1. **INTRODUCING THE PROPOSAL**

Agora Ciudadana is a project aimed to commemorate Europe Day with citizenship participation as the heart of the proposal. Taking as reference the mission and vision of our organization, and the context of the elections to the European Parliament and, in Spain, the municipal and regional elections too, we propose an initiative of commitment and citizen reflection that sensitizes people, from the local level, about the importance of participation, not only with the electoral horizon in sight, but as an everyday act of which we are protagonists as part of a community.

Agora Ciudadana is part of the eCivis experience celebrating Europe Day as a meeting point for citizens to debate from the local on topics of interest to European citizens. In the previous editions we talked about Social Innovation, the City, Cultural Heritage ... always from a context that added synergies between local and european. From the collaboration of the citizens, we have managed to bring together professionals from different fields, participating and co-creating together, putting Getxo on the map of the cities and towns of Europe that commemorate May 9th.

**Objectives**

The main objective in this V Edition is to give voice to citizens before and outside the polls, to promote and weave networks between active participation processes, at a local and European level. For this, we pursue the following specific objectives:

* + - 1. Favor the debate between the MEPs and the citizens, bringing the daily life of the European institutions closer to the local environment, to show the proximity and interconnection between both.
1. To disclose experiences of participation at local and European level, from a gender perspective, which favors co - creation processes and the creation of networks and new projects.
2. To promote in parallel a face-to-face space and also a virtual space for debate and reflection, where the impressions of the people in their relationship with Europe are collected, so as to depersonalize the European and give meaning to why they participate in the elections.

**Context**

Why do we think that our project is necessary to achieve our goal? Because we think that the concept of citizen participation has been perverted with the passage of time. From being something innovative, something refreshing in the way of doing politics and relating to citizenship, it has become something else, institutionalized, bureaucratic and again, far away for people. This is in addition to the current situation of the European Union, where if the institutional framework seems distant to citizenship, now it is therefore, suspicious and retrograde for many people. It is necessary to value the European, from its origins, recovering the founding values and putting citizenship at the center.

For this reason we want to bring to light the experiences of participation that allow us to see that it is possible to participate in a conscious, creative and constructive way in public affairs, and also to connect it with the process of European construction, so that we can weave a bridge between what is really participating, and the need to also demonstrate it in the context of the elections, which are a point and followed by the citizen's commitment.

1. **FORESEEN ACTIVITIES**



In the case of the Workshop (round table) on experiences of participation and citizenship at European and local level, the following provisional group of participants is proposed:

* CitizensForEurope , as a web platform of union between associations in Europe to promote joint actions, with very interesting projects in terms of participation at European level.
* Bentaranoa , second prize Red NovaGob Awards 2018. Local participation project, which seeks the activation of a neighborhood of Getxo from the recovery of an emblematic building by the hands of neighbors.
* Mikel Uriguen , representative of District 7, association of one of the neighborhoods of Bilbao, with different experiences of citizen participation.
* Cristina Almeida, Spanish lawyer and politician, ex-deputy of the Congress, as a profile to look at the participation from the female empowerment.
1. **COLLABORATIONS**

At this time, and for the development of the project, we are working with the following organizations:

* Eur getxo . Non-profit organization located in Getxo, which seeks debate and knowledge around the EU, participates in the project assuming the coordination of the kick-off session with MEPs at the University of Deusto.
* -Centre of European Documentation UPV-EHU.
* -City of Bilbao. District 7. This organization, which leads different participation processes in Bilbao, participates in the round table with the role of moderating organization of the debate.
* City council of Getxo, that facilitates the spaces for the round table, as well as for the open agora in the local square.

However, in this phase of definition, we are in talks with other organizations that can lend their support and support to the planned actions. In addition, it is scheduled to request the High Patronage of the European Parliament, awarded to eCivis in the four previous editions of Europe Day.