

European Citizens' Consultations

**We want
the EU and
citizens to ...**

Final Report

National European Citizens' Consultations in Austria

NECC_AT

Vienna
April 2007

listen

act

speak up

dialogue

participate

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 Citizen's Consultations.

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ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Europäische Bürgerkonferenzen in Österreich
in Kooperation mit Radio Ö1



European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard



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Introduction

On 24/25th of March, in RadioKulturhaus in Vienna, the European Citizens' Consultations in Austria **formulated with 30 randomly selected citizens from Austria their contribution to the pan-European Citizens' Perspectives**. The event was networked with Finland, Lithuania, Cyprus and Spain to exchange intermediate results in the process of discussions. On the Agenda were three topics chosen by 200 European citizens as most relevant for the future of Europe: Energy and Environment, Family and Social Affairs and the global Role of the EU.

The European Citizens' Consultations (ECC) in Austria were opened by Josef Hochgerner, the scientific manager of the Centre for Social Innovation and Prof. Sonja Puntischer-Riekmann, Professor for European Integration. A Welcome Message from the Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer was read to the participants.

During two intensive days of discussion and dialogue the citizens were supported by a team of facilitators and worked out the Austrian Citizens' Perspectives. In May 2007 this result will be integrated into the European Citizen's Perspective which will be containing the results from all EU member states.

During the Consultations in Vienna we received visitors and journalists who followed the process of discussions and dialogues. Amongst them was Karl Doutlik, the Head of the European Commission Office in Austria and Journalists and guests from social partnership institutions and NGOs. The idea of enhanced Citizens' Participation is also supported by Franz Fischler, the former Commissioner for Agriculture.

The Austrian Citizens' Perspective was handed over to the President of the Austrian Parliament, Barbara Prammer. She promised to introduce the concerns, visions, proposals and requests of the citizens to Austrian MPs.

Our cooperation partner, **Radio Ö 1**, gave the national round of the ECC in Vienna intensive media coverage and generously supported the event hosting it on their premises.

This long report offers the text of the **minutes taken at the three tables** of discussion. It shows how citizens reached the European Citizens' Perspectives from Austria, and also gives information about the recruitment process to complement the citizens' deliberations. The report ends with a summary of feedbacks from citizens, guests and team-members. The documentation is **making each citizen's voice heard** and presents the ample richness of thoughts, concerns and demands, and the wit of the citizens from Austria. We are thankful to their inputs and look forward to a challenging continuation and development of this genuinely European citizen's participation model and to further exchange and cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation, with IFOK and our partners.

The consultations in Austria were implemented and accompanied by the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI). The project of the European network of civil organizations and foundations is led by the King Baudouin Foundation and supported by the European Commission.

The Austrian Citizens' Perspectives and other project documents can be downloaded from www.zsi.at and www.european-citizens-consultations.eu. Please follow up the European Citizen's Perspectives at this website or contact us directly.

Project Management
Center for Social Innovation, Vienna, Austria



Welcome Message to the Citizens of the Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer



Der Bundespräsident

Dr. Heinz Fischer

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren!

Gerne nehme ich die Gelegenheit wahr, mich auf diesem Weg an die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer des österreichischen Teils der „Europäischen Bürgerkonferenz“ zu wenden. Sie nehmen es auf sich, ein ganzes Wochenende der Auseinandersetzung über die Zukunft Europas – und damit natürlich auch unseres Landes – zu widmen. Sie bringen dafür Ihr Wissen, Ihre Erfahrung, Ihre Überzeugungen ein und beweisen damit ein außerordentliches und vorbildliches Engagement. Es freut mich sehr, dass Sie in Ihren Beratungen so wichtige Themen wie „Umwelt und Energie“, „Soziales und Familie“ und „Europas Rolle in der Welt“ behandeln. Ihre Mitarbeit an der europaweiten Darstellung von Anliegen zu diesen Fragen wird ein Bild von Meinungen, Erwartungen, Hoffnungen und Wünschen entstehen lassen, das direkt aus der Mitte der Gesellschaft kommt – von den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern selbst.

Die Diskussionen, die Sie hier führen, und die Ergebnisse, die Sie mit den Konferenzen in den anderen Mitgliedsländern der Europäischen Union austauschen, vergleichen und zusammenführen werden, sind nicht Antworten auf Vorhaben von politischen, wissenschaftlichen oder bürokratischen Eliten. Was hier stattfinden soll, und was ich aus volstem Herzen unterstütze, ist weit mehr als der oft zitierte Dialog Europas mit Bürgern und Bürgerinnen: es ist ein Dialog zwischen Bürgerinnen und Bürgern, den es in dieser Form noch nicht gegeben hat und den ich sehr begrüße.

Lösungen für die anstehenden Probleme der Gesellschaft und erfolgreiche Schritte zu einer friedlichen Entwicklung Europas setzen voraus, dass auch die Ideen und Fragen, die Skepsis und Begeisterung aus allen Kreisen der Bevölkerung gehört und ernst genommen werden.

Daher freue ich mich auf die Ergebnisse sowohl der österreichischen Debatte als auch der anderen europäischen Bürgerkonferenzen. Ich werde meinen Beitrag dazu leisten, dass Ihr vorbildliches Engagement als Beitrag zur Stärkung der Demokratie in Europa auch zur Wirkung kommen kann.

Ich danke dem Zentrum für Soziale Innovation und Ö1 für die gemeinsame Durchführung im ORF Funkhaus Wien und wünsche Ihnen allen eine erfolgreiche Veranstaltung mit spannenden und lehrreichen Diskussionen sowie interessante Begegnungen mit Bürgerinnen und Bürgern aus ganz Europa!

Heinz Fischer

*

*

The discussions you are leading here and the results you are going to exchange compare and consolidate with the conferences in the other EU member countries, are not answers to plans drawn up by political, scholarly or bureaucratic elites. What will take place here, and which I support from the bottom of my heart, is much more than the often-quoted European dialogue with citizens: it is dialogues between citizens. In this form this has never taken place before and I therefore most welcome it.

Solutions to the present problems in society and steps towards developing a peaceful Europe must consider and integrate the ideas and questions, the scepticism and the enthusiasm of all parts of the population and listen seriously to citizens.



Testimonial

The EU needs to be in touch with citizens. A living European Community cannot succeed without the voices, opinions and positions of the people who live here.

The European Citizens' Conferences discuss the most important questions facing us in the future – jobs, sustainability, constitution, expansion and living together globally – and are a trend-setting model for civil participation across Europe and for a more democratic European Union.

Franz Fischler

President of the Ecosocial Forum Europe
EU-Commission for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries 1995-2004

Franz Fischler - Provokationen eines österreichischen Europäers / Hans Rauscher
Verfasser: Rauscher, Hans. Verleger: Wien : Signum Erscheinungsjahr: 1998

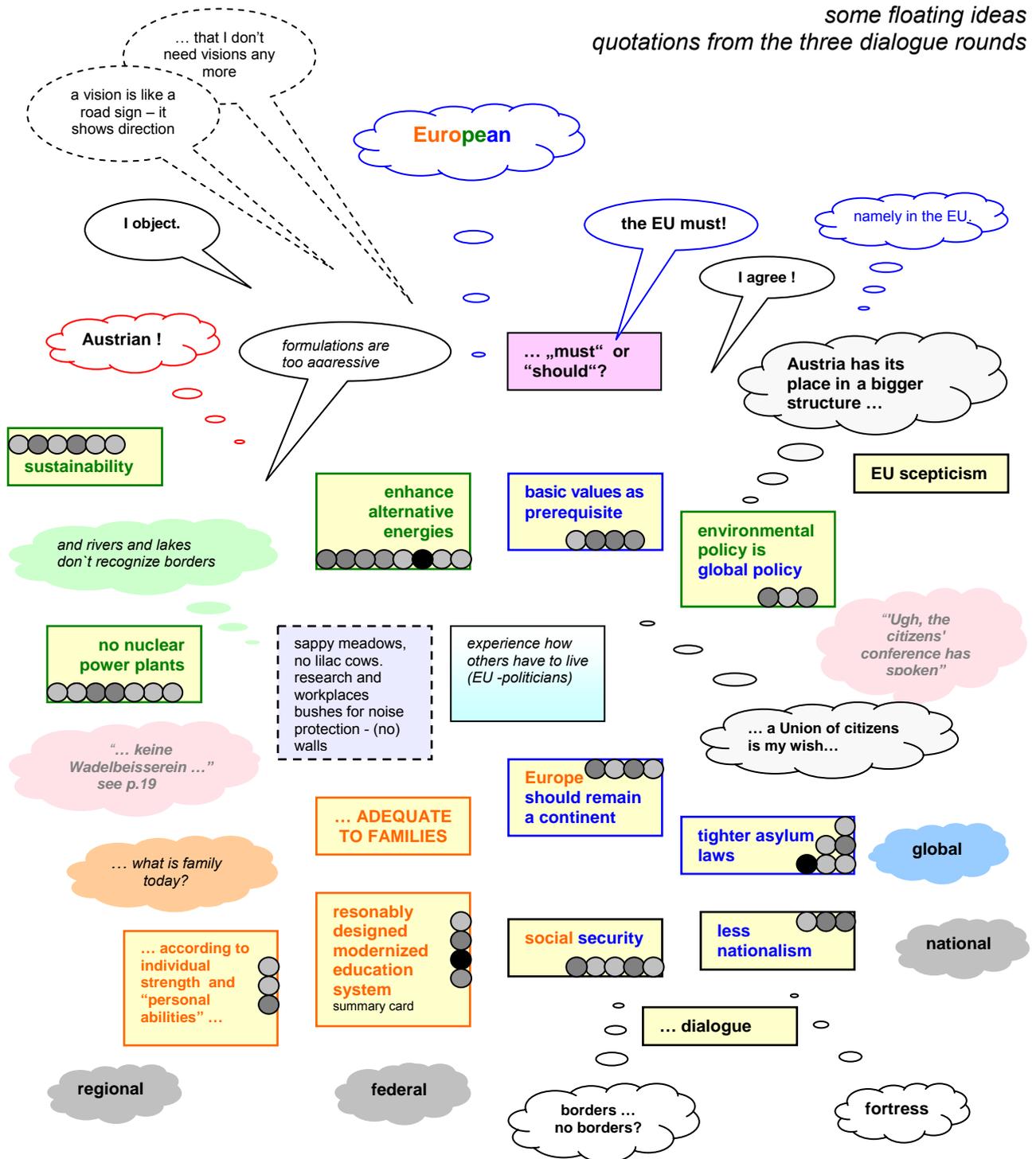
Ins Zentrum Europas : Standortsuche für Österreich / Franz Fischler. Aufgezeichnet von Hermann Hagspiel. Verfasser: Fischler, Franz; Hagspiel, Hermann [Bearb.]. Verleger: Graz; Wien ; Köln : Verl. Styria. Erscheinungsjahr: 2000

Erinnerungen / Franz Fischler. Aufgezeichnet von Peter Pelinka. Verfasser: Fischler, Franz; Pelinka, Peter [Bearb.]. Verleger: Wien : Ueberreuter. Erscheinungsjahr: 2006



Citizens from Austria made their voice heard ...

some floating ideas
quotations from the three dialogue rounds



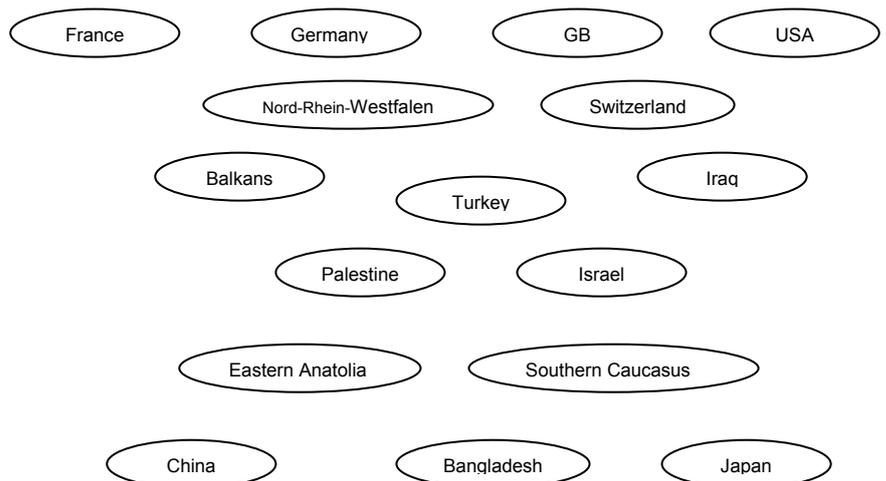


These European Citizens Consultations were networked during the event:
Lithuania, Spain, Austria, Cyprus and Finland



... and learned from each other while preparing their contribution to the European Citizens' Perspective.

