

chARTer

/ DIGNITY / FREEDOMS / EQUALITY / SOLIDARITY / CITIZENS RIGHTS / JUSTICE /

The fundamental rights of every human being are being threatened in these years. We see this in Europe, as everywhere in the world. Especially LGBT-rights, rights for vulnerable groups, rule of law, freedom of speech and freedom of association are under attack in several member states. The rule of law and human rights are basic elements within the EU, but those values are being threatened. Very few people know about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and that we have common values which need to be protected. Therefore, we need to raise awareness about our fundamental rights and increase the support for democratic values, we need to fight for them and not take them for granted.

We therefore invite artists from around Europe to interpret the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, to set focus on these values. This will help to spark this critical reflection and discussion of the significance of our rights. We will facilitate the making of artworks of each of the Charter's articles, to be used as an entry into dialogue and interpretations.

The art will be developed by both established and upcoming artists, spanning a range of different art disciplines in its use of media and dissemination, from poems, paintings, photographs, and graphic expressions etc.

The focus of the project is to bring the past, present and future of the Charter in play. This via unconventional creative measures and citizens involvement, through art and interactive methods to stimulate the discussion of the history of the Charter and our rights as a pillar for EU democracy.

The artistic expressions of the Charter will be presented and exhibited at exhibitions in the partner countries. At the kick-off of each exhibition citizens will be introduced to thoughts from the artist, decision makers and/or CSO's on the Charter. The different art pieces will be shown at exhibitions in Europe, but also be printed into posters for people to bring back home.

THE EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is a legally binding document that contains a list of human rights recognised by the EU. The rights of every individual in the EU were established at different times, in different ways and in different forms. For this reason, the EU decided to include them all in a single document, which has been updated in the light of changes in society, social progress and scientific and technological developments. The Charter of Fundamental Rights brings together all the personal, civic, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU in a single text.

It covers:

- all the rights found in the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU
- the rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights
- other rights and principles resulting from the common constitutional traditions of EU countries and other international instruments.

The Charter has become legally binding in the EU with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009. [Visit the European Commission's webpage to get more information.](#)

In the Charter there is six overall chapters, which are the chapters or the words that are up for artistic interpretation: **Dignity, Freedoms, Equality, Solidarity, Citizens Rights and Justice.**

PROCESS OF THE PROJECT

The project will be carried out in at least five European countries. The consortium of partners is from Greece, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Denmark, which is also where events and exhibitions are carried out.

The first event will be in Denmark in the beginning of January 2023. And the following events for the rest of 2023 will be in Poland, in Germany, in Brussels in Belgium and in Greece and Spain. During 2024 each partner will host events moving towards the 2024 European Parliament elections and elections across Europe. This project will end in Brussels in autumn 2024, but hopefully we will be able to continue the exhibitions and events around the art in other places in Europe.

THE ARTWORK

It is important for us that there is the largest room for artistic expression of the chapters and will not set strict criteria upon you as an artist. Our only criterion is that it should be possible to print the artwork into a poster in size 70x100 cm, hence, the art must fit a format that allows the pieces to be photographed and scanned. You will also have to provide us with the scanned version of your artwork.

One of the key elements in this project is that we want to make the original art into posters and postcards thereby ensuring the possibility to bring the Charter home, which makes the Charter more accessible and will continue the awareness about fundamental rights for people in Europe. Hopefully, the art will maintain a recognizable design for the project to live on even when the duration period is over. Therefore, the visuals can be used in campaigns for fundamental rights after the project end.

The deadline for sketches of your artistic vision is the **10th of December 2022**.

The deadline to finish the art piece is the **15th of February 2023**.

EXHIBITIONS

In every city there will be a vernissage, before the exhibition opens. At the vernissage, which will be open for the public, we will have a welcoming talk about the project and a discussion on the issue with different stakeholders. The stakeholders can be politicians, representation from vulnerable groups, scholars, opinion makers and you as the artist.

The exhibition will be open for people to come and see the art after the vernissage. However, the exhibitions will take place in different locations in different countries. The locations can be public places, outside, galleries, or event halls and museums – it depends on the context of the place. The original artwork will be auctioned at exhibitions in Copenhagen or/and in Brussels. The other exhibitions will use printed posters.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT

One part of the project is also to participate in the ongoing activities, and we hope that you are willing to be part of the story of fundamental rights as well. During the process, we want to engage you in the conversation about fundamental rights in different ways, which include:

- Being interviewed about your artwork, your thoughts about fundamental rights, democracy and rule of law and how this process has been for you as an artist. This interview will be used in different ways. People can listen to it in a podcast. We will also make a QR code next to the piece, so people can listen to you, while they look at the piece.
- Record some video footage about your art process - video diary, time lapse of the painting process or alternative video production which illustrates your process.
- Participating physically or online at the vernissage (one or two times), either in a presentation or in a panel discussion.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT & CURATION

For your participation in the project, we will be able to pay you 1300 Euro for the artwork + 20% of the sale of the original art. We will cover transport and accommodation if there is any travel expenditure. The profit from the sale of the art piece will be used for the aim, and work to promote and secure fundamental human rights in the EU.

The project is supported by the European Commission, and we are trying to get more funding, to make the exhibitions larger, or carried out in other European Countries.

We are working with a professional group of curators who will be validating the artwork.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Nyt Europa is a Danish organization founded in 1998 with the overall objective to promote civic engagement on a Danish and European level. We work for a more sustainable, progressive, and democratic Europe and believe that the EU institutions play a pivotal role in solving the challenges we face in Europe today. Nyt Europa creates public activities; debates, talks, workshops, exhibitions, educational programs, conferences etc., in order to initiate and strengthen public participation and knowledge.

Ecomon promote and support initiatives and projects of personal and social development that allow the recipients a good insertion in society and a better coexistence, under the criterion of considering the person a supreme value, promoting identity, creativity and autonomy of the people or entities involved, trying to comply with the quality indicators appropriate to each case. Their activities promote actions for a fair economy, promote peace, improve the environment, and facilitate integration of newly arrived people.

Institute of Public Affairs is a leading Polish think tank and an independent centre for policy research and analysis, established in 1995. Their mission is to contribute to informed public debate on key Polish, European and global policy issues. The main areas of study include European policy, social policy, civil society, migration, and development policy as well as law and democratic institutions.

Democracy International is a global coalition for direct democracy and supports democracy activists in building campaigns and organizations. DI shares knowledge and legal expertise on direct democracy campaigns for greater democracy at the local, state, national and transnational level. Democracy International's goal is to give citizens a more direct say in political decision-making. DI aims to strengthen direct democracy and citizens' participation on the local, national and transnational level across the globe.

Organization Earth is a Greek non-profit Civil Society Organization founded in 2010 who strives to serve all the 17 SDGs, by offering programs of non-typical education and by facilitating community-based activities, with a focus on vulnerable populations living in urban centers. Organization Earth are also focusing on human and fundamental rights and refugees and are carrying out projects for the most marginalized people.

European Civic Forum gathers more than one hundred NGOs and associations in 27 European countries, daily committed to the general interest in various areas. The overall objective is to build a genuine European civil dialogue, which is a prerequisite for a civic and popular ownership of European matters, and which must be well anchored in institutions' working methods.