



RESHAPING EUROPEAN ADVANCES TOWARDS GREEN LEADERSHIP THROUGH DELIBERATIVE APPROACHES AND LEARNING

D2.3: Report on the project's networking with policymakers including the policy dialogues and the number of policymakers engaged

[WP2 – Creating and mobilising pan-European stakeholder
networks and a European Civil Society Forum for the Green
and Just Transition]

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Project Summary

REAL DEAL will stimulate a pan-European debate to reshape citizens' and stakeholders' active participation through deliberative processes around the European Green Deal (EGD). It brings together researchers and practitioners of deliberative democracy from a wide range of disciplines including environmental rights and the law of public participation, ethics and responsible innovation, gender studies and ecofeminism, psychology, geography, urban planning, and sustainability studies. It includes the EU's largest civil society networks advocating on the environment, climate, sustainable development, local democracy, and the European movement. It teams up with youth climate, social justice and women's organisations, SMEs, universities and research institutes, mobilising networks with thousands of CSOs, uniting millions of citizens and activating contacts to thousands of policymakers. In a large co-creation exercise, REAL DEAL will develop, test, and validate innovative tools and formats to propel deliberative democracy to the next level. It will test its innovations at citizens assemblies for the transition in at least 13 countries. We will scrutinise pan-European formats ranging from digital deliberation through our online platform www.realdeal.eu to in-person processes such as an Assembly for a Gender-Just Green Deal and a pan-European Youth Climate Assembly. REAL DEAL will co-create a comprehensive protocol for meaningful citizens' participation and deliberation to work towards the objectives of the EGD. It will validate recommendations on how to design such processes and how they can be applied by European institutions, Member States, and civil society alike. Gender equality will be embedded into the project's DNA. It pays specific attention to the leave-no-one-behind principle, fostering the engagement of disenfranchised groups that are disproportionately burdened by environmental damage. REAL DEAL will develop a new model of environmental citizenship across Europe.

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Logo	Partner	Abbreviation	Country
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	EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU	EEB	Belgium
	ALLEANZA ITALIANA PER LO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE	ASviS	Italy
	ASSOCIATION DES AGENCES DE LA DEMOCRATIE LOCALE	AADL/ALDA	France
	CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY	CEU	Hungary
	CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK EUROPE	CAN EUROPE	Belgium
	DIALOGIK	DIA	Germany
	EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL	EMI	Belgium
	GLOBAL CLIMATE FORUM	GCF	Germany
	FORENINGEN NYT EUROPA	NYT EUROPA	Denmark
	SOLIDAR	SOLIDAR	Belgium
	TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN	TUB	Germany
	TRILATERAL RESEARCH	TRI IE	Ireland
	WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH	WR	Netherlands
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Executive summary

This deliverable provides information and an overview of D2.3 Real Deal project's networking with policymakers including the policy dialogues and the number of policymakers engaged. This includes activities conducted by highlighting the achievements, challenges, and weaknesses throughout the first 18 months of the project implementation period. The report also presents a methodology for building a network of policymakers with the aim of promoting deliberative and participatory democracy and advancing sustainable development goals. The proposed methodology outlines key steps and strategies to engage policymakers and facilitate knowledge sharing and sustain the network. By following this methodology, we aim to strengthen ties with decision-makers while further expanding the network, fostering collaboration, and driving positive change.

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List of acronyms/abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
CoFoE	Conference on the Future of Europe
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEVE	
DG	Directorate-General
DG COMM	Directorate-general Communication
DG ECFIN	Directorate-general Economic and Financial Affairs
DG EMPL	Directorate-general Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
DG INTPA	Directorate-general International Partnerships
EC	European Commission
ECI	European Citizens' Initiative
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EGD	European Green Deal
ENVI	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
EU	European Union
EU VR	European Union Voluntary Review
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MEP	Member of the Parliament
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WP	Work Package

Table 1 List of acronyms/abbreviations

1 Introduction

The European Green Deal is one of the most broad and ambitious policy frameworks adopted by the European Union, aiming to transform the EU into the first climate-neutral region of the world by 2050 and to achieve the objectives set in the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is crucial that these bold transformations provide opportunities for civil society to involve every stage of the European Green Deal (EGD).

