

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Asamblea de Extremadura (Spain)	
Name of the initiative	
Institutional Event “The Voice of the Ukrainian People in the Assembly of Extremadura”	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
Web page of the initiative	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>Parliaments are spaces where words are stronger than weapons; they are places where citizens discuss and reach peaceful agreements on issues of common interest. The national parliaments of many countries have offered shelter to and have amplified the demands and denouncements of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is at the helm of a country that has suffered a bloody invasion by Russia.</p> <p>In light of this, the Assembly of Extremadura, which is the seat of the sovereignty of the people of Extremadura, wanted to give voice to the Ukrainian people on the occasion of its 39th anniversary.</p> <p>Words are indeed a tool of democracy with which to fight senselessness. Oksana Sheykina and Nadiia Astapenko are refugee women who have been living in Extremadura for a few months. They were tasked with coming onto the speakers' lectern to raise their voices and give an account of the dramatic situation experienced by their fellow countrymen and countrywomen in Ukraine, and of the horror that made them leave their country with some family members.</p> <p>The event started with the national anthems of Spain, Ukraine, and Extremadura. Then, the younger members of the Assembly took the floor, followed by its President and the President of the Region.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give visibility to the terrible situation experienced by those European citizens whose country has been invaded and bombed by Russia. - Give voice to the citizens of Ukraine who have been forced to leave their country and show the solidarity of the people from Extremadura and Spain in the regional parliament. This chamber is a space whose greatest value lies in the use of the words over weapons against the absurdity and the imposition of will through force and military actions. - Show the support and commitment of Extremadura to the refugees now residing in the region. 	
Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative	
<p>As a public authority, the Assembly of Extremadura includes among its guiding principles the understanding that the active contribution of Extremaduran society and its institutions to the peace and development of all the nations and peoples of the world is a collective ethical requirement. It also adopts and disseminates European policies and values through their activities.</p> <p>Given its mandate, and in the face of Russia's military attack against Ukraine last February, the regional parliament of Extremadura has been very active in</p>	

condemning this action and expressing its solidarity with the Ukrainian people. It adhered to the CALRE Declaration of 24 February. Since 3 March it has been flying a Ukrainian flag in the Noble Patio of the Regional Chamber. In addition, in a plenary meeting held on 10 March, it unanimously adopted an Institutional Declaration in support of the Ukrainian people, condemning the attack. Moreover, the Assembly of Extremadura has joined a smart platform that offers a comprehensive learning system to Ukrainian children and their families, who have had to flee their country because of the war. Finally, on 21 May 2022, the 39th Anniversary of the Assembly of Extremadura's creation was marked. At the proposal of its President, Blanca Martín, tribute was paid to the Ukrainian people in an institutional event which was organised and developed at the Chamber headquarters, with the participation of officials, Members of Parliament, and Chamber staff. Solidarity is one of the greatest traits of the citizens of Extremadura, and this is one of the many initiatives undertaken in the region to help the Ukrainian people.

European orientation of the initiative

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. Russia is grossly violating international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermining European and global security and stability. The use of force and coercion to change borders has no place in the 21st century. Tensions and conflict should be resolved exclusively through dialogue and diplomacy. (European Council Conclusions, 24 February 2022). The EU stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and commends the people of Ukraine for their courage in defending their country. The EU has shown unity and strength to provide coordinated humanitarian, political, financial and material support. In addition, this conflict has led to an influx of millions of people seeking refuge in the EU and in the Republic of Moldova, so it is necessary to help those fleeing the war as well as the host countries. The Assembly in Extremadura aligns itself with this initiative through the many decisions, events, and support actions that the EU has and is developing in support of the Ukrainian people, since "Ukraine belongs to the European family." (EU leaders' statement, 10.3.2022)

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Consiglio della Provincia Autonoma di Trento (Italy)	
Name of the initiative	
"Ci Pensiamo Noi" ("We got it!")	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
10/01/2022	17/05/2022
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.consiglio.provincia.tn.it/news/web-tv/Pages/webtv.aspx?uid=2505	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>For several years, the activities of divulgation and promotion of the functions of the Provincial Council of Trento have been carried out through “guided tours” aimed at increasing knowledge of the history, traditions and culture of our region. For the school year 2021-2022, the Council launched a new project, entitled “Ci pensiamo noi, Percorsi di autonomia responsabile per il Trentino”, that has seen the participation of four classes belonging to three different high schools of our territory: the “Maffei” High School located in Riva del Garda, the Prati High School based in Trento and the socio-health Professional Institute Don Milani of Rovereto. The project encourages young people to play an active role in the life of the community by drafting a proposal addressing an issue related to one of the seventeen goals included in the Sustainable Development strategy promoted by the United Nations. The schools were asked to identify a theme or a problem, which, with the support of the Council structures and the offices of the Autonomous Province of Trento, was further analysed and explored. At the end of the process, three projects were born, concerning different topics and with different objectives.</p> <p>The goal of “Ci pensiamo noi!” (in English “We got it!”) is to spread knowledge and to introduce young people to provincial politics, at the same time promoting European and democratic values and demonstrating that citizens can make a difference.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>The laboratory was organized in two different phases:</p> <p>First phase:</p> <p>In this first phase the classes elaborated the proposals and presented the title of their project to the offices of the Council. Each class had to draft a proposal, collect data and information related to the topic and finally create a video summarizing the objective and result of their research. During all phases of the project, each class was assigned and supported by one of the three young people in civil service at the Provincial Council who, acting as tutors, helped and organized meetings with provincial offices and institutes.</p> <p>The “Maffei” High School of Riva del Garda (TN) presented a project entitled “Renewable energies in public buildings.”</p> <p>This experience allowed students to study the European, national and provincial regulatory references that regulate the use of renewable energy in public buildings, and to identify possible strategies for improvement. During this first phase, the fifth class was able to talk with the experts and engineers of the Water and Energy Agency of the Province of Trento.</p>	

The Socio-Health Professional Institute “Don Milani” of Rovereto (TN) presented the project entitled “The preamble to the Statute of Autonomy.”

The idea of the students was to try to create, on the basis of the documents already published, a preamble to the Statute of Autonomy of the Autonomous Region of Trentino – Alto Adige/South Tyrol. After a careful study of the subject and a reflection on the working method to be adopted, the class chose to write the preamble resembling the fundamental principles enshrined in the Italian Constitution.

The “Prati” High School of Trento presented a project concerning provincial and municipal youth policies, entitled “Trento, a city for young people!”. The initiative was carried out by two classes of the institute, each focusing on a certain task. A group of students drew up a survey, to be administered among the school students. Its results showed that young people are unsatisfied with the initiatives and spaces provided for them by the city of Trento. On the other hand, the second class focused on analysing the services that municipal and provincial youth policies already provide. The final phase of the project was characterized by the analysis and re-elaboration of the data collected.

