

## A call to form national committees

DiEM25 is growing fast, and we are currently discussing how to turn our [progressive socioeconomic agenda](#) into policy (see [Yanis' statement](#)). So we need to get more organised!

DiEM25 thrives not on a manifesto, a central committee or party line, but on thousands of self-organised members across Europe who share the same values and determination to save our Union. Enter: Provisional National Committees (PNCs).

### What are Provisional National Committees?

Provisional National Committees are DiEM25's coordinators and workbees on a national level. They will guarantee the completion of practical day-to-day tasks that haven't been done so far:

- organising large-scale events in their country
- organising national actions, campaigns that confront the establishment or position DiEM25 as an effective alternative
- coordinating work on DiEM25's policies, such as national adaptation of the PAE as well as preparing topics specific to that country
- writing press releases and editorials on from a DiEM25 perspective for national consumption (either for the national press or diem25.org)
- maintaining relationships with both establishment and independent media
- defining PR goals and plans
- developing content to sharpen PR activities, like style guides, talking points
- arming supporters with arguments to spread the word (social media graphics, data)
- gathering country-specific intelligence, e.g. on the political situation
- speaking about DiEM25 at conferences
- exploring opportunities to cooperate with social movements etc. in their country
- ensuring that DiEM25 is active on national social media
- maintaining contact to all DSCs in their country / helping start new ones
- maintaining contact to members / answering public inquiries
- and anything else that transcends a single city

Provisional National Committees should be selected in such a way that there are people who can do all of the above tasks, i.e. at least one PR specialist, some people with experience speaking at conferences, some people with experience in organising

large events, someone with contacts to a lot of social movements in their country, and so on. Being part of a Provisional National Committee requires a lot of free time to coordinate DiEM25's day-to-day functioning on the national level.

## **The creation of DiEM25 National Committees is a three-step process**

Since its inception, DiEM25 has operated on the same principles of transparency and democracy it promotes, and which characterise it like no other political movement. Under those same principles, we're calling on our entire membership to take DiEM25's organisation to the next level by forming PNCs – initially in 8 pilot countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK. This will allow us all to better coordinate action locally, at state level and Europe-wide. Here's how the committees will be formed:

### Step 1

Once there is a significant number of DiEM25 volunteers/activists in a country (whether DSC or non-DSC), there is a wish to have some national-level operatives, tasks and campaigns. For example: people to take care of a common social media platform (e.g. "DiEM25 Germany" rather than just "DiEM25 Frankfurt1DSC"), to answer inquiries from members in a given country, to prepare editorials and press releases for national media, to coordinate the organisation of an event that is beyond a single DSC's capacity, etc. This usually happens ad hoc, organically: some volunteers (usually the most active DSC members) step forward and just do it, but DiEM25's Coordinating Collective (CC) has also actively supported some strategic countries to get organised this way.

### Step 2

It's one thing to post on social media once a week or to occasionally organise an event; it's another to have a constant and professional DiEM25 presence in the country. In short, the movement needs people to take responsibility for ensuring that DiEM25 runs well in that country. This is where the PNCs come in. While there may be eight people that occasionally post on the DiEM25 Germany Facebook page whenever they feel like it, we need one person to take responsibility for DiEM25 appearing \*regularly in German social media: to arm our supporters with ammo that they can use in their own social media arguments: soundbites, to data and media pieces. Or maybe two, but the key is that they take responsibility for a regular presence. Similarly, for all other tasks.

These people, who agree to either do the tasks or ensure they get done, and keep an overview of everything that is going on in a country (which naturally

requires more time than simply volunteering on long weekends), form an interim team (the PNC). The PNC thus recruits itself out of those people who have already been working on national-level tasks in step 1 (usually DSC members), plus professionals offering pro bono work (e.g. for PR it is advised to have a professional if possible), plus DSCs asked to search among their members if there is anyone who can do any missing tasks. The PNC is proposed as a list to the CC, which does basic background checks, and then the Validating Council (VC), who evaluates whether it is diverse and suitable to the tasks expected of it. Once the VC approves, the PNC is announced.

### Step 3

It is possible that the people on the PNCs are not the best possible people for the tasks they've been assigned. For example, the best person to coordinate DiEM25's events on a national level may not be among the people who have so far organised events for DiEM25, but we wouldn't know. If we don't really know that someone else would be better, then we shouldn't replace the person who is currently doing that work. So, one of DiEM25's key goals for 2017 is to develop strong associations where members actually know each other's strengths – not just the strengths of people in the same DSC, but country-wide – and then have elections for the (non-provisional) National Committees before the end of the year. One of the key tasks of PNCs is to create the conditions for these elections, such as suggesting a voting method (to be approved by the CC and VC) and organising national events and assemblies.

If we want to successfully move from being part of the conversation on our Union's future to become actual catalysts of change, a more coordinated effort is required. If you belong to a local DSC and have not yet joined this pivotal discussion, [please do so](#) and make your voice heard!

If you are not yet a member of a DSC, but would like to actively participate in our common struggle hands-on, [join one](#)! You are already part of a remarkable cause - getting involved with our grass roots expansion and activities to push our work into policy is another way you can make it historic.

Thank you!