... also these countries where on the minds of citizens in Austria and mentioned during deliberations





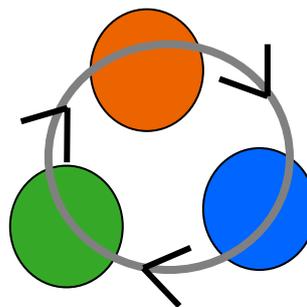
1 THE EUROPEAN AGENDA AS DISCUSSED IN AUSTRIA

The following text assembles the *unedited wording* of the citizens for the three top topics.

- **Energy & Environment**
- **Family & Social Security (Social Affairs)** *)
- **Global Role of the EU, Immigration and Borders**

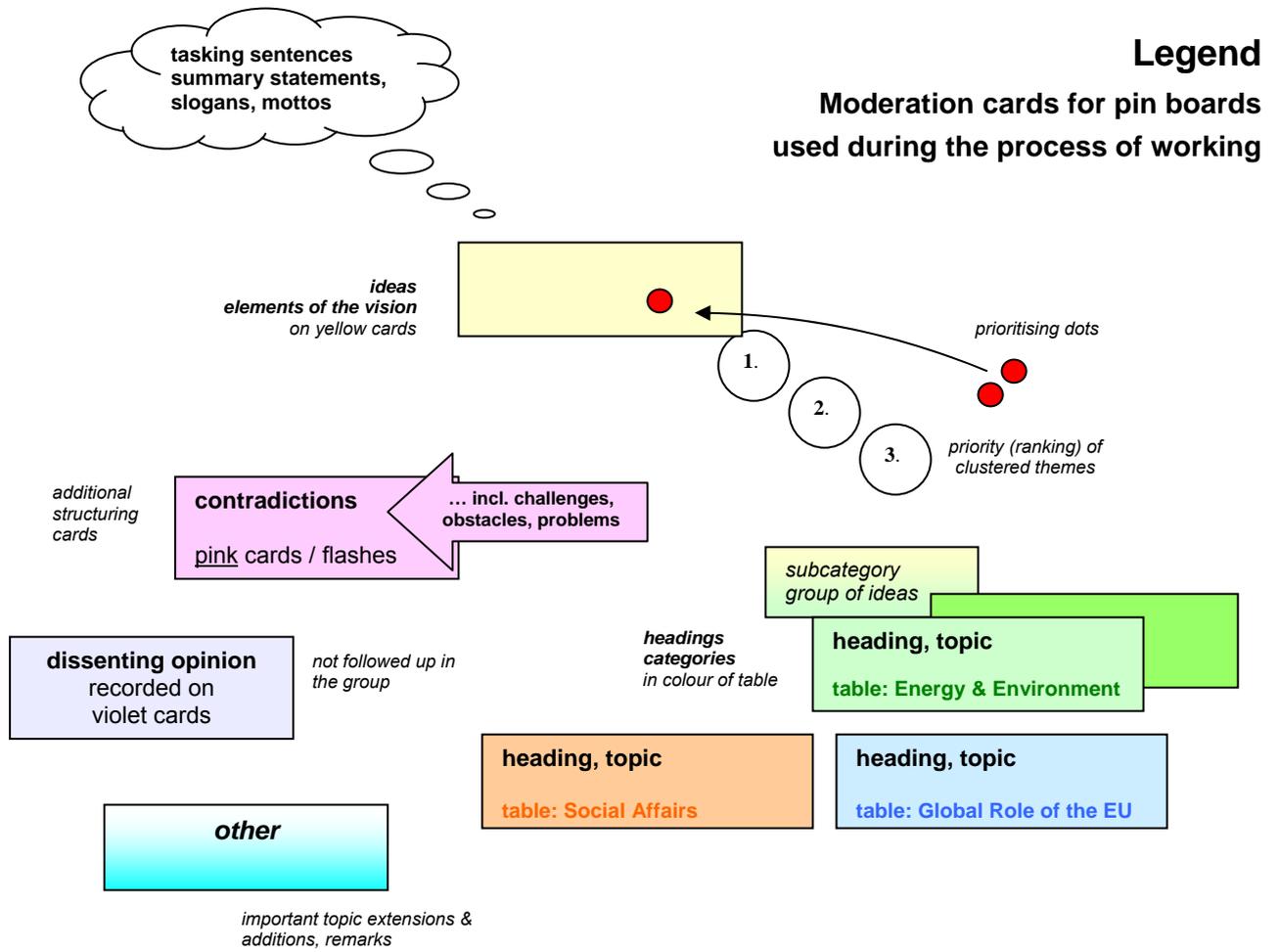
We have tried to involve the original wording of the Agenda Setting Event which included social welfare and family as well; discussions of the global role implied immigration and borders, and also addressed immigration management. Citizens had the summary of the agenda of the three topics in their conference files.

The citizens were seated at three tables at which they started with all three topics and eventually focused on one topic. In the course of the two days the groups rotated several times to exchange ideas and comment each others' thinking. The Consultations concluded with a European Café (from World Café). The colours green, orange and blue were associated to Energy & Environment, Family and Social Security, Global Role of the EU respectively.



Note of the organizers: Some citizens ignored the allocation to different tables; therefore demographic composition was not equally balanced at the three tables.

*) The editing of the ASE initial results at the beginning of 2007 is an step – which citizens who had been personally involved in the Agenda Setting Event in Brussels and came to the opening received critically at the Austrian consultation. As one ASE citizen remarked: *“If you start discussions from the angle of family instead of the overall political issue of social welfare this promotes a concept which in Austria can easily be associated with a certain political standpoint and leans towards traditional family concepts.”*



Single Citizens' voices were recorded

The reporters recorded each like this in a bulleted list:

- A female citizen's statement. (f)
- A male citizen's statement. (m)
- *Objection/problem:* Text.

Minutes focus on the citizens' statements.

Therefore the resource persons' statements are reported where possible/necessary (in italics). Important inputs of table facilitator and remarks of the reporter are indicated in italics or [...].

Bold and bold italics are subheadings.

Abbreviations:	
(f)	female
(m)	male
AT	Austria
ECC	Europ. Citizens Consultations
en	English
ge	German
NECC	National ECC Consultation
RP	Resource Person
TF	Table Facilitator



Energy & Environment

Structured version of the minutes

Participants of the table

f	48	Psychologist	Burgenland	There is a possibility to participate as a citizen in the network of EU-countries. Someone can always criticise but it is better to get actively involved in decisions.
f	55	Secretary for European Youth organisation	Styria	For me it is motivating to do something, then we reach a result.
f	20	Student of law	Styria	For me the dualism of the EU is exciting. To get to know other points of view.
f	19	Trainee animal keeping	Lower Austria	I came to meet new people. Wanted to get to know other points of view.
m	58	Technician , radio engineering	Upper Austria	My motivation to participate is that I am at the same time supporting and criticising the EU. I am from Upper Austria.
m	39	Ambulance man	Vienna	I am interested in the topic and I would like to get to know other options. I want to contribute something.
m	51	Multi Media designer	Vienna	My ancestors are from Holland, Germany and Austria. I lived myself in several EU countries and also encountered problems when moving from one country to another.
m	22	Student in Medicine	Styria	I became an EU-critic during my studies.
m	29	Clerk, Austrian Railways	Styria	I am responsible for business trips. I am working with many countries and the cooperation with them is good. It should also work on EU-level
m	23	Student, media designer	Vienna	I want to have a voice and listen to what other people have to say.
m	69	Shipping clerk	Salzburg	I am interested in the topics transport and environment. Expert discussions with Scholl-Latour and various reports on NTV raised my interest in global topics. Scholl-Latour: „Germany will not make it without nuclear power.“ I am interested in this topic.

Remarks on the set-up

In the following text lists the written contributions that were made by the participants on cards. The text below reflects the substance of the discussion around this topic. This also includes topics that were not initially listed. Categories (mobility, energy, structural framework) as suggested by the citizens (even though there are some overlapping, see comments).

- (f) and (m) indicate male and female speakers (whenever the time allowed it).

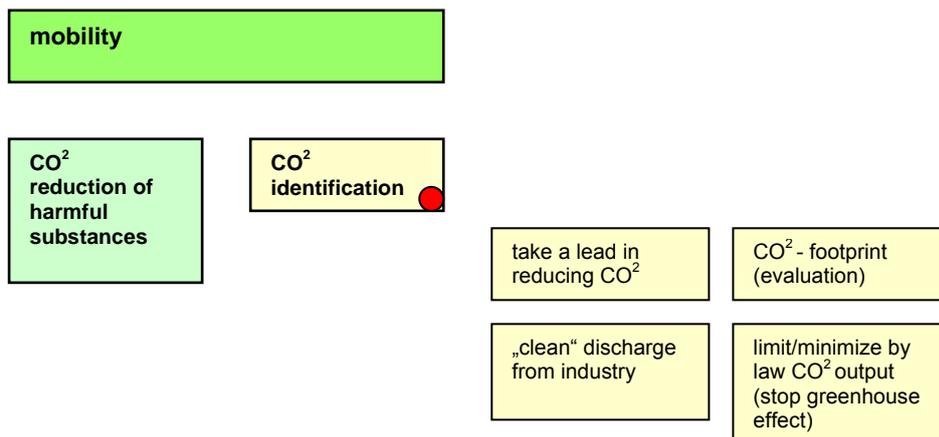
In addition to the cards visualized in the following, contributions to the discussion (text) are structured in subcategories. The note taker therefore followed the following format: Longer contributions to the discussion on categories are listed after the visualization. Pink cards: challenges to cope with, if perfect solutions should be implemented.



