

European Citizens' Consultations



The National Citizens' Consultations are part of a pan-European dialogue project called the "European Citizens' Consultations". Each of the 27 national events is coordinated and organised under the responsibility of a national partner, independent non-for-profit organisations all over Europe. The consultations at national level are co-funded by national foundations.

The European Citizens Consultations are organised by a group of independent organisations led by the King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium) in collaboration with European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), the European Policy Centre (EPC) and the Network of European Foundations (NEF). They are supported by Compagnia di San Paolo, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Robert Bosch Stiftung and co-funded by the European Commission.

In Austria the Centre for Social Innovation is the Implementing Partner of the European Citizens' consultations

Austrian Citizens' Perspective on the Future of Europe

National Consultation in Austria
RadioKulturhaus Wien
Vienna, March 24/25, 2007

Consultations Européennes des Citoyens

Faites entendre votre voix

Rozhovory s občany Evropy

Nechte zazníť svůj hlas

Europæiske borgerkonsultationer

Lad din stemme blive hørt

Europese Burgerberaadslagingen

Laat uw stem horen

Euroopa Kodanike Foorum

Tehke oma hääl kuuldavaks

Euroopalainen kansalaiskeskustelu
Kansalaisten kuuleminen

Europäische Bürgerkonferenzen

Bring deine Stimme ein

Διαβουλεύσεις των ευρωπαίων πολιτών
Κάντε τη φωνή σας να ακουστεί

Comhairliúcháin na Saoránach Eorpach
Ag Cinntiú go mBíonn do Ghuth le Cloisteáil

European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard

Eiropas pilsoņu debates
Izsaki savu viedokli

Consultarea Cetățenească Europeana
Spune ce crezi

Граждани за Европа
Твоят глас е важен

Európai Állampolgári Konzultáció
Hallatjuk a hangját

Consultazioni Europee dei Cittadini
Fai sentire la tua voce

Debata obywateli Europy
Niech nas usłyszą

Consultas aos cidadãos europeus
Fazendo ouvir a sua voz

Konzultácie s občanmi Európy
Využite svoj hlas

Posvetovanja z evropskimi državljani
Naj se sliši vaš glas

Consultas a la ciudadanía europea
Haz oír tu voz

Europeiska medborgarråd
Gör din röst hörd

Pasitarimas su Europos piliečiais
Tegul jus išgirsta

Il-konsultazzjonijiet tač-ċittadini Ewropej
Semma lehnex



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard



The European Citizens' Consultations

The European Citizens' Consultations provide the **first-ever opportunity** for members of the public from all Member States to debate the future of the European Union **across the boundaries of geography and language**.

Citizens reflecting the diversity of the population are chosen randomly to take part in the deliberations. They identify common ground and make recommendations to policy-makers. The results aim at inspiring European as well as national institutions as they prepare to take decisions on the next phase of Europe's development.

The consultations create a **truly European discussion**, bringing citizens together at European events and linking simultaneous national debates on a shared agenda of broad ideas and visions set by the citizens themselves. The debates ensure that every voice is heard through an **innovative combination of professional facilitation and modern technology**.

The European Citizens' Consultations process is driven by a consortium of independent and non-political European foundations and civil society organisations led by the King Baudouin Foundation and co-financed by the European Commission's Plan D.

The Agenda-Setting Event

The Agenda-Setting Event was the first stage of the ECC process. Randomly selected participants from all European Member States met in Brussels to **set the agenda for the following dialogue process**. The following three topics were selected by **eight citizens from each of the Member States**:

- 1) Energy & Environment: The environmental and economic impact of Europe's energy use
- 2) Family & Social Welfare: The social and economic conditions for Europe's families
- 3) EU's Global Role & Immigration: The EU's role in the world, immigration and borders

National Citizens' Consultations

At the heart of the project are the National Citizens' Consultations – simultaneous, interlinked debates in all 27 Member States. From February to March 2007 they debate the three topics identified at the Agenda Setting Event and identify common ground to recommend broad policy directions in “**National Citizens' Perspectives on the Future of Europe**”. Each consultation has five to ten other consultations in other Member States happening at the same time following a shared timetable. Within this timeline there are pre-defined integration points with the other national consultations. At these points in time the consultations exchange their results and thereby enable a European dialogue across locations and languages.