Ensuring such profound change requires active engagement and meaningful participation of citizens to shape and take part in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and strategies surrounding the EGD.

The main objective of building a network of policymakers is to ensure that key policymakers at EU and national level support the deliberative processes implemented under this project. To ensure that, the outcome of the process enables an environment for CSOs to engage in meaningful dialogue, decision making mechanisms and to have an actual impact on policymaking. Therefore, establishing a network that connects policymakers with diverse representatives of civil society, researchers, and stakeholders that encourages active engagement is vital for enhancing democratic and participatory processes.

To achieve the abovementioned objectives, a methodology for building a network of policymakers was necessary to identify key policymakers at EU and national level who emphasise the significance of fostering deliberative and participatory democracy.

The scope of the report focuses on outlining a methodology for building a network of policymakers. It encompasses various stages and strategies involved in the process, ranging from defining objectives and identifying target policymakers to organizing events, and facilitating knowledge sharing.

The report also highlights the importance of engaging citizens, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in dialogue with policymakers at EU and national level and their involvement in participatory democracy and decision-making processes through the events/meetings organised under Work Package (WP) 2. It acknowledges that policymaking should be inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs and perspectives of various groups. Building a network of policymakers serves to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange between decision-makers and stakeholders, ultimately leading to more informed and democratic policy outcomes. In addition, previous deliverables under WP1 from Real Deal has explored theories of democratic participation which contributed to initiating the network of policymakers.

2 Methodology

Our objective is to ensure that key policymakers at deliverables under support and buy in to the deliberative processes implemented under this project to ensure that the outcomes of the process have an actual impact on policymaking. The methodology section of this report presents a step-by-step approach for building a network of policymakers to promote democratic participation around the European Green Deal. The methodology is designed to achieve the objective and ensure the effective engagement of policymakers and stakeholders.

2.1 Defining clear steps to achieve the project objectives

Clear and well-defined steps are crucial for guiding the network-building process. As briefly mentioned above, the following steps were identified within the Real Deal project for the creation of the network of policymakers.

- Facilitating Meaningful Engagement: Foster open and constructive dialogue between policymakers, civil society, researchers, and other stakeholders through project events to ensure the active participation of less represented actors in the policymaking process.
- Knowledge Exchange and Learning: It is important to establish processes that provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and reciprocal learning. Throughout the project, activities such as the Civil Society Forum (more below) and webinars were organized. Also, the strong collaboration among Real Deal partners created opportunities for this objective.
- Enhancing Understanding and Collaboration: Promote mutual understanding and collaboration between policymakers and stakeholders to better address challenges and ensure policy decisions consider diverse perspectives and needs.

The abovementioned steps were defined for the creation of the network in a coherent manner with the broader goals of the project, among which is the promotion of democratic participation and sustainable development within the European Green Deal.

2.2 Identifying Policymakers

Identifying the most effective policymakers to engage with is a key step in building the network. To this end, the identification of policymakers started at the early stages of the project. The first activity consisted in carrying out a mapping of stakeholders working around deliberative processes in the areas of the EGD (T2.1&D2.1). The main objective of this task was to identify and map European and national stakeholders and policymakers who promote forms of participatory and deliberative democracy (in particular around particularly regarding the green and just transition) and/or are key stakeholders in one or more of the eight areas of action of the European Green Deal. At the time of writing, the list of stakeholders includes over 500 CSOs, policymakers, researchers, businesses, as well as other relevant projects from several EU and non-EU countries. Not least, the very consortium of the Real Deal project includes EU-based umbrella organisations (SOLIDAR, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), European Movement International (EMI), Climate Action Network Europe, (CAN Europe), Youth Environment Europe (YEE), Nyt Europa, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)), that have well-established networks of decision-makers at the EU and national levels. Therefore, this task also benefits from the partners' existing contacts and relations for widening the group of policymakers to be reached out throughout the project. Finally, enablers for this task also include the members of SDG Watch Europe, those of the European Alliance for a Just Transition, Trade Unions, CSOs and supportive policymakers. All work in areas such as sustainable development, just transition, and/or participatory democracy and therefore contributed to widening the map of policymakers supportive of participatory and deliberative democracy.