Second phase:

The second phase was characterized by the presentation of the papers in the Council Hall. On May 17th, the classes of the four classes came to the Council Hall of Trento to present their proposals to the president of the Provincial Council, the Presidential Office and the assessors responsible for energy and education. Each school had 20 minutes to present their proposal: firstly, they had to explain the motivation for choosing that particular theme and then suggested a viable solution to solve the issue. After each presentation, the assessors and the President of the Council commented on the work done by the classes, congratulating them on the excellent results and for the deep commitment. At the end of the presentations the proposals were handed over to the Council Presidency representatives.

The purpose of this project lies in the desire to innovate the teaching method by promoting students’ participation and activism. This approach proved to be successful: it favoured students critical thinking and helped them to develop an idea, in a logic of cooperation, dialogue and responsibility. Responsibility means not only elaborating an idea but understanding the context in which it evolves, understanding the limitations, opportunities and the mechanisms needed to promote it.

Moreover, this laboratory encouraged young generations to make their voice heard, participate in political life, identify reliable information, use the findings to elaborate opinions, promote democratic value, and last but not least, explore the history and role of the precious autonomy of our province."

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

The Provincial Council of Trento promoted the initiative in collaboration with the “Museo Storico del Trentino Foundation”. The two entities shared the need to boost the participation of young generations to the political and public life. The workshop was designed precisely to present proposals to the Legislative Assembly aimed at finding viable solutions to relevant issues. The project saw the participation of the assessors competent in the matters dealt, making the workshop not only a way to get involved in the institutional context, but also to bring relevant and important contributions to the Assembly. The Council also took advantage of the cooperation of the three young people in civil service at the Provincial Council to organize the activities in the council room.

In addition, the Council:

- collaborated in the elaboration of materials and organized the meetings with the provincial offices;
- provided the spaces and the means necessary for the realization of the project;
- through the Press Office, promoted and publicized the project on local TV and social media;
- bore all the expenses of the project.

European orientation of the initiative

The European Union proclaimed 2022 the European Year of Youth. As described on the EYY2022 website, "The initiative will put the spotlight on the importance of Europe's youth in building a better future: greener, more inclusive and more digital." We often see decision-makers referring to youth as the future of our societies, but then they end up forgetting to get an opinion from them when it's time to take important decisions. In this regard, the Council of Trento decided to give the chance to young generations to play an active role in the community and to be the voice and agent of change by participating to this innovative experience. The enhancement of dialogue between students and institutions constitutes a fundamental element to build sustainable and fair societies. These kinds of activities allowed students to learn about the different ways European citizens can express their opinions and participate in political life not only in local and national institutions, but also at the international level, in the European Union's framework.

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Consiglio della Provincia Autonoma di Trento (Italy)	
Name of the initiative	
"Visite Guidate Smart"	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
29/09/2021	31/05/2022
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.consiglio.provincia.tn.it/istituzione/visite-guidate/Pages/prenotazione.aspx	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>"The Council of the Autonomous Province of Trento has been engaged for years in the activity of promoting its functions through the organization of "guided tours", addressed to a plurality of subjects, such as students and elder groups of people, with the purpose of offering an insight into the history, traditions and culture of our Autonomous Province. In recent years, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Council decided to continue promoting the initiatives in a different and unique way. The Pandemic lockdown led the Council to reorganize the structure of the guided tours, introducing new elements and new interaction methods with the classes, all through online-meetings. The idea was to structure a guided tour that focuses not only on a discussion with a member of the council but also on different aspects of the history, culture, and traditions of our territory.</p> <p>For this reason, the Council cooperated with several stakeholders who contributed to arrange and present topics related to the specific institutional set-up of the province, the historical and cultural framework and many more.</p> <p>The online guided tour consists of a two hours activity. During the first part, the students have the opportunity to dialogue with one of the 35 members of the Autonomous Council of the Province of Trento, while the second part focuses on one of the in-depth nine modules: from the history of Alcide Degasperi, to the relationship of our Province with the European Union, from a guided tour in the Italian Constitution, to the peace and human rights focus.</p> <p>The online meetings gave the chance to more than 3400 students and more than 190 classes, from elementary schools to high schools, to understand the values, history and the importance of our Autonomy in a national and European environment. In 2021 there was an increase of 61% in the number of attending students compared to the previous year, that counted 2109 presences."</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>The format consisted of a first part in which a councillor presented the activities and functions of the Council followed by a Q&A between the guest and the students. During the second part of the meeting the specific theme chosen by the classes among nine different special in-depth modules, are presented by the experts-</p> <p>The meetings started with an introductory video that explained the history of our territory and the basic idea behind the provincial institutional organization.</p> <p>The council Press office created two different videos, one for elementary classes and the other one for the middle and high schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4NLvgI7bKQ- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3Lw9VVhvkk	

For every 130 online meetings during the school-year 2021/2022 in the first part there was one councillor, paying attention to balance the presences between the different political parties.

After the video and a little presentation of the councillor, students presented themselves, asked questions and interacted with the councillor in charge. The aim was to raise awareness of the role played by politicians in nowadays society. Many students asked questions about the career, the workload, the activities on the territory of the councillor, and the role of Euregio, that is the European region across Italy and Austria.

In order to encourage student participation, different communication styles were adopted, based on the different levels of education, and also different themes were discussed

The topic of the second part was chosen by each class between nine modules.

In high school these kinds of themes are included within the teaching of the so-called "Educazione civica e alla cittadinanza". "Civic education" is a teaching introduced by Law n. 92 of 20 August 2019 in Italy, which aims to "Form responsible and active citizens by promoting full and conscious participation in the civic, cultural and social life of communities, in compliance with the rules, rights and duties". Civic education focuses on topics such as the Italian Constitution, EU institutions and international bodies, flag and national anthem, statutes of regions with ordinary and special autonomy, and so on.

