European Commission

Young Citizens Assembly on Pollinators

Information Kit

YOUNG CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON POLLINATORS: Information Kit

By ifok GmbH and Missions Publiques SAS

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Bombus spp
Picture by JimmyR.
iStockphoto

Dear young European citizen,
You are about to join 99 other young citizens from across the European Union to discuss pollinators and biodiversity conservation in this Young Citizens Assembly on Pollinators. Welcome! To ensure that you are more prepared for this unique experience, we have written a short information kit to introduce you to the topic, the process, and present you with important practical information. We hope it will prove useful to you!

In this printed information kit, you will find in more details:

CHAPTER 1
A brief introduction to the topic of pollinators - what they are, why they are important, and what the EU is doing to protect them from decline.

CHAPTER 2
An overview of your journey in this Young Citizens Assembly - how the process will unfold, what will be your role, and what you will be working on together.

CHAPTER 3
Ideas and tips on how to ensure respectful and fruitful discussions.

CHAPTER 4
Practical information regarding who to contact regarding travels, accommodation, getting around, as well as an overview of "who's who" in the organisation team.

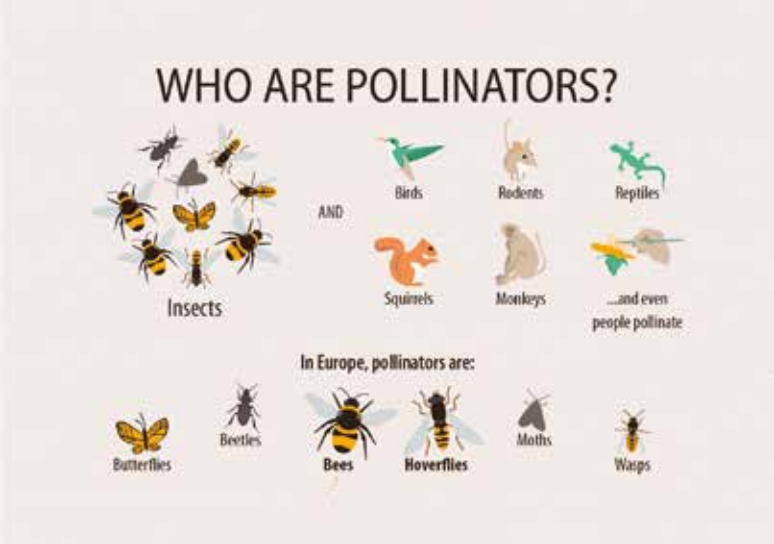
CHAPTER 5
A Glossary in case you are lost with all the words and concepts we will be using!

All the information contained in this information kit can be found online on your private space in the Citizens Engagement Platform. Scan the QR code to get access!

1/Chapter
What we will be talking about?

LET'S START WITH THE FIRST QUESTION: WHAT ARE POLLINATORS?

You may associate pollinators with bees, but there are many more. They include all the animals that transfer pollen between the male and female flowers of plants. This process is called **pollination**, and it is essential for the functioning of nature and the growth of much of the food we eat. It supports biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and a stable food supply. In Europe, these animals are primarily insects such as bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths, wasps, and beetles.



Infographic showing who pollinators are

Around 80% of European crops and wild flowering plants need animal pollination, at least to some extent. This group includes crops like apples, berries, pumpkins, watermelons, beans, tomatoes, and oilseed rape. Also, many imported crops important for modern European diets, such as coconut, mangoes, soybeans, cocoa beans, and coffee depend on animal pollination. Pollinators help meat, dairy, and fish farming too by ensuring the production of their feed.

Pollinators help improve the size, weight, quality, and shelf life of the fruits and vegetables we eat. Animal pollinated **crops are generally much richer in essential nutrients** compared to staple crops. Many essential vitamins and minerals and other micronutrients are only available to us because of the work of pollinators.

It is not surprising, then, that **pollinators also help create jobs and income, especially for crops that are highly dependent on animal pollination.** They boost farm productivity and help to sustain jobs in farming, food processing, and distribution. For some crops, such as apples and berries, the direct contribution of pollinators can amount to the half of the farm profits.

