



CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM DEBATE ON

Intergenerational Fairness



Final consultation report - November 2025

*Analysis conducted and report produced by Make.org.
Platform implemented and moderation carried out by Open Source Politics.*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform the design of an Intergenerational fairness strategy, the European Commission launched a multilingual online consultation on the topic of **intergenerational fairness** on the **Citizens' Engagement Platform**, running from **February to November 2025**. The process accompanied the design of the Strategy, which was divided into four phases: the *scoping phase* (February - April) identified the root causes of intergenerational fairness issues, followed by *vision building* (June - July), developing *strategy ideas* (August - October) and concluding with the *co-creation of the Strategy for Intergenerational Fairness* (October - November).

The Citizens' Engagement Platform collected diverse contributions from across the EU, capturing citizens' perspectives on the key challenges to intergenerational fairness, as well as their concrete and innovative ideas for improving communication between generations and ensuring that the interests of both current and future generations are consistently considered in EU decision-making.

This report summarises the online discussion between February and November 2025 across four broad dimensions and ten specific topics that address the core challenges to intergenerational fairness.

During this consultation, participants highlighted the urgent need to promote **intergenerational solidarity** by creating inclusive spaces for dialogue and combating discrimination, especially ageism. They called for **future-oriented and inclusive governance** that embeds long-term thinking into policymaking, ensuring that today's decisions account for the interests of younger and future generations. Participants emphasised the importance of urgent **climate action** and a transition toward **sustainable economic models** that prioritise long-term wellbeing, while also improving youth employment. They stressed the need for universal access to **high-quality public services** throughout life, advocating stronger care systems, greater recognition of families and communities as support networks, and education reforms that promote lifelong learning.

Overall, they consistently linked these policy areas to broader societal goals, underscoring that social cohesion, environmental and socioeconomic sustainability, long-term governance, and equitable public services must advance together to build a fairer, more cohesive Europe that supports all generations.

1. INTRODUCTION

To support the development of the **Intergenerational fairness strategy**, the European Commission launched a multilingual online consultation on the Citizens' Engagement Platform. Running from **February to November 2025** alongside the European Citizens' Panel on Intergenerational Fairness, this participatory process enabled citizens to share their views and ideas, helping to strengthen solidarity between generations and safeguard the interests and wellbeing of both current and future generations.

The consultation accompanied the design of the Strategy, which was divided into four phases - scoping, vision building, developing strategy ideas, and co-creating the Strategy for Intergenerational Fairness - guiding the process from understanding challenges to defining concrete actions. Across these phases, the consultation platform gathered a total of **179 citizen contributions**, accompanied by **132 comments** and **323 endorsements**.

This report presents an analysis of all contributions collected throughout this participatory process, organised according to the four key **dimensions** identified through the thematic clustering of the most frequently discussed **topics**. These dimensions are: (1) social cohesion and inclusion (2) democracy and governance, (3) environmental and socioeconomic sustainability, and (4) care and education systems.

These dimensions each reflect the three **core challenges** to intergenerational fairness that were identified by the participants: **short-term thinking** (short-term priorities in policy and economics are thought to challenge intergenerational fairness), **exclusion and inequality** (according to the participants, discrimination and unequal access prevent especially young and older people from fully participating in society) as well as **insufficient intergenerational solidarity** (participants explain that weak connections and limited support between generations weaken social cohesion).

First, this report outlines the **methodology**, followed by a **general overview** of participation trends and the results. It then provides a detailed **analysis of each dimension**, discussing every citizens' **topic** and supporting its arguments with illustrative quotes from the Citizens' Engagement Platform. The final chapter summarises the consultation's outcomes and offers brief reflections on them.

2. METHODOLOGY

To analyse the content of the Citizens' Engagement Platform on Intergenerational Fairness¹, a three-step methodology was applied. This approach ensures both the accurate interpretation of citizens' contributions and the meaningful clustering and grouping of ideas, striking a balance between thematic coherence and analytical depth.

STEP 1. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS of the contributions and comments: the primary dimensions of the debate were identified. To do so, the analysis team applied a theme-based, inductive approach, assigning thematic labels to each contribution. This enabled the identification and prioritisation of key subjects raised by citizens.

STEP 2. ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS within the dimensions: a manually conducted qualitative analysis. Contributions were thematically grouped into what are referred to as "citizens' topics", based on the frequency and relevance of themes within each dimension.

STEP 3. COMMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS are taken into account: an additional analysis was carried out on the contributions and comments, where considered appropriate, with a focus on those contributions that were particularly relevant to illustrate the topic and showcase citizens' perspectives.

¹ All contributions are available online as part of the platform's open data files, which can be downloaded for further analysis by anyone interested.

GLOSSARY

Participant. Citizen who has taken at least one action on the platform: contributions, comments, or endorsements.

Contribution. A single idea shared by a participant on the platform.

Comment. The participants' written reactions to an initial contribution. Comments open up a debate based on the initial topic, enabling participants to communicate with each other.

Endorsement. The vote of a participant who wants to support a specific contribution. Some contributions are non-endorsed.

Dimension. A dimension is a headline that merges the thoughts of a large number of contributions.

Citizens' Topic. It is a subcategory of a dimension, composed of several contributions.

3. OVERVIEW

NUMBERS

Overall participation, from 25 February 2025 to 30 November 2025.

- **354 041** pages views (for the entire participatory platform)
- **215 000** visitors (for the entire participatory platform)
- **179** contributions
- **132** comments
- **323** endorsements

ALL DIMENSIONS AND CITIZENS' TOPICS AT A GLANCE

The table below provides an overview of all the identified **dimensions** and **citizens' topics**. Chapter 5. (*In-Depth Analysis*) provides a detailed analysis of all topics. The table also shows the total number of contributions (Σ) that fall into each dimension.*

* Many contributions on the Citizens' Engagement Platform discuss a wide variety of subjects, potentially touching upon several dimensions. Therefore, the total number of contributions in the table below may be greater than the actual total.

DIMENSIONS	Σ	CITIZENS' TOPICS
1. SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION	75	1.1 Promote intergenerational solidarity and create spaces for intergenerational dialogue
		1.2 Combat discrimination and promote equality
2. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE	59	2.1 Expand inclusive participation for intergenerational representation
		2.2 Put long-term and intergenerational thinking at the centre of policymaking processes
3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY	51	3.1 Combat climate change as an intergenerational responsibility
		3.2 Promote future-oriented investment
		3.3 Improve youth employment conditions
		3.4 Ensure decent living conditions for everyone
4. CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS	37	4.1 Strengthen care systems for all ages
		4.2 Expand fair access to quality education

4. MOST ENDORSED CONTRIBUTIONS

Disclaimer: parts of the quotes in this section have been highlighted in **bold** for clarity and emphasis.

Maciej - 26 endorsements

Title: EU Action Plan to Combat Ageism will enable young and old to flourish

Dimension: **SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION**

"To achieve an 'Equality Union', we need to **tackle age discrimination and the structural barriers** that prevent people of all ages from enjoying equality throughout their lives. Challenging **discriminatory narratives and practices**, such as ageism, and reviewing socio-economic policies on the basis of intergenerational solidarity and fairness is vital to deal with a fractured and fragmented society and economy. AGE Platform Europe is calling to embrace **age equality into all European policies and initiatives** to ensure that the needs and aspirations of an ageing society are met: <https://www.age-platform.eu/areas-of-work/age-equality/> It is about conceiving fairness, inclusion and cohesion throughout life and across all areas, in education, employment, health and care, adequate income, civic and political participation etc. Ageing is an opportunity, even more so in times of multiple crises; we can only build resilience and prosperity in a society where people thrive at all ages, where our differences are mutually nourished by respect and solidarity. To achieve age equality, we need an **EU Action Plan to Combat Ageism**. The plan should be an integral part of the EU's Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness, based on human rights, intersectionality, equality and solidarity within and between generations. It should ensure coherence between the EU's and member states' commitments to equal rights for all ages, while contributing to sustainable growth, competitiveness and cohesion."

