

march 2025

During the consultation organised in Paris in March 2025, the citizens of **Île-de-France** (France) shared their views on environment, EU integration, and the Rule of Law, exploring potential synergies that could shape future decision-making and policies.



Participation Overview



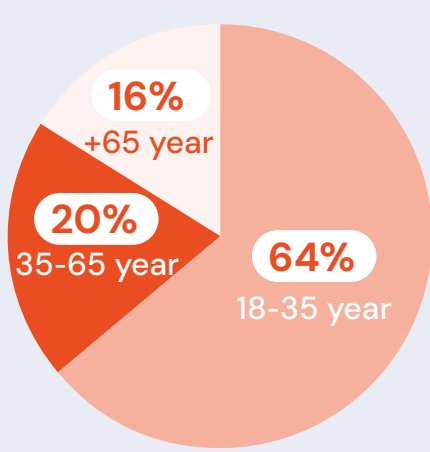
PARIS



25 citizens took part in the discussions

♂ 52%

♀ 48%



Despite initially opposing positions (between pro-Europeans and eurosceptics), all of the proposals reached a consensus, thanks to intensive collective discussion.

1 Rule of Law

Citizens perceived Rule of Law both as a **complex notion**, and as a **fundamental principle** of the EU that will need to be protected in the framework of future enlargements. The intertwining of the Rule of Law with the European level has raised many questions about the **democratic legitimacy of the EU**.



Identified Problems



Lack of understanding of the notion



Double standards in the imposition of sanctions



Distrust against Brussels



Enlargement will weaken EU Rule of Law standards

Proposed solutions



Pedagogy in schools, universities and media



Need for coherence and better communication with citizens



Enhanced European civic education, through a "European citizens handbook"



Mechanisms to ensure the commitment to Rule of Law continues after accession

2 Environment

Citizens stressed the importance of **pedagogy** when it comes to environment, but also of the green transition to be inclusive. They saw the EU as a potential **leader in the transition**, should it manage to preserve its **competitiveness**. They also agreed that this topic should be at the heart of EU accession negotiations.



Identified Problems



Powerlessness feeling in face of the challenges



High cost of transition for smaller countries, and fear that it can cost the EU its competitiveness



Lack of coherence within the EU



Fear of set-backs with future enlargements

Proposed solutions



Targeted communication campaigns to make the transition socially inclusive



Increased financial support to countries less advanced in the transition, and more unity for the EU to become a leader



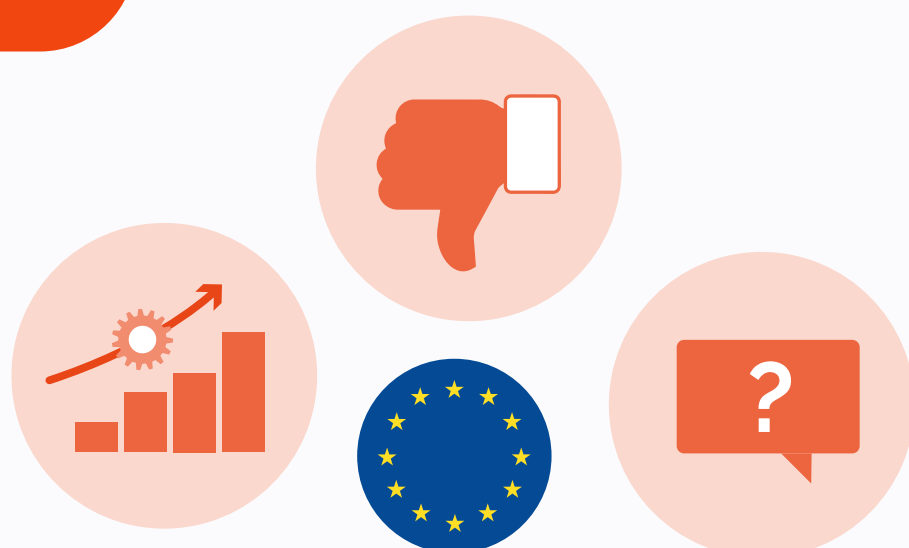
Better coordination between EU institutions and member states to avoid contradictions



Need to ensure that candidates countries align to strict environmental norms

3 EU integration/Enlargement

While many recognized the **EU's attractiveness** and the necessity of a **coherent integration project**, they also highlighted its increasing complexity. **Past enlargements were often viewed as failures**, raising a series of questions on the future enlargements.



Identified Problems



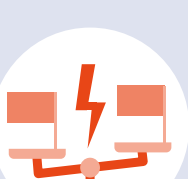
Disinformation around EU accession process



Rigid enlargement process



Lowering of EU democratic standards



Unfair competition from new member states

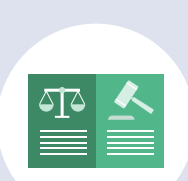
Proposed solutions



Make EU funding impact more visible to the public, and create social media campaigns to explain the benefits of EU enlargement



Gradual accession model for countries to progressively get EU benefits



Focus put on Rule of Law in the accession process



Alignment on higher environmental standards to avoid unfair competition and maintain the transition's objectives



Funded by the European Union

This infographic is produced within the Reinventing Engagement through Affirmative Citizen Consultations (REACH) project. Project is supported by the European Union, through the program "Europe for Citizens" of the Education, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the EACEA. Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

For more information please, visit mladiriini.org

