



EURO-SPACE "Citizens' debate on Space for Europe"

"**Citizens' debate on Space for Europe**" is an event organised jointly with the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#) and [Missions Publiques](#). It will be organized on September 10th, 2016 in the whole of Europe at the same day. ICCR will organize the event in Austria. Among other goals the citizens' debate is aiming at preparing information to the Council of Ministers due in December 2016 that will be provided by ESA. ICCR will be organizing the dialogue in Austria.

Who are the organisers of the "Citizens' debate on Space for Europe"?

The **European Space Agency (ESA)** is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world. **Missions Publiques** is one of the French leading player in the field of participatory democracy.

Why does ESA need citizens' views and proposals?

ESA worked for decades with representatives of Member States and now wants to get closer to citizens and to enter dialogue with them.

Space benefits to European citizens thanks to ESA's research and work. It is crucial for an organization that intends to serve citizens to enter in a dialogue and to include the European citizens in the decision process.

The results and citizens' views and proposals might help the governments to prioritize programmes and take decisions.

Furthermore, a participatory approach strengthens both policy's relevance and its acceptance. Public involvement contributes:

- to build public confidence and trust in decisions
- to generate a better understanding of issues and priorities

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The objectives of the Citizens' debate

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- to increase high quality and democratic decisions and strengthen civil capacity
- to increase mutual learning between citizen and ESA
- to mirror a wider range of public concerns and values in decision-making
- to Identify possible controversial issues and to help achieving consensus

What will ESA do with the results of the debate?

- The results will be analysed, published and widely disseminated.
- The outcomes will be used in order to improve the capacity of the European Space Agency to integrate European citizens
- Their insights gained will be used in the cooperation with the ESA stakeholders
- The results will be used as information material to assist decision making during the EU Minister Council at the end of the 2016 as this body will set the Space programmes for the future.

How will the participants be recruited?

Any inhabitant from your country can apply to participate to a debate. Note that a good participatory activity is one where all kinds of citizens are given a voice.

The applicant needs to fill in a short form on the debate's website to apply to the debate organised in the Member States.

From the list of people who applied to participate, 100 to 150 participants will be selected by ESA and Missions Publiques for each debate according to transparent criteria that ensure a representativity of the discussants.

What will be the benefit for the participants to join this debate?

- The citizens will be informed about space issues and ESA's activities
- The organisation will ensure an open discussion on the issues at hand in a friendly atmosphere that will take place in small groups to ensure that everybody will get heard.
- The citizens will get the possibility to contribute to ESA's future activities and missions. They will receive a feedback (and, of course, a space gift as a little thank-you).