these expositions will be the **“European circuit”**, a visual summary of the visits of the Jubel team members to the festivals this summer.

Jubel festival

The awaited structured output

The debates and workshops being led at the national level in the various festivals will result in a double set of outcome.



> The results of the discussions will make up a **catalogue of ideas (attitudes, methodologies and processes, tools)** for developing Europe in the direction of a **greater participation of the citizens.**

> The results of the discussions will make up a **catalogue of themes and topics** that are relevant to Europeans and need to be addressed by the European authorities when they are neglected, or need new innovative approaches when old ones have produced poor results in the past (such as defense - migration - climate change: how to bridge the gap between international agreements, national targets and practical actions - Artificial Intelligence: are smart cities the way to answer to the challenge of artificial intelligence / is AI a trump or a threat for smart cities and smart CITY-zens - financial systems, etc.)

This index will be interactive and openly available for people to consult and add their own ideas to it.

Achievements -findings

Kick-off event June 2018

The kick-off event was organised in the Leopold park in Brussels and was conceived as a mini-festival with invited guests.

These guests consisted of a mix of European movements, representatives from the national democracy festivals and representatives of the European Institutions; all people who have an added-value in the co-creation process towards a European Democracy Festival (ownership to the participants). The “family and friends” we need to help bring



MAIN FINDINGS_

_ Jubel should go to the festivals in 2018 with a modest ambition: visiting, discovering, meeting and speaking with people, capturing the general feeling.

_ Jubel should not be merely about politics, but about society in general, about culture and people.

_ Jubel should have a definite laboratory function. It should create ownership among the participants, which is the best way to ensure that Jubel becomes perennial.

_ What could be Jubel's own output? : „What change would you like Europe to be for you and in the world and how could Jubel contribute to that change?“:

_ Jubel could help create a new room for democratic discussion and collective intelligence, unseen so far at the European level.

_ Jubel could help transform the EU institutions into better listening bodies.

_ Jubel could contribute to spreading the phenomenon of democracy festivals throughout Europe and elsewhere.

Achievements -findings

Jubel present at the Folkemødet festival in Denmark

Throughout the summer, Jubel will visit the existing democracy festivals in order to capture data, impressions, tools to be shown at the Jubel festival. By means of discussions on the Folkemødet festival in Denmark, following findings must be emphasized and added to the ambitions of the Jubel festival.

MAIN FINDINGS_

_ The need to bring Europe to the existing festivals, rather than merely bringing Europeans to Brussels. Representation of the EU institutions and activities focusing on European themes were indeed absent from this Festival.

_ Jubel may play a role in assisting EU institutions to communicate to and with EU citizens
National Festivals are the natural relays of Europe to its citizens

_ The Youth should be particularly targeted, especially young people engaged in more technical work/studies or apprentices..



“In my opinion, Jubel should naturally become the second festival for every country-based festival. We can’t let Europe be made by others and then complain that it’s being made without us”

- *Zakia Elvang, coordinator Platform of the Democracy Festivals -*

Organisers

Organizing Committee - founders



Alain Deneef is an independent board of directors and a coalition builder. He has had a long career at the helm of big corporations. He is now a consultant in urban design and public policies. He serves on the board of numerous associations in the domain of citizenship, education and sport. A board member of Stand Up for Europe since 2016, he has become president in 2018. He is president of Jubel.



Sven Lenaerts is involved since 5 years in several coalitions aiming to redynamise urban districts in the Brussels Region, after a career of 13 years in the private sector. He is project manager for the European Quarter Fund, an enterprise fund managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, manager of the urban lab eQuama (European Quarter Area Management Association) and consultant for the non-profit association Up4North. He is secretary general of Jubel.



Henri Malosse has been the 30th President of the European Economic and Social Committee (2013-2015). Activist of Europe, he has been member of the board of the Association of French chambers of commerce and Industry and its representative to the European Union. He is the founder of the European Enterprises Network (EEN, former Euro Info center) and co-founder and vice president of the SME Union by the European People's Party. He has received the "Legion d'Honneur" in October 2014 from the former President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.