2.3 Engaging Policymakers through project events, publications, and activities:

Having defined as essential the meaningful engagement of policymakers, the project defined ways and tools to achieve this goal. Among these, targeted invitations, personalized communication, and tailored emails that highlight the relevance and value of their participation to events and activities were identified as effective tools for communication as well as to foster dialogue and understanding. In addition, organizing meetings, events, and webinars within Real Deal as well as in the various organisations plays a vital role in facilitating dialogue and collaboration among policymakers and civil society. For instance, the Civil Society Forum for Sustainability provides a shared space for policymakers and representatives of civil society across Europe to deliberate on participatory processes both in terms of aims and in terms of assessing the ongoing ones at European level. The Forum also serves as a learning space for both policymakers and civil society by facilitating knowledge exchange and engaging in a meaningful dialogue. Indeed, the methodologies adopted to conduct the Forum, as well as the creation of reports, policy briefs, handbook, and the dissemination of these publications and findings related to the European Green Deal strengthens the engagement and collaboration between policymakers and civil society.

3 List of Meetings

The table provided below serves as an example of the valuable tool adopted in the project for tracking and documenting the engagements and interactions within the network of policymakers organised under WP2 and WP5 in collaboration with the Real Deal project partners. It provides information about, institution, and the purpose of the meeting. The full details of the meeting details securely stored within the project's files to allow for further networking and contacts. This chronological record enables a comprehensive overview of the diverse range of topics and objectives discussed with policymakers from different institutions during the project implementation period. By documenting the purpose of each meeting, it becomes easier to identify patterns for successful tools and track progress. Additionally, this information serves as a valuable reference for future planning, ensuring that regular meetings build upon previous discussions and contribute to the overall objectives of the network.

No	Date	Institution	Purpose of Meeting
1	10.06.2022	Representatives of the European Commission, Eurostat, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)	Panel discussion on Gaps and Recommendations on the European Green Deal
2	25-28.08.2022	Representatives of the European Parliament	To deliberate on the green and just transition, sustainability
3	01.03.2023	Representatives of the European Commission, and EESC	Workshop on Can we democratise the European economy through the European Semester
4	03.03.2023	Representatives of the European Commission, EESC, and European Parliament	Workshop on the future of participatory and deliberative democracy

5	26.06.2023	Representative of the European Parliament, and European Commission	Presentation of EU VR Report, EP SDG report and Civil Society Spotlight report
6	27.06.2023	Representatives of the European Parliament, European Commission, and EESC	Policy Dialogue on the future of the European Green Deal

Table 2 List of Meetings

3.1 Engagement with policymakers

As mentioned in section 3, the creation of the Stakeholder Map initiated the formation of the network by mapping EU and national-level policymakers as part of Task 2.1. Following the creation of the Map, policymakers were invited to various meetings of the Forum (D2.2-Task 2.2.2) organized under Work Package 2. Additionally, several other events and meetings were organized within the framework of the Real Deal project in collaboration with consortium partners to engage with relevant institutional stakeholders. Moreover, SOLIDAR, EEB, and fellow members of SDG WE, seized the opportunities offered by meetings with policymakers arranged in other frameworks to exchange views on topics such as just transition policies, global citizenship education, democratic participation for CSOs, and the European Voluntary Review. As a result, as of the time of writing, SOLIDAR, in collaboration with Real Deal contributors of the task has established a network with **81** policymakers at the EU and national levels during the first 18 months of the project to discuss and advocate for green and just transition, as well as sustainable development.

Detailed information about the key meetings is explained in the following section.