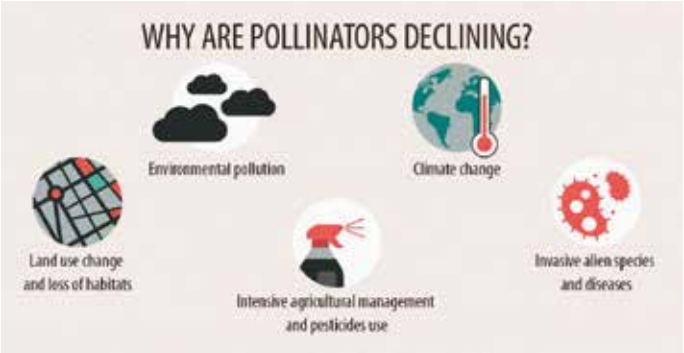
SO, NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND HOW ESSENTIAL THEY ARE, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

As we speak, pollinators across Europe are in serious decline. It is estimated that:

- **1 in 3** bee, butterfly and hoverfly species is in decline;
- **1 in 10** bee and butterfly species is threatened with extinction;

Pollinators decline can disrupt food cycles and directly impact the survival of other animal species. This in combination with the direct negative impacts on pollinator-dependent plants, can trigger cascading effects in ecosystems. **If pollinator species go extinct, we would see far-reaching ecological, economic and social consequences.**

The main causes of these declines? Land-use change, intensive agricultural management and pesticide use, environmental pollution, invasive alien species and climate change.



Infographic: key facts about the economic impact of bees and other pollinators.

Source: What's behind the decline in bees and other pollinators?, European Parliament.

AND WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN UNION (HEREAFTER: EU) DOING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM?

In line with its competences and capacities, the EU put ahead multiple actions to reverse the decline of pollinators. Here are five EU flagship initiatives to help you better understand what the EU is doing:

1. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 sets ambitious goals to halt biodiversity loss, including legally protecting 30% of EU land and sea, restoring degraded ecosystems, and reversing pollinator decline by 2030. It frames biodiversity as central to the EU's climate, health, and economic resilience policies.

2. The EU Pollinators Initiative (2018, revised 2023) is the first EU-wide policy focused specifically on pollinators, identifying key action fields for reversing their decline, such as addressing knowledge gaps, reducing pressures like pesticides and habitat loss, and mobilising public and institutional support across all sectors.

3. The Nature Restoration Regulation (2024) sets legally binding targets to restore nature on at least 20% of EU land and sea by 2030, with a specific requirement for reversing the decline of pollinators by 2030 and beyond. It also creates an obligation for monitoring pollinators in order to establish a solid basis for quantifying the trends in their developments.

4. The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supports measures to achieve sustainable agriculture – one that will ensure stable food supply, safeguard farmers' income and protect the environment. This support, among other things, can be used by EU Member States for agroecological approaches and measures such as organic farming, and conservation and restoration of natural habitats.

5. The EU pesticide legislation sets comprehensive rules for the approval of active substances and the subsequent authorisation of plant protection products (i.e. pesticides). It also aims to ensure the sustainable use of pesticides once the pesticide is authorised and utilised.

Policies and actions to protect pollinators span across several policy areas, including biodiversity, agriculture, health and food safety, and regional and urban development, which implies different actors working on different topics at several administrative levels.

SO, HOW ARE THE DECISIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

In the following weeks, we will often speak about the governance of biodiversity (of which pollinators are an essential part). Governance refers to the rules, processes, and structures through which decisions are made, and actions are coordinated. The EU's governance system is complex, as it brings together 27 Member States within a unique supranational framework.

The EU policymaking is led by its main institutions:

- **The European Commission** acts as the executive body. It is headed by 27 Commissioners, each from a different Member State, and one President. It proposes legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, who then negotiate to adopt these proposals. The European Commission's role is to ensure that the EU law is well implemented and respected in line with the Treaties;

- **The European Parliament** is one of the two legislative bodies of the EU. It is composed of directly elected representatives from all EU Member States, who negotiate and vote on new laws;

- **The Council of the European Union** is the other legislative body. It gathers ministers from each Member State working on a specific topic - for example, environment - and can also negotiate and adopt laws, jointly with the European Parliament;

- **The European Council** is composed of the leaders of Member States (either presidents or prime ministers) and defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU.

The competences of the European institutions depend on the topic:

- Sometimes the EU is the only one that can create new rules. It is the case on issues related to customs union, competition rules, trade, monetary policy for the Eurozone, among others. In such cases, we speak about **exclusive competence** of the EU.