Nena - 10 endorsements

Title: EU Action Plan to Combat Ageism will strengthen intergenerational fairness

Dimension: **SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION**

"Promoting **equality at all ages** is essential to achieve intergenerational fairness. Ageism is the only ground of discrimination covered by the EU treaties, which has so far been overlooked in the EU's policy landscape. The Intergenerational Fairness Strategy must include a dedicated **Action Plan to Combat Ageism**, which would create a roadmap to eliminate inequalities across the lifecourse and to promote equality for young and old. It would replace ageist narratives with a human rights-based approach, contributing to better enforcement of existing anti-discrimination laws, improved data collection, disaggregated by age and other characteristics. This Action Plan will work hand in hand with the existing EU equality action plans/strategies on gender, disability, LGBTI+, Roma and race enriching EU's intersectional ambition. This strategy will aim to **eliminate any ageist practices** that affect human dignity and the equal enjoyment of fundamental rights at all ages, pulling together the necessary resources for young and old to fulfil their potential and have full and equal access to society. It will steer the EU's attention to the reality of longer lives and the need for fair, inclusive and resilient societies for all generations.

Combating ageism is not only a human rights imperative - it is central to building resilient, inclusive, and just societies."

Cristiny - 10 endorsements

Title: Harmony between present and future generations of all ages using cross-sectoral, long-term and participatory governance

Dimension: **DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE**

"In an EU where generations unite for a flourishing society, people of all ages today live in a peaceful world with a **thriving natural environment and socioeconomic systems** that allow them to live their best lives—they have **access to education, food, and housing**, they can use public transportation and bicycles to get where they are going, they have access to jobs that supply them with **adequate pay** for a good life. At the end of their working life, they have a pension that allows them to live without financial stress. The same is true 50 years from today, as those young people retire and shift from jobs to pensions. The same is true 50 years later as their grandchildren stand in their place. All of this requires policymaking processes to consider the **long-term and cross-cutting impacts of policies** on present and future generations of all ages. To do this, the EU needs to use tools and methods like **strategic foresight and integrated models** to look longer term. Silos need to be bridged between policy areas, and normal non-expert people, especially young people as proxies for generations not yet born, need to be consulted to know their needs, fears, and desires for the world of today and of the future. This engagement needs to be meaningful and have a real impact on policy. Examples of institutions for future generations and intergenerational fairness from around the world can serve as examples for the EU to learn from and to build on."

Lisa - 9 endorsements

Title: Economic system change is needed to deliver intergenerational justice

Dimension: **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

"It's impossible to consider intergenerational fairness without interrogating the design and purpose of our economic system. Our economic system must be transformed into one that is designed to deliver **wellbeing for people and planet**, now and in the future. Today's economic paradigm drives short-termism by telling us that short-term measures of GDP and growth of material wealth are what an economy is for. **Centring wellbeing in economic design and decision-making** means taking a truly long term and preventative approach. Intergenerational Fairness would ensure that the opportunities and resources available for future generations are not harmed or constrained by current economic decisions. The establishment of an EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness has been an important step in this direction, but more work is needed to explicitly connect the agenda with the need for economic systems change. Inspiration can be drawn from the Welsh Well-being of Future Generations Act which has put 7 overarching wellbeing goals at the heart of its policy decision-making and has defined five ways of working to achieve these goals, which the Future Generations Commissioner helps keep government agencies accountable to. It is not just the "what" of policy making that must be transformed but also the "how", through meaningful public participation at all stages in the policy process. The Wellbeing Economy Policy Design Guide speaks to this in detail, based on the principles in this image."

