1ST EDITION – THURSDAY, 21st APRIL 2022

EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY FORUM 4 SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

PANEL 1 – PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

How can Institutions & Governments facilitate civic engagement & civic innovations?

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SUMMARY

The panel was part of the European Technology Forum 4 Sustainable Democracy Conference, which brought together institutional actors to discuss of the use of technology to facilitate civic engagement and civic innovations from the institutional perspective. Moderated by **Dr. Marc Hostert**, Senior Advisor to the Government, the roundtable was full of heated and intriguing debates with **Gäetane Ricard-Nihoul**, Member of the Common Secretariat of the *Conference on the Future of Europe*, **Joao Ricardo Vasconcelos**, Senior Governance Specialist in GovTech at *WorldBank*, **Alan Wu**, Senior Regional Coordinator at *Open Government Partnership*, **Max Gindt**, *Attaché at the Ministry of State* in the Department of Media, Connectivity & Digital Policy.

How can institutions facilitate civic engagement & civic innovations?

To develop further citizen engagement and a strong sense of partnership with the different stakeholders of the society, institutions can rely on a more transparent and accountable government, and an analytical approach, based on e-desk instrument or different index such as gold majority index. The Conference for the Future of Europe, such a multilingual digital platform, mixing digital and physical participation can favorize digital policies through technology, and this by supporting the three pillars (citizens of Europe, of one nation, and a panel mix citizens and politicians).

How did institutions manage participation & societal cohesion the Covid Challenge?

Covid 19, while challenging as it was with the examples of implementing the CovidCheck regime under the GDPR or the vaccine's campaigns, also brought public governance back, and showed how important it is to incorporate the different stakeholders of the society in the decision-making process, and how hard it is to leave no one behind. This brings to the fundamental values of Open Government, such as the right to appeal, accountability, inclusiveness, (towards everyone, especially the ones who doesn't master this digital future), and the deliberative element with the fight against disinformation and fake news.

The main drivers to handle with civic engagement

The panelists brought up three important drivers: 1) **TRUST** in our representative democracy, which can only be strengthened by Open Government 2) **LINK our digital and green transition**, which should be owned by the citizens. This will give institutions the experience needed (given the time and space needed) to analyze and fully prepare digital transition, taking also into account that the transition is not only technological, but human as well 3) **AVOID technology to become a wall between our citizens** because of a different culture, language and focus on social closeness and ethical questions and promote more information to be available to all.