- Sometimes, both the EU and Member States can act, but EU law takes precedence on issues related to the environment, agriculture, energy, transport and research, among others. In this case we can speak about **shared competences**.

- In some cases, the EU is only allowed to coordinate or support national action without making binding laws. This includes such topics as education, culture, and tourism, among others. We call that **supporting competences**.

The form of EU legislation determines how policies are implemented: regulations are directly applicable in all Member States without the need for national laws while directives establish binding goals but allow countries to decide how to implement them in national laws.

Aside from those institutions, there is also a broad network of stakeholders. These include businesses, industry groups, NGOs, civil society organizations, and citizens. Stakeholders influence decision-making through formal and informal channels such as lobbying, consultations, and advocacy.

So with regard to biodiversity (and thus pollinators), this means that the EU and its Member States share responsibility. The EU sets over-arching goals and policies, while Member States decide how to imple-ment them. Thus, the implementation of biodiversity policies requires coordination between the EU, national, regional and local authorities.

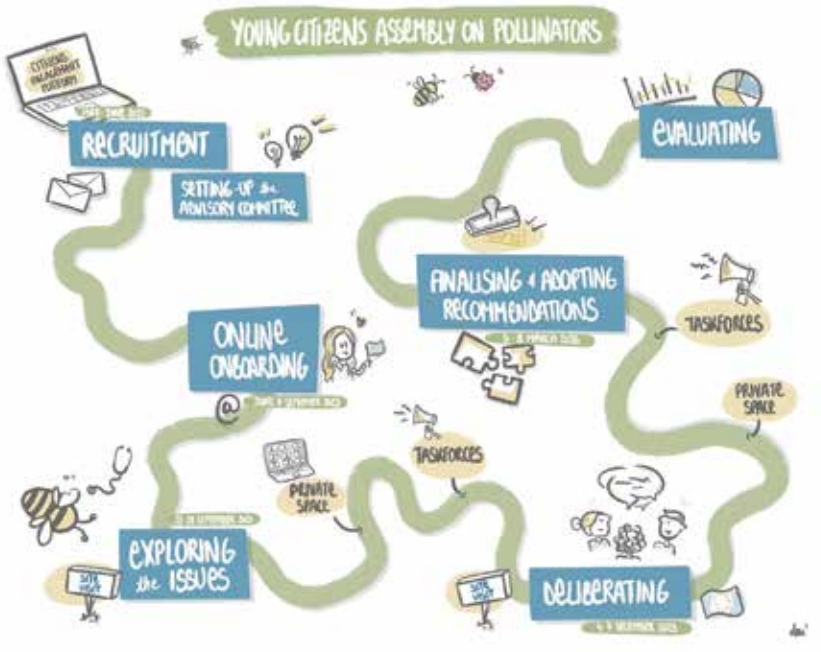
2/Chapter
And concretely, your journey?

A DELIBERATIVE PROCESS

The adventure you have signed up for will unfold for 7-8 months, with three on-site sessions in Brussels. During these three weekends, you will learn from experts and deliberate with other young citizens from all over Europe. Your mission? Developing two sets of recommendations, each answering one of the following questions:

1. "What do we need to do now to reverse the decline of pollinators?".
You will draft recommendations on actions we need to take now – and when we say "we" it means everyone, including citizens, businesses, governments, the EU etc. – to reverse the decline of pollinating insects.

2. "What role should young Europeans play in biodiversity governance to best support these actions?".
You will propose how this Assembly should function if it were to be established as a permanent, independent body: How should it look? Who should be involved? How should it collaborate with other institutions?



SESSION 1 (26-28 September 2025):
The objective of this first session is for you to have a better understanding of the current state of play on pollinators decline and biodiversity governance in the EU, including important actors and obstacles to action. On this basis, you will set the agenda for the next two sessions.

SESSION 2 (5-7 DECEMBER 2025):
The objective of this second session is to dive into the obstacles identified in Session 1 by exploring and evaluating a range of concrete solutions.

SESSION 3 (6-8 MARCH 2026):
The objective of this final session is to finalise policy recommendations addressed to each governance level and think on how to best mobilise other young people. By then, you will also be familiar with how an assembly works, and you will be able to reflect and make recommendations on how to improve this Young Citizens Assembly.

These outcomes of your discussions will be shared with the relevant EU institutions, national public authorities and stakeholders (such as civil society organisations and business associations). You will have a chance to discuss your recommendations with people working in these organisations to see how your ideas can contribute to policies and actions to protect pollinators.