Ilenia - 9 endorsements

Title: A EU Action plan for inter- and intra-generational flourishing

Dimension: **SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION**

*"To build a true 'Union of Equality' in Europe, we must actively **combat ageism** and dismantle the barriers that prevent people of all ages from enjoying equal rights and opportunities. Ageism affects access to work, healthcare, education, and civic participation, both in young and old age. AGE Platform Europe leads the call to mainstream age equality into all EU policies (<https://www.age-platform.eu/areas-of-work/age-equality/>), ensuring that the needs and aspirations of an ageing society are met. To this goal, a **EU Action Plan to Combat Ageism** would underpin the EU's Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness: based on human rights, intersectionality, equality and solidarity within and between generations, it would **mainstream age equality across all policy areas**, challenge negative stereotypes through education and public campaigns, and empower older people as active rights holders. It would also foster intergenerational programs, strengthen legal protections, and support research to inform effective policies. By leveraging the expertise of AGE Platform Europe and the innovative approaches of EU research, such as the FutuRes project (<https://futu-res.eu/>), the EU can turn ageing into an opportunity-building a resilient, inclusive society where everyone thrives, regardless of age."*

5. IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

In the following chapter, each of the four dimensions is examined in greater depth. Within each dimension, individual citizens' topics are analysed separately, bringing together different aspects of the contributions. Relevant contributions are also included to illustrate these topics and provide more detailed insights.

DIMENSION 1: SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION

This dimension focuses on improving intergenerational relations by promoting dialogue and solidarity between the generations, and by combating ageism and other forms of discrimination, in favour of equality and social cohesion.

Citizens' Topic 1.1: Promote intergenerational solidarity and create spaces for intergenerational dialogue

Topic ANALYSIS

The contributions call for bridging generational divides and reducing polarisation, while promoting meaningful intergenerational collaboration and co-creation. Participants emphasise the creation of environments and spaces such as cultural centres, shared housing, and intergenerational projects to facilitate dialogue and interaction across age groups. Such initiatives, including mentoring projects and shared community activities, can build empathy and mutual understanding, foster intergenerational solidarity, and support the development of lasting networks of cooperation and support.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Friederike, 4 endorsements

"In an intergenerationally fair society, different generations must work together - not only to address today's challenges but also to shape a sustainable future. To achieve this, we need meaningful opportunities for intergenerational dialogue, where people of all ages can meet, exchange ideas, and develop a deeper understanding of each other's concerns."

Öndercan, 0 endorsements

"Community initiatives, such as local participation workshops, intergenerational cultural centers, and collaborative urban planning, provide platforms for meaningful exchange. These spaces allow citizens to share their experiences, shaping policies that reflect diverse

generational needs. However, fairness is not achieved merely by bringing generations together—it must also address regional inequalities and structural disparities.”

Citizens' Topic 1.2: Combat discrimination and promote equality

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens frequently call for measures to combat discrimination and promote equality. Participants highlight the need to fight all forms of discrimination, with a particular focus on ageism, to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all. They also stress the importance of promoting positive narratives and countering stereotypes, actively challenging negative portrayals of both younger and older people in the media and public discourse. These efforts are seen as essential to fostering social cohesion, mutual respect and intergenerational fairness.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Nena, 10 endorsements

“Promoting equality at all ages is essential to achieve intergenerational fairness. Ageism is the only ground of discrimination covered by the EU treaties, which has so far been overlooked in the EU's policy landscape. The Intergenerational Fairness Strategy must include a dedicated Action Plan to Combat Ageism, which would create a roadmap to eliminate inequalities across the lifecourse and to promote equality for young and old.”

Sarah, 5 endorsements

“A Union based on equality must support its citizens throughout their lives and at all ages. Age discrimination and ageism however creates significant barriers that prevent older people from participating fully in working life and society, exacerbating economic difficulties and leading to poverty. By combating these discriminatory practices and promoting solidarity between generations, we can foster an inclusive and equitable society, as well as more sustainable growth and a competitive and cohesive economy.”