The topic cards with most points at the table "Energy and Environment" were (number of points in brackets):

- ○ enhance alternative energies (8)
- ○ no nuclear power plants (7)
- ○ sustainability (6)
- ○ no violence against animals (4)
- ○ efficient use of resources (4)

Category 1: Mobility

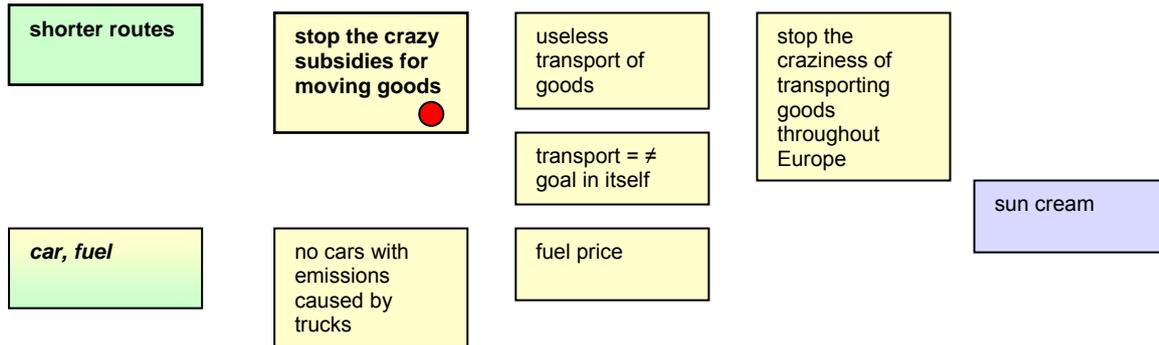


Reduction of CO² output/movement of goods

- Why is the CO² output caused by transit traffic attributed to Austria?
- Sustainability: How much transit is necessary: Movement of goods has to meet requirements and should not take place at any price (m)

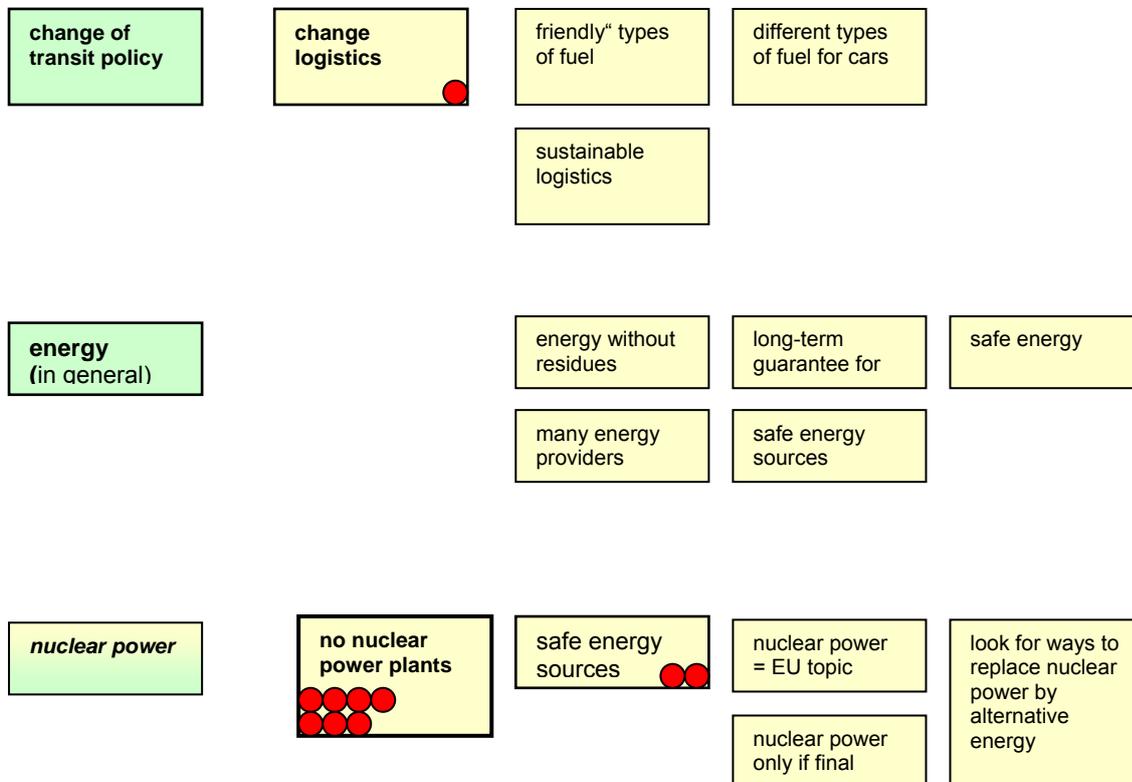
Traffic by road too cheap/by rail too expensive

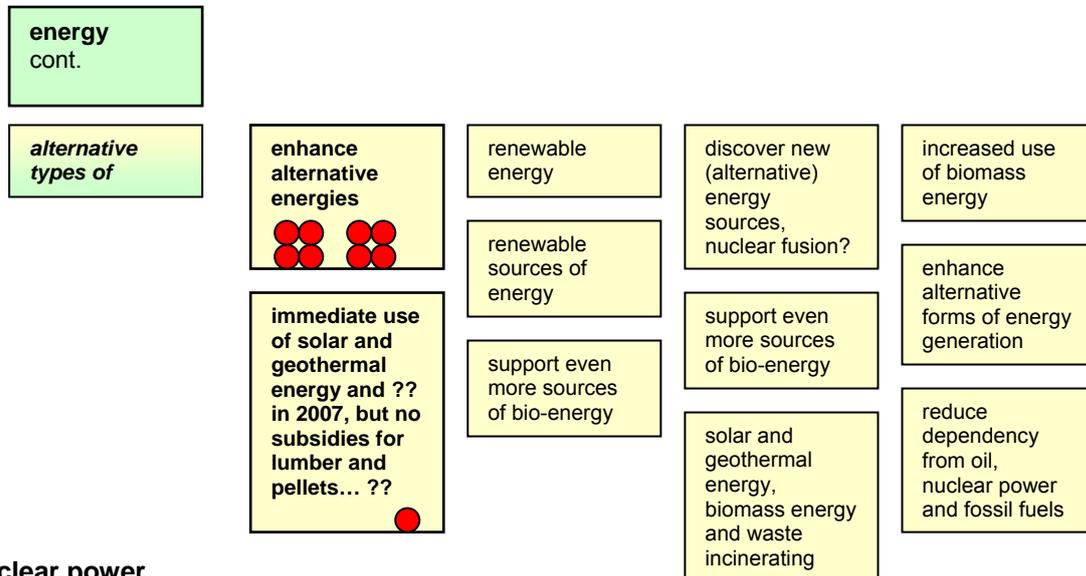
- My father commutes for now 20 years (Linz / Graz). To go from Graz to Vienna by car is less expensive than if you take the train. Public transport is too expensive. (f)
- Railway cars are partly empty. The Federal Railways lack a system. (m)
- Is individual transport (car) too cheap? (m)
- Prosperity increased twofold with the price of fuel. (m)
- Certain people say „I pay my 50 € and don't care how high petroleum tax is“. (f)
- Czech Republic: Only when the litre of fuel was sold at 50 Schilling, individual traffic was reduced.
- Why should someone pay that much if there is no possibility to use public transport? Why should a pensioner pay that much?
- Why do I need a car as a pensioner? (m)



Reduce itineraries

- Minimal price differences do not justify long routes of transportation for food.
- Small suppliers should receive more support.





Nuclear power

- I am concerned that nuclear power is not on top of the agenda. To phase out from nuclear power is a main topic. (m)
- Intensified discussion about alternative energies, especially for replacing nuclear power. (f)
- Reflects current point of view of EU that nuclear power is not a topic. (m)

This is one way to understand it, in the group I had a different understanding, focus on alternative energy as a substitute. This has to be part of the discussion, but you also need to actively deal with "old" types of energy. (RP)

- Nuclear power plants are no risk, side-effects and final storage are the problem. (m)
- Decisions about nuclear power plants can't be taken by single states. (f)

EU-wide regulations for nuclear power

- Regarding subsidies: Fossil energy sources receive 50% more subsidies. (m)
- EU-wide regulations have to be made, this concerns everybody, and everyone should have a right to raise his/her voice. We have a right to join the discussion. This should be a topic on EU- and not on national level.

Card: Nuclear power = EU topic (see what has to be decided on EU/national level?)

● **nuclear power
= EU topic**

- Nuclear power already is a topic throughout Europe, there was just recently a collection of signatures, the risk does not stop at the border, we should have the right to also join the discussion in France. (m)
- Decisions are still made on national level
- Euratom has to take responsibility, who takes on costs for final storage.(m)

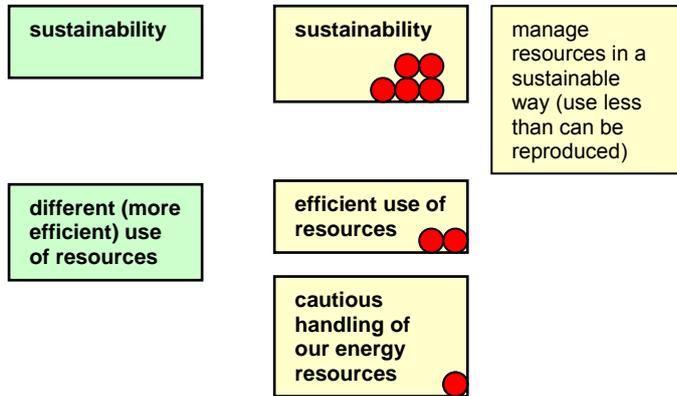
Alternative/renewable sources of energy

Card: New sources of energy? -> these are more the already existing alternative sources (compared to fossil fuel. Eventually nuclear fusion as „new“ source of energy.

Hydropower can also not be used for ever. Water reserves are in decline. (f)



Category 2: sustainability



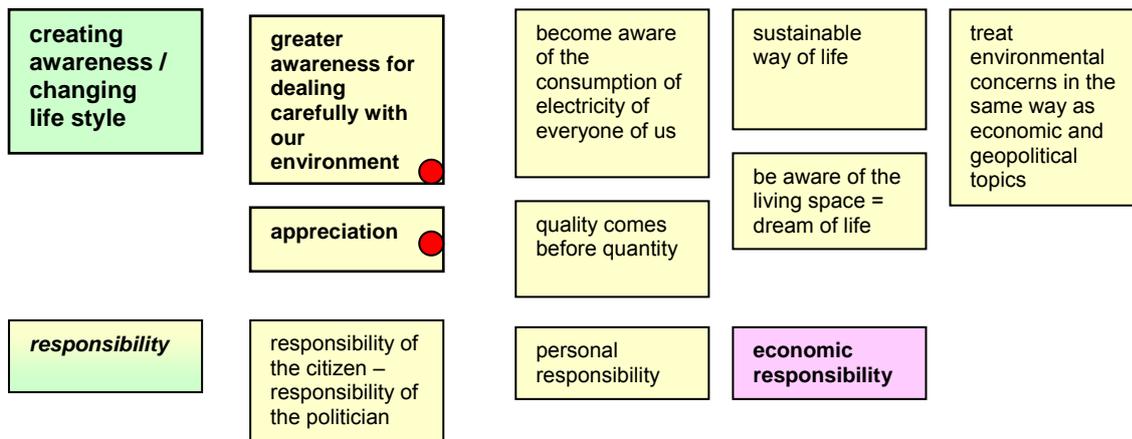
Discussion/Definition of sustainability and quality of life

- What is quality of life? (m)
- There is no need to consume that much. How to change this? (f)
- If I live in a sustainable way, I save energy. (f)
- Sustainability means to think about how to refocus/change. (m)

Explaining sustainability: The energy that is spent is reproduced without damage for the future. Sustainability does not necessarily mean that too much energy is spent. (RP)

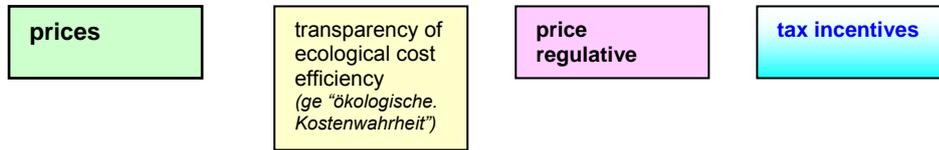
- Sustainability would then mean to close the circle. (f)
- I can only spend much energy if it has been produced somewhere. (f)

sustainability – energy saving (cont.)



