

An invitation to participate in a DEMOS Dialogue about

**SUBJECT FROM THE DEMOS CARD HERE**

E.g. CIVIL SOCIETY

**Write questions from the DEMOS cards related to the topic of discussion**

**here.**

E.g. What comes to mind when you hear the term "civil society"?

Are you involved in any civil society organisations or activities?

How can individuals support and strengthen civil society?

**DATE AND PLACE here**

We are inviting you to participate in a confidential discussion regarding civil society. We would like to hear Your thoughts on the subject!

The dialogue will be organized and facilitated by name person here. The participants of the dialogue are various people you might not encounter in your day-to-day life. Come as yourself, all you need is an open mind and curiosity. The ground rules for DEMOS Dialogues and the facilitator serve as support for the conversation.

In the DEMOS Dialogue, we talk about our own experience, you don't have to be an expert on the subject. Instead of agreeing or arguing, we aim for an exchange of experiences and thinking together. We don't have to make decisions or solve issues, but we strive to increase understanding of ourselves, others and the topic of the discussion.

Generally speaking, democracy faces several challenges on a global level: erosion of the democratic norms, threats of electoral integrity, rise of populism, inequality and political polarization as few to mention. Democracy Dialogues (DEMOS) project aims to respond to some of the above-mentioned challenges by encouraging people to have local dialogues on important societal issues.

With the help of the DEMOS Dialogue you can learn more about yourself, others and democracy. Alongside improving dialogue skills, the method also aims to encourage participants to get civically engaged in their local communities.

**Sign up for the discussion as soon as possible, no later than XX.** Register by replying to this invitation email/ by the register form ([link here](#)).

You are warmly welcome to join us! We will send additional information to those who have registered before the event.

**Discussion schedule:**

xx.xx Coffee and tee available in room XX  
xx.xx Opening of the discussion, introduction  
xx.xx Joint discussion  
xx.xx Insights from the discussion and final words  
xx.xx The discussion ends

**With kind regards,**

**Jane/ John Doe**  
Organisation YY  
contact information

***DEMOS Dialogue** is a tool for discussing important societal issues in your local area. With the help of this method you can invite people from different backgrounds to gather together and share their experiences about different phenomena regarding democracy as well as listen to others. With the help of the DEMOS Dialogue method you can learn more about yourself, others and democracy. Alongside increasing dialogue skills, the method also aims to encourage participants to get civically engaged in their local communities.*

***A dialogue** is a constructive conversation where everyone's voice carries the same weight. A successful dialogue will help all participants reach a deeper understanding of the topic that is being addressed, generating reflections on the self, others, and society overall.*

## **Ground Rules for DEMOS Dialogues**

1 Listen to the others, do not interrupt or start additional conversations

“Everyone must have the opportunity to explain their views in peace. It is important that we do not interrupt each other or whisper with the person next to us.”

2 Share your own thoughts and experiences

“To be able to better understand the issue discussed and each other, it is a good idea to talk about our own thoughts and experiences. This means that we tell others what issues, events and situations have affected our views.”

3 Respect the other participants

“Let’s respect different people and the different views people have. “

4 Consider things in peace and relate what you say to what others have said

“You don’t need to have the right answers. Dialogue is about being curious and about thinking about different issues together. We do not need to reach unanimity or solutions.”

5 Be present and respect the confidentiality of the dialogue

“In a dialogue, it is important to concentrate on each other and on the issue, so let’s keep the mobiles and laptops stored away. Let’s keep the conversation confidential so that everyone can talk as freely as possible. You can share your own thoughts forward but if you want to share someone else’s, ask them for permission.”

6 Be open to change

“Dialogue can move us. It can create new insights and make us change our points of view. It can encourage us to act and discuss the issue forward with other people. Good things can happen and DEMOS Dialogue is a way to start!”