ENRICHING THE JOURNEY

But your engagement should not be limited to the on-site sessions. You are encouraged to continue collaborating with your Assembly fellows in between the sessions, working on specific issues of your interest. Another way to remain engaged is to join on a voluntary basis a task force for keeping the work and energy going in between the sessions. The idea is to involve you in the process of shaping and running key aspects of the Assembly, thus giving you the opportunity to improve its quality and its impact. There are four task forces and they will be largely self-organised by its members, with support of the organization team.

The 4 task forces are:

- **COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE:** to help shape and share the Assembly's messages by creating content, guiding communication strategies and creating the story about the process.

- **ARTISTIC EXPRESSION TASK FORCE:** to present the Assembly and its work in a more creative and artistic way.

- **EVALUATION TASK FORCE:** to evaluate and improve the Assembly throughout the duration of the project.

- **FOLLOW-UP TASK FORCE:** to engage with policymakers and to advocate for the adopted recommendations.

Each task force will meet once on-site during each session, and at least once online between consecutive sessions. To acknowledge your participation, you will be given an Open Badge, which is a verifiable, portable, and shareable digital award demonstrating specific skills, knowledge, or achievements. You will be given more information about this during the first session.

We have established a private space only for the participants of the assembly on the Citizens' Engagement Platform of the European Commission. You first need to create an account in order to connect to it. Once registered, you will find on it:

- The What's New section provides quick information and reminders about the project, as well as fun facts about pollinators and invitations to activities to help you start exploring the topic.

- The Resources section contains a more comprehensive and interactive version of this information kit with more details and content.

- The task forces section is a space where you can exchange ideas and discuss things between sessions with members of your task forces.

- The Contributions section can be used if you or the organization team want to interact with the rest of the Assembly quickly in between sessions.

Scan the QR code below to get access!

Criorhina asilica
Picture by Frank Vassen

European Peacock Butterfly
(Aglais io). Chiny, Belgium.
Picture by Gregoire Dubois.

BECOME AN AMBASSADOR OF THE ASSEMBLY

As a member of this Assembly, you can contribute to raise awareness and inform a wider audience about your experience of deliberation in Brussels and how EU politics impacts your community.

You can **communicate about your journey** by sharing your experience on the social media, giving an interview, or writing an article. During the process, you may cross roads with journalists we will invite, or maybe in your country there are some local newspapers interested in the fact that you are in Brussels taking part in an EU project. The following questions might inspire you in telling your Assembly story:

- ***How do you experience the start of the session?***
- ***Who do you meet?***
- ***What particularly impresses you?***
- ***What are you learning?***
- ***How do you experience the Assembly from your perspective?***
- ***How do you arrive in Brussels and explore the EU Institutions?***
- ***What do you learn during the field trips?***
- ***How do you experience this new form of active citizenship?***

If you have any questions or would like to prepare, we will be happy to support you and if you give an interview or a presentation in your country, don't hesitate to share it with us on the contributions section in your private space. Here are the persons you can contact:

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Anne Balzer
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E-Mail: anne.balzer@ifok.de

BECOME ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The European Commission has created guidelines for citizens on pollinator conservation. This document provides **ideas on actions for pollinators** that you and your friends or family can take in your daily lives.

Complementary to this, the Commission has also developed a **citizen engagement toolkit** on the topic of pollinators and their decline, providing you support on how to organize participatory events and processes on this topic yourself! The toolkit includes extensive **guidelines on the organisation of participatory processes, a selection of co-creation activities and templates for participatory workshops.** All these are based on several projects carried out over the last few years, many of which were developed and implemented by and with young people. Citizen engagement and pollinators | CoP CC on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy

Finally, as well as the private space available to you on the Citizens' Engagement Platform, there is also a **public space** where citizens from across the European Union can contribute. This way, all citizens can take part in the debate on this topic, which can provide you with information on the ideas, experiences and opinions of people from across the EU. **Go have a look at the existing contributions** (using the QR-code below) and **invite your family and friends to contribute!** Note that you must create an account to be able to contribute.

3 / Chapter

What you need to know to ensure a successful deliberation

SO HOW WILL IT WORK?