With this in focus, the press office of the Council of Trento proposed the following modules:

1. "Autonomia nella figura di Alcide De Gasperi": Promoted by the public foundation "Alcide De Gasperi", it gives students specific knowledge about the life of Alcide De Gasperi, first head of the Council of the Republic of Italy, one of the fathers of the EU. De Gasperi was a man of dialogue and one of the main characters of the history of the autonomy in our Trentino.
2. "Autonomia e arte: la Sala Depero": thanks to the staff of the press office, students can have a virtual tour to the old Council Hall "Sala Depero", one of the most beautiful conference rooms in Trentino.
3. "Autonomia e Costituzione": During this hour, students focus on the most important articles of our Constitution, the history of the Mothers and Fathers of the Republic that designed the Italian Constitution.
4. "Autonomia e Europa": This module is offered by Europe Direct Trentino, one of the local information offices that distributes information and advice about EU policies and promotes local and regional debate about the EU. Through this module students learn together the benefits of being European citizens and the opportunities the EU offers to young people. In 2022 the Foundation "Antonio Megalizzi" will provide another module regarding European institutions.
5. "Autonomia e diritti umani": This module is promoted by the "Forum per la pace e i diritti umani", an organism of the Council of the Province of Trento. The experts provide students with critical and informed thinking about different topical issues such as the human rights situation in the world, the arms trade and the Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations.
6. "Capire l'Autonomia. Storia, territorio, istituzioni": The members of the Foundation "Museo storico del Trentino", through a series of questions, explore the history and geography of Trentino.
7. "Autonomia e ambiente": This module focuses on the natural environment of the Alps. Over a third of Trentino's territory is included in a conservation area. This

module is offered by "Reti di riserva Brenta" and "Natura 2000" and focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030. It also allows students to understand the importance of preserving and protecting the environment.

8. "Autonomia nell'attualità": This module is offered by the Legal office of the Council of Trento and gives an overview of the legal and institutional framework of autonomy in comparison with the other Italian regions, the Constitution and our Special Statute.

9. "Autonomia e minoranze linguistiche": We live in a region where Italian and German traditions live together. We live in a territory with 3 different linguistic minorities: ladini, mocheni and cimbri. Through this module students can understand how traditions, languages and different cultures coexist. This module is organized by the Authority for Linguistic Minorities of Trento.

Rarely do students have the chance to interact with institutional figures as provincial councillors. Guided tours give the opportunity to the young generations to deepen their knowledge of the functioning of our institutional setting and issues related to the administration of the territory.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

The management of the guided tours has always been coordinated by the Council, in particular by the Council's Press Office. The idea of organizing online guided tours is the result of close cooperation between the Presidential Office and the offices of the Provincial Council, in order to bring the young generation closer to the history of our Autonomy. The project was also very appreciated by all the provincial councillors who participated to the online meetings.

The modules on "Peace and Human Rights", "Linguistic Minorities" and "Autonomy in the Present" were provided by offices of the Provincial Council.

The staff of the Council was involved in the organization and management of all the phases of the project.

An added value is represented by the presence of three young people (20, 22 and 25 years old) in "Servizio Civile - SCUP" who contributed to the arrangement of the process. Scup is a project set up by the Province of Trento that permits young people from 18 to 28 to approach the world of work. Website: serviziocivile.provincia.tn.it

European orientation of the initiative

The purpose of the online guided tours organized by the Council is to bring younger generations closer to politics and institutions; this project offers the opportunity to explore the history of our territory, our origins and the socio-economic context. Especially noteworthy is the fact that the European Union declared 2022 the European Year of Youth; with this in focus, the Council of the Autonomous Province of Trento offers the opportunity to young people to learn and move forward with confidence in a post-pandemic perspective.

It is also impossible to talk about institutions without mentioning the European Union. Nowadays the European dimension permeates and affects our societies; for this reason, one of the in-depth modules is entirely focused on the history and impact of the European Union on our everyday life. Moreover, the European framework is addressed in the module "Autonomia e ambiente" (Natura 2000) and "Autonomia e diritti umani" (Agenda 2030).

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Consiglio regionale del Veneto (Italy)	
Name of the initiative	
Local Heritage As Driver For International Policies	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
01/01/2018	22/06/2022
Web page of the initiative	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>The Veneto Regional Council, in an attempt to give voice to the commitments undertaken by the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union during the XV CALRE Plenary Conference (L'Aquila Declaration, 2011), has promoted several initiatives to strengthen collaboration, promote exchanges of experiences and develop strategies to increase the awareness of regional authorities for the growth of a European culture.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Regional Ministry of Culture, since 2018 it has launched an experimental project involving European legislative assemblies, regional governments and municipalities, as well as various Italian and foreign universities, around a theme of transversal interest concerning the creation of a cultural itinerary linked to the figure of Pietro Querini and the journey he undertook in 1431, which led him from Crete (Greece) to the Lofoten Islands (Norway), by sea, and then back to Venice, by land, crossing a large part of Europe.</p> <p>These subjects have already had the opportunity to exchange views - during a meeting organised by the Regional Council - highlighting the potential and spin-offs in the economic fabric and smart companies of the culture and tourism sectors and also in relation to the exchange of good practices on the theme of innovative institutional policies at the service of universities and the world of research, as well as on themes and policies with a spin-off in the social fabric.</p> <p>Last 22 June the partners had</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>For the Council of Europe, cultural itineraries are a tool to demonstrate, through transversal and transnational routes, that the cultural heritage of the different European countries is actually a common heritage. They are, therefore, primarily a vehicle for communication and exchange between nations and cultures, i.e. a tool for consolidating European identity, a virtuous process of democratic re-appropriation of one's own being as a community (Becker Steinecke, 1993).</p> <p>Thus, the International Cultural Association was set up to create the cultural itinerary 'Via Querinissima, from myth to history' in accordance with the canons prescribed by the Council of Europe, which advocates and supports the initiative.</p> <p>The founder partners are: Veneto Region; Nordland County Council - Norway; Region of Vasta Goteland - Sweden; Municipality of Cadiz - Spain; Port System Authority of the Northern Adriatic Sea Ports of Venice and Chioggia - Italy; Venerable Confraternity of bacalà Vicenza Italy; Pro loco - of Sandrigo - Italy; CERS Italy - Italy.</p> <p>The next countries to join are the municipality of : Heraklion , Grece; Bodo and Rost -Norway; Venice.</p>	

It is only right to point out how this project stimulates transnational cooperation capable of implementing a network between different territories with a view to collaboration and networking of both economic and cultural experiences, the main tool supporting the development policies of local authorities aimed at enhancing alternative routes under the banner of sustainability and slow tourism.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

The Veneto Regional Council assumed the role of coordinator and promoter with foreign countries for the implementation of the Association and assumed the role of interlocutor with the Council of Europe and the Universities to create an interdisciplinary scientific committee to develop research and debate in the various subjects

European orientation of the initiative

The initiative aims at safeguarding and promoting of the common European heritage connected to the story of Pietro Querini. The network created by this Association represents a starting point for the development of European projects exchange of practices and enforcement of policy processes

The participation of the Veneto Region - Government and Council - is an opportunity "to strengthen collaboration, in order to improve mutual knowledge, promote exchanges of experiences, activate collaborations, and develop strategies to make regional authorities more aware of the growth of a European culture "in order to highlight more clearly the similarities between the various regional realities and the more macroscopic differences, greater mutual knowledge would enable the European regional legislative assemblies to more consciously represent regional demands before the European institutions.