Appreciation

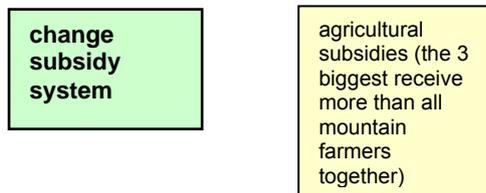
- Alternative energies exist but don't generate enough money. Values (respecting the world and nature) are very important in this regard. (f)



Price regulative

- The price has to be controlled as the price is in the end decisive for the consumer.
- The low price of meat is not adequate anymore.
- Regarding consumer behaviour: The price is the only control instrument. A high price is supposed to reduce demand.
- In cities like Graz or Vienna, there is no need for a car. Everything would be jammed if everybody used a car. To price something adequately is important. (m)
- Other taxation, less income tax and higher taxes for materials. Things would be repaired and not thrown away. No strong logic behind it.
- Nowadays things don't cost much anymore.
- Economic and tax incentive/cost transparency
- Economy has to give incentives (save money), otherwise no need for change, other priorities. (m)
- Unless someone makes a conscious choice, without being forced. (m)
- Energy-consuming behaviour (if not necessary, exceptions have to be made) must be punished with taxation; Card: transparency of cost efficiency (ge "Kostenwahrheit"); card: tax incentives to save energy. (m)

sustainability – energy saving
(cont.)



Subsidies for transportation

- Why is fuel for airplanes still subsidized although the negative effects are well known? (m)
- Trips to far-away countries are less harmful for the environment than economy/industry. (m)



Local production

- When costs are calculated correctly, domestic products should be cheaper than imported ones.

Consumption of local products

- Austrians should be more conscious with what they eat and use more domestic products.
- Buy domestic products. (f)



- People, especially pensioners, are stupid; they are not interested where products come from. (m)
- We should consume domestic products in our countries. Other products will be rated. (f)

Recycling of waste

- Health Center of Patch Adams: We have to start recycling our waste. Create a closed circle. (f)

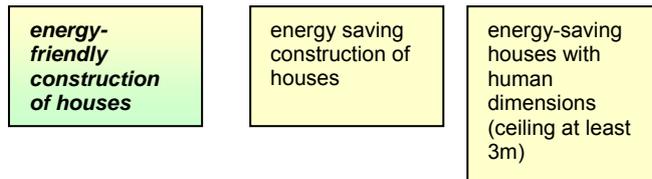
Ecological Footprint

- WWF Footprint: Measurement for energy consumption, EU consumes 2,4 more energy than we should. We can therefore change our behaviour in order to keep the whole system alive and running.

Other

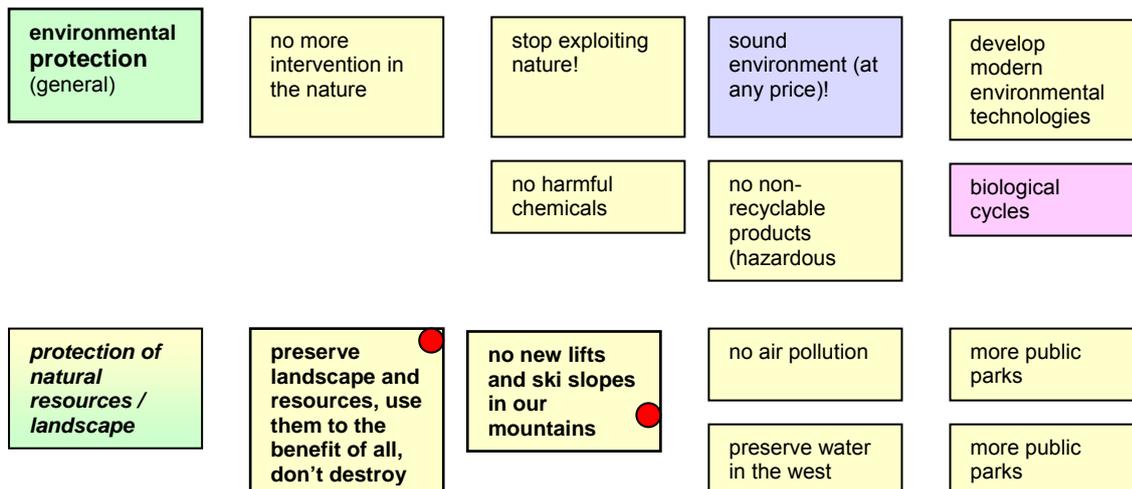
- Analysing the current situation: Subsidies, speed limit 100 does not exist. Subsidise isolation of houses – all this would be concrete goals for saving energy. Where can measures be taken from, that have a maximum effect? (m)

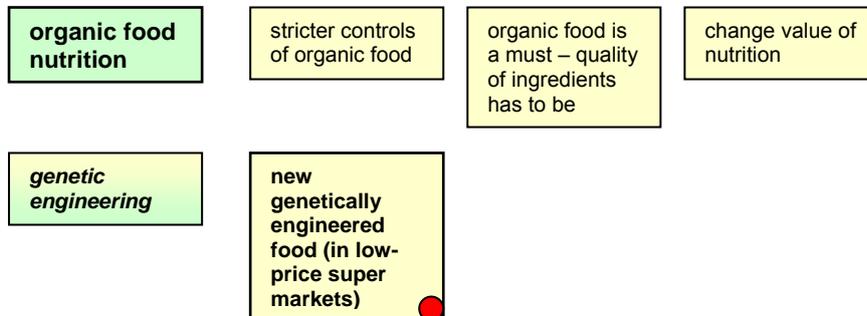
sustainability – energy saving (cont.)



Energy-saving houses (technology, vocational training of specialists, subsidies)

- In 13 years something has changed. Example passive house. Used to be for the elite. Nowadays the technology is developed far enough to be used in subsidized housing. (f)
- Passive houses: It starts with education: Who trains the specialists in Austria? They come from abroad. Why are there so many apprentices in retail? Vocational schools are not up-to-date. (f)
- I believe that all houses have some energy available, it is simply not used properly.
- Private households: Change to other forms of energy should be subsidised. More administrative support for private initiatives. (m)
- We need to analyse how efficient these suggestions are. (f)





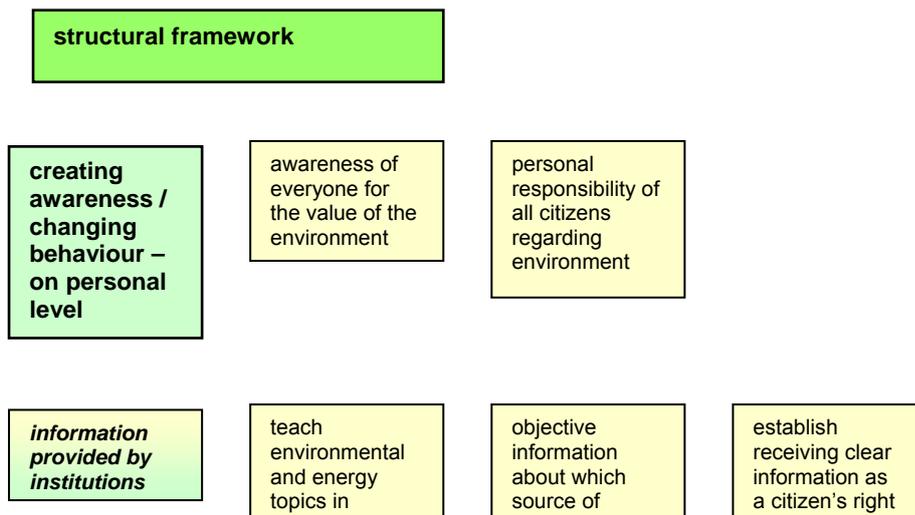
Quality of food

- Quality of food went down, e.g. tomatoes.
- Low-price supermarkets (e.g. strawberries) – many things are genetically modified, dangerous for health.
- Products are taken off the shelves although there is a demand for them. Who decides what is offered? Obviously not the client.
- Healthy food should be affordable.

Genetic engineering

- Genetic engineering allows producing bigger quantities at a lower price. *Problem:* Genetically engineered food damages our economy. Risk that competition forces EU to give in regarding genetically engineered food.

Category 3: Structural framework

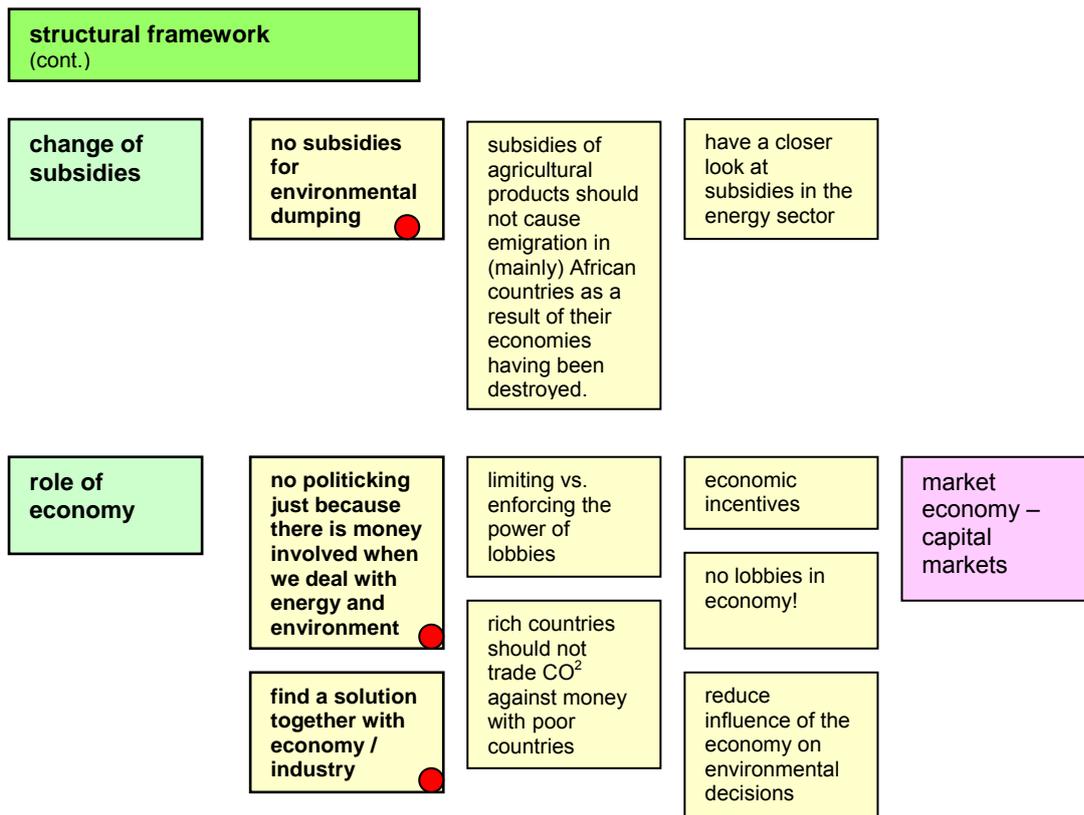


Information/creating awareness

- It is too late to reduce the Co² output; immediate action has to be taken. (m)
- We are currently in a phase of global warming, difficult to say, how much is caused by humans. (m)

