



**An EU Horizon 2020 project on
Citizen Deliberation for the European Green Deal**

Real Deal Summit, Budapest, 19 – 21 June 2024

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101037071

Political - research policy: The Horizon call for the European Green Deal



**EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL
RESEARCH & INNOVATION CALL**

October 2021

€1 billion
to accelerate a just and sustainable transition

With the last call under Horizon 2020, the European Commission is investing in 73 projects that will contribute to accelerating a just and sustainable transition to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.

- **74 projects in 10 areas:**
8 thematic areas
2 horizontal areas

Political - research policy: The Horizon call for the European Green Deal

Horizontal	
9. Strengthening knowledge	<p>9.1. European Research Infrastructures' capacities and services to address European Green Deal challenges</p> <p>9.2. Developing end-user products and services for all stakeholders and citizens supporting climate adaptation and mitigation</p> <p>9.3. A transparent and accessible ocean: towards a digital twin of the ocean</p>
10. Empowering citizens	<p>10.1. European capacities for citizen deliberation and participation for the Green Deal</p> <p>10.2. Behavioural, social and cultural change for the Green Deal</p> <p>10.3. Enabling citizens to act on climate change and environmental protection through education, citizen science, observation initiatives, and civic involvement</p>

**10.1. REAL DEAL
& Phoenix**

**10.2 Shared Green
Deal
& ACCTING**

Knowledge & Citizen Working Group: 16 projects



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SDG Watch Europe - European Green Deal & European Semester



New Commission 2019 – 2024: Proposals for the SDGs

Political guidelines (July 2019) ... with:
“refocus the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the SDGs”
-> Dez. 2019:
Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy
(was: Annual Growth Survey)



2. Mission letters (Sept. 2019):
“Each Commissioner will ensure the delivery of the UN SDGs within their policy area.

The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the G

The **European Green Deal** (Dec. 2019) ... **is our new growth strategy.**
It puts sustainability – in all of its senses – and the well-being of citizens at the center of our action. This requires bringing together four dimensions: **environment, productivity, stability and fairness.**

(2.2) Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies (-> incl. Better regulation)

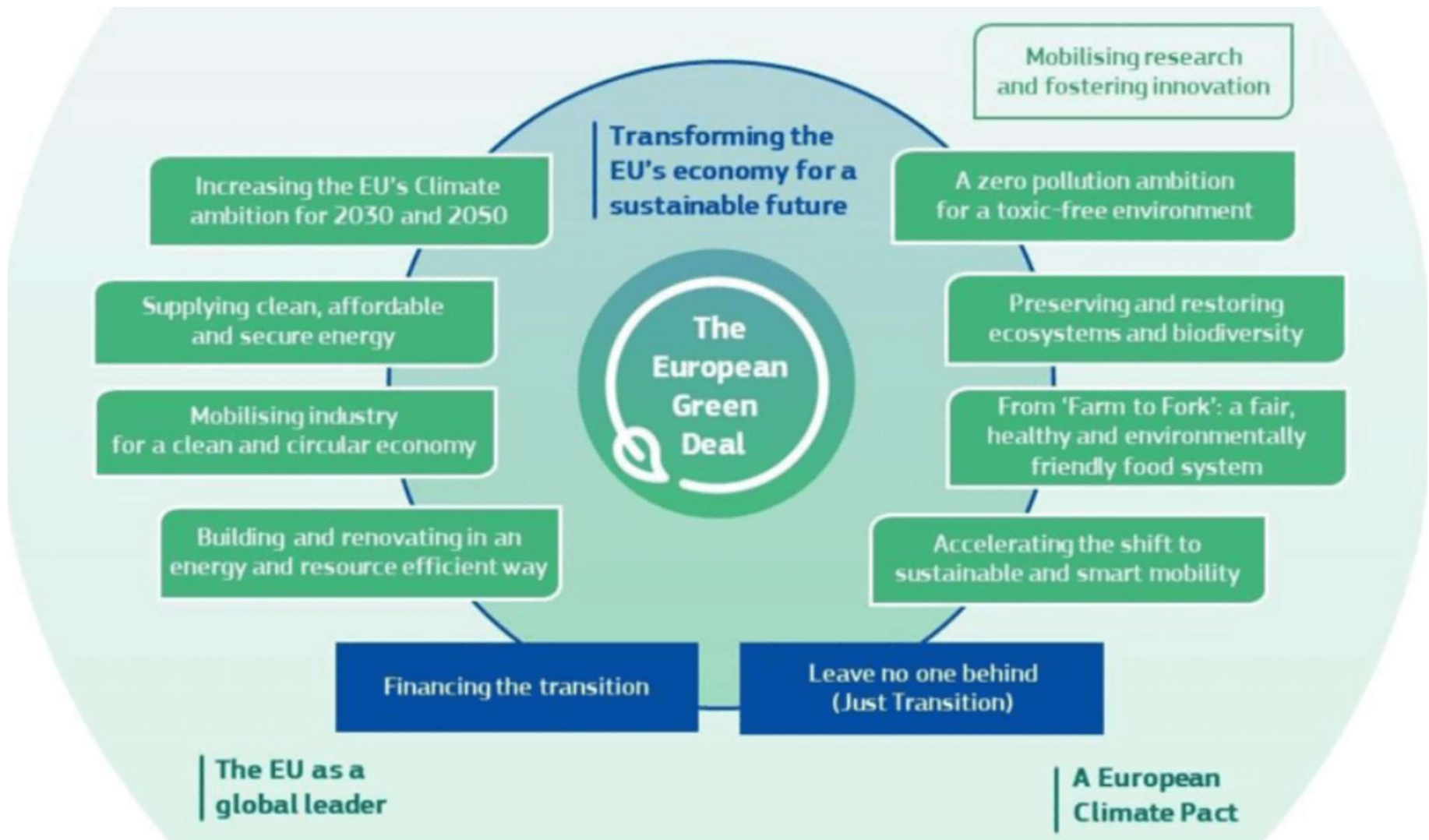
EU Citizen Panels following the “Conference on the Future of Europe”

citizens.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Have your say >

Citizens’ Panel on Energy Efficiency





REAL DEAL – a *quite special* consortium



Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)



Researchers and Practitioners



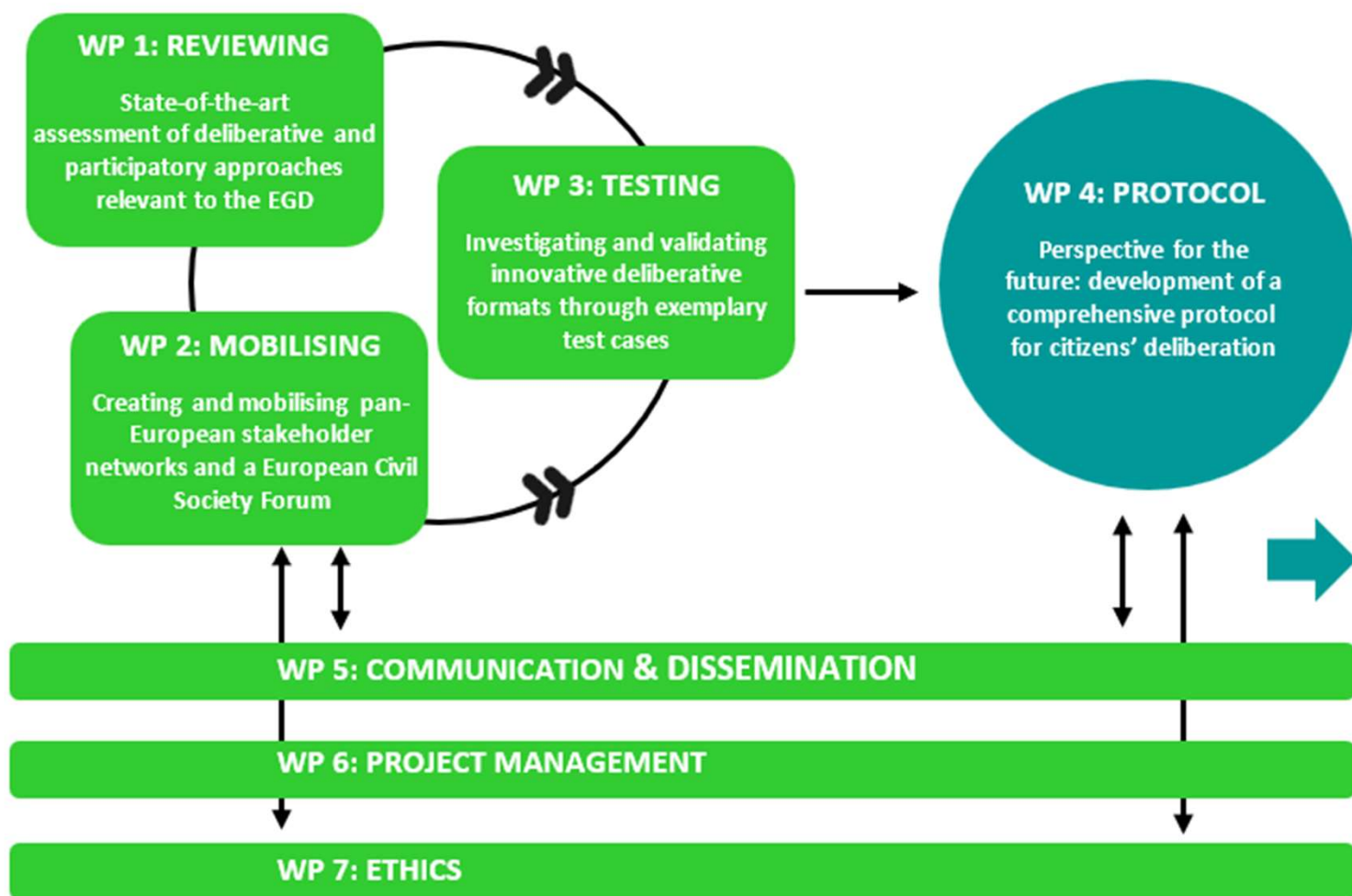
Find out more about our partners on: <https://www.realdeal.eu/partners>

REAL DEAL key aims and research questions:

- Connect the **sustainability and the democracy communities**
- Try to overcome the **potential conflict** between **EGD needs** like respecting the planetary boundaries and preserving **openness in deliberative processes**
- Bring **stakeholder participation and citizen deliberation** in an effective relationship, improve the way of involving stakeholders/CSOs in different roles
- Find ways to better involve **structurally marginalised groups** and concerns of **future generations**
- **Multi-level governance**: improve the connection of national and EU level in deliberation processes
- Cross-cutting: Systematically consider and cater for **gender** equality



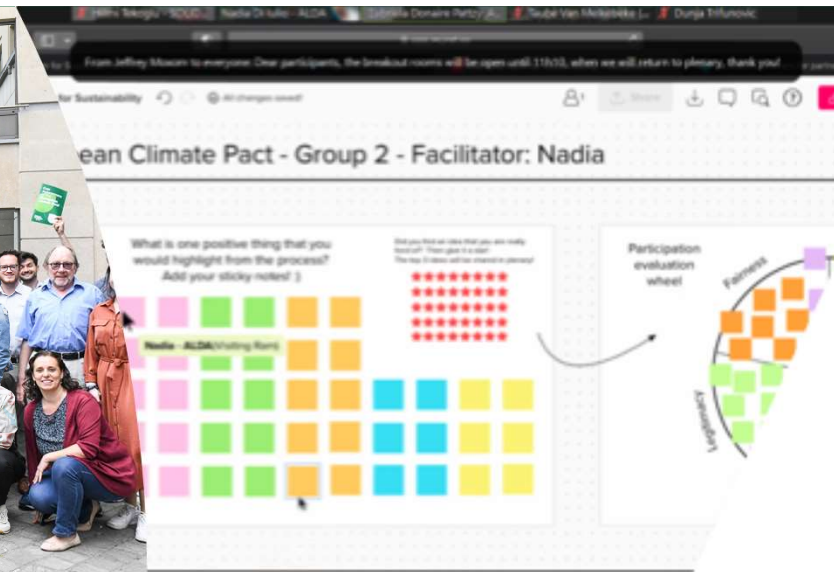
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- Active citizen and stakeholder participation and deliberation in the European Green Deal
- Co-designed, tested and validated protocol for meaningful citizens' participation and deliberation
- Just transition leaving no one behind and gender equality through the EGD

Civil Society Forum for Sustainability: Shaping the European Green Deal

- A space for CSOs from across Europe to come together and exchange views on the green and just transition.
- **3 x** in person and **6 x** online
- **Outputs:**
 - **3 monitoring reports:**
 - GAP analysis EGD
 - SDG implementation in Europe
 - Participatory processes
 - **3 policy briefs:**
 - Future of EGD
 - Assessment of the party manifestos
 - Towards new social and ecological narratives



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REAL DEAL
RESHAPING CITIZENS' DELIBERATION FOR THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Inclusion / closure	Consensus	Documenting diversity	Voting
Citizens	Citizen panel, Citizen jury	Study groups, Focus groups	Citizen assembly, Mini-publics, Town hall meetings
Experts	Group Delphi	Expert mapping	
Stakeholders	Round table	Stakeholder saloons	
Hybrid	Analytic-deliberative discourse		

REAL DEAL testing different formats and combinations:

- Citizen assemblies / events (random / interested)
- Focus Groups
- Stakeholder Roundtable
- Group Delphi

... for different purposes – “no one-size fits all” ...

Quite special: a significant number of cases in a short period of time – some comparison is possible






REAL DEAL: Format – Purpose – Audience/Participants

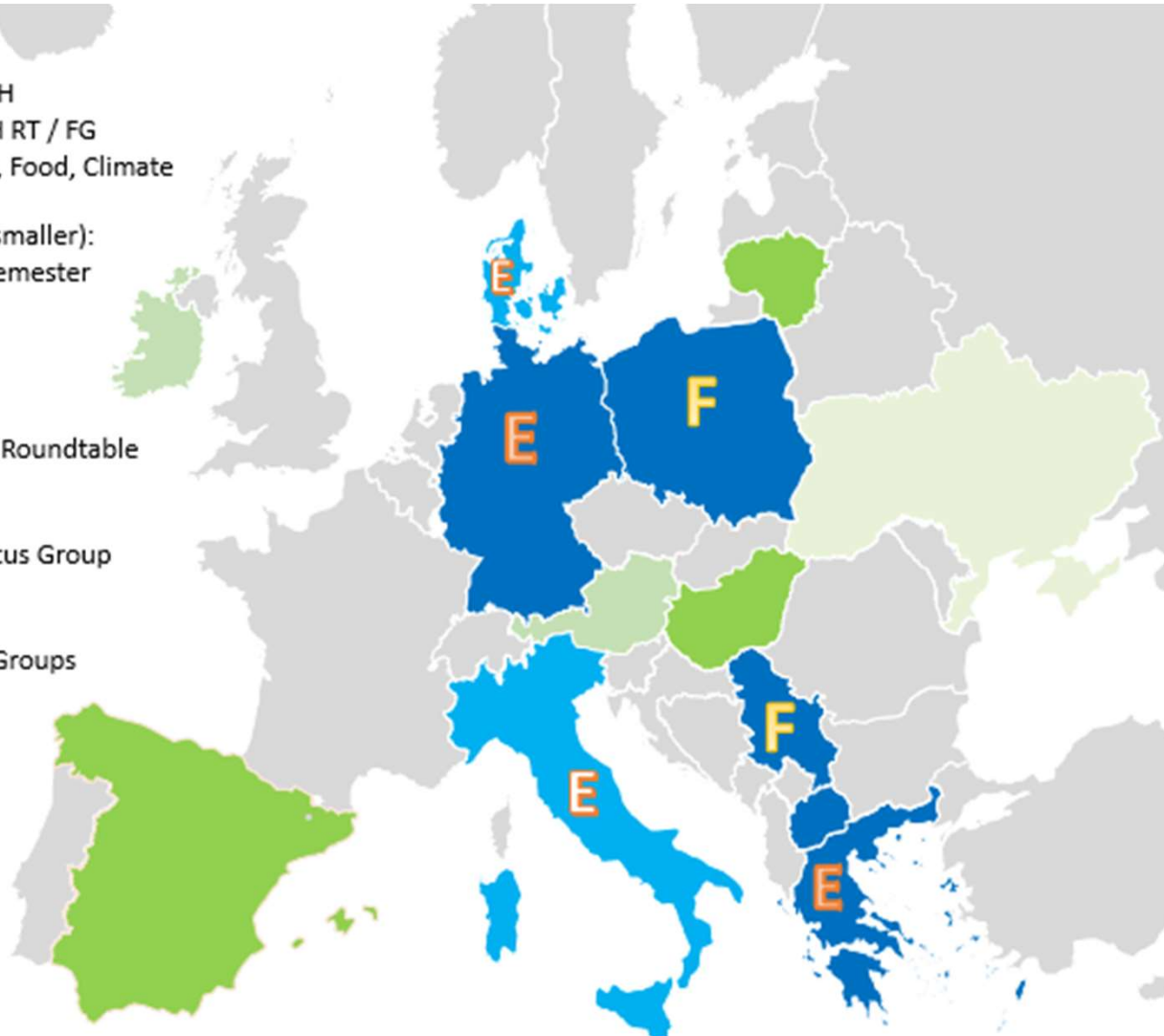
Audience / purpose	Open-sky	Safe space	Targeted / advocacy	Knowledge input / orientation
Citizens (randomly selected)	Citizen assembly ("mini-publics")	Focus groups	---	
Interested / concerned Citizens (open call and/or selected)	Citizen forum	Focus groups	(-)	
Stakeholders	---	(-)	Round table (MSP)	
Experts				Group Delphi

REAL DEAL testing formats and combinations:

- There is **no one-size-fits all**
- Attention must be paid to **different purposes and the different process phases** (information/preparation/capacity building, conduction/discussion, decision/conclusion/recommendations)
- We are experimenting with **modular designs**: conducting different formats in a sequential approach for different phases
 - **Citizen assemblies / events (randomly selected / interested)**
 - > for a deliberative style: “open-sky” discussion
 - > random selection and open calls plus stratified randomized selection
 - **Focus Groups**
 - > for creating a safe space - involving groups of the population who have a special concern in the chosen topic, and/or who are not at the table / difficult to reach, marginalized groups
 - **Stakeholder Roundtable**
 - for getting an overview of the spectrum of views/opinions of interest groups/CSOs and identify the areas (and levels) of (dis)agreement
 - **Expert Delphi or Group Delphi**
 - > for consolidating facts and getting an overview of expert assessments, identify with a formalized method the areas and levels of (dis)agreements

REAL DEAL testcases:

-  Citizen Panel WITH Group Delphi / SH RT / FG
Topics Economics, Food, Climate
-  Citizen panel (or smaller):
Topic European Semester
-  Single format: SH Roundtable
-  Single format: Focus Group
-  SH RT and Focus Groups



11 national level cases &

2 on the European Semester &

3 at EU level / pan-European

REAL DEAL test cases:

1. EU level: on the future of the European Green Deal, ecofeminist focus, biodiversity (February, April, June)

2. National level: different formats, in altogether 11 countries.

2023 - single formats: Focus Groups (AT & IE), Stakeholder Roundtables (ES, LT)

2024 - combinations of formats:

- North Macedonia: Air quality & climate (February – April)
Citizen assemblies & Group Delphi, Focus Group
- Poland & Serbia: **Food** policy (April – June)
Citizen assemblies & Group Delphi (PL) / & Stakeholder Roundtable (RS)
- Germany & Greece: **Economics** (May – June)
Citizen assemblies & Group Delphi (DE) / & Stakeholder Roundtable & Focus Group (GR)

3. Two levels - European Semester:

- Denmark & Italy

REAL DEAL European Semester cases:

SEMESTER PROCES



Country	ASGS (Nov - Dec)	Country visits & consultations (Jan - April)	CSRs & Country report & NRP (May-June)
Denmark	LARGE DELIBERATIVE EVENT	Small activities	JOINT EVENT DK-IT
Italy	Small activities	LARGE DELIBERATIVE EVENT	

REAL DEAL analysis of the testcases

- **Analysis along the key research questions – reflected in key categories:**

- 1) **Topic selection / framing**

- 2) **Recruitment:** Methods of selecting participants for the process (random selection – open call)

- 3) **Knowledge input:** Methods and resources to empower participants to gather relevant background information (including combination of formats, e.g. Group Delphi for expert knowledge)

- 4) **Conduction:** Methods for implementing a fair and lively deliberation among the participants (depending on the respective context)

- 5) **Closure:** Methods of creating recommendations / other outcomes (depending on what is common in the respective context)

- 6) **Logistical** and organisational cooperation

- Including experience with the combination of formats (where applicable) and the variable:
- who had which role/ fulfilled which function (CSOs, researchers/practitioners/local democracy experts)



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REAL DEAL aimed impacts

- **Feeling of ownership and engagement** through citizen deliberation and participation across Europe

The project has aimed to stimulate such feelings by engaging citizens and CSOs in various ways, e.g. co-design of the roadmaps in WP1, in the Civil Society Forum in WP2, and the Citizens assemblies in WP3

- **Participatory identification of solutions/recommendations contributing to the EGD**

e.g. development of roadmaps in WP1, Civil Society Forum WP2 and its advocacy activities, the recommendations of the Citizen assemblies and other.

- **Stronger trust in policy and science institutions among citizens on EGD issues**

Fostering trust through transparency of our processes, as well as by engaging a wide range of citizens, CSOs and other stakeholders in a wide spectrum of processes seeking to reach 60 million citizens

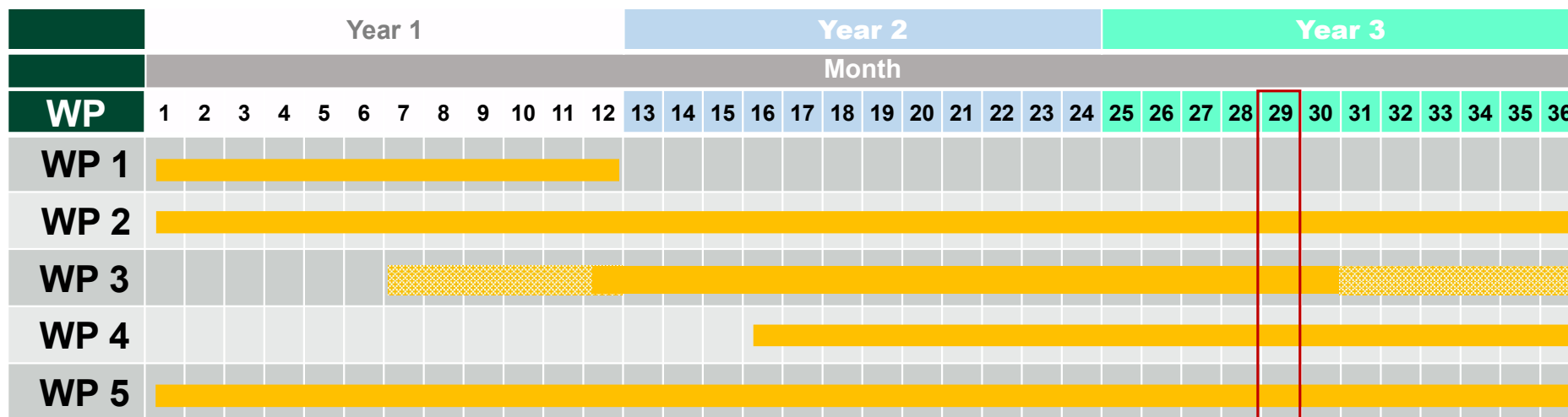
- Through all the activities: contribution to the **Sustainable Development Goals**



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REAL DEAL timeline



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REAL DEAL next steps & post project life

- **Finalise the analysis of the testcases**

- Internal workshop results (see session on Thursday) and further analysis: field report
- evaluation against the quality criteria as developed in WP1: synthesis report

- **Elaborate the REAL DEAL Protocol**

- Recommendations, Toolkit and Guidance for Deliberative Practice - stakeholder and citizen deliberation for the European Green Deal
- Discussion on the preliminary structure (session subsequent & Thursday) and process until the end of the year

Post project

- **Joint Repository** of the results (with sister project Phoenix) – a must
- *Citizen Deliberation Academy*
- Use of our **Online Platform**
- *Civil Society Forum – SDG Watch Europe*



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