The formats of this Young Citizens Assembly will include plenaries and small group discussions. **Plenaries** are a format during which all participants gather in a more formal setting to listen to experts and high-level speakers. Those plenaries are also planned for you to present your working group discussions, vote and adopt your collective sets of recommendations. Aside from the plenaries, you will work with your fellow Assembly members in **smaller groups**. These will be designed to create the best conditions to discuss, debate, and work on specific topics with other participants – and sometimes also with experts. Guided by an experienced facilitator, you will be exchanging ideas, critically reflecting and formulating draft proposals, which will be consolidated throughout the three sessions to produce your final recommendations.

In the Assembly, just like more broadly in a democracy, very diverse people come together with their own stories, perspectives, characters and communication styles. This **diversity** can become a great strength, which will help you develop impactful recommendations that speak to a broad spectrum of young European citizens and take into consideration many different needs and preferences. To achieve this, it is crucial that each and every one of you contributes to a positive working atmosphere characterised by high engagement and a respectful, curious attitude. We propose you the following discussion rules and principles to lead to better exchanges and, thus, the development of better solutions.

1. **I will be present:** I will actively listen to other members of the Assembly. This means that I will refrain from interrupting when others are speaking and from multi-tasking.

2. **I will engage fully**, reminding myself that I am here because I want to and because I have valuable things to contribute to the discussions. I will dare to reflect on my beliefs and their assumptions, engaging critically with experts' inputs and other Assembly members' ideas (more on this below).

3. **I will make and take space:** If I notice that I am talking more than others, I will step aside to give them the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Likewise, I will muster the courage to speak up, even when I am unsure how my idea will be received.

4. **I will expect the best of people:** I will listen with curiosity and an open mind. I will ask questions to clarify what others mean and try to understand their perspective, even if they differ from my own, recognising that no one person holds the truth.

5. **I will express my disagreement respectfully, seeking good compromises:** I will refrain from attacking individuals. I will focus on tackling the problem at hand, viewing disagreement as a chance to challenge my assumptions, learn, and find better solutions collectively. I will not shy away from defending my position but will do so by offering thoughtful counterpoints. I will work towards solutions where more voices are heard.

6. **I will not discriminate** on the basis of gender, age, race, (dis)ability, sexuality, class, ethnicity, education, religion, and any other grounds. I will recognise all other members as worthy of contributing to the discussion and be aware of my own privileges.

7. **I will be open to changing my mind:** Through engaging in an open discussion, you might encounter opinions and arguments you never heard before and that you will find convincing. While it might be emotionally difficult to change your mind, it is part of the attitude that is essential in deliberation.

You will have to make a conscious effort to **maintain this attitude**, especially when you feel tired or have the impression that others are not embracing it. Don't worry, a group facilitator will be there to help you apply these principles and rules, and the **Advisory Committee** will be available in case a conflictual situation arises (see below)! And remember, the aim is not only to reach a compromise, but more to ensure that everyone has had a chance to express their point of view, and that these points of view

are considered. Please note that there are different ways to express yourself aside from the discussions (by writing, drawing, storytelling...), and we will guide the discussions and use certain methodologies to help you build your arguments as individuals and as a group.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE CRITICALLY WITH OTHERS' POSITIONS AND REFLECT ON MINE?

When you discuss the topic of pollinators with your fellow participants and the experts or stakeholders, you will see that there are different – sometimes conflicting – views and narratives regarding many topics. Among these, people might think differently for instance about how we consider pollinators, other animals and nature in general. Some people might say that 'all nature is just a resource that we can use as we like', while others will say that 'we should respect animals in the same way that we respect other people'. Sometimes, people will not say these things explicitly, but assumptions like these will influence the arguments they make or the things they decide to focus on. In light of this, we encourage you to hone your **critical thinking** skills so you can reflect better on your own ideas and what you hear from others.

Critical thinking is a crucial skill for developing your own opinions and engaging in discussions involving several perspectives. And this is exactly what you will need to do when developing recommendations as part of the Assembly. Critical thinking involves reflecting on the reasons behind our beliefs (what assumptions and values underpin them?) and consistently questioning whether ideas are logical, well-reasoned and free from hidden biases (such as ignoring certain problems).

Regarding the statement "we should respect animals the same way we respect other people", you could ask yourself:

- **How do I currently treat animals?**
  How is it different from the way I treat people?
  Do I treat all animals in the same way?
  Where do these differences come from?

- **On what basis do we respect humans?**
  For instance, is it because of their capacity to feel, to express their desires, because we believe they have rights or because of the relationships we have with them?