3.1.1 1st Civil Society Forum for Sustainability | Brussels (BE), in person | 9-10/6/2022

The first meeting of the forum (Task 2.2.2) took place in person on the 9th and 10th of June 2022 in Brussel with an aim to discuss the gaps and shortcomings of the European Green Deal. The Forum included a panel discussion with policymakers. Moderated by Ms. Patrizia Heidegger, Director of Global Policies and Sustainability, at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the panel discussion included Ms. Maria Nikolopoulou, Vice President of the NAT Section of the European Economic and Social Committee; Ms. Christine Mayer, Team Leader Sustainable Development Indicators, at Eurostat; and Mr. Frank Siebern-Thomas, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, at the European Commission. During the panel discussion, policymakers presented some of the outcomes of the discussions and engaged in a conversation with participants as part of Task 2.3. Their participation demonstrated their interest and commitment to engaging with civil society representatives, fostering closer ties between policymakers and other stakeholders. Moreover, the participatory nature of the forum allowed for active engagement, diverse perspectives, and knowledge exchange among civil society organizations, experts, and policymakers. By involving a wide range of stakeholders, the forum ensured that policymakers listened to inputs from civil society and considered their concerns, with the goal of ensuring that future policymaking reflects the needs and concerns of those affected by the EGD.



Figure 1 First Meeting of the Civil Society Forum, 9-10 June 2022, Brussels

3.1.2 The Political Festival of Europe | Mariager (DE), in person | 25-28/08/2022

The Real Deal consortium partners participated in the Political Festival of Europe, a four-day event held in August 2022 in Mariager, Denmark. The festival brings thousands of citizens and decision-makers together across Europe to strengthen democratic conversations around the EGD. Real Deal project partners organized over 20 activities and events at the festival, including deliberative sessions, sustainability games, debates on climate neutrality, and a workshop on urban gardening. Through these activities, participants brainstormed and engaged in discussions around involving citizens in the green and just transition sustainability. These activities brought together EU level policymakers, civil society, and youth representatives to listen to these ideas and engage in discussions. By organizing these activities and events, Real Deal created opportunities for policymakers to actively engage with citizens and civil society representatives. These interactions facilitated the establishment of new connections and relationships, expanding the network of policymakers involved in the discussions around the EGD.



Figure 2 Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen (Director-General for Communication at the European Commission) and Asger CHRISTENSEN (MEP, Renew Europe) participated in one of the deliberative sessions organised by the REAL DEAL at the Political Festival Europe, 25-28 August 2022, Mariager, Denmark.

The presence of prominent policymakers such as Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General for Communication at the European Commission, Asger Christensen, MEP, Renew Europe, Karen Melchior, MEP, Renew Europe, Mohammed Chahim, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats and others in the participatory sessions and discussions further enriched the initiatives. Their participation demonstrated their interest and commitment to engaging with citizens, civil society, and youth representatives.

Additionally, the exchange of views and knowledge sharing during the festival allowed experience sharing and best practices among participants and policymakers. This sharing of insights and perspectives contributed to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to the EGD. This exchange facilitated the expansion of the network by bringing together policymakers who support participatory democracy and citizens engagement in decision making mechanisms.

3.1.3 The future of participatory and deliberative democracy workshop | Brussels (BE), in person | 1-3/03/2023

In early March 2023, in the frame of the EESC Civil Society Days, the workshop session on the future of participatory and deliberative democracy took place in Brussels, organized by SOLIDAR, the European Movement International (EMI), and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to discuss the relevance of citizen's participation to complement participatory democracy in Europe.

The workshop brought together many civil society representatives, researchers, policymakers, and several participants from the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). By gathering representatives from different initiatives and organizations, the workshop facilitated

discussions on the importance of citizens' engagement in policy-making processes and identified lessons to be learned from the CoFoE.



Figure 3 The future of participatory and deliberative democracy workshop, 1-3 March 2023, Brussels.

