

MAKE VOTING MEANINGFUL AGAIN IN PROFESSIONAL, ASSOCIATION, SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS.

ESEC OPINION - DECEMBER 2021

THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES, FRENCH

CITIZENS ARE REGULARLY CALLED UPON

TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS IN A

VARIETY OF SPACES:

- At school
- At university
- At work
- In their association
- Within their mutual insurance company
- In their homeowners' association



5%

AVERAGE RATE
OF PARTICIPATION

in professional
elections in Very
Small Enterprises
(VSEs)

The ESEC stresses the essential nature of such civic periods, which ensure a democratic continuum and strengthen the culture of civic engagement. However, all the actors note a continuous decline in participation in such democratic meetings. For the Council, **restoring meaning** to the act of voting is the priority lever for renewing participation in all elections.

7%

AVERAGE RATE
OF PARTICIPATION

in CROUS elections at the national
level, between 2002 and 2018

38% PARTICIPATION
RATE

between 2017 and 2021 in Social and
Economic Committee (CSE) elections



How can participation in elections in democratically governed bodies be revitalised?

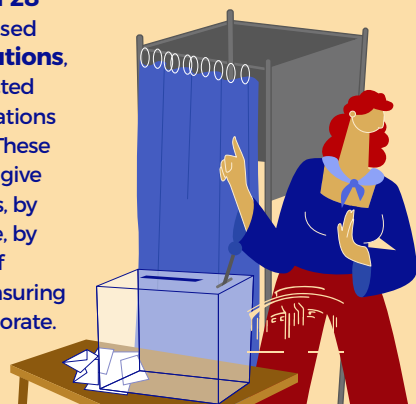
THE RAPPOREUR:

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A teacher and former CFDT national secretary, Thierry Cadart has been a member of the ESEC since 2014. He is a member of the Committee on Labour and Employment and the Committee on Education, Culture and Communication. He has been elected quaestor of the ESEC for the 2021-2026 term.

The ESEC has formulated **28 recommendations**, based on nearly **1500 contributions**, most of which were collected from members of organisations represented at the ESEC. These recommendations aim to give meaning to such elections, by making them more visible, by enhancing the standing of elected officials, and by ensuring accountability to the electorate.



ESEC RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL, COMMUNITY, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

1 MAKING SUCH ELECTIONS VISIBLE AND ENHANCING THEIR STANDING WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC CONTINUUM

- Creating a “**label**” **dedicated to elections of civic interest**, i.e. a common visual (in the form of slogans, logos, TV spots) enabling citizens to better identify the various electoral processes recognised as “of civic interest”.



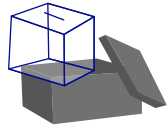
2 RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

- Including **teaching time dedicated to such issues in schools**, using active teaching methods with approved trainers.
- Creating a **right to social dialogue training** for those in their first job, returning to work after a long period, or changing sectors.

3 IMPROVING AND SIMPLIFYING ACCESS TO VOTING



- Creating a **common online platform** administered by public authorities, accessible to all organisations to facilitate paperless consultations and elections.
- **Improving accessibility** of voting facilities and materials for **people with disabilities** so that everyone can exercise their right to vote.
- **Tightening the timetable between the creation of the electoral roll and the voting operations** for elections in very small enterprises (VSEs), in order to conduct a public awareness campaign explaining the importance of voting.



4 RECOGNISING AND FACILITATING THE COMMITMENT OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

- Making the Equality and Citizenship Act effective: **recognising and validating the mandate in terms of skills and credits** in order to fully integrate the commitment into the student’s career.
- **Strengthening the role of elected student representatives (university) and class representatives (secondary school)** by giving them real power to make proposals.

5 STRENGTHENING ONGOING DEMOCRACY IN ORGANISATIONS AND THE ABILITY TO FEEL PART OF A COLLECTIVE

- **Increasing participatory processes** in organisations on major issues, involving all stakeholders in decision making and ensuring accountability.
- **Involving primary school pupils** in decisions that affect them **from an early age**.
- **Strengthening reporting to stakeholders** on decisions taken and their impacts in a comprehensive, clear, and transparent manner.