It would also be a prerequisite for more harmonious action by the Conference and the starting point for the conclusion, in various areas, of cooperation agreements between two or more regions to develop projects aimed at resolving shared problems." (Conference of European Legislative Assemblies CALRE . Treaty of L'Aquila 2011).

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Consiglio regionale della Lombardia (Italy)	
Name of the initiative	
"Journeys of Memory" Lombardy Regional Law	
Type of initiative	
Regional law	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
26/05/2022	
Web page of the initiative	
https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/NormeLombardia/Accessibile/main.aspx?exp_coll=lr002022052600010&view=showdoc&iddoc=lr002022052600010&selnode=lr002022052600010	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>The Regional Law on “Journeys of Memory” finances schools which, in collaboration with associations, non-profit organizations and local authorities, organize Journeys of Memory to consolidate the value of memory in the new generations.</p> <p>The Journeys of Memory can be in presence or virtual and are aimed at promoting reflection on the current significance of the dramatic events of the twentieth century to learn from them and encourage the participation of citizens in democratic life, as well as to combat denial and all forms of prejudice, racism, xenophobia and violence.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>"The Regional Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides financial support to cultural and education institutions (schools, associations and non profit organization); - Supports concretely new generations’ (children and young people) education to European common values; - Puts Lombardy at the forefront of those Italian Regions that supports Journeys of Memory by extending the promotion of Memory to all the dramatic events which characterised the the twentieth century (either in Italy or in Europe). - Is innovative as it foresees the possibility to organize Journeys of Memory either in presence or virtual. <p>This is the link to download the unofficial translation in English of the text of the Regional Law: https://we.tl/t-8X6Og2VR3e You can find the file also here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jfz0r4hpt0olqPJ0eawtawakKSDw4FZI?usp=sharing "</p>	
Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative	
<p>Following the initiative of Carlo Borghetti Vice President of the Regional Council of Lombardy, who proposed the law, the Lombardy Regional Assembly approved by unanimity the “Journeys of Memory” Regional Law.</p> <p>After the entry into force of the Law, the Regional Government will launch a call to fund these journeys (starting from school year 2022/2023).</p>	
European orientation of the initiative	
<p>The Law allows Journeys all over Europe.</p> <p>The Law enhances the reflection on the current significance of the dramatic events of the twentieth century in Italy and the rest of Europe.</p>	

The Law promotes common European values such as participation of citizens in democratic life, as well as to combat denial and all forms of prejudice, racism, xenophobia and violence.

Documentation

No

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Cortes de Castilla – La Mancha (Spain)	
Name of the initiative	
First Spanish Interparliamentary Forum on Disability and Universal Accessibility	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
01/01/2022	11/06/2022
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.cortesclm.es/forodiscapacidad/	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>The Firsts Spanish Interparliamentary Forum on Disability and Universal Accessibility is an initiative of the Parliament of Castilla-La Mancha due to which most legislative assemblies of the country have met with the aim of presenting and analysing the measures adopted in their respective parliamentary chambers, in order to facilitate access to them for persons with disabilities, both in terms of mobility, communication and understanding. Similarly, as a result of this initiative, all of the participating legislative assemblies have undertaken a series of commitments, enunciated in the “Toledo Declaration”, which establish a roadmap to be followed in the coming years, to ensure accessibility in parliaments, the participation in parliaments of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, to encourage the creation of parliamentary bodies dedicated to discussing and legislating on the social reality of persons with disabilities (The Toledo Declaration is attached, which lists all the commitments made in this area). This First Spanish Interparliamentary Forum on Disability and Universal Accessibility is a novel and unique experience, which has been carried out in collaboration with the Senate, as the Chamber of Territorial Representation in Spain, as well as CERMI Spain, as binder of the country’s disability associations. This initiative has reached the consensus of the country’s parliaments, aware that accessibility is the first necessary and indispensable condition for the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities, including citizen, social and political participation. More accessible parliaments-despite the difficulties this entails in many cases, when the Legislative Chambers are located in historic buildings, listed as Cultural Interests- are essential to advance democracy and participation. The greater accessibility was, the better democratic quality, hence the importance of this successful experience in Spain, being recognized and also extrapolated to the European context.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>"The Spanish Interparliamentary Forum on Disability and Universal Accessibility is the conclusion of a previous work carried out by Cortes of Castilla-La Mancha, in which meetings have been held with persons with disabilities, with the entities representing them and also several regional parliaments of Spain, with the aim of drawing up a common agenda of common needs, activities and commitments that lead to the improvement of the social, public and political participation of persons with disabilities, that unfortunately felt their rights diminished because of the existence of physical, mental or social barriers. Therefore, the initiative of a participatory process and active listening to the main actors involved ins created</p>	

and establishes the Legislative Chambers at their service, in order to advance in the development of their rights and, therefore, in democratic quality.

This First Interparliamentary Forum also has the insignificant characteristic of having achieved agreement and consensus in legislative assemblies governed by different parties, achieving an important consensus on disability and accessibility that allows us to assume that there will be considerable progress in this area in the coming years.

The initiative, in addition to the exchange of experiences between different parliaments and the adoption of future commitments, has enabled us to draw up a diagnosis of the current reality of the Spanish legislative chambers in the area of accessibility, since a questionnaire was sent to all the regional parliaments of Spain, collecting information on the measures taken, the main legislative initiatives adopted in this field and the existing participation bodies. (An annex is attached with the questionnaire).

Another relevant feature of this Forum is the question that it is not finalized with its materialization, but its influence is projected towards the future and will materialise over the next few years, since it has emerged an agenda of common commitments that will be implemented along next years.

It also requires main mention the fact that, due to this initiative, regional parliaments have committed to establishing systems of shared knowledge, support and mutual interparliamentary accompaniment, so that the measures adopted in one legislative assembly on disability and universal accessibility can be replicated in others in an easier way.

The organisation of the First Interparliamentary Forum of Spain on Disability and Accessibility is just one of the several measures launched by the Parliament of Castilla-La Mancha to advance in accessibility, all of which have been carried out through coordination with disability organizations and considering the characteristics of the parliamentary building, classified as an Asset of Cultural Interest, so that all the actions must have an approval of the Heritage Commission. Even so, important actions have taken place throughout the current legislature, which have made it possible to facilitate accessibility to persons with disabilities. Also, the plenary hall is accessible at both the level of seats, the speaker's rostrum and the Bureau. Measures have also been taken facilitate access of persons who are blind, deaf, or who have reduced mobility or use wheelchairs, ostomised persons, of reduced height, as well as people with intellectual or cognitive disabilities. These measures have been carried out in both physical and virtual spaces. One main measure that we consider relevant is the adaptation to easy reading of the legislation adopted in the regional parliament, a measure that is useful for people with intellectual disabilities as well as for elderly people with cognitive impairment or people with difficulties in the handling of language. All these measures have been adopted with the aim of trying to ensure that Parliament, which is the place where all people in Castilla-La Mancha are represented, allows access and participation of as many people as possible, without physical, emotional or social barriers limiting it. Considering Parliament is everyone's house, everyone should feel that they can enter their home and feel welcomed."