- **Do some of these arguments apply also to animals?**
  If yes, why do we treat animals differently?

- **How would the world look if we all respected animals the same way we respect people?**
  Does the way we treat animals now lead to some problems?

Napoleon spider (Synema globosum) with Mining bee prey (Andrena hattorfiana). Picture by Frank Vassen.

Adopt this position not only regarding your own thoughts, but also towards other citizens and speakers. Returning to the statement that 'all nature is a resource we can use as we like', consider where this view comes from and the arguments and positions underlying it.

- **Who is saying this? Does this person represent an interest?**

- **What arguments have they put forward? Are they logical?**
  Are there any gaps in the reasoning?

- **Are there some problematic consequences of accepting the arguments?**

- **Can you relate the arguments to your personal experience?**

- **How does this person react to counter-arguments?**

- **Are any interests or individuals missing from their argument?**

The topic of pollination extends far beyond the realm of insects and flowers. It raises questions about the way we eat, how we manage our green spaces, our economic system, and ultimately event our values. As you will discover, a world without pollinators would be very different. Any arguments you hear during this Assembly are therefore about the kind of world people want to live in. We encourage you to contribute to the debate on wider issues and normative assumptions (like beliefs or values), and not focus solely on the technicalities.

4/ Chapter
Practical information

CONTACT

Our team will be available before and during the sessions for any practical questions you may have (travels, accommodation, getting around Brussels etc...). Please contact us via e-mail: Support-YCAP@youngassembly.eu

ACCOMMODATION

Our team will welcome you on arrival at the **Thon Hotel EU (Rue de la Loi 75, 1000 Brussels)**. A single room, with breakfast and free Wi-Fi has been booked for you. Please refer to your booking confirmation sent by email. Kindly note that you will be responsible for covering the cost of all extras (e.g. minibar, room service, telephone, hotel bar, laundry service, early check-in or late check-out etc.), which will not be covered by the organisers. Please settle all extra expenses directly at the hotel before your departure.

PAYMENT OF A DAILY ALLOWANCE

You will receive a daily allowance of **113 EUR for each day** that you participate in the Assembly sessions in Brussels. You will have to sign the attendance list each day to verify your presence. The payment of the daily allowance will be processed through the European Commission's AGM system. The European Commission will register you in this system, and you will then receive invitations for the physical sessions of the Assembly and the instructions to follow in order to receive the daily allowance. **Please note that you will need a bank account in your name in order to receive the payment.** In case of any issues regarding the daily allowance, please contact the European Commission at EU-POLLINATORS@ec.europa.eu.

ACCESS TO BUILDINGS

The Assembly weekends will take place on the premises of the European Commission in Brussels. Please refer to the agenda for more information on the exact buildings and rooms. The European Commission building is accessible with a Visitor's Pass ('V-pass'). A 'V-pass' will be sent to you via e-mail before the event. **Please don't forget to register via this e-mail to finalise the process and get your V-pass QR code.** The premises of the European Commission are fully accessible for people with disabilities. If you have not received your V-pass before the event, please contact us via e-mail: Support-YCAP@youngassembly.eu

Please note that it may take at least 30 minutes to complete the security check on arrival at the European Commission building. Please have your V-pass, ID card or passport ready as security personnel will ask to see them. All participants:

- **Are required to show a valid passport or ID card before entering the building;**
- **Are required to undergo security controls at the entrance area;**
- **Are advised to carry the invitation letter or any other document clearly indicating their participation (e.g. registration mail)**

HELPDESK

A helpdesk will be located at the entrance of the sessions' rooms. Our staff will assist you and respond to any questions you may have. Internet can be accessed via Wi-Fi hotspots. The passwords will be shared on the day of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

If you have additional questions on the events practical information, please reach out to our **Support-YCAP@youngassembly.eu** or consult our FAQ on the registration page.

Eurasian Hummingbird Hawkmoth
(Macroglossum stellatarum).
Lombardy, Italy.
Picture by Gregoire Dubois.

WHO'S WHO ?

Different teams are working together to set up and run this Assembly. You will meet them all very soon!

The **European Commission** is responsible for the general organisation of the process. Different departments (called Directorates General or DGs for short) are involved: Environment (DG ENV), Communications (DG COMM), the Joint Research Centre (DG JRC), Agriculture (DG AGRI), and Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). **Professional interpreters** from the European Commission will also be involved, to make sure you can speak in your own language.

