

EN

# AMPLIFY

Maak de toekomst van  
Europa de jouwe

## The Netherlands

**Contribution**  
to the Conference on the  
Future of Europe

#Amplify  
#CulturalDealEU  
#TogetherEU  
#TheFutureIsYours

**October 2021**

# AMPLIFY

Make the future of  
Europe yours

Amplify is a project working across 12 European countries that brings underrepresented voices in the cultural sector to the Conference on the Future of Europe. During the project, project members work together to write a set of recommendations to EU decision-makers, focusing on ideas, hopes, and demands for the vision of the Future of Europe. Then, after the Conference ends, there will be an opportunity to respond to and publicly advocate for these ideas.

## What is the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#)?

The Conference on the Future of Europe is the first initiative coordinated by the European Institutions to offer an open, inclusive, and democratic forum for pan-European, citizen-led series of debates about crucial issues that shape Europe's future. Such issues include Europe's economic and social system, culture, education, climate protection, and the EU core values. The conference will also explore the lessons that Europe can learn from the pandemic. The goal is to receive proposals from people across Europe in order to collectively imagine our shared future.

## How are voices being heard?

Through local working sessions, participants will collaborate in a group to write a set of recommendations. These will be submitted on the Conference of Future of Europe platform for the public to see and interact with. Culture Action Europe put forward a recommendation in combination with those of all 12 countries directly to EU decision-makers.

## How can cultural communities get involved in Amplify?

Amplify's main goal is to gather ideas, proposals, recommendations, and concerns about the vision of culture in the future of Europe. There are four main parts of the project that rely on collaboration and energy at the community level.

### Connect

Identify organisations, projects, and/or individuals in the cultural sector who are working to create access and inclusion within underrepresented and/or marginalised communities across Europe

### Plan

Meet in groups to collaboratively write recommendations to be submitted on the Conference on the Future of Europe platform

### Mobilise

Start sharing and customising the campaign locally for the Future of Europe and get people interested in sharing their ideas for the Conference

### Amplify

In Spring 2022, meet for a live Hackathon event that reacts to the conclusions of the Conference and advocate for key focuses for the future of Europe

Find more information about Amplify [here](#).

## Recommendations Amplify in The Netherlands

*Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours* is a project that brings together representatives of the cultural and creative communities from 12 European countries in a joint effort to bring voices less heard within mainstream discourse to the forefront of the *Conference on the Future of Europe* (CoFoE). The campaign listens to and amplifies voices, ideas, proposals and concerns of underrepresented communities across the continent on the vision of the future of Europe. Through a series of collaborative and participatory sessions, each country has developed a recommendation as a submission to the Conference on the Future of Europe platform. This recommendation is the result of *Amplify Sessions held in The Netherlands* with 11 art students. As representatives of the next generation of cultural creators they have been asked to identify issues and voices they are missing in the conversation about the future of Europe. They have been researching these issues either by themselves or in a group working session on 24 and 25 September and have expressed the outcomes in a project pitch. Their recommendation for the *Conference on the Future of Europe* is to put attention on some key themes.

### Key themes and issues identified

ChemSex is a phenomenon in the gay community and it is hardly talked about. Awareness about the risks and the persons at risk is needed to establish methods and structures that provide safety and support for the community.

Gig Economy is omnipresent with AirBnB and Uber as prominent examples. How is the work reality withing this system, what are the dependencies, limits and general issues? How can we take into account the interests of those working in it often from an already precarious background like artists.

Mental Illness is stigmatised across society. How can it get out of the margins of the public discourse towards acceptance and an open dialogue about what change is needed to be less exclusive towards many citizens with mental issues.

The image of loving families outside of the norm need normalisation and emancipation of e.g. LGBTQI parents, by zooming into their happiness as well as their legal and social struggle. *#alternativefamily #LGBTQI*

Gentrification is a problem across Europe. An exemplary project will start up a conversation in the neighborhood Amsterdam North in order to imagine a shared future, working with archive materials as well as newly created visuals. *#care #community #resistance*

Recognition of sex workers is needed to give sex workers a voice, decriminalise their job, and contribute to their safety. This project will design a fictional work union for sex workers, including procedures and a union building. *#sexwork #labourrights*

As a society and as individuals we need to adopt future thinking, to develop an awareness that the actions taken today have an impact on the future. Can we have a conversation with the 'unborn' and let confront us with a future reality that is made by us today? *#climatechange #sustainable societies*

The lethal combination of climate neglect and political agendas sacrifices people to fires, floods, storms and other catastrophes. Awareness and action is needed if we do not want to drown or burn. *#climatechange #sustainable societies*

The inclusion of differently abled citizens in our cultural and educational fabric is a richness that is not yet acknowledged. It could innovate our societies and make them more socially sustainable. *#thevoiceofthedeaf #otherness #togetherness*

*All descriptions are work in progress and subject to change.*

## Process

The artists not only point out what in their view needs attention but also propose artistic projects that they will realise in the next months around these themes. They contribute to the broad awareness about the identified issues including artistic means to trigger and support change. Between now and 9 May 2022 they will engage with the communities they have identified in their project proposals while developing and implementing their projects.

They will come together as a group at set moments to exchange thoughts on their work, discuss progress and challenges. They will also collaboratively design a process towards Europe Day on 9 May 2022, when they will invite the communities they have worked with and the broader public to present and discuss their projects during a hackathon that will lead to a co-created outcome like a manifesto.

## Partners

The Dutch Amplify process is carried and shaped by H401, DutchCulture, LKCA, Creative Court, BA Photography of the Royal Academy of Art The Hague (KABK), Het Geluid Maastricht and iArts Maastricht.



The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament.