



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: resentment, 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**

- 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: resentment, resentment & solidarity-oriented sharing

12.40-13.40 Coffee break

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

- 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: resentment, resentment & solidarity-oriented sharing

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
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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**