Hélène Decottigny is LLM Student in European Law at the European Studies Institute of the ULB. For several years, she has been committed to the European cause through activism in different pro-European organisations. Current president of the European Student Newspaper, Eyes on Europe, she has also been working on several projects within Stand Up for Europe at both local and supranational level. To her, education towards Europe and empowerment of EU citizens are the core challenges the European Union needs to address in order to develop and prosper.



Benjamin de Vanssay holds a Master in Law and has a strong interest in European business and tax law. An active member in Stand Up for Europe since 2014, he is the co-founder of Students for Europe and coordinator of the Back to school+ project. Since 2018, he is secretary general of Stand Up for Europe. He is also Secretary General of e-Change, a Belgian think-and-do-tank focussing on Belgian politics.



Bálint Gyévai defines himself as European federalist and social liberal. He is an active and positive young political scientist, finishing his master degree in European Studies at the ULB in Brussels. Born in Budapest, he is both Hungarian and Belgian. He has been International Officer of FEL (Fédération des Etudiants libéraux) for the last 3 years and he was the secretary general of the citizen movement, Stand Up for Europe for the last 2 years. He is currently intern at the European Liberal Forum and strongly involved in LYMEC (European Liberal Youth)



Jules Bejot holds a master degree in European Studies at the ULB in Brussels. A board member and project coordinator of Stand Up for Europe from 2016 to 2018, he works at the Migration Policy Group. In this capacity, he is the coordinator of a European Citizens Initiative on migration. He manages the campaign strategy and coordinates the campaign at the national level.



Elisabet Valverde Pérez, graduated in Communication Management, arrives from Spain to contribute with a digital approach to the spread of the Jubel's initiative. As communication manager, she has run diferents projects in social media with a wide range of thematics, such as maternity and childhood, underground music, cultural magazines. Besides, she is member of Stand Up for Europe and active in the current trends in Europe through differents volunteering in events as the Crowdsourcing Week, about circular economy and collaborative ideas. Nowadays, she is working in the launch of a new Máster degree in Neuromarketing applied

to the communication, in collaboration with the University of Málaga and the private communication shool of Granada, ESCO.

The organising Committee relies on the support and the endorsement of the Democracy Festival Community, coordinated by We Do Democracy.

Partners

Confirmed or interested partners/ supporters or sponsors

Institutional & related

At EU level:

Committee of the Regions
European Economic and Social Committee
European Commission (representation in Belgium)

At Member States' level:

Secrétariat Général aux consultations citoyennes (France)
Brussels Region
Nordic Council

Chancellery of the Prime Minister (Belgium)

Political groups & affiliated organizations

Diem25
Foundation for European Progressive Studies
Socialists & Democrats Group in the European Parliament
Young European Greens

Civil Society

Festivals :

D'RAN festival
Democracy Festivals Platform
Lampa Festival - Foundation for an Open Society DOTS
Folkemødet
Almedalsveckan
SuomiAreena

Others :

Democratic Society
Delors Institute

U4U

European Future Forum
European Movement
Eyes on Europe
European Youth Forum
European Youth Parliament
Europeum Institute for European Policy - Think Visegrad
LYMEC
Migration Policy Group
Stand Up for Europe
Union of European Federalists (UEF)
Volt Europa
Young European Federalists (JEF)
Young European Federalists Brussels (JEF Belgium)
WhyEurope

Private foundations

King Baudouin Foundation
Bertelsmann Stiftung
DAFNE (Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe)
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
Open Society Foundation

Media

We Love Brussels
Politico
The Word

Companies

Missions Publiques
Vraiment Vraiment
Whyte

Jubel festival

Where can you find us?

www.jubelfestival.eu



Jubel_European Democracy Festival



Jubel_Festival



Jubel_Festival

Jubel festival

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Notes

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