The consultations are organised by national partners and supported by a European coordination team. National Citizens' Consultations do not work according to a one-size-fits-all approach. They are shaped by a broad consortium of national foundations and non-profit organisations from all over Europe that adapt the events to their respective national contexts. While all consultations follow the same basic format, the size of these events varies between a minimum format of 30 participants and up to 200 participants and additional follow-up activities, depending on additional support that can be mobilised in each country.

The European Citizens' Consultation in Austria

The Austrian Citizens' Consultation of the 24th and 25th March assembled 30 citizens in order to discuss and develop Austrian perspectives for Europe's future. These citizens were selected randomly and represented a socio-demographic cross section of the Austrian population in terms of age, educational level, gender and regional distribution. Citizens from all Bundesländer (Federal States) were represented (weighted in proportion to population density), forming an approximation representation of the composition of the total population of Austria.

The organisation and content of the event in Austria was arranged by the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI).

The press contacts were established by Frau Dr. Astrid Zimmerman and Frau Ulrike Gutsch who accompany journalists from the press and other media in Austria. Together with the ZSI, they held a press conference in Café Griensteidl.

The ZSI engaged *ipr market and social research* to recruit the citizens.

The event took place in Studio 3, the ceremonial hall of the broadcasting centre in Argentinierstraße 30A and was carried out with generous support and coverage from Radio Ö1 Redaktion Wissenschaft, Bildung, Gesellschaft, the cooperation partner in Austria.

The Centre for Social Innovation is interested in the further development of the citizen participation process and will, in addition to this short report, which is available at www.zsi.at, produce a longer report by the 15th April including the full content and analysis of the dialogue and discussion.



European Citizens'
Consultations
Making your voice heard

www.european-citizens-consultations.eu

Feel free to contact ZSI and speak to the project manager, Sigrun A.E. Bohle or the citizens' contact person, Melanie Goisau, if you would like a personal copy of this report or require any further information.



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A CD-Rom containing the Austrian "Bürger.innenerklärung aus Österreich" in German, Fotos of Bernhard Bauch and a short Video by Malte Fiala can be ordered at ZSI.

Running updates about the follow up of the European Citizen conferences are available at <http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu/>. Information in German can also be found at our partner's website in Germany www.europaeische-buergerkonferenzen.de.

Press contacts in Austria and the EU: Dr. Astrid Zimmerman (media centre) and Ulrike Gutsch (contact: 0699/116 13 467, ulrike@gutsch.at and J@YS are responsible for publicising the European Citizens' Consultations.

European Citizens' Consultation in Austria in cooperation with
Radio Österreich 1 - Redaktion Wissenschaft, Bildung, Gesellschaft
(Science, Education and Society Channel)





The Austrian Citizens' Perspective

Preamble

Within a year, the EU must produce a report which outlines concrete steps for the implementation of the visions *<and demands of the citizens who took part in the citizens' consultations in Austria and all member countries - ed>*, otherwise we see the future of the EU as being at risk.
SEE Saturday Visions!

1) ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

We want to live in a Europe that...

operates by the principle of sustainability by using its resources efficiently and taking responsibility for its own consumption; a Europe that promotes alternative energy sources and is against nuclear power, in order to protect cultural and natural heritages and to preserve these without the use of GM technology for subsequent generations, whilst promoting and strengthening general awareness of the relationship between the environment and energy.

The roles that the EU should play:

1. The EU should play an enhancing role in raising awareness of the environment and of the development of sustainable technologies, because the environment knows no borders.
2. The EU should play a directive role regarding potential transnational threats (nuclear power stations, GM technology), because the consequences of such environmental problems know no borders and must be addressed globally.
3. The EU should focus its support on environmentally protective, differentiated and small-scale agricultural production rather than on large-scale industrialised agricultural operations, because it does not make sense to favour the structurally privileged.
4. The EU should *not* play a directive role regarding issues with exclusively regional consequences, as regional identities, needs and singularities are preserved through regional development.

2) FAMILY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

We want to live in a Europe in which ...

the family and family-related structures play an important role, in which everyone is supported and educated according to his or her abilities, talents and wishes, and where everyone is able to educate his/herself further without being at any disadvantage. We want to live in a Europe in which there is no more poverty; in which the right to work (understood not only as paid work, but also as a contribution to society - cultural work, care work, etc.) corresponds to the abilities and interests of each individual and is backed up with fair and secure payment; and in which dignified healthcare and old-age care is guaranteed for all. We want to live in a Europe, in which equality, humanity and the civil right to participate are realised as principles; where there is an efficient and streamlined administration system and where every form of corruption is eliminated.

The EU...