Furthermore, the workshop included the participation of EU level policymakers namely, Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General of the Directorate-General for Communication in the European Commission, Christophe Lefevre, member of the Economic and Social Committee, Thomas Muller, Board Member of the Citizen and Klimarat, and Jelmer Hofkamp, Common Secretariat of the Conference on the Future of Europe in the European Parliament. During the workshop, participatory discussions took place around how the future of participatory democracy and the role of civil society should be in these processes between policymakers and the participants. The workshop contributed to building the network of policymakers who engaged in the discussions on participatory and deliberative democracy further. It is crucial to point out that Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen's repeated involvement in civil society engagement events demonstrates her commitment to democratic processes and fostering dialogue between policymakers and the civil society. This ongoing engagement helps build trust, understanding, and promotes a democratic and inclusive approach to policymaking.

3.1.4 Can we democratise the European economy through the European Semester Workshop | Brussels (BE), in person | 1-3/03/2023

Another Workshop was conducted at the Civil Society Days on 'Can we democratise the European economy through the European Semester', as part of Task 3.4.2. It was moderated by RIFS and had the following policy-makers: Javier Doz Orrit, President of the EESC European Semester Group, Vukašin Ostojić, Policy Officer, Recovery and Resilience Facility Task Force, Secretariat-General of the European Commission, Olivia Galgau, Policy Analyst

- Economist, European Commission, DG ECFIN, Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, Vice-President of the European Semester Group of the EESC - views from the employers' side on the European Semester, Luca Jahier, Vice-President of the European Semester Group of the EESC alongside Matteo Vespa, President of the European Students' Union and Julie Rosenkilde, Nyt Europa Director, Steering Group of SDG Watch Europe.



Figure 4 Can we democratise the European economy through the European Semester workshop, 1-3 March 2023, Brussels.

The workshop focused on the mechanisms of the European Semester. The panellists examined weaknesses in the mechanisms and how a reformed ES could address further issues. Attention was given to the lessons learned from the RRF and their implications for the ES.

The role of CSO involvement in the ES was discussed by the panellists with a spectre of opinions but with a general consensus that involvement is currently inadequate and must be improved upon in the ES reform. Especially when and on what level CSOs should be involved in the ES was discussed.

CSOs role as allies that help facilitate national ownership was also explored in the workshop.

3.1.5 Event on Civil Society in Dialogue with Policymakers on the EUVR and SDGs | Brussels (BE), in person | 26/06/2023

SOLIDAR, together with the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and SDG Watch Europe in collaboration with Real Deal partners, organized an event at the European Parliament on the 26th of June 2023. The event had a specific focus on the current review of the SDGs implementation in and by the EU as part of the European Voluntary Review¹ process, organized within the 2 days-long 5th Civil Society Forum for Sustainability. The event included

¹ The EU will present its first Voluntary Review at the 2023 High Level Political Forum

presentations from policymakers, namely Petros Kokkalis MEP, Udo Bullmann MEP, on the EP SDG Report, Petra Petran from the Cabinet of Paolo Gentiloni, European Commission, on the European Voluntary Review report, and Julie Rosenkilde from Nyt Europe, a Real Deal partner, presenting the main findings of the Civil Society Spotlight report. The Civil Society Spotlight report (Task 2.2.4) explains the current progress towards achieving the SDGs, flags up serious gaps and challenges and makes concrete policy recommendations for the implementation of the SDGs in the EU.



Figure 5 Fifth Civil Society Forum, Civil Society in Dialogue with Policymakers on the EUVR and SDGs, 26 June 2023, Brussels.

The forum offered an opportunity for civil society representatives and policymakers to directly interact with each other, exchange ideas, and discuss strategies for ensuring that there is follow up strategy on the European Green Deal (EGD). This strategy should align with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This engagement fosters relationship-building and the establishment of connections between policymakers and civil society. Furthermore, it also contributes to the development of a broader network of stakeholders committed to sustainable development and participatory policymaking.

3.1.6 Policy Dialogue: The Way forward and our Common Future Brussels (BE), in person | 27/06/2023

On the 27th of June, the fifth meeting of the Civil Society Forum for Sustainability gathered more than 60 CSOs to deliberate on how we can advance Europe's green transition and societal transformations towards the 2030 Agenda as well as the future of the European Green Deal. A full day of CSO discussions was held, and participants had the opportunity to hear from a variety of inspiring speakers from the scientific, academic, policy, and civil society spheres. The Forum meeting also provided an opportunity to present the Gap Analysis of the current EGD report published under WP2 and the Handbook: Citizen Consultation and Participation for the European Green Deal under WP1 to CSO representatives, researchers,

and policymakers. Alongside a panel discussion with leading CSO representatives and working group discussions, policymakers at EU level were also present for a closing policy dialogue with civil society organizations to reflect on the future of the European Green Deal and the just transition.



Figure 6 Fifth Civil Society Forum, The Way forward and our Common Future, 27 June 2023, Brussels

The presence of policymakers such as Thaís Gonçalves from the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Unit F3, Aurelie Godefroy from the DG INTPA Unit F2- Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources at the European Commission, Tanja Buzek from the International Trade Follow-up Committee, Rex Section at the EESC, and Margarida Marques, MEP from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, further enhanced the engagement and networking between policymakers and civil society organizations. In addition, the Forum also marks policymakers' regular involvement in these discussions. Their regular involvement in Real Deal events demonstrates a strong commitment in engaging with civil society, advancing the European Green Deal and the just transition. It also highlights policymakers' recognition of the importance of collaboration between the EU institutions and civil society. By actively participating and listening to diverse perspectives in such events, they foster stronger connections and trust between the EU Institutions and civil society and contributes to the development of a collaborative network of policymakers dedicated to driving positive change in Europe.

4 Main challenges in engaging with policymakers

The initiation of the Stakeholders Map and the existing relations with policymakers helped the creation of a network of policymakers as defined in the Real Deal project. However, further development of the network of policymakers under this task posed certain challenges. One of the challenges can be identified as the lack of awareness, willingness, or interest among

policymakers in engaging with civil society. Considering this along with the competing priorities that policymakers often encounter when setting their schedules, it is difficult for CSOs to convince them to dedicate time and resources to engage with civil society and other stakeholders in events, debates, or meetings. This also poses a challenge to foster meaningful and sustainable relationship with the policymakers for involving stakeholders, including citizens, civil society organizations, and experts, in participatory dialogues and inclusive decision-making processes.

A second challenge consists of maintaining consistent and sustained engagement. Policymakers may change positions or leave their roles. Maintaining engagement requires continuous and important communication efforts to keep the network connected and updated. Regular communication, relationship-building, and knowledge-sharing activities are essential to sustaining engagement and keeping the network active and relevant. However, they are resource intensive. The resources and activities developed by Real Deal seek to address this challenge by enhancing the public demand for EU level policymakers to engage with civil society.

5 Next Steps

As the Real Deal project progresses, WP2 is dedicated to developing a network of policymakers in support of deliberative and participatory democracy around the European Green Deal. As mentioned in D2.2, WP2 is currently in the process of participating to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The HLPF will provide an opportunity to present the Civil Society Spotlight to relevant policymakers, including DGs in the European Commission, MEPs, and EP Committees, among others, attending to the 2023 HLPF. The goal is to ensure that citizens' and civil society's involvement and valuable inputs are reflected in European sustainability policies.

Furthermore, WP2 will continue organizing four additional Civil Society Forums, which will gather regularly both online and in-person throughout 2023 and 2024. These forums will invite policymakers at the national and EU levels who support democratic participation, just transition, and citizen engagement around the European Green Deal. By doing so, we aim to present the main findings of WP2 and strengthen ties with decision-makers, while further expanding the network.

Additionally, the Real Deal consortium will continue working towards amplifying the concrete results of the Civil Society Forum to policymakers in project years 2 and 3. These meetings will contribute to the development of an informal network of policymakers in support of deliberative democracy around the EGD.

Alongside the abovementioned activities, SOLIDAR will continue organising meetings and events with policymakers within its capacity to support democratic participation, just transition, and citizen engagement around the European Green Deal. These meetings aim to expand and develop the network of policymakers.

Finally, upcoming the European Parliamentary elections will offer an opportunity to mobilise resources developed within the Real Deal project to support expanding the network and democratic participation in policy making processes.