DIMENSION 2: DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

This dimension focuses on improving the participation and representation of all generations in our democratic systems as well as replacing short-term thinking with long-term, intergenerational decision-making across all policy areas.

Citizens' Topic 2.1: Expand inclusive participation for intergenerational representation

Topic ANALYSIS

To promote intergenerational fairness, participants on the Citizens' Engagement Platform stress the importance of broadening democratic participation and representation to enable all age groups to contribute to policy debates. Suggestions for achieving this include creating youth councils, senior advisory boards and intergenerational forums, as well as removing barriers to participation by lowering the voting age, promoting outreach to marginalised communities, and ensuring accessible and inclusive participatory spaces. Participants also emphasise the need to empower these participatory platforms so that contributions have a real impact on decision-making, ensuring that all voices are genuinely heard and considered.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

William, 7 endorsements

"Continuous intergenerational dialogue should be fostered through dedicated democratic spaces. Establishing citizens' assemblies at local, national, and European levels (based on the French "Citizens' Convention for Climate") would enable people of all ages and backgrounds to deliberate together on pressing societal issues such as the ecological transition, housing, and digital inclusion. These assemblies must have real influence over public decision-making, helping to build a stronger sense of community through mutual understanding and shared responsibility."

Panayiota, 0 endorsements

"To reinforce the European Commission's initiative on Intergenerational Fairness and Democratic Sustainability, I propose the creation of a European Intergenerational Citizens' Forum as a permanent participatory and advisory mechanism within EU governance. Its purpose is to ensure that the long-term interests of all generations — including those not yet born — are systematically integrated into policymaking. The Forum would bring together young people, older adults, civil society organisations and experts to provide structured input on EU strategies and legislative proposals. It would contribute to the development and monitoring of an Intergenerational Fairness Index, helping the EU assess the long-term social,

economic and environmental impacts of its policies. The Forum would also act as a knowledge and good-practice hub, supporting local and regional authorities in applying intergenerational approaches and sharing innovative models from across Member States. This mechanism would strengthen policy coherence between short-term political cycles and long-term societal needs, enhance democratic legitimacy through inclusive representation, and promote solidarity across generations. Establishing such a Forum would anchor intergenerational fairness as a core European value and help ensure that today's decisions do not compromise the opportunities of future generations."

Citizens' Topic 2.2: Put long-term and intergenerational thinking at the centre of policymaking processes

Topic ANALYSIS

To overcome short-term thinking at an institutional level, participants on the Citizens' Engagement Platform emphasise the importance of integrating long-term and future-oriented perspectives into all policy domains. This includes assessing the intergenerational impact of decisions and embedding sustainability, fairness, and responsibility across governance processes. Participants also recommend institutionalising foresight and accountability to future generations, for example by strengthening the role of the Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, and by creating a budget that explicitly takes into account the interests of future generations, to ensure that the needs of younger and future generations are consistently defended in all policy areas.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Christiny, 9 endorsements

"This requires policymaking processes to consider the long-term and cross-cutting impacts of policies on present and future generations of all ages. To do this, the EU needs to use tools and methods like strategic foresight and integrated models to look longer term."

Кирило, 0 endorsements

"The European Union must place intergenerational justice at the core of its policymaking. Too often, political decisions serve short-term interests, neglecting the long-term consequences that today's youth—and future generations—will have to face. From climate change and public debt to digital regulation and demographic shifts, the burden on younger Europeans is growing. We need policies that prioritize sustainability, fairness, and inclusion. Future impact assessments should be introduced for all major EU legislation, ensuring that the rights of those not yet born are considered. Climate policy must be accelerated with stronger youth involvement, while public spending should reflect long-term responsibility, not short-term gain."

DIMENSION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

This dimension highlights climate change as a central challenge to achieving an intergenerationally fair future and examines ways to foster forward-looking economic behaviour. Contributions also address the sustainability of youth employment and emphasise the importance of ensuring decent living conditions for all.

