

## **Mission Statement:**

### **The Democracy for Transition (D4T) Coalition**

The Democracy for Transition Coalition is a new initiative co-chaired by Democratic Society (DemSoc) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). The Democracy for Transition Coalition envisions a future where a resilient democracy is deeply embedded in environmental and climate governance, empowering people to shape the policies that affect their lives and health. To achieve a truly fair and just transition, we must ensure active democratic participation and consent. This requires strengthening all aspects of our democracies, including democratic institutions, the rule of law, and civic space, while simultaneously fostering innovative approaches to citizen participation.

Existing government efforts to link citizen engagement and climate action have been underpowered and often not taken seriously enough by States and public authorities. We need to be more ambitious and take action to ensure that climate policies are developed in an open and inclusive manner, and implemented with the public's support and understanding.

**Stronger democratic indicators go hand in hand with stronger environmental policy.** Practice has proven that most people support climate and environmental measures when asked directly in deliberative formats. People are seeking new avenues of participation to express themselves democratically outside of the traditional political structures. Climate and environment are crucial issues to advocate for, demonstrating the value of and enhancing democracy.

We need to emphasise that climate action is not a series of individual actions, but a connected societal programme driving towards a safer, cleaner and more equitable world. Solutions should be designed by and with people themselves.

### **Purpose**

- A fair and just solution to the triple planetary crisis and democratic renewal, each providing an opportunity for the other. Mitigating the climate emergency effectively and fairly requires the democratic inclusion of citizens and intergenerational fairness.
- Countering political attacks on civic space, democratic structures, and meaningful citizen engagement. This rhetoric threatens to undermine fundamental democratic principles and undo any progress on climate action.
- Broader democratic reforms and improvements, such as institutional changes and even new forms of economic democracy, can help the transition to climate neutrality.
- The all-encompassing nature of the triple planetary crisis and the requirement for climate justice means that processes must be more inclusive than representative democracy alone.

- The growing demand for new forms of participatory and deliberative practice, alongside representation, creates a democratic transition that embeds the climate transition in decision-making and ensures climate decision-making advances new forms of democracy.
- Increased decision-making quality, legitimacy, and societal understanding when implemented.
- Civil society organisations working on the environment and democracy are disconnected and are missing opportunities to build democratic and climate transitions together.
- Citizen and decision-making organisations at every level need better support to create, manage, and participate in these new approaches.
- Building capacity in decision-making organisations, capabilities in civil society, and confidence in citizens is an essential shared element of this work.
- Maintain a united front on climate action, ensuring that trade-offs are set in their broader context and that the debate does not become fragmented across issues.
- There is a fundamental environmental governance right for public participation in decision-making, which is poorly implemented.
- There is a misconception that public participation can be an obstacle to certain green industries, such as renewable energy projects, whereas public engagement to understand all perspectives and devise fair solutions is a necessary condition for achieving a just transition.

## Our objectives

1. **Advocating for climate policy that not only drives citizen participation, but defends democratic principles, and builds a democratic infrastructure that supports liberal representative democracy.**
2. **Making the case for the inseparability of democratic and climate transitions and emphasising the need for just, whole-society climate action.**
3. **Supporting and promoting democratic innovation that fosters ambitious and collective climate action, driving positive change on a societal level.**

The Democracy for Transition Coalition recognises the urgency of these challenges and the necessity for collective action. We truly believe that by working together, we can create a just transition that addresses the climate crisis while strengthening democratic values and institutions. We call on all stakeholders to join us in this critical endeavour to build a more sustainable, equitable, and democratic future for all.

If you're interested in joining the coalition [click here](#) or reach out to Margarida Martins, Policy Officer for Environmental Law and Justice at [margarida.martins@eeb.org](mailto:margarida.martins@eeb.org).