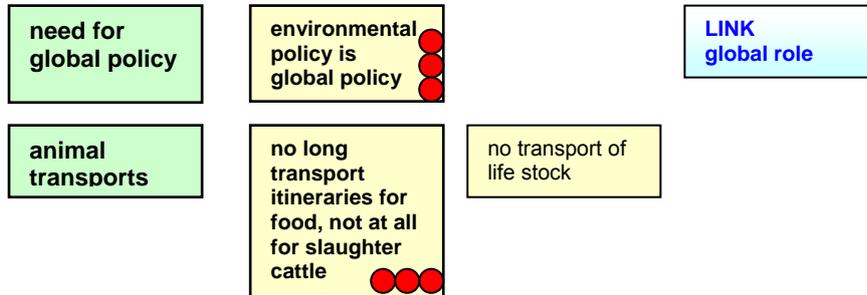


- Nobody really knows. We receive information from the media, but the speed of the global warming rather indicates that there is some influence caused by humans. This is not thought out. (m)
- Objective information is important. (f)
- Attended a lecture (mining university): mineral oil is not getting less, reproduces itself. (f)
- Information is essential for forming an opinion, open information policy is necessary; we have to be able to get clear information that can also be understood by non-experts. (m)
- Who then acts accordingly?
- The more sensational the information, the more interesting for the people.
- Creating awareness has to start at school, with children; to inform uneducated people is difficult. (f)
- There is still a lot of information needed regarding the risks of nuclear power in some countries. (m)



“Lobbies”

- Positive developments need time, technologies exist, and lobbies prevent their further development. There are also ecological lobbies but they are not very strong yet – have to be strengthened. (m)
- Rail transport, from Salzburg to Trieste, from Trieste by ship to Turkey. Not always possible because the car industry is against. Not possible from Munich to Trieste. Collapse of the industry is a question of time. (m)

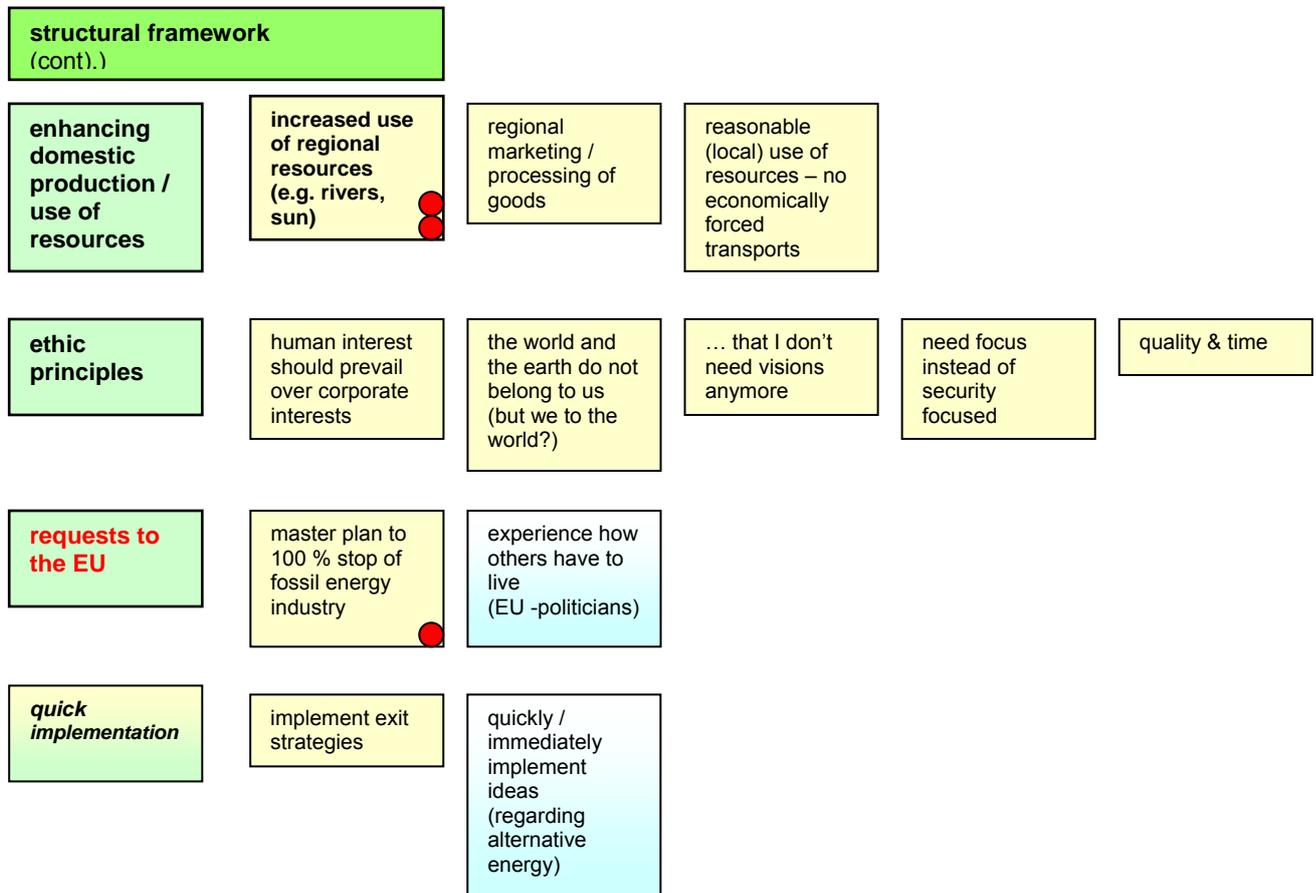


Life stock transport

- Life stock transport should be regulated/prohibited.

Violence against animals

- I am against violence against animals. I am vegetarian. There are alternatives for animal testing. (m)
- How should then be tested? (f)
- Anyhow, the results can not be taken over one to one. (m)





Quick implementation

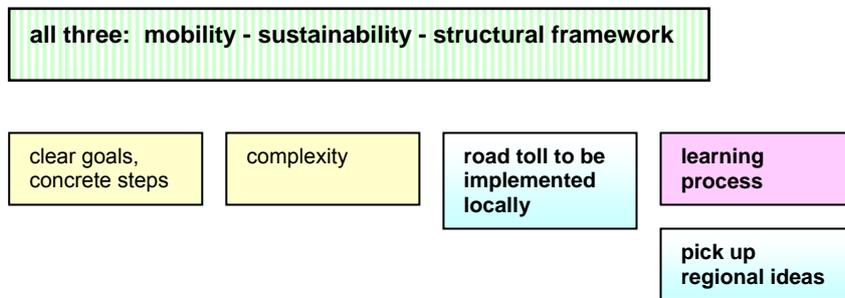
- Good ideas have to be realised immediately, don't wait till 2020. *Card:* Quickly/immediately implement ideas regarding alternative energy. (m)

Criticising EU-politicians

- As long as institutions have a political function, information is one-sided. The intentions may be good but the outcome is bad (war, hazardous waste etc.); they have to be aware that they are also responsible for bad results. (f)

Responsibility/Perspectives/awareness of EU-politicians (in regard to the Brenner)

- EU-politicians should come and take a look on site. *Card:* „Experience how others have to live“. EU should take action to create awareness among politicians. (f)
- This would not change the situation. (m)



Concrete goals

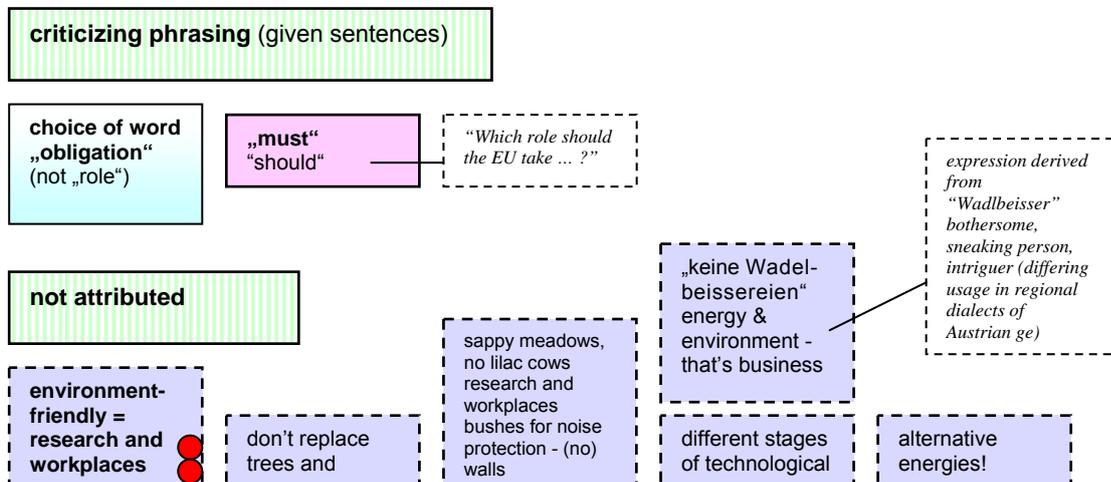
- Island is working for 5 years to reduce to zero fossil energy use. Concrete goals are a must, EU is not concrete enough, gives a lot of freedom to lobbies, needs concrete vision with timeline. (m)

Price policy - Transit/Road Toll

- Fees for transit have to be increased in Austria, they are too low, too much traffic, more expensive in other countries. Regions should have the right to impose regulations vis a vis the EU. (f)

Card: „Road toll to be implemented locally“.

- E.g. Brenner: is a private company but is forced to keep the toll low. It has to make a living. Noise pollution is very high, 15.000 people are affected, not many protest. Provincial Governor is not interested in the topic.





Topics not covered by the categories and categories discussed more intensively:

● responsibility

Personal responsibility/creating awareness of consumers

- Complaining (in the shop) about unnecessary packaging, consumers to join forces, deliberate consumption, give preference to Austrian products. Where do products come from?
- Commercials undermine personal responsibility of citizens.
- Are corporations or consumers responsible for improving conditions (transport, pricing)?
- Take personal responsibility up to political institutions.
- You can change something for yourself as a consumer: Buy first domestic products, become independent of regions.
- We should not blame the EU. We as citizens have to tell them what they should do. Pass on responsibility to politicians.
- Start with yourself, personal responsibility.