- must take responsibility for the family and for family-related structures, simply by providing the principles to do this. Implementation should take place on a regional level.
- must take responsibility for education and further education, laying down accountable principles and standards. Again, implementation should take place on a regional level.
- must treat poverty reduction seriously, because in ensuring a framework of basic conditions it is responsible for the welfare of its citizens.
- must fulfil its role with respect to the right to work, according to the abilities and interests of every person, because it is responsible for shaping the framework of basic welfare conditions for its citizens (and not only for corporate players).
- must fulfil its role with respect to the provision of dignified healthcare and old-age care, laying down principles which can then be implemented on a regional level.
- must fulfil its role regarding the civil right to participate, because we, the citizens, who form the basis of the EU, have assertive controlling and decision making power.
- will no longer play a role regarding equal rights. By 2020, equality will be a lived reality.
- must take responsibility for humanitarian matters, because these come before national interests.
- must work to provide efficient and streamlined legal proceedings and take corruption reduction seriously, because it has a responsibility towards all its citizens to ensure the efficiency and transparency of its structures.



3) THE GLOBAL ROLE OF THE EU, IMMIGRATION AND EXTERNAL BORDERS

We want to live in a Europe which...

offers uniform guidelines; which facilitates quick, transparent and fair asylum proceedings and regulates immigration; a Europe which ensures social security, the universal right to work, unrestricted access to education and comprehensive and affordable healthcare; a Europe which presupposes and supports basic human rights and guarantees uniform legal and procedural frameworks. In the year 2020, the EU should, as a peace-bringing political union, contribute to social and humane development worldwide by reducing nationalism and strengthening democratic structures.

In order to realise this vision, the following concrete measures are suggested:

1. A compulsory 0.7 % of each EU member state's GDP is paid into a European foreign aid fund in order to increase the present level of foreign aid. This fund is administered by the European Commission.
2. With regard to political asylum and migration, the EU must establish uniform regulations and frameworks of basic conditions in order to facilitate quick, transparent and fair legal proceedings. Migration is to be balanced according to the national situation.
3. The role of the EU concerning unrestricted access to education and welfare standards should be strengthened, although the specific needs of different countries should also be taken into account.
4. The power of the EU in relation to security and foreign affairs is based on:
 - a) economic strengths
 - b) the use of cultural diversity
 - c) a common security policy, which includes the options of both non-military and military resources.
5. Primacy of Politics & Policy over international economic relationships should ensure humane and social production conditions. These include measures such as protective tariffs, quality control standards and international trade agreements.

Important additional and differing opinions will be available in the final longer report.

Citizens from Austria, who were selected randomly according to demographic criteria, passed the perspectives above following two days of dialogues and discussions in the RadioKulturhaus in Vienna on the 25th March 2007. To start with, the attendees worked on all three topics of the European Agenda for the Citizens' Consultations and then they mainly worked in groups on just one of these topics. Visions for each topic were worked upon and the question of what role the European Union should play in order to further the citizens' visions was addressed. The preamble – a suggestion from one of the discussion rounds – was accepted as the overall citizen perspective by the majority of the citizens.

The process was led by the Centre for Social Innovation.

Contact: www.zsi.at



Impressions from the Citizen Consultation in Vienna

See GE version for photos

RadioKulturhaus, Vienna, 24th-25th March 2007

Pictures of Austrian citizens working at discussion tables, pinboards, flipcharts and networking with other countries.

Final photo after the handing over of the Austrian citizens' perspectives to Austrian President of National Council Barbara Prammer.

Photos by Bernhard Bauch.

Participants and Organisational Team:

Table Facilitators: Regina Brandstetter, Elke Dall, Rossalina Latcheva

Facilitation of the Event: Anette Scoppetta

Resource Persons: Manuel Schweizer, Angela Wroblewski, Jo Hochgerner

"Ears of the citizens" (note takers):

Alexander Kesselring / Michaela Leitner, Dietmar Lampert, Johannes Waldmüller

Event Support: Miriam Vavra, Katharina Handler

Video documentation: Malte Fiala

IT Network and photo documentation: Bernhard Bauch

Citizen contact: Melanie Goisauß

Project Coordinator: Sigrun A.E. Bohle

EU Integration coordination: Tinne Vandensande (King Baudouin Foundation)

About the participants

For socio-demographic information on participants please refer to long version of the report (available after 15.04.07).

