

# Tomorrow's Europe

## What would European citizens tell us about the future of the EU if they had the opportunity to discuss and think together about the issue?

After the French and Dutch rejection of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, a reflection on the future of the EU is crucial. The double rejection, beyond national specificities, is symptomatic of a deep crisis in all Member States: one of public identity in a world where social systems are undergoing radical transformation.

- ▶ **Whether one is in favour of more or less EU integration, it is necessary to understand what EU citizens really want concerning the future of the Union.**
- ▶ **To achieve this understanding, we need to give citizens the opportunity to deliberate together beyond borders.**

**Tomorrow's Europe** is a Europe-wide Deliberative Poll<sup>®</sup> that will:

### **Build a space for true deliberation**

- Allows a representative microcosm of European society to exchange views on European matters, discuss issues with experts and political leaders, and express an informed opinion.
- Develops within the European institutions new methodologies for measuring and understanding public opinion.

### **Ensure that EU citizens are really listened to**

- Guarantees that citizens are at the heart of the process by involving them in the definition of what is to be debated and the assessment of the methodology.
- Promotes a true long-term dialogue between citizens and EU institutions.

### **Encourage civic participation in the European construction process**

- Introduces Deliberative Polling<sup>®</sup> on an international scale as an instrument allowing ordinary citizens to develop independent opinions on current European policies and events.
- Sets an example and develops a methodology for future transnational deliberations.

## *Tomorrow's Europe* - A proven methodology and yet a world-first

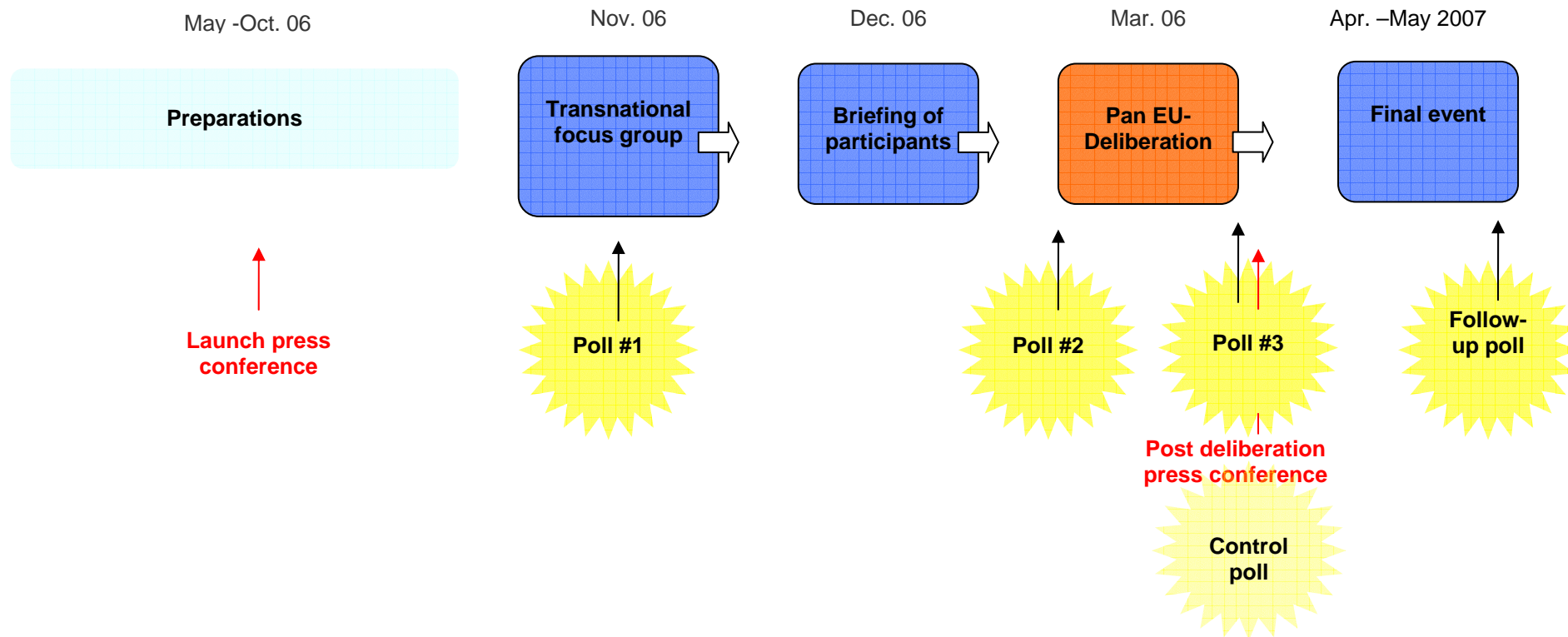
Deliberative Polling® consists of:

1. The traditional **polling** of a representative sample of citizens.
2. Providing a sub-sample of volunteers with impartial and balanced **information** reflecting the different opinions in the debate.
3. Volunteers then take part in a two-day long **deliberation** where they discuss the issues together with experts and political leaders that represent the range of positions at the heart of the debate.
4. Finally, the participants are polled again, allowing them to express a more informed opinion.

The experiments in Deliberative Polling® held since 1994 in the US, Australia, UK, Denmark and other countries show how the technique reduces the level of indecision among the participants. The opinion of the participants compared to the rest of the population changes significantly. Past Deliberative Polls have been widely covered by the media and well received by the participants and the wider public.

- **To date, Deliberative Polls have been held successfully in over 25 countries, but never on an international scale.**

**When?**



## Who?

Given the importance of the issue in question – to revive the public debate on the future of the EU - *Tomorrow's Europe* is the result of the efforts of many different actors involved in the European construction.

Coordinated by **Notre Europe**, the **partnership** currently involves:

- The **European Parliament**, which will make its infrastructure available to the deliberation.
- The future **Finnish Presidency of the EU**, which will host the inaugural focus group, co-finance the process and ensure that it is taken forward within the Council.
- The polling institute **Gallup**, a co-financer of the project, which will carry out the polling operations and the recruitment of those taking part in the deliberations.
- **9 EU think tanks and research institutes**, who will contribute to the design and analysis of the process: El Cano Institute (Spain); Providus (Latvia); European University Institute (Italy); Initiative and Referendum Institute (Germany); Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Poland); Europeum (Czech Republic); New Europe (Denmark); Center for European Policy Studies (Belgium); EuropaNova (Hungary)
- A high level scientific partnership consisting of **20 researchers** from various EU member states countries specialised in participative consultation mechanisms and European issues.
- The **media** will have a central role to play in the dissemination of the project, thus ensuring its success. We are actively seeking media partnerships to cover the deliberation.

## How?

The key aspects of the organisation of the event will be set by a special committee representing the consortium of partners.

This body will be assisted by a **scientific committee**, ensuring the quality of the information given to the participants; the choice of experts; and the quality of the deliberation. A small team of technicians coordinated by Notre Europe will supervise the organisation.

The project will be financed through a combination of public and private **funding**. A proposal for funding has been submitted to the European Commission (within the context of the plan D: Democracy, Dialogue, Debate). The partners contribute in kind and financially to the project.

We also wish to invite a small number of **private sponsors**, including the media, through a special partnership providing a limited number of media organisations with the exclusive opportunity of recording and broadcasting the event.



**For further information :**

[www.notre-europe.asso.fr](http://www.notre-europe.asso.fr)

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