

## Ideas room – Participate

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### Preamble

Art 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins by saying:  
*“Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.”*

“Duties, communities and the free and full development of personality” have a very different meaning today than in 1948. It is enough to consider the impact of immense changes in technology, the harsh transformation of traditional social patterns brought about by urbanisation, the surge of the financialisation of the economy and the massive commodification of everything – including everything from culture to the human mind -, the climate change, the tremendous changes in the demand for participation resulting from available technology, access to information, emancipation of women and social groups, etc.

Nevertheless, our duties towards our communities are fundamental to fulfilling human rights, and for the development of a new global citizenship. Moreover, despite and resulting from all these changes, the necessity to ensure and protect fundamental rights is on the radar of many in Europe and across the globe.

To successfully allow the free and full development of every human being, the interconnected challenges of our time demand a new understanding of the HOW this changed world can be governed by WHOM.

### Issues

**>> Please consider sharing your views with regard to one or more of the following questions in your first intervention.**

If people’s participation and engagement in creating the future is a necessity, how can this be fostered in times of great uncertainty and changes? How can a culture of participation penetrate the different sectors, in particular in the cultural one?

What/who are the **invisible** enemies? And who are the supporters?

Moreover, who should take part in decision-making processes concerning the Commons, in particular when it comes to culture and heritage? Citizens, all people, the market? Stakeholders? Amateurs? Experts? ... And at what stage of the decision making process their views should be considered?

Is the city the frontline for change? And if so, what does *participation in future making* mean in term of governance, urban design and cultural life? Who are the key players, their relations and responsibilities?

The European Union project of democracy founded on human rights is at risk under the pressure of short-sighted national political interests. Can engagement from the grassroots and forward-looking local authorities reverse the trend? How?