List of citizen participants

Affenzeller, Erwin
Art, Jürgen
Binder, Nina
Delacher, Armin
Doms, Renate
Dörr, Lukas-Emanuel
Egger, Christian
Feichter, Christian
Fessler, Wilfried
Fleischhans, Peter

Gstrein, Angelika
Hofmeister, Christine
Holzer, Edda
Huber, Hildegard
Kettenbauer, Mario
Koller, Patrick
Kreutner, Helmuth
Leitzinger, Sonja
Madlmair, Johann
Magerl, Josef

Nemec, Gerlinde
Obermaier-Maitz, K.
Pitra, Claudia
Schweitzer, Andrea
Spicar, Dagmar
Svoboda, Elisabeth
Tauber, Rene
Weber, Arno
Wieser, Julian
Wyckoff, Stephan



How were the results achieved?

The result of the national consultations is a combination of carefully facilitated table discussions among citizens, the exchange of results across locations and the prioritisation of their ideas through voting mechanisms. At each event, groups or tables of citizens were overseen by a table facilitator who kept the discussion going and made sure that every voice was heard. Results were shared at pre-defined points in time by exchanging information through an online forum and live conferences. Prior the event, citizens received background information on the project and the 3 topics. No prior knowledge was required. Citizens were chosen in random selection and based on demographic criteria that ensured diversity.

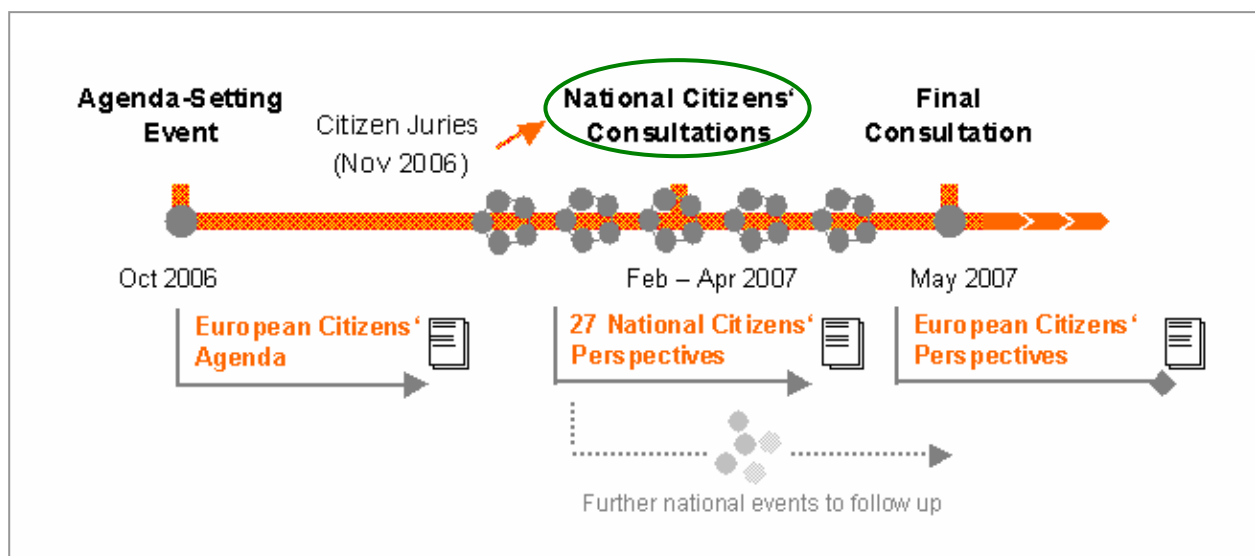
	Setting	Activity
Day 1: Morning	Plenary	Welcome / Introduction Citizens obtain information on schedule of the day, process as a whole, their role, and the format of expected outcomes.
	Plenary	Voting Citizens share demographic data (gender, age, profession etc.) among themselves and across locations
Day 1: Afternoon	Table groups	Generating objectives: Citizens are split into three groups (one per topic). For each of the 3 topics, all citizens complete the phrase "In 2020, I would like to live in a Europe that...". Their input is recorded on cards and put on a pin board.
	Table groups	Grouping objectives: In each group, citizens try to group or categorise these ideas and to name this category. They thereby condense the variety of ideas to several strong objectives.
	Table groups	Challenging the objectives: Resource persons, i.e. experts, join the groups. Citizens try to detect problems or trade-offs regarding their objectives. Experts complete missing challenges.
	Rotation	Citizens visit other groups to learn about the objectives they came up with
	Plenary	Opinion snapshot: Each citizen is given 15 votes (5 for each of the 3 topics) to express which of these objectives he/she consider most important. This serves as a rough guideline to help citizens focus their subsequent discussions
	Tables groups	Formulating an achievable vision: Based on their objectives, trade-offs and the results of the opinion snapshot each group is asked to come up with one achievable vision on the Europe they would like to live in.
	Table groups	Role of the EU: Citizens define whether they see a role of the EU or not in achieving this vision.
Dinner and Party		
Day 2: until early afternoon	Plenary	Presentation and sharing of results: Citizen representatives present the results (vision, definition of the EU's role) of their group. They then learn what the groups in the other countries have come up with.
	Rotation	Content Feedback : Citizens visit other groups and obtain and exchange feedback on the results.
	Table groups	Editing: Citizens work the feedback into their results. Last chance for final amendments.
	Plenary	Confidence Voting: After being presented the final results, citizens vote to express whether they are satisfied or feel comfortable with these results.
	plenary	Closing Ceremony / End of National Consultation



