



## **« FESTIVAL INTERGENERATIONS POUR UNE EUROPE DEMOCRATIQUE » Engaging Generations: Reflecting on a Vibrant EU Festival**

Climate, with 41%, is right at the top of the five most important issues for young European voters, followed closely by civil rights including LGBTQI issues (34,5%), and social affairs including decent jobs (32%), in second and third on their list of concerns. International affairs rate fourth at 24% and public health at 20%. Other concerns rating under 12% include populism and democracy (12%), migration (8%) and rural development (8%).

These perceptions emerged during the one-day « FESTIVAL INTERGENERATIONS POUR UNE EUROPE DEMOCRATIQUE” organized in February at the Maison de l’Europe in Paris within the framework of a European-wide project involving youth in 15 countries, financed by the European Union and initiated and run by the European Youth Forum.

The driving spirit was to foster intergenerational dialogue and promote active citizenship, by building on the principles of the [MEET project](#) and in anticipation two major events:

- the upcoming EU Day of Solidarity between Generations on 28 April,
- the European elections on 9 June. The overriding message was – exercise your vote and remember – voting is the first step.

OLD’UP’s group Europe and the World, was in the driving seat and was happy to share the highlights of their intergenerational festival, that brought together diverse communities and perspectives during a vibrant celebration of unity and collaboration under one roof.

OLD'UP was founded in February 2008, is an association of people who are proud to be “not so young but not so old” in the second stage of retirement and whose mission is to give meaning and usefulness to the present day phenomenon of our lengthening life span. Its objectives include raising awareness of the role and contributions of older people in society, identifying and overcoming barriers to their active engagement,

promoting participation in decision-making “nothing for us, without us”, and fostering intergenerational relationships. As a member of AGE Platform Europe, OLD'UP is committed to enhancing intergenerational ties and advocating for the autonomy and societal roles of older adults.

### **MEET: Fostering Dialogue and Engagement**

OLD'UP reports: At the heart of our festival was the MEET project, a collaborative effort aimed at promoting mutual understanding and engagement among European citizens. We worked alongside esteemed partners, including Young Europeans France, European Movement (France), Entr'Age (Belgium), Age-Platform Europe represented by the French coordination, Maison de l'Europe, and OLD'UP, to design a program that would resonate with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

### **A Day of Enriching Experiences**

From dynamic workshops exploring European institutions to insightful round table discussions on the future of our continent, our festival offered a diverse array of activities designed to inform, inspire, and empower. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with policymakers, decision-makers, and fellow citizens, exchanging ideas and perspectives in an inclusive and welcoming environment. What was very clear was the thirst for information about Europe and the desire to understand what and how the Union worked.

### **Embracing Inclusivity**

Central to our festival was a commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Through strategic partnerships with organizations such as [ColombAge](#) and [Jeunes Europeens France](#), we ensured that voices from all walks of life were represented and heard. By creating opportunities for dialogue and collaboration, we sought to bridge generational and societal divides, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

### **Empowering Participation, Promoting Awareness**

As we look ahead to the upcoming European elections, our festival served as a platform for empowering citizens to actively engage in the democratic process. Through informative workshops and interactive sessions, we equipped attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions and advocate for positive change. By promoting awareness and understanding of European institutions and policies, we hope to inspire greater civic participation and engagement.

### **Lessons Learned and Future Endeavors**

As we reflect on the success of the festival, we are mindful of the valuable lessons learned and the opportunities for growth that lie ahead. From early planning and strategic partnerships to simplified communication and youth engagement, we are committed to applying these best practices to future events and initiatives. Together, we will continue to raise our voices, foster dialogue, empower communities, and drive positive change across Europe.

In closing, we invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of solidarity and collaboration as we work towards a brighter future for generations to come.

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