[Rewording vision]

In Spanish vision there is consumer responsibility mentioned.

- Should still be incorporated in vision.

Limits of personal responsibility

Mobility

- Personal responsibility is important, father is commuting from Linz to Graz, needs car. Labour market requires mobility; car allows being back faster at home. Efficiency and speed are important, therefore you need a car. (f)
- To reduce driving is not possible for all. (f)
- Car industry produces out-dated engines; the whole industry will collapse if nothing is changed. Stop buying is no solution.
- It is about quality of life (should not limit people too much). Use a plane for holiday. (m)
- Personal responsibility: keep relation – plane trip is less harmful than using heating throughout the winter. (m)

Problems with implementation

We don't question where the energy comes from that we use. And who wants to step back? In order to obtain results, we have to reduce buying (strong campaign has to be started). But I am only a little wheel in all that, people continue to buy. We are ages away from implementing this vision. (f)

Personal responsibility consumers vs. corporate organisations

- There is no guarantee, that we don't consume energy from nuclear power plants. We should become more active. (m)
- Save energy in your house. (m)
- Negawatt instead of Megawatt.
- People should save but industry does not do anything, we could save much more. (m)

Economic growth vs. change of consumer behaviour

- Economy has to grow constantly, this is also EU policy. If there is no growth, they would compromise immediately on the environment. I abstain from many things but I am concerned that this does not help. Consumer responsibility is okay but should not lead to reduction. (m)



- You can not only blame consumers. (m)
- To take responsibility for own consumption. (m)
- Creating awareness: Don't only focus on what is not possible! (m)
- It is true, that everything would collapse if we stopped buying. (m)

“Progress“ – Protection of the environment

- Project Manager (Infrastructure project in Styria, consulting, big project on environmental impact assessment): People get much older than ever before, ecology is not in a bad condition. There are also improvements (drinking water from Mur). Progress means inroad into nature. No inroads mean less progress. (m)
- Inroads into nature are necessary from time to time. Many more trucks, we have to build rails in order to cope with the situation.

[The speaker had not been present at this table during the introduction round and is asked to explain his professional background. Group had become sceptical listening to his remarks].

Need for a global policy, environmental policy = global topic, Role of the EU (general framework)



**environmental policy
= global policy**

- Compared to Japan, the EU is not a big polluter. (f)

Role of the EU

- „The EU should in regard to... (aspect of the vision) play a role because...“

The EU should in regard to ecology play a role because...

- ... because ecology is not limited to borders. (m)
- It has to be global; otherwise our companies would go to China and do the same there again. (m)
- 2000 containers arrive daily in Hamburg, what you wear comes from there. (m)
- Crazy growth rates there, huge pollution, containers are shipped everywhere. (m)
- Have to create general framework. – The EU is able to do that. (m)
- Why should Chinese not be allowed to use their resources – how can the EU control that?

Other topics

Opinions regarding the visions from other countries

- I believe the countries have all the same interests: social security, regulating immigration etc., the same problems everywhere. (f)
- Regarding creating awareness etc.: also part in other countries' vision. (m)
- One country is against closing down a nuclear power plant. (m)
- Finland: “Consumption should be considered as bad as smoking”. Very good sentence. It is about the right use of things. Consumption is not bad as such, only the way we do it. We could still take that in. (m)

Task: Thoughts about the vision, can everybody identify with it?



Criticising / discussing the conference (respectively the vision)

- The leaflet from the “Europabüro” already contains everything we said. (m)

Too general – no consequences

- Everything is so general; it is as if you did not say anything.
- We produce cloud-sentences (*remark: also one type of the moderation cards where cloud-shaped*) without consequences; we should still focus on consequences in the groups. (m)
- Other countries' vision is even more general than ours. (m)

Are there other opinions?

- For me it is okay. It should only be a general recommendation, food for thought. (m) – *Agreement.* (f)
- Has to be implemented with pressure from the politicians. If I ask in our house with 18 apartments to separate waste, 3 might do it. Just talking does not help. (m)
- Politicians are all seen as scapegoats, but there are also younger politicians. Changes take time. How can we make our sentence more concrete? (m)
- But this does not lead to action. (m)
- It is a declaration of intent. (f)
- Our topic seems to be more concrete than others. (m)
- Alternative energies are good in all countries; it is more the general wish that everything will be better in the future. (f)

It is not possible because people/interests (around the table and in the EU) are very diverse.

- I also believe that a vision can only show a direction, like a road sign, and therefore it has to be very general. The more concrete it is, the more you risk conflicts and discussions that turn out to be insignificant afterwards (e.g. discussion in the 1970-ies about the meaningfulness of separating waste). Everybody can make own decision, general direction is important. (m)
- I regret that there are so few concrete points in there, except for nuclear power plants and genetic engineering. Maybe we can't expect more because the points of view differ too much. It is like these declarations of intents from the politicians. I believe it is not possible to be more precise because all opinions have to be represented. (m)
- We are 10 people. I think it is great that we found a sentence that everybody can identify with. (m)

Missing important topics, EU/Media only focus on some

- I miss topics such as corruption, abuse of power, reallocation. (m)
- There are good and bad things: combustion engines etc. are good, on the other side the rain forest is destroyed, animals are endangered. These aspects don't get enough attention. (m)

Role/Power of citizens

- Our representatives should know what we want them to be close to their citizens. This is why we are here. The results won't be spectacular, you can't have everything. (m)
- But maybe they just need to be supported by us in order to start implementation. (m)
- We have to convince politicians to implement these visions. We can contribute on a personal level, all starts with a vision. Politicians have to share it, it would be a shame if all this would only be the citizens' interest. (m)
- We are the regulatory element. We have to create awareness. (m)
- All of us need a vision, including the representatives we elected in order them to know what they should be working on. (m)



Extent of the regulative power/bureaucracy of the EU

Less bureaucracy

- I also believe that the interests regarding environment, family etc. are the same. What we don't like is bureaucracy. Less bureaucracy and no meta-organization with a lot of officials. We should still add that we don't want that. (f)
- Input in vision: „controlling role“: Problems due to bureaucracy (m)
- Discussion about „controlling“ role; (m/f)

„Regulative(s)“?

Regulations, which are not precise/comprehensive/far-reaching enough for regions etc.

- A public body should be able to control itself. (f)
- Already our federal states have different laws and can't agree on unifying them. (m)
- There are already more than enough national norms. (f)

Small enterprises/too strict or senseless regulations

- There are small enterprises that almost went bankrupt because of security regulations (e.g. size of ambulance box). Maybe it is a strategy of the big corporate organisations against the small enterprises. (m)
- Too detailed regulations limit ourselves, are not good (such as bananas that can't be sold if they are not straight enough).

Individual level

- The EU should not limit existing freedoms. (f)
- This is not credible. (f)
- EU should not be allowed to interfere in personal life. (f)
- EU-wide regulations should not play a role in personal life. (f)
- Protection of the individual is important. (f)
- There is no impact on personal positive growth; creating personal awareness for environment and nature does not prevent positive growth.

On country/regional level

- To impose regulations or not is the question. Regulations mean limitations for certain countries. (m)
- E.g. genetic engineering, we are able to say that we don't want that. (m)
- Not everything should be regulated and unified, regions are important.

[Also see above subsidies (transit policy), road toll (Brenner), the regions should have more influence]

On the other side: global problems have to be solved globally/across borders

- If you think like that then we should not interfere when other countries build nuclear power plants. In Austria, paragraphs are more important than content, Great Britain has a different approach. Already the interpretation of the laws differs from country to country. (m)
- How to deal with air pollution, water pollution etc. should be regulated. (m)
- We should not only talk about problems, the EU also can have a positive impact on infrastructure etc. (f)
- Control instruments like the labelling rules already exist.

Arguments for regulations also on regional level (public funding)

- If the regions are not strong enough, many companies will leave. (m)
- There are already cases where charges were filed against environmental crimes and the EU took care of it.

Is it about regional freedom? (TF)



- But nothing happens. E.g. 800 ha were bought in Salzburg because of the water. The EU has not done anything, only the regional government. It is about who bribes whom. (m)
- Regarding the role of the EU in the regions: We should be careful with the wording, regions receive funding because this could backfire. (f)
- Transit is not a regional problem; Austrian politicians did not negotiate well, now they are not in power anymore. Regionalisation in this regard is not a good thing.
- We have to be able to rely on the EU, in Eastern Styria the boom would not have been happened without the EU. The people supported that, the EU was important there. (f)

So we don't say "directive role"? (TF)

Solution: "Differentiated approach"

- We have to differentiate according to the topic: smoking is a national topic, nuclear power not. (f)
- Everything that has an impact beyond borders has to be regulated EU-wide. All regional problems should be handled without the EU. (m)
- Directives are needed for companies who export in the EU, but not if it is a local enterprise. Strengthen the regional small-scale structure. (m)
- Framework has to be open and firm at the same time. (m)
- Directive und non-directive regulations. (m)

EU-Funding

Problem with regional funding

- Funding is often not used efficiently, not used to develop something, just to take the money. Regional funding programs are limited **in time**. (f)

Card:



- **Funding programs are not directive, regional offices coordinating them.**

So we say not „no role“ but „no directive role“ (TF)

No funding for industrialised agriculture but for small-scale, ecologically sound agriculture

- Redirect funds from big farms to farms who apply ecologically sound methods. (m)

The EU should change their funding policy from extensive to intensive

Biological cycles

Focus on „small scale“

Criticism: These topics got lost in the summary for the vision. (TF)

- Soil/water polluted in Nordrhein-Westfalen as a result of extensive agriculture. (m)

Problems with funding farms

- What is the sense of such funding: e.g. "Müller Milch" released employees when the funding was stopped. (m)
- Topic too complex to discuss it without having expert know-how. (f)
- Agriculture gets more than 50% of EU budget, should be used for enterprises operating in a sustainable way. (m)
- There are regulations but the question is about sustainability. Many things already changed; there are no "butter mountains" any more. (f)

(It is not clear to participants what the status quo is.)



Funding for poorer regions

- Funding for “poorer” regions. (m)
- Austria negotiated very well regarding funding. Funding for poorer countries is also good. (f)

Development not as bad as sometimes assumed

- Forest blight has been a topic when I was young, it is not anymore. There is more forest now although more lumber is consumed. This was a negative forecast that turned into a positive example. (m)
- Forest blight is not a topic anymore, pessimism (in 20 years everything will be too late) is not justified. Forest increases and is in good quality. Not all forecasts turn out to be right. (m)
- I don't believe that. There might be more quantity but the quality became worse. Trees are not that resistant anymore, there is more vermin due to emissions. (m)

New card:



biological cycles

Development of new technologies

- Sterling Motor until recently had not been of economic interest, now adapted to new requirements. Technology might offer solutions; there is progress in the past 13 years. (m)
- W: Good technologies are not always applied. (f)

Discussion regarding categorization

Remark: First find categories? We need three.

- Do we want transport as a category? (m)
- Transport is a sub-category. (m)
- Transport is a main category. (m)
- New topic: Political and global topics. (m)

How to name the categories? (Split into 3 sub-groups).