What happens with these results?

Until the end of the “period of reflection” in May 2007, and in time for the June Summit of the European Council, the European Citizens' Consultations will produce a unique input for policy-makers as they chart a course for the European project.

The [national] Citizens' Consultation is one of 27 national consultations taking place in all EU-Member States in February and March 2007. Each national consultation produces national perspectives on the future of Europe.



All national outcomes serve as the basis for a European-level synthesis during the **Final Consultation** on 9/10 May 2007, highlighting the common ground and the areas of divergence between the national outcomes. The final event also kicks off a comprehensive follow-up process, which actively communicates the outcomes to policy-makers on national and European level and provides feedback to the participating citizens and the broader public.

The European Commission will present the main outcome of the European Citizens' Consultation at the European Summit gathering all heads of state or government of the 27 EU-Member States in June 2007 in Brussels.

Through active outreach activities by all partners, the results of the European Citizens' Consultations will be disseminated at national and European levels to achieve two objectives:

- 1) to inform a substantive debate within the framework of the three topics about the citizens' views on the future of Europe
- 2) to demonstrate that citizen participation across Europe is not only feasible but also adds value to policy-making



How to get involved

The European Citizens' Consultations are more than a one-time exercise in citizen involvement. They are designed as a model for dialogue across the boundaries of geography and language and thereby aim at establishing a template for future European citizens' participation projects that create dialogue in a multilingual and decentralised setting, empower randomly chosen citizens to set the agenda and lead informed debates, use innovative facilitation methods and modern technology to make every voice heard.

There are many ways to get involved in the European Citizens' Consultations:

As a participant

- Contact the national partner to learn about follow-up events in your country
- Write to your national partner to let them know about your experience at the event
- Leave your contact details to the national partner if you wish to be informed about the next steps of the European Citizens' Consultations
- Leave your contact details to the national partner if you wish to be invited to follow-up events or discussions / interviews with media and policy-makers
- Stay in contact with the friends you met at the national consultation

As a citizen

- contact the national partner in your country and ask about ways to get involved.
- use the results of this initiative to talk to your family and friends about the future of Europe.
- contact your regional, national, and European representatives and let them know about your experience.

As a policy maker

- contact the European lead partner or the national partner in your country to discuss how to contribute to the project (e.g. with venues, contacts, information, or funding) and how to get involved personally.
- reference the European Citizens' Consultations in your statements.
- talk to other policy makers about the value of new forms of dialogue with citizens.
- inspire and initiate more projects like this. The partners will assist in every way.

As a journalist

- contact the European media and PR coordinator, Maria Laura Franciosi at franciosi@brusselsreporter.eu
- contact the national media coordinator or the national partner in your country to request images, quotes, interview partners and other material.
- consider the potential of the European Citizens' Consultations for feature articles, TV documentaries, news stories, interviews, personal stories of participants and many other forms of reporting. The partners will be happy to assist you with material and ideas.

As a researcher or practitioner

- sign up for the observer programme at the Final Event on 9/10 May 2007
- contact the European lead partner to obtain more detailed information on the methodology and raw results from the events.
- contact the European lead partner or the national partner in your country to discuss opportunities for knowledge-building and research as well as to establish contacts with like-minded researchers and practitioners.

Also, please have a look at www.european-citizens-consultations.eu for updated information and contact the Webmaster (info@european-citizens-consultations.eu) to give us feedback or to let us know about your information requirements.



The ECC all over Europe

European Consortium

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