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

"The Legislative Assembly of Castilla-La Mancha is the promoter and organiser of Spain's I Interparliamentary Forum on Disability and Universal Accessibility. This initiative arises from the conviction that it is necessary to advance the

parliamentary agenda in this matter in order to turn parliaments into exemplary entities that encourage other entities, both public and private, to improve accessibility.

Accordingly, the first measure adopted at the beginning of the current Legislature by the Presidency of the Courts of Castilla-La Mancha was to subtitle all plenary sessions in order to promote access to the content for deaf persons. Subsequently, an Accessibility Plan was commissioned, in which it was marked the way forward in this area, along with permanent meetings with persons with disabilities and with the entities representing them. As our Legislative Assembly progressed in this area, it felt necessary to know the initiatives launched in other parliaments as well as the way in which they had overcome the difficulties of finding themselves in a historic and protected building. Consequently, this initiative arises to hold the First Interparliamentary Forum of Spain on Disability and Universal Accessibility.

Thus, the holding of this Forum has the support of COPREPA (the Conference of Presidencies of Regional Parliaments of Spain) which encouraged all parliaments to participate in this initiative as it considers it useful, necessary and adapted to the needs and concerns of parliamentarism and social reality.

Thereby, the Cortes of Castilla-La Mancha have been the organising institution of the initiative presented to these awards and, therefore, we have been responsible for holding preparatory meetings with regional parliaments, with entities and persons with disabilities, for drawing up the questionnaire and the diagnosis of the current reality of the Spanish Legislative Chambers regarding disability and accessibility and for carrying out the work necessary to reach consensus among all parliaments on "Declaration of Toledo", that is the manifesto with the commitments approved at the Forum and that materialized the uniqueness and importance of the initiative, which already has the recognition and gratitude of the disability sector (enclosed letter) and a wide distribution among the media (press dossier attached)."

European orientation of the initiative

The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nation on 13th December 2006, represented a key normative and visibility advance for persons with disabilities at an international level, which establishes the obligation for the states to take the initiative. Spain signed this Convention and its Optional Protocol, so since 3th May 2008 this international figure of legislation has been fully part of the Spanish legal system.

The European Union also ratified the treaty in January 2011, thus becoming the first comprehensive human rights treaty ratified by the European Union, the aim of which is to ensure that persons with disabilities can develop their rights in terms of equality with all other citizens.

Thereby, the initiative that we present to these recognitions is aligned with the objectives assumed by Europe and Spain as a member of the European Union, aiming the advance of this pioneering and advanced legislation.

The First Interparliamentary Forum of Spain on Disability and Universal Accessibility offers practical tools, exchange of knowledge and experiences, institutional and technical collaboration and interrelationship with social entities and the third sector that facilitate the translation of disability regulations to the day to day of our Legislative Assemblies. It is a way to commit in order of being fundamental actors and facilitators of the necessary transformation to enable people with disabilities to fully exercise their rights in parliaments, which could become speakers for other public and private entities to join this initiative.

The experience initiated in Spain is replicable in Europe and it would be desirable that it was replicated. It is also based on the European Union principles and on the pillars of equality and human rights and is designed to make the regions a tool for transformation, change and social progress that could be extrapolated to other institutional levels.

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Parlamento de Canarias (Spain)	
Name of the initiative	
Foro Parlamento	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
25/06/2019	30/03/2023
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.parcn.es/	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>"The "Parliament Forum" initiative consists of holding activities in the Parliament of the Canary Islands during this X Legislature with the aim of bringing citizens closer to the institution.</p> <p>The Parliament opens its doors to host meeting, reflection and dialogue activities on issues that interest the citizens of the Canary Islands, allowing a debate on these issues from the citizen's perspective.</p> <p>All kinds of events will be held (symposiums, conferences, round tables, panel discussions, award ceremonies, etc...) of an economic, social, political, environmental, legal and cultural nature, both at a regional, national and international level.</p> <p>Likewise, acts promoted both by public institutions and at the initiative of representative groups and associations of the different areas of society will take place.</p> <p>This initiative tries to deepen the principles of participatory democracy as well as to defend the values of regional democracy."</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>Created at the beginning of the X Legislature, this initiative is expected to be developed throughout the legislature.</p> <p>Although the COVID -19 pandemic affected the programming of activities, due to restrictions on movement and concentration of people, this initiative continued to be developed, as far as possible, through the organization of events in a remote format.</p> <p>The number of acts and their distribution in the calendar these acts is combined with the usual activity of the parliament, also trying to prioritize current issues.</p> <p>Events with a variety of formats have been organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conferences - Speaker panels - Moderator-led discussion panels - Conferences, with various panels - Simulation of parliamentary activity - Awards ceremony - Memorial ceremonies - Exhibitions <p>On some occasions musical performances have been included in the acts.</p> <p>Regarding the theme of these acts, we can distinguish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Freedoms and Human Rights 	

- Equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Health
- Disability
- European Values
- Youth
- Communication
- Sports
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Democratic values
- Culture

Acts are organized both by the Parliament itself and in collaboration with other public institutions and/or associations. In other cases Parliament has hosted events organized by other institutions.

- Different management centers of the Government of the Canary Islands
- Organizations dependent on the Parliament of the Canary Islands
- Organizations linked to the Government of Spain
- Foundations
- Professional organizations
- Associations
- European Movement
- European Youth of the Canary Islands

It is necessary to highlight that personalities such as former presidents of the Government of Spain, former presidents of the Canary Islands and high-ranking officials of the judiciary have participated in these acts.

To achieve a greater scope of the celebration of these activities among the citizens of the Canary Islands, all have been broadcast live through the website of the Parliament of the Canary Islands, also being recorded for later viewing or consultation. Coverage was also provided through social media profiles, and a press release was sent to the media.

Some Links,

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2287

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2300

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2314

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2341

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2354

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2693

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2731

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

Given the institutional nature of the Parliament of the Canary Islands as representative of the will of the citizens of the Canary Islands, its ability to organize and host public events, its possibility of spreading the activities held at its premises through the media has allowed these acts have generated an impact among the publics interested to each act, as well as a greater knowledge of Parliament.

This reflects the potential of parliaments and regional assemblies as agents for the dissemination of democratic values, and the involvement of citizens in the defense of these values.

As has been said previously, the Parliament of the Canary Islands has performed the functions of organizer, co-organizer and host of these events.

In any case, there has been a contribution of both material and human resources.

European orientation of the initiative

The pro-European tradition of the Canary Islands and its special geographical situation that gives it the character of an Outermost Region of the EU and, additionally, the Presidency of the Parliament of the Canary Islands of the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union (CALRE) have influenced the organization of events related to the EU, independently of those organized by the CALRE itself.

In this case, the role played by the Parliament of the Canary Islands as a transmitter of European values to the citizens of the archipelago has been reinforced with the role of greater knowledge of the European regions and institutions of the characteristics of a region such as the Canary Islands and the reality of the ORs. All this has meant a strengthening of the ties between the Canary Islands and the EU institutions.

Various pro-European activities have been organized as well as the celebration of Europe Day, including the lighting of the façade and the projection of the European flag.

The topics discussed have been:

- The Conference on the Future of Europe
- Economic and social cohesion
- European Values
- European Citizenship
- 70 years of the Schuman declaration

These activities have been organized with:

- Canarian Council of the European Movement
- JUVEUCAN (European Youth of the Canary Islands)

With this last association, a simulation of the functioning of the European Parliament was held in the plenary hall of the parliament, in which more than 90 young people from different Spanish regions participated.

In these acts we had the pleasure of the participation of the two members of the European Parliament who are from the Canary Islands.

Some links,

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2725

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2631

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2439

Documentation

No

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Parlamento de Galicia (Spain)	
Name of the initiative	
Web page "E ti, vés ao Parlamento?" ("Let's visit the Parliament!")	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
01/12/2017	
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.parlamentodegalicia.es/VesOParlamento	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>The Galician Parliament is an institution open to the public in which all Galicians can participate and be actively involved in parliamentary activity and in which all those interested in knowing the institution and the work done here, whether Galician or not, can visit. To this end, the parliament has different tools to bring the institution closer to citizens and, particularly, to students from the Autonomous Community of all ages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guided tours for groups from 5th grade primary school (10 years old) 2. Children's day for 1st-4th primary school students (6-9 years old): "The bolechas visit the Parliament" 3. Parliament week at school 4. Conference talks for secondary school, baccalaureate and university 5. Children's plenary sessions and debate contests 	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>The main objective of the initiative is to facilitate and speed up the safe access of groups of people to the parliament to make the legislative chamber known as well as the work carried out by the deputies as representatives of the Galician people.</p> <p>GUIDED TOURS</p> <p>Thanks to the guided tours, lasting 1 hour, in Galician, Spanish or English, the groups learn about the functions, organization and history of the institution from the hand of our guides; they access the most solemn halls of Pazo do Hórreo, such as the Salón dos Reis or the Chamber; they visit the rooms and halls where the daily institutional activity takes place and, on the days of the plenary session, they will be able to attend part of it from the public gallery.</p> <p>Thus, the Galician Parliament opens its doors to all those people who want to know the Galician legislative chamber and its headquarters, Pazo do Hórreo, located in Santiago de Compostela, choosing from 6 types of visits available for request on the Guided Tours webpage ""E ti, vés ao Parlamento?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open day: guided tours without prior appointment every Monday at 10:00, 12:00 and 16:30. 2. Guided tours with prior reservation for groups or individuals: from Monday to Friday, from 9:30 to 14:30 and from 16:00 to 18:00, citizens can request a guided tour by entering the webpage and filling out a visit request form that is answered within 24 hours. <p>In addition, in order to facilitate the transfer to Santiago de Compostela, Renfe Group and the Galician Parliament offer 40% discounts to organized groups that travel by train to visit the Galician legislative headquarters.</p>	

3. Visits to the art collection: the Galician Parliament has the most important public collection of contemporary Galician art in the autonomous community. Between painting, sculpture, stained glass and tapestries, the collection has more than 300 works of art. Some of them in deposit, others acquired and others that are donations. Advised by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, the parliament continues to host new works of art at its headquarters for the enjoyment of all interested parties who, following the same steps as in general guided tours, can request this type of visit.

Check the Art Collection webpage:

<https://www.parlamentodegalicia.es/ColeccionArte/>

And the Art Collection Book:

<https://www.parlamentodegalicia.es/sitios/web/Publicacions/coleccionArte.pdf>

4. Visits under the auspices of the cooperation agreement between the regional government, Xunta de Galicia, and the Galician Parliament “Get to know your regional institutions”: In order to promote a program of activities that fits into the continuous educational process of formation of democratic, active, tolerant, solidary and critical students, in which democratic dialogue and justice stand as benchmarks for social coexistence, on December 18, 2017 a cooperation agreement was signed between the Consellería de Cultura, Educación e Ordenación Universitaria, representing the Xunta de Galicia, and the Galician Parliament, with an initial validity extended until September 1, 2020. The object of this agreement was the joint organization of an educational program, supported by didactic visits of schoolchildren from publicly owned Galician schools to the headquarters of both institutions with financed transport, so that visiting students receive first-hand information on the development of the main functions of each of the signatory institutions, in the places where they develop their competencies, thus obeying their responsibility and commitment to the younger generations.

Given the confusion that for many people raises the division of powers of the rule of law, this program helps to overcome these doubts from childhood. Students have the opportunity to understand, in situ, the differences between the legislative power (Parliament of Galicia) and the executive power (Xunta de Galicia).

The program of activities described is aimed exclusively at students of 5th and 6th grade of primary school and from 1st to 4th grades of secondary school of public schools of the region. Preference will be given to groups of students of schools that teach the subject European Democratic Values, or similar free-form centre, in accordance with Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning.

Prior to the actual realization of the visits, a teaching unit featuring the Parliament and Xunta de Galicia will be explained within the classrooms. Didactic units (including “easy-to-read” adapted didactic units) about both institutions are available for students and teachers to download at our webpage “E ti, vés ao Parlamento?”. These materials will respond to the objectives and aims of the didactic program, including the contents, evaluation criteria and corresponding learning standards and the possible curricular integration and link with the development of the key competences.

This agreement had to be dissolved in 2020 because of the pandemic, but it was resumed on January 14, 2022 and will remain active until the 2023-2024 academic year.

5. Virtual tour and institutional video: citizens can also visit and learn about parliament without leaving home. On the webpage people will find the virtual tour

through which you can visit the Pazo do Hórreo and its halls with a written and oral explanation of each of them, as if they were present at the institution. In addition, our institutional video explaining the history of the building and the parliament, as well as its functions and organization, is also available. This modality was widely used in classrooms during the pandemic.

6. Visits to temporary exhibitions in the parliament:

The parliament organizes and hosts temporary exhibitions at its headquarters in the Pazo do Hórreo. These can be visited freely within the opening hours of the institution's staff.

Among the last organized we had:

- EXHIBITION "AÇORES SILÊNCIO E SER": In the framework of an institutional act of cooperation between Galicia and the Azores Islands and the presentation of the book "Viaxe á Illa do Corvo" (Azores), 1924 in bilingual edition Galician / Portuguese.
- CARVALHO CALERO EXHIBITION, BIBLIOGRAPHICAL EXHIBITION: Taking advantage of the appointment of Carballo Calero as honored in the Galician Literature Day 2020, the parliament organized a bibliographic exhibition that would later lead to the headquarters of Abanca in Ferrol.
- EXHIBITION ON THE STATUTE OF AUTONOMY OF GALICIA: Currently in the corridors of the Pazo since 2021 as the 40th anniversary of the Statute of Autonomy was celebrated that year.
- EXHIBITION "40 YEARS OF GALICIA'S AUTONOMY IN THE CARICATURES OF SIRO": The political cartoonist Siro López donated to the parliament more than 200 politically themed caricatures that the parliament took advantage of to organize an exhibition in which the last 40 years of history of Galicia can be seen.
- GALICIAN LITERATURE EXHIBITION: This is our permanent exhibition that is part of our art collection, located in the Galician literature room of the parliament. It consists of portraits or caricatures made by Siro López and sculpted in plaster and resin by the sculptor Ferreiro Badía of all those honored on the day of Galician literature over time.
- EXHIBITION "THE POWER OF THE WORD. 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GALICIA. 1981/2021": Traveling exhibition organized on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Legislative Chamber. It was open to the public in the Parliament itself and then began a traveling stage that will take it to all Galician cities and end in Madrid. Curated by Ramón Villares, Professor Emeritus and Former Rector of the University of Santiago.
- "SHARE" PROJECT: Traveling exhibition made up of a selection of works from the Galician Parliament's art collection that, since the end of 2022, will be shown in different Galician cities and towns, in Madrid and, possibly, in other cities abroad that have a high Galician presence. Organized with the collaboration of the Xunta de Galicia.

CHILDREN'S DAY FOR 1ST- 4TH PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (6-9 years old): "THE BOLECHAS VISIT THE PARLIAMENT"

Since the activities mentioned so far are aimed at adults and students from 5th grade of primary school (recommended age for visits based on the school curriculum), we have designed a specific day for the youngest to get to know the parliament, the deputies and learned what the elections are for.

Once a year, the Bolechas (famous Galician cartoon characters) visit the Galician Parliament and guide the children from the main lobby, divided into groups by the 4 most emblematic halls of the headquarters: Salón dos Reis, the Chamber, the Sala

do Rexurdimento and the Xeración Nós Library in order to watch a video, make a puzzle or any other fun activities related to the topic.

All the exercises and materials designed for this purpose are available in the website “E tí, ves ao Parlamento?”.

PARLIAMENT WEEK AT SCHOOL

Around 6,000 boys and girls attending 5th and 6th grade of public primary schools took part in the Parliament Week at School which began on 29 November, 2021 some days before the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Galician Parliament.

Parliament Week at School has been designed to be carried out without hindering the normal school year of the school curriculum, as it can be conducted in a cross-curricular manner without having to confine it to a specific area of knowledge.

Q&A FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, BACCALAUREATE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

In this case, the parliament, represented by its former deputies, moves to the centres to report on its activity and resolve the doubts of students and teachers in this regard.

SCHOOL PLENARY SESSIONS AND DEBATE CONTESTS

The parliament collaborates with several NGOs in the organization of children's plenary sessions in the Chamber with the participation of the Bureau and deputies of parliamentary groups. Primary, secondary and baccalaureate school students both of public and private schools come to the parliament in order to meet the deputies and explain the objectives of the NGOs campaign they have worked in their classrooms during the whole year. We have collaborated with UNICEF, Aldeas Infantiles, Fundación Educo and Plan Internacional and we have organized these collaborations in person and via videoconference over the last years.

On the debating contests, the parliament has organized several face-to-face debating contests in its Chamber:

- European Youth Parliament.
- The finals of the Compostela University Debate Tournament.
- Every year the finals and semi-finals and awards ceremony of the Parlamento Xove organized by the Consellería de Política Social of Xunta de Galicia.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

The role of the parliament and the staff of the Chamber in making known the Pazo do Hórreo, its history, its functions and organization is crucial.

Practically all the services of the Chamber are involved in this initiative, from the Office of the Presidency, in charge of the organization, management, diffusion and realization of the initiatives, to the service of Information Technologies Department, in charge of the audio visual and technological support, Personnel and Internal Regime Department, General Assistance Service and Parliamentary Groups.

European orientation of the initiative

The Galician Parliament is based in Santiago de Compostela, the destination of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James), a pilgrimage route that travels through Europe to reach the Galician capital. The Way was and still is, without a doubt, the oldest, busiest, and most celebrated route in the old continent. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over Europe travel the different routes of the path each year filling the capital of the Autonomous Community with different cultures and languages for several days after their arrival. A basic visit among the city's offerings is the parliament, which, thanks to open days and English-language visits, can serve visitors perfectly well during their stay.

Parliament is also included in the scheduled visits of the Erasmus + program (KA1, KA2 and KA3) and the ESN. Every year the parliament receives many requests from groups interested in getting to know the institution and sharing conversations and impressions with members of the Bureau or deputies, mainly on education, training, regional languages, opening institutions to citizenship, innovation and exchange of good practices or Europeanism. Members of parliament are always available to receive these groups, talk to them, and clarify their concerns.

Also, the visits of the didactic programme “Get to Know Your Regional Institutions” described above, gives preference to students of schools that teach the elective subject “European Democratic Values”, according to the Recommendation 2006/962 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning.

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Parlement bruxellois (Belgium)	
Name of the initiative	
Les commissions délibératives mixtes entres citoyens et députés	
Type of initiative	
Procedure	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
01/12/2019	
Web page of the initiative	
https://democratie.brussels/	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>At the start of the 2019-2014 legislature, the Brussels Parliament wanted to open its doors to all Brussels citizens. It has therefore, since December 2019, included the principle of deliberative commissions in its rules.</p> <p>Bringing together 45 citizens drawn by lot and 15 parliamentarians, the deliberative committees are intended to be a new space for dialogue aimed at developing, together and on an equal footing, proposals for recommendations on a particular theme.</p> <p>The theme addressed by each deliberative committee itself results either from a proposal from citizens (this is the “citizen suggestion” mechanism) or from a request from one or more political groups.</p> <p>When the Parliament decides to set up a deliberative commission, a first draw is made of 10,000 people over 16 years old residing on the territory of the Region. On the basis of the registrations, a second draw is made to obtain a sample of 45 people representative of the population of Brussels and to which are added the 15 parliamentarians of a committee.</p> <p>The deliberative commission then takes place in different phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an informative phase, both on the process of the deliberative commissions and on the theme addressed; - a deliberation phase aimed at bringing out proposed recommendations; - a recommendation phase to improve the initial proposals and lead to the adoption of recommendations by all the participants; - a work presentation phase. <p>The parliamentarians then monitor the follow-up of the recommendations adopted and report, after 6 to 9 months, on the progress of this follow-up.</p> <p>Since the implementation of the process, three deliberative commissions have been organized within the Brussels Parliament, the first devoted to the criteria for the deployment of 5G in the Brussels Region, the second which has been called upon to formulate recommendations to respond to the problem of homelessness and bad housing in the Region and a third one which has just ended looked at the issue of biodiversity in the city given the different functions of a city.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>The main features of the mechanism are:</p> <p>Innovation:</p> <p>This is the first time that a mechanism of participatory democracy has been established over time which directly associates parliamentarians and citizens drawn by lot.</p>	

Registered in the regulations of the Parliament, it relates to the parliamentary operation as such. Citizens drawn by lot and parliamentarians are now regularly called upon to debate together on an equal footing.

Inclusion:

Inclusion is the true leitmotif of the process; this is ensured at all stages, from the drawing of lots to the follow-up.

In order to guarantee everyone the same chance of expressing themselves and being heard, Parliament has, following a public contract, appointed an experienced facilitator, paying specific attention to compliance with the principles of deliberation, equality and inclusion.

The question of inclusion is posed at each phase. It is answered in particular by: the translation of the invitation into 5 languages in addition to the two official languages of the Region, a free telephone line, an information sheet, expenses, the presence of a person dedicated to well-being, specific preparation sessions, a "buddy system", daycare, support for young people...

Information

Information on the process and on the specific committees is provided, on the one hand at key times through traditional means of communication, on the other hand through the democratie.brussels platform, dedicated to citizen participation in the Brussels Parliament. The challenge is for all Brussels residents to use this tool.

In concrete terms, several awareness-raising actions are at work:

- a communication campaign aimed at all the media launched when the democratie.brussels platform dedicated to citizen participation in Parliament was launched;
- communication campaigns launched on social networks when invitations are sent;
- a film containing testimonies from participants in a previous process broadcast at the same time;
- the solicitation of the press during the launch, the closing and the presentation of the follow-up of the works.

Follow-up on recommendations:

In order to guarantee greater public support for the process, a follow-up procedure for the recommendations adopted was instituted, with parliamentarians being responsible, 6 to 9 months later, for reporting on their implementation.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative

The smooth running of the deliberative committees depends on the permanent involvement of the services of Parliament at several stages of the process;

- the support committee: made up of two parliamentary officials (the "guarantors"), four experts in citizen participation and two experts in the subject matter addressed, it meets regularly and oversees, overall, the smooth running of the process from the angles of equality, inclusion, transparency...;

- the governance committee: made up of the chairman of the deliberative committee, the guarantor, a representative of the operator in charge of facilitation and two participants drawn by lot from among the citizens, it meets at the end of each meeting and evaluates it;

- close collaboration with the designated external operator for the facilitation of the various stages of the process, which uses its experience to facilitate the process with particular attention to equality and inclusion;

The involvement of Parliament is then also important in the follow-up of the recommendations.

Indeed, the recommendations adopted by the deliberative commissions are each time the subject of a follow-up, on the one hand by the members of the commission associated with the deliberative commission for the recommendations which fall directly within their competence, on the other hand, if necessary, by the members of another committee if they fall within the competence of this committee. Within 6 or 9 months, a report of this follow-up is drawn up and sent to all the participants of the deliberative committee. The citizens who participated in the commission are then invited to a meeting to present this report and are then brought to discuss the follow-up given to their recommendations. This follow-up can take different forms: proposal for an ordinance or resolution, interpellation of the government... Obviously, these recommendations constitute a definite aid to decision-making and all the political actors in Brussels take them up.

European orientation of the initiative

This initiative of the deliberative committees anchored in the very functioning of the Brussels Parliament is fully in line with the objectives of deliberative democracy which are promoted both at the level of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The forthcoming global evaluation that will be carried out will make it possible to refine the system which could be transposed to other assemblies. It should be noted that the Parliament of Wallonia also intends to adopt a similar mechanism. In addition, it has been proposed to present this innovation in terms of participatory democracy at the next conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy which will take place next December in Grenoble.

Documentation

Yes

CALRE Award 2022 – Application

Submitting assembly	
Parlement de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium)	
Name of the initiative	
Assemblée citoyenne : "Quel avenir pour l'Europe?"	
Type of initiative	
Other	
Start date of the initiative	End date of the initiative
18/03/2022	19/03/2022
Web page of the initiative	
https://www.pfwb.be/infos-pratiques/actualites/au-parlement-62-jeunes-imaginent-l2019avenir-de-l2019europe	
Short description of the initiative	
<p>In March 2022, 62 young people aged between 18 and 25 met in the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to discuss the theme “What future for Europe?”. They were practically all French-speaking Belgians and came from diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>On the first day, the young people heard the speech of the president of the assembly Rudy Demotte, as well as the presentations of two university professors, specialists in European issues, Nathalie Brack for the ULB and Louis le Hardÿ de Beaulieu for the UCLouvain. They then listened to Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul, one of the organizers of the Conference on the Future of Europe for the European Commission. The speakers made a point of expressing themselves in a clear language, accessible to all, which aroused the interest of the young audience and encouraged the emergence of many questions.</p> <p>On the second day, in the morning, collective intelligence techniques were used to organize workshops. They have created a great dynamic and encouraged speaking out, including among the most reserved. In the afternoon, it was in plenary session, in the hemicycle, that the 62 young citizens met, to summarize the morning's activities, but also to vote on each of the texts corresponding to the themes previously identified, the together forming the “Declaration on the future of Europe”.</p>	
Main features of the initiative	
<p>The PFWB has decided to participate in this Conference through the organization of a citizen participatory event. “What future for Europe?” was structured around four themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What Europe means to me2. What I propose so that Europe is close to me3. What I concretely expect from Europe4. What I would like Europe to carry as values	
Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative	
<p>The President and the Bureau of the Parliament supported the participation of the PFWB in the Conference on the future of Europe through the organization of this citizens' assembly.</p> <p>MEPs from each political group spoke with the young audience. They attended the final vote on the entire text, during the day on Saturday.</p>	
European orientation of the initiative	
<p>The Declaration on the Future of Europe was adopted by 47 yes, 11 no and 4 abstentions. It was sent to the 94 parliamentarians of the Wallonia-Brussels</p>	

Federation and posted on the Internet platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe, along with the other contributions.

A report on the work of the citizens' event "what future for Europe?" was presented to the plenary session of the FWB Parliament and the Conference on the Future of Europe.

This event is a perfect example of participatory democracy which aims to better involve citizens in political life.

Documentation

Yes