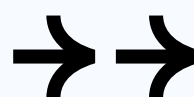


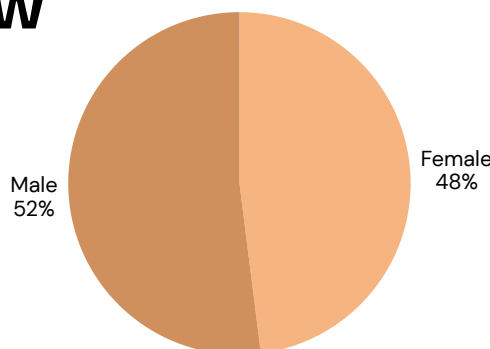
What do citizens think?



We asked the citizens of **Athens, Greece**, for their views on the environment, EU integration, and the rule of law, exploring potential avenues for development, key trade-offs, and synergies that could shape future decision-making and policies.

Participation Overview

In Athens, 27 citizens took part in the discussions (52% male, 48% female). While **older males** dominated problem identification, women provided solid solution proposals, and the group collaborated to agree on key challenges and areas of improvement.



Rule of law

Citizens pinpointed **corruption, delays in justice, and political immunity** as the key issues in Greece. The rule of law is not always applied duly to everyone.

Identified Problems

- Lack of information and understanding
- Political immunity in the face of injustice
- Lack of transparency with the government
- Unqualified legal professionals

Proposed solutions

- Emphasis on education in schools, engaging students to know their rights
- Improve bottom-up campaigns and NGOs that fight to change this
- Stronger oversight, independent media and collaboration with NGOs
- Reform legal education, stricter selection criteria

Environment

Gaps in education, opportunity and between generations were identified as the key source of climate ignorance. Better environmental education in schools and greater state support for eco-friendly choices, could drive positive change.

Identified Problems

- Lack of environmental education
- Weak governance & deprioritisation
- Poor waste management
- Lack of Green options
- Resistance to change

Proposed solutions

- Introducing it as a school subject, engaging families
- Create youth organisations who collaborate with the government
- Create innovative centres recycling specific materials
- Invest in Green infrastructure
- Campaign for Green lifestyle choices, fitting in with traditional culture

EU integration

Citizens highlighted **lack of European consciousness, bilateral disputes, and lack of political will** as major barriers to EU deepening. Emphasising European identity was presented as a way to strengthen the union.

Identified Problems

- Lack of European identity
- Slow enlargement process
- Lack of common EU defense policy
- Limited EU engagement
- Declining public support

Proposed solutions

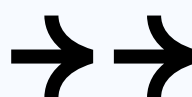
- Introducing the European Union into the national curriculum
- Promote mechanisms similar to those offered to Romania & Bulgaria for others
- Campaign for a European Army, emphasise Greek naval power
- More outreach, engaging young people
- Promote tangible EU benefits, expand Erasmus to other Balkan countries



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.

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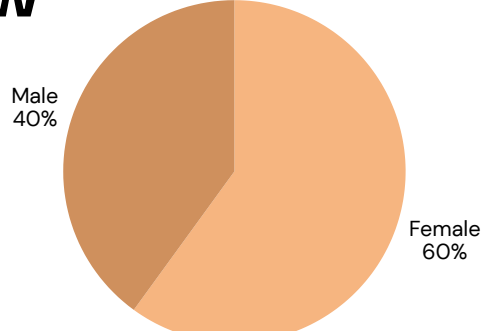
What do citizens think?



We asked the citizens of **Thessaloniki, Greece**, for their views on the environment, EU integration, and the rule of law, exploring potential avenues for development, key trade-offs, and synergies that could shape future decision-making and policies.

Participation Overview

In Thessaloniki, 25 citizens took part in the discussions (52% male, 48% female). While **young students** dominated problem identification, the group collaborated to agree on key challenges and areas of improvement.



Rule of law

Citizens pinpointed the **integration of migrants** as a key challenge to equality before the law in Greece. Both political decisions and local attitudes need to change in the country.

Identified Problems

- Securitisation of migration
- Local attitudes resistant to migrants
- Cultural differences viewed as threats
- Delays in justice

Proposed solutions

- Depoliticize migration, present it fairly and objectively
- Extracurricular activities to aid with integration, engage families
- Invest in language schools, educate children on other cultures
- Enforce deadlines

Environment

Energy poverty was identified as the key source of climate anxiety for citizens. A bottom-up approach can help an equal and fair energy transition.

Identified Problems

- Lack of environmental education
- Deprioritisation of issue by older generations
- Misinformation
- Greenwashing
- Resistance to change

Proposed solutions

- Introducing it as a school subject, engaging families
- Create youth organisations who collaborate with the government
- Promote NGOs and bottom-up approaches
- More transparency and scrutiny on big companies
- Campaign for Green lifestyle choices, fitting in with traditional culture

EU integration

Citizens highlighted **national narratives and media framing** as key drivers of support or opposition to enlargement. Political developments must be communicated to the public objectively and openly.

Identified Problems

- Lack of European identity
- Limited incentive for enlargement
- Polarized media & misinformed framing
- Limited unity with neighbours
- Declining youth support

Proposed solutions

- Introducing the European Union into the national curriculum
- Outreach, local projects, citizen engagement to advocate for enlargement
- Better communication, independent media support
- Extend Erasmus+ to all the Western Balkan countries
- Promote student organisations, multi-nation collaborative working groups



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