- *Several participants:* Can categories be separated at all?
- We differentiate between energy consumption, quality of life etc.? (f)
- Mobility as a separate topic. Is relatively easy to extract in the ongoing discussion.
- Mobility: movement of goods and persons.
- *Suggestion:* energy saving (lowest possible consumption), sustainability (production as sustainable as possible), political changes/structural framework (tools for getting organised, including personal responsibility)? (m)

Sustainability as a balance between produced and consumed energy: energy saving.

- Mobility should be separated because it is a main topic, as well on local as on global level. Changes are necessary.
- Some cards such as “flexibility” or “quick development” belong to both categories: mobility and sustainability.

Discussion regarding given wording ***“Timeframe (2020)”***

- Why is 2020 so important as a date? (f)
- Because of the vision and main goals to be implemented by then. (f)



- It is a long period of time; it is not only about power plants, alternative energies don't take 10 years to be developed. (f)
- Environmental measures are only implemented when they make economic sense, that might then be too late. (m)
- 13 years are nothing. Not enough time.

Other wordings

- „The EU has to...“ - not: „should“; *other suggestion*: „should“ (m)



Criticising wording „play a role“, very vague; another suggestion: „obligation“ instead of „role“, it is not only a moral appeal.

Wording „we would like“ (to live in a Europe...) too weak

- Cloud-card with: „want“ (m)



Emphasize request in wording

- „should“ is okay, it is a vision not a request (m)
- Define „role“ (m)
- It is not defined how the EU should play „the role“. Suggestion: „supporting“ role. (m)

Summary of the discussion (RP)

What has been discussed - E & E?

- *Complex topic*
- *Impression that there is not much progress in the EU*
- *Social background decides about arguments*
- *Topics: Individuality should not get lost, focus on needs, personal responsibility, initiative, laws, funding.*
- *Reduce transport, resources-oriented, healthy food*
- *No monopolies*
- *New definition of what “regional” is.*

Results

„We would like to live in a Europe that ... (and)...“

First version:

... that based on sustainability handles its resources efficiently, supports alternative energies, renounces nuclear power in order to safeguard cultural and natural treasures for future generations, as well as enhances and fosters awareness for the correlation between environment and energy.



New and final version of the vision:

We would like to live in a Europe that, based on sustainability, handles its resources efficiently and takes responsibility for its own consumption. That supports alternative energies and renounces nuclear power in order to safeguard cultural and natural treasures and maintain them for future generations, free of genetic engineering and that enhances and fosters awareness for the correlation between environment and energy.

1. The EU should play a supportive role in regard to building awareness for the environment and developing sustainable technologies because the environment does not recognize borders.
2. The EU should play a regulative role in regard to potential trans-national threats (nuclear power plants, genetic engineering) because they have an impact beyond borders and because environmental policy has to be dealt with globally.

[*Another suggestion: ... and rivers, mountains and lakes don't recognize borders.*]

3. The EU should not play a directive role when it comes to regional projects that only have a regional impact in order to preserve regional identity, needs and uniqueness.

Other suggestions: (regional development)

- Preserve characteristics/needs
- Because there should be uniqueness and personal freedom also in the future.

Suggestion:

The EU should play a role as to raising awareness for the environment and developing sustainable technologies because funds that are spent for industrialised agriculture could be used instead for the promotion of an ecologically sound and small-scale agriculture.

New wording:

4. The EU should shift funds from industrialized agriculture to the promotion of ecologically sound, sustainable and small-scale agriculture because it does not make sense to favour structures that are already privileged.

***Table Energy & Environment: Table Facilitator Regina Brandstetter;
Resource Person Manuel Schweizer; Reporters Alexander Kesselring / Michaela Leitner***



Family & Social Affairs

Note: "Social" is defined as encompassing both "social welfare" (ge "soziale Wohlfahrt") and social security (ge "soziale Absicherung")

Citizens seated at this table:

m	37	Technician (construction)	Upper Austria	already participated in a similar discussion which I experienced as interesting: "Do not just rail but make creative and constructive contributions".
f	64	Photographer,, retired	Lower Austria	I am interested in politics, the topic is interesting.
m	41	Historian, project mgt, Internet	Salzburg	EU is an topic of interest to me and I am anxious for today's results.
f	34	House keeping (unemployed confectioner)	Vienna	I am interested in the topics and how future will look like, also in other countries - I would like to play a part in it.
m	46	Publishing house, sales department, acad. certified translator (pt, fr)	Vienna (Carinthia)	For me the EU is indeed something quite distant, somewhere where decisions are taken, what happens in our every-day-life – we have handed over determination to Brussels already, but here and now we have the opportunity to send something to Brussels, here people - from the bottom can say something <to the top> reach beyond the EC.
m	28	Trained attendant for elderly former graphic designer	Upper Austria	The topic is interesting to me regarding my mental approach as a humanist; and because the topic has to do with power. I am curious to see the results.
m	44	pensioner, former civil servant law graduate	Vorarlberg	My concern is: what can „ordinary people“ contribute Now everything is going top down, and - in contrast to the example of France – it should move bottom up
f	42	House keeper, mother and secretary	Styria	I am happy that I am granted the opportunity to contribute my voice. For me Brussels is far away, yet I deem the fundamental ideas of a "united Europe" something very beautiful, nevertheless I cannot feel it in normal life.
m	18	Student of technical high school	Carinthia	There is always discussion about the EU, politics etc. and therefore I agreed to contribute, when ZSI asked to do so ...
	34	employee	Styria	only Sat afternoon at this table

Remark: Citizens find the introductory phase too long and get impatient. Evidently citizens do not know why they are here, what is expected of them and what will happen to the results of what they will produce and if it will have an impact at all. The atmosphere is sceptical and lightens up only as work becomes productive.

Brainstorming: "In what kind of Europe would I like to live in by 2020"?

- Sales person: The EU can no longer be abolished at this point – the interweavement (integration) has become too extensive, therefore the question is "What can be improved?" (m)
- Security in old age. (f)
- Currently the pension system (inter-generational contract) gets smashed – poverty of the elderly (banks, insurances profit). (m)
- Impoverishment has to be averted.



- Role of the family must be enhanced.
- Care becomes a sweepstakes (a lottery for millions of €).
- EU-wide minimum pension.
- Social security also in the accession countries.
- Insurance for the sick should become one for the healthy.
- Unemployment needs transparency and counteraction. (m)
- Polarisation between poor and rich, North and South should become smaller. (m)
- Europe is a continent and not a state <to table blue EU >.
- Education.
- Standardise and secure education.
- Equality of women and men.
- Pension provision.
- Care as a basic right.
- Class system has to be ended.
- Basic income (ge "Grundeinkommen"), securing existence/livelihood, without any conditions.
- Security in the health care systems.
- No incapacitation of handicapped and people in need of care.
- Pensions also for the poor.
- Only the human being counts nothing but the human being!
- All kinds of education options for the youth, independent of individual financial sources.
- A reasonable education system.

Rotation (new group composition):

- No to two- and three-class medicine
- Equal opportunities for all
- National and international advancement of health
- Basic social security
- New forms of communities – buzzword "families of choice" (make dissolving structures functional again). (m)
- More support for families (currently every 7th child lives in poverty). (f)
- Fair balance for families with one as well as more children.
- Social security for elderly means not only pension but also a right to care.
- Promotion of leisure time activities for families.
- Prevent emigration of EU-internally available academics (m) <to EU global role>.
- No standardization of class society (lazy ones not given same priority).
- Obligatory social year for school leavers. (m)
- make job of a "house wife" <ge Job "Hausfrau"> a profession with payment. (m)
- Options for free education.
- There should not be poorer and richer EU-countries.
- Tolerance within the EU (keyword culture).
- Crèche should be the exemption – a woman should be able to stay at home with the children. (f)
- Support as well families as "communities" (and respective alternatives with equally valid structures). (f)
- Prevention instead of "postvention" – we need to solve problems not only correct symptoms. (m)
- 4 columns (and Fundamental Freedoms) of Europe: enjoy free labour market free movement of goods, ... without reservations and prejudices *This thought <card> was donated to the table EU and Global role>.*
- Work for all.
- Appreciation of everyone unemployed - options for participation need to be created.
- Move from status towards being (much is mere pretence, one has to be able to afford status symbols, social means to act together and with common sense -> real needs. (m)
- Security: escape economic vicious circle (stock exchange, no reserves, no security, lies).



- strengthen education for migrants (better social position, better community)

Rotation and new input

- More apprenticeship positions for young persons
- Unemployed who once turns down a job, <should> not receive any unemployment benefit
- Basic <social> security/ basic income <ge "Grundsicherung">
- Better organise education
- Free access to universities all throughout Europe (m)
- Secure access to tertiary education for Austria
- Self-responsibility in fields of health, family and work (state cannot do everything, opportunities are there) (f)
- More money for the hard workers (those who work a lot should not be punished, the working should have more money than the unemployed) (f)
- Efficient structures for the health system, lead by state, with the forces of economy
- Education has to be efficient and may well have a cost (m)
- medicine, research – one interferes ever more, that everybody stays young -> quality of life stays behind → don't research everything to death (f)
- Equal opportunities through comprehensive schooling (at EU level) (m)
- Enable personal work (one cannot rationalise everything – simple work needs to be possible, not just robotics) (m)
- Appreciation of family
- Be more parents than friends for the children (f)
- Income gap between men and women to be diminished
- We wish for young mothers (f)
- Meaningful support of unemployed, strict dealings with support/benefits
- No borders – neither inside EU nor to the outside
- Children-friendly country
- More equal opportunities for women
- Equal income levels for men and women (m)
- Integration (e.g. of handicapped) not just as single solutions but for the whole system (m)
- Win-win: I give an input and I get something out of it in return (f)
- Integration of immigrants based on mutuality (like starting an apprenticeship period) (f)
- New redistribution and value catalogues
- Bind politicians to minimum income
- Minimal wages
- Accountability of functionaries in business and industry – bosses/top dogs are not held liable, most of them have left when its time to bear responsibility (m)

Grouping (14:30)

Now pink cards are added to the yellow ones to indicate contradictions, hurdles, problems, opposing positions

Education

- Against the rest of the EU <=> free access to universities (for all) vs. secured access to tertiary education for Austrians
- Dissenting opinion: students from other countries can also mean economic contacts (f)
- Woman from Graz reports of 2/3 of medicine students are said to come from Germany
- Remark: schools and universities must be separated (m)
- Problem: education becomes a business (m)
- *Additional yellow card:* knowledge elites to be strengthened => everybody facilitated according to individual strength: "promotion of personal talents"
- Problem: social selectivity
- Problem: make apprenticeship and craftsmanship more attractive



Care and health

- Care for all is nice to have, yet in sight of demographic developments the resources are lacking (maintaining the same structures <we have now> would mean twice as much care-taking personnel in 20 years) => rethink contract between generations, which must be valid for shorter periods. (m)
- Solution: enable care-taking, brake up taboo topics => transform structures.

Provisions for old age

- Problem: affordability.

Family

- *Problem*: value of family? Should family be preserved? Do we “turn over children when they are 6 months to get them back as mature “citizens”? (m)
- Strengthen value of family => change awareness (*consensus on this*).
- Woman shall decide herself, whether she will stay with the child or goes to work. (f)
- Often the question, whether a child should be brought to the crèche, is economic. (m)
- Solution; household keeper (m/f) to become a profession; (framework to be created to allow free choice to be suspended with continuing pay forms, improve male suspension). (m) – *Consensus*.

Additional yellow cards:

- Freedom of choice, in the interest of the child
- Change of family benefit and support alternative structures (buzzword: patchwork families).
- Also age, care for old, dying belongs into the family, yet families are spread out (e.g. all over Europe).
- Dissenting opinion: special insurance for families and mothers (*requested mentioning as “not heard” before - after remark from outside table*).
- Equal rights and equal opportunities / equal treatment.
- Instead of equal rights equality should be realized (equal rights all they have, but what does it help, if they do not earn the same money?).

Additional yellow cards:

- Meaningful distribution of competences (always the wrong people are in key positions). (m)
- More appreciation (for lower professions). (f)
- *Problem*: creation of (political) awareness.
- *Half-joking*: problem to overcome law of nature, respectful dealing with that (key word: female/male ge „Weiblein/Männlein“). (f+m)

Work (including income + poverty + unemployment)

- The poverty issue is missing, should feature separately, because it represents a value/condition in its own, within this category the issue is invisible – 30% of children in Austria are said to be poor. (m)
- Albeit basic income right to work what I enjoy. (m)
- *Additional yellow card*: utopia, abolish money, all problems would be solved.
- *Question*: What is useful work? What makes sense for the community? (m)
- Definition of work = activity, which makes sense, question what is “sense”.
- Problem with basic income: the incentive to work (problem is not really appreciated, since work has social relevance and one takes for granted, that everybody wants to do something meaningful)
- Problem: financing it.
- Problem: wage dumping. (m)
- Problem today: politicians are lying when it comes to the issue of unemployment. (m)

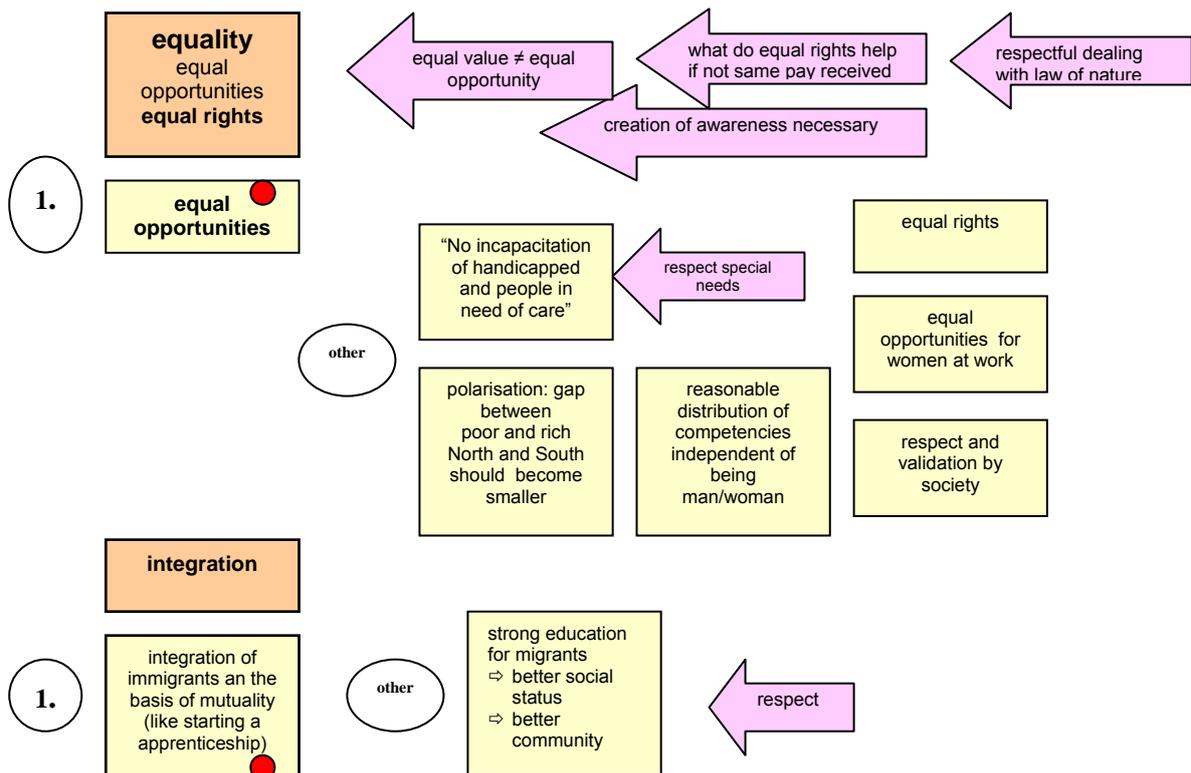
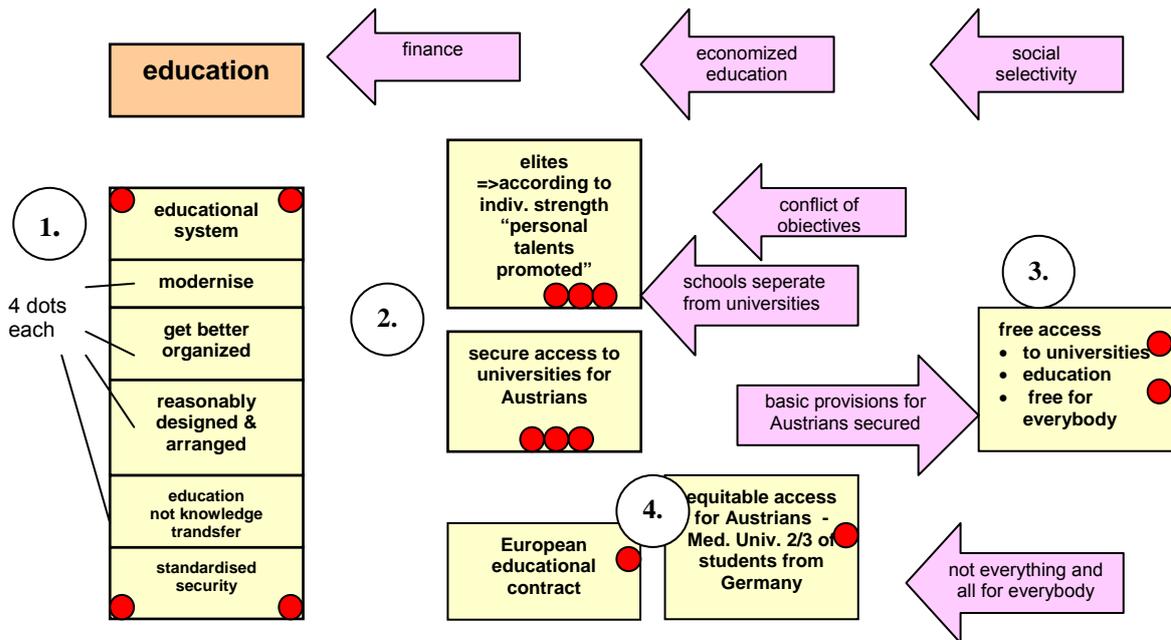
Social

- *Additional yellow card*: vigorously enhance intercultural exchange on the level of professions and education. (m)

<Prioritisation with two points to be distributed per topic - the following list includes all cards of Saturday and Sunday.>

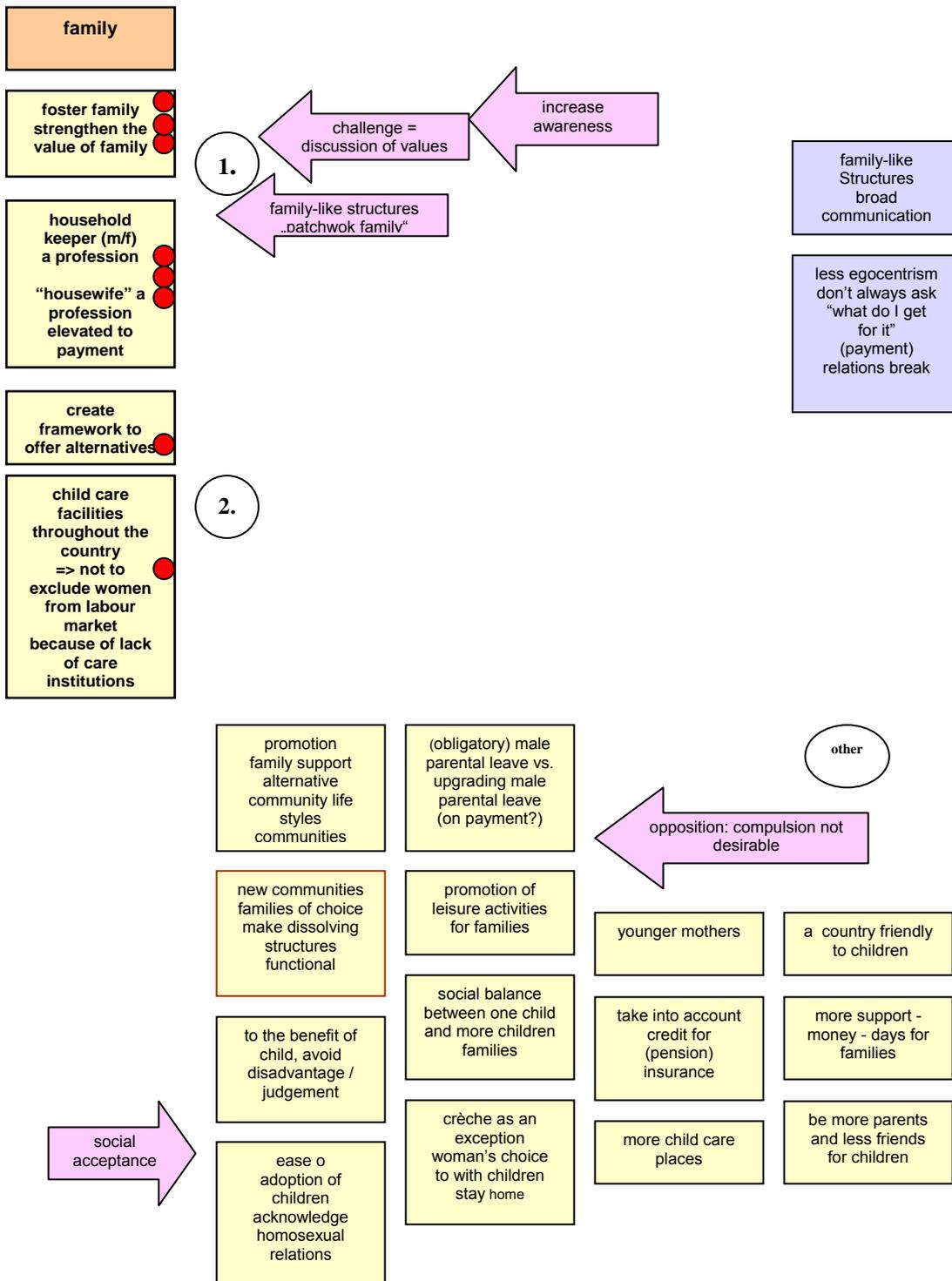


Everybody shall be advanced according to talents, wishes – continuously educated facing no disadvantages.