The **Methodology and Facilitation Team** plays a central role in designing and facilitating the process. The facilitation team will be there to make sure that everyone keeps the objectives of the process in sight, feels comfortable to intervene and is heard.

The **KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION CENTRE (KIC)** includes up to 15 experts, both from within and outside the EU institutions. It serves as an ad-hoc group focused solely on sharing knowledge. During the sessions, these experts will help you deepen your understanding of the topic and the way the EU works.

The **EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP** will perform an official independent evaluation of the process' integrity, and will follow, assess, and provide feedback on the pilot Assembly. They will be there to help us all reflect on how this process and any future similar projects can be improved for the future.

The **OBSERVERS** include staff from EU institutions, researchers, stakeholders and representatives of civil society organisations. They are there to ensure the legitimacy of the process and that everything is organised to the highest standards. But they are also there to learn about this type of democratic innovations and to hear your discussions, which might become an important input to their work. Throughout the whole process, they are there only to observe and will not in any way interfere in your work.

The **LOGISTICS TEAM** is managed by VO Europe and plays a key role in securing your travel to Brussels. They oversee transportation, accommodation and catering, and are there to answer your questions related to these points.

FOCUS ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC)

The **Advisory Committee (AC)** consists of independent experts in citizen deliberation and biodiversity conservation. They oversee the entire process. They advise the European Commission and the Methodology and Facilitation Team to ensure that the Young Citizens Assembly maintains high-quality standards. If problems or conflicts arise, they assist in resolving them (but hopefully it won't happen!). You can contact them anytime during the process if you need to raise an issue. They will be present during the weekends in-person, and you can also reach out to them at **secretariat@polliassembly.eu**.

5 / Glossary

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC) – A group of independent experts in citizen deliberation and biodiversity conservation. They advise the European Commission and the facilitation team to ensure the Assembly maintains high quality standards.

BIODIVERSITY – biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth in general, or the variety of living things in a given ecosystem or region. It covers all living things, ranging between bacteria, plants, animals, and including also humans. Biodiversity plays a vital role in ecosystem services, which are the services that nature supplies to humans. These include pollination, climate regulation, flood protection, soil fertility and the supply of food, fuel, fibre,medicines etc.

CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM (CEP) – An online platform launched by the European Commission where citizens across the EU can share ideas, contribute to consultations, and engage in policy discussions.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) – The EU's agricultural policy that provides financial support to farmers with an aim to achieve sustainable agriculture.

DIRECTIVE – A type of EU legislation that sets binding goals for Member States but allows them to decide how to achieve them through national laws.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) – The EU institution that proposes laws, ensures they are implemented, and represents the EU's overall interests.

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL – The EU's overarching plan to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. It includes in particular biodiversity protection and climate policies.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) – The directly elected body of the EU that debates and adopts laws together with the Council of the EU.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE – Policy areas where only the EU can legislate, e.g. customs union, trade, competition rules.

GOVERNANCE – The system of rules, processes, and structures through which decisions are made and implemented at EU, national, regional, and local levels.

HORIZON EUROPE – The EU's research and innovation funding programme that supports scientific projects, including pollinator and biodiversity studies.

KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION CENTRE (KIC) – A group of experts who share knowledge with participants during the Assembly.

LIFE PROGRAMME – The EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action projects.

NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION (2023) – A law setting legally binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems and habitats across the EU, including those for pollinators.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (NGO) – Independent organisations that represent civil society interests, such as environmental and biodiversity protection, social justice, etc..

OPEN BADGE – A digital, verifiable award recognising skills, knowledge, or achievements gained through participation in activities like the Assembly's taskforces.

POLLINATORS – Animals such as bees, butterflies, hoverflies, moths, beetles, bats, and birds that transfer pollen between flowers, enabling plant reproduction.

REGULATION – A binding EU legal act that applies directly and uniformly in all Member States without the need for national laws.

SHARED COMPETENCE – Policy areas where both the EU and Member States can legislate, but EU law prevails if adopted. Biodiversity and environment fall under this category.

SUPPORTING COMPETENCE – Areas where the EU can only support or coordinate national actions (e.g., education, culture, tourism).

TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (TFEU) – The main treaty outlining the EU's competences, decision-making procedures, and powers.

Publications Office
of the European Union