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Answer given by President von der Leyen
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.7.2025)

1. To select the participants for the European Citizens' Panels (ECPs), the Commission employs a randomised door-to-door selection process in 150 EU locations, providing a pool of participants representative of EU diversity¹. The Commission has successfully implemented measures to limit self-selection bias and ensure that the diversity of attitudes towards the EU found in Eurobarometer surveys are reflected².

To recruit participants in the Youth Policy Dialogues (YPDs), the Commission relies on multiple channels³, the support of different EU bodies⁴, and open calls, to minimise bias arising from a single recruitment method.

In order to promote an open and inclusive environment, the Commission remains attentive to improving its practices and draws on participants' feedback to enhance future selection efforts.

2. A Knowledge Committee, composed by external independent experts and an expert from the Commission, accompanies the Panels. The Committee enhances the integrity of the deliberative process ensuring the quality, objectivity, diversity, and comprehensibility of the information provided to participants, following the panel from the preparatory stages until the adoption of citizens' recommendations.

3. Experts⁵ come from diverse backgrounds (e.g., academia, think tanks and civil society), depending on the topic.

¹ The six socio-demographic criteria considered are the following: geography, gender, age (with one third of participants being between 16 and 29 years old), level of education, occupation, and the attitude towards the EU.

² Among the citizens who participated in the recent Panel on the New European Budget, 14.5% declared to have a negative attitude towards the EU, 33.8% marked their attitude as neutral, and 51.7% as positive; these numbers are very close to the diversity targets set for the selection of the participants (17% negative, 39% neutral, and 44% positive), which are based on the data of the Standard Eurobarometer 102 – Autumn 2024.

³ Including databases of Erasmus+, DiscoverEU and European Solidarity Corps beneficiaries, National Youth Councils.

⁴ Including the Commission's Representations, the European Parliament Liaison Offices, the Eurodesk Network, EU Delegations, the European Committee of the Regions, and the European Youth Forum.

⁵ The full list of the Knowledge Committee members is available in the final reports of each panel, published on the Citizens' Engagement Platform (https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/index_en).