Joint Closing Conference
Brussels, 1 & 2 December 2026

Programme

Tuesday, 1 December:
Advancing Research on the Emotional Politics of Democracy

9.15-9.30 Welcome words and introduction to the projects

9.30-10.50 **Panel 1: Emotions from below: How Individuals Feel About Politics**

- Emotions and protection. Insights from deep dives, comparative survey data and focus groups
- Affective polarization and emotions about parties, cracks in the system
- Grievance politics: anti- and pro-democratic turns: ressentiment, resentment & solidarity-oriented sharing

10.50-11.20 Coffee break

11.20-12.40 **Panel 2: Emotions and political communication: Emotions in the media and political debate**

- Communicating protection and the effects of emotionalized framing
- Rage to reach: anger as a political resource for newcomer parties & Journalism and moral emotions
- Grievances and emotions in social and traditional media

12.40-13.40 Coffee break

13.40-15.00 **Panel 3: Emotions and politics: How emotions affect policy-making**

- Emotional entrepreneurship and the policy process
- Emotional narratives and immigration attitudes: a comparative study & Emotions and policy support
- Emotional reactions to policies in grievance politics

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 **Break-Out Sessions**

a. **Emotions in Democratic Innovations**
b. **Grievances and Emotions in Crises**
c. **Migration**
d. **Conceptual and Methodological Innovations**

16.30-17.00 **Synthesis**

Wednesday, 2 December: From Evidence to Action: Emotions in Policy-Making and Democratic Resilience

9.30-11.30 **Short presentation and Roundtable**

- Policy Recommendations from the Projects:
  Why Emotions Matter for Policymaking: Evidence, Risks, and Opportunity
- Policy Roundtable Discussion on Implications for Emotion-Sensitive Governance

11.30-14.00 **Poster session** and lunch

14.00-15.00 **Digital tools for understanding and analysing emotions**

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 **Break-Out Sessions**

a. **Communication and countering polarisation**
b. **Whose Protection Matters? Emotional Needs, Inequality, and Inclusion in Policy Practice**
c. **Working with Emotions Responsibly: Communication, Trust, and De-escalation**

d. **Emotions, Participation, and Democratic Resilience: What the Evidence Means for Civil Society**

16.30-17.00 **Synthesis and closing remarks**