Citizens' Topic 3.1: Combat climate change as an intergenerational responsibility

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants share the view that climate change poses a significant threat to intergenerational fairness, as its impacts are likely to disproportionately affect younger and future generations. Contributions emphasise that taking urgent and effective action to combat climate change is a fundamental intergenerational responsibility, including measures such as decarbonising the economy and investing in climate-friendly transport. Participants also highlight the need for a cross-sectoral, inclusive, and participatory approach that engages all age groups, ensuring a sustainable transition at all levels and fostering a shared sense of responsibility.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Revo Prosperidad Sostenible, 4 endorsements

"The Commissioner for intergenerational justice must ensure that future generations enjoy the least harmful climate possible, and to this end it is necessary to ensure that the policies of the Commissioners responsible for the different sectors that may have an impact on decarbonization by action or omission do not hinder or delay the decarbonization path of the EU economy. The commissioner for intergenerational justice will monitor the actions of the European Commission and will have to make proposals for improvement or warn when these actions are contrary to the objectives of decarbonization and sustainability in general."

Valeriia, 2 endorsements

"One area where intergenerational justice must be urgently addressed is climate policy. Climate change is the most pressing example of how short-term decisions can have devastating long-term consequences. Yet, young people - those who will live with these consequences the longest - are often excluded from shaping the policies that aim to solve

them. We need a clear shift in EU climate strategy: long-term impact must be prioritized over immediate political or economic convenience.”

Citizens' Topic 3.2: Promote future-oriented investment

Topic ANALYSIS

In addition to tackling climate change, participants call for promoting future-oriented investment as a means to advance intergenerational fairness. They advocate exploring alternative economic models that encourage long-term thinking, balancing ecological sustainability, social equity and economic resilience rather than focusing solely on GDP. Participants emphasise the importance of involving all generations in shaping these economic transitions, fostering shared responsibility and ensuring sustainable social cohesion.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Katy, 4 endorsements

“To ensure genuine intergenerational justice, we must move beyond economic models that rely on endless growth. A post-growth approach for Europe recognizes that prosperity cannot be built on the overuse of resources, ecological destruction, deepening inequalities and the undervaluing of unpaid care work all of which undermine the well-being of future generations. True intergenerational justice means living within planetary boundaries and distributing resources fairly across time. This requires shifting from the primary objective of GDP growth to wellbeing and care as a central policy goal. Public investment must prioritize social and ecological resilience - care work, education, climate adaptation - not growth for its own sake.”

Silvia, 1 endorsement

“The Wellbeing Economy offers a transformative model to ensure future generations are not burdened by the consequences of today's decisions. Unsustainable economic growth often leads to long-term social, health, and environmental costs, threatening the wellbeing of current and future generations, and the sustainability of our planet. The Wellbeing Economy moves beyond GDP as the sole measure of progress, integrating indicators such as mental and physical health, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Embedding Wellbeing Economy in EU decision-making, will help to better address current challenges while safeguarding the needs and rights of future generations.”

Citizens' Topic 3.3: Improve youth employment conditions

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants on the Citizens' Engagement Platform consider equal economic opportunities to be essential for intergenerational fairness. Accordingly, they

advocate for improving youth employment conditions, facilitating the transition from education and training to the labour market, and strengthening links between education, training and industry. They also call for fair and inclusive recruitment practices and the removal of barriers to employment, ensuring that all young people have equitable access to opportunities.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Daniela, 5 endorsements

“Expanding access to education must go hand in hand with mentorship programs linking students with experienced professionals and lifelong learning opportunities for older adults. Investments should ensure early and sustained support for disadvantaged youth while valuing the contributions of older individuals in shaping a fairer, more inclusive society. By fostering collaboration and shared opportunities, the EU can promote true social mobility and ensure prosperity benefits all generations.”

Mirela, 2 endorsements

“Part of the generational present and future should be that young people find fair access to the professional world after studying/training/etc.: - Why is it difficult for young, well-educated adults to gain a foothold in professional life? How can it be that the path to material self-employment remains blocked for a long time, despite good education and x paid or unpaid internships, volunteers, master's degrees? - Why are many universities not linked to industry? - Why do apprentices compete with graduates for jobs and which level of education is the ‘truly right one’?”

Citizens' Topic 3.4: Ensure decent living conditions for everyone

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants on the Citizens' Engagement Platform consider ensuring sure and adequate living standards for all generations as essential for intergenerational fairness. Accordingly, they stress the importance of guaranteeing access to affordable, quality housing, improving basic services and addressing social inequalities.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Duarte, 0 endorsements

“Intergenerational fairness in Europe is increasingly at risk. Young people face rising living costs, unaffordable housing, and growing financial insecurity. But students represent a distinct group within this landscape, with specific vulnerabilities directly linked to their ability to access and complete education. Energy poverty, poor-quality housing, and insufficient student support systems undermine not only students' living conditions but also their right to learn and participate fully in society. (...) A fair European approach requires strong public investment in accessible higher education, affordable and sustainable student housing, adequate grants,

and support services that protect students from poverty. Policies on housing, climate transition, and social protection must reflect the realities experienced by both young people and students. Intergenerational fairness must ensure that today's youth — and especially today's students — are not left carrying disproportionate burdens."

Diana, 0 endorsements

"There is talk of equity, of thinking together, of integrating etc. Youth already has many things in common with the elderly. One is poverty. Retirees who barely make ends meet with their pension after working a lifetime many times and young people working full time (hopefully what they have studied) but with insufficient wages to become independent or save for the future. They also have loneliness and social networks in common: Young people have millions of friends online, 24/7 online contact but they feel lonely and weird because they compare themselves to those who come out on the net and who seem to have perfect lives. The elderly, on the other hand, are disconnected from a world that has set them apart. They are digitally illiterate and everything they were used to in everyday life has changed without taking them into account. Some are not even able to get the pension out of the bank if they have to do it at an ATM. Due to the speed and multitude of tasks and spending time on networks, some do not have time and the others no one who dedicates it to talk or simply know if they are okay. And finally, uncertainty and lack of hope. Some because they do not see a long-term future, which makes it difficult for them to have housing, children etc. And the others knowing that they are in the final stretch and that probably, despite what they imagined and want, they will die alone and/or unattended by a society that does not have time or resources to invest in them."

DIMENSION 4: CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS

This dimension focuses on the importance of providing public services, such as care and education, to ensure intergenerational fairness. Contributions emphasise the need for integrated care and support systems, as well as equal access to high-quality education.

Citizens' Topic 4.1: Strengthen care systems for all ages

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants call for substantial investment in accessible care infrastructure for all age groups, encompassing healthcare, social support and community-based solutions. They emphasise that care should be recognised as a shared societal responsibility, supported through public services, professional care workers and the acknowledgment of family care work. Contributions also highlight the importance of fostering mutual support through initiatives such as co-housing solutions. Finally, participants advocate for a European Care Guarantee and improved cross-border coordination of health and social security systems to address contemporary challenges.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Marta, 2 endorsements

"The population is turning increasingly gray and we're not prepared for it. (...) Today, the senior citizens whose health is declining either withdraw from social life and stay at home or, when their state has deteriorated even more, move to a nursing home. (...) I'm convinced co-housing is a great solution to this challenge. It's a type of collaborative housing where senior citizens live together in a community setting. Benefits? Affordable cost (divided by all inhabitants), accessible space designed with needs of the elderly in mind, support services at hand (healthcare, meal preparation, transportation), independence, combating loneliness and last but not least - mutual support and social interaction. (...) Co-housing should be developed with urgency, with financial support from the EU, member states or local governments."

Christos, 1 endorsement

"What's missing is infrastructure that recognises vulnerability as a societal responsibility, not an individual misfortune. We must build integrated systems where supported housing, mental health services, flexible care, and community connection are not fragmented offerings but coordinated rights. Without this, intergenerational fairness is rhetoric without root. From workforce planning to service design, we must think across the life course. That means supporting those who provide care with sustainable roles and training, and ensuring that

systems meet evolving needs over time.”

Citizens' Topic 4.2: Expand fair access to quality education

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants call for expanding fair access to high-quality education, recognising it as the foundation for equal opportunities, intergenerational fairness and social cohesion. They emphasise the importance of removing barriers and increasing public investment in education at all stages of life, including informal education outside of schools, ensuring equitable learning environments for everyone. Participants advocate modernising education to meet future needs, such as incorporating Artificial Intelligence, and promoting lifelong and intergenerational learning, enabling individuals of all ages to develop their potential and contribute meaningfully throughout their lives.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Florinda, 2 endorsements

“Public schools are the place where future generations can train, acquire skills and values, but it is necessary that a deep reflection on teaching methodologies is made. Today, more than ever, it is essential to renew and innovate the pedagogical approach, so that it responds to the needs of a rapidly changing world, focused on sustainability, inclusion and equity. In addition, young people must be heard in the educational process. Their voices, experiences and perspectives are key to building a school system that not only transmits knowledge, but that truly prepares for the life and challenges of the future. Public education cannot only be a guaranteed right, but must become a real opportunity for every individual, where every young person can express his or her potential and actively contribute to society. To do this, a joint effort by institutions, teachers and civil society is essential to rethink education so that it is truly a driver of change and growth for all.”

Esther, 2 endorsements

“Good education for young people today is an investment in a better, fairer and more resilient future for the next 25 years and beyond. Education provides young people with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. Therefore, education is the basis for their future; it lays the foundation for a well-prepared and competent generation capable of meeting the challenges of the future. If all young people in Europe have equal opportunities for quality education, this will also help to achieve more generational justice. This means that all generations are treated fairly and everyone, no matter what social or economic environment they come from, gets the support they need to evolve. Through equitable education, we can create an innovative, fairer and sustainable society where all generations are respected and supported, where social inequalities are reduced and equal opportunities are promoted.”

6. CONCLUSION

The Citizens' Engagement Platform debate on *Intergenerational Fairness* marked a significant step in shaping the Intergenerational fairness strategy. As this report demonstrates, the online participatory process, conducted from February 2025 to November 2025, provided **rich and diverse insights into citizens' perspectives** on fostering a fair and sustainable future across generations.

On the Citizens' Engagement Platform, participants engaged with a diverse range of subjects related to intergenerational fairness. Within the dimension of **SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION**, they called for greater solidarity between generations, emphasising mutual understanding, combating ageism, and creating opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and cooperation. In the **DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE** dimension, participants highlighted the need to strengthen inclusive participation and embed long-term thinking into policymaking, proposing measures to ensure that current decisions consider the interests of future generations. The **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY** dimension revealed strong citizen demand for urgent climate action to protect younger and future generations, alongside a shift towards long-term economic models that prioritise wellbeing over short-term growth. Fair employment opportunities for young people were also frequently highlighted. Lastly, the **CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS** dimension underscored the importance of universal access to high-quality public services across the life course. Participants advocated for strengthened care systems, greater recognition of families and communities as support networks, and education reforms that promote lifelong learning and align with the evolving needs of society.

Overall, this consultation highlights the urgent need for a **more equitable, sustainable and cohesive Europe that supports all generations** in addressing the key challenges to intergenerational fairness: **short-term thinking, exclusion and inequality** and **insufficient intergenerational solidarity**. Participants consistently connected specific policy areas to broader societal goals, emphasising that social cohesion, environmental and socioeconomic sustainability, inclusive and long-term governance, and the provision of high-quality public services must be pursued together to achieve a fair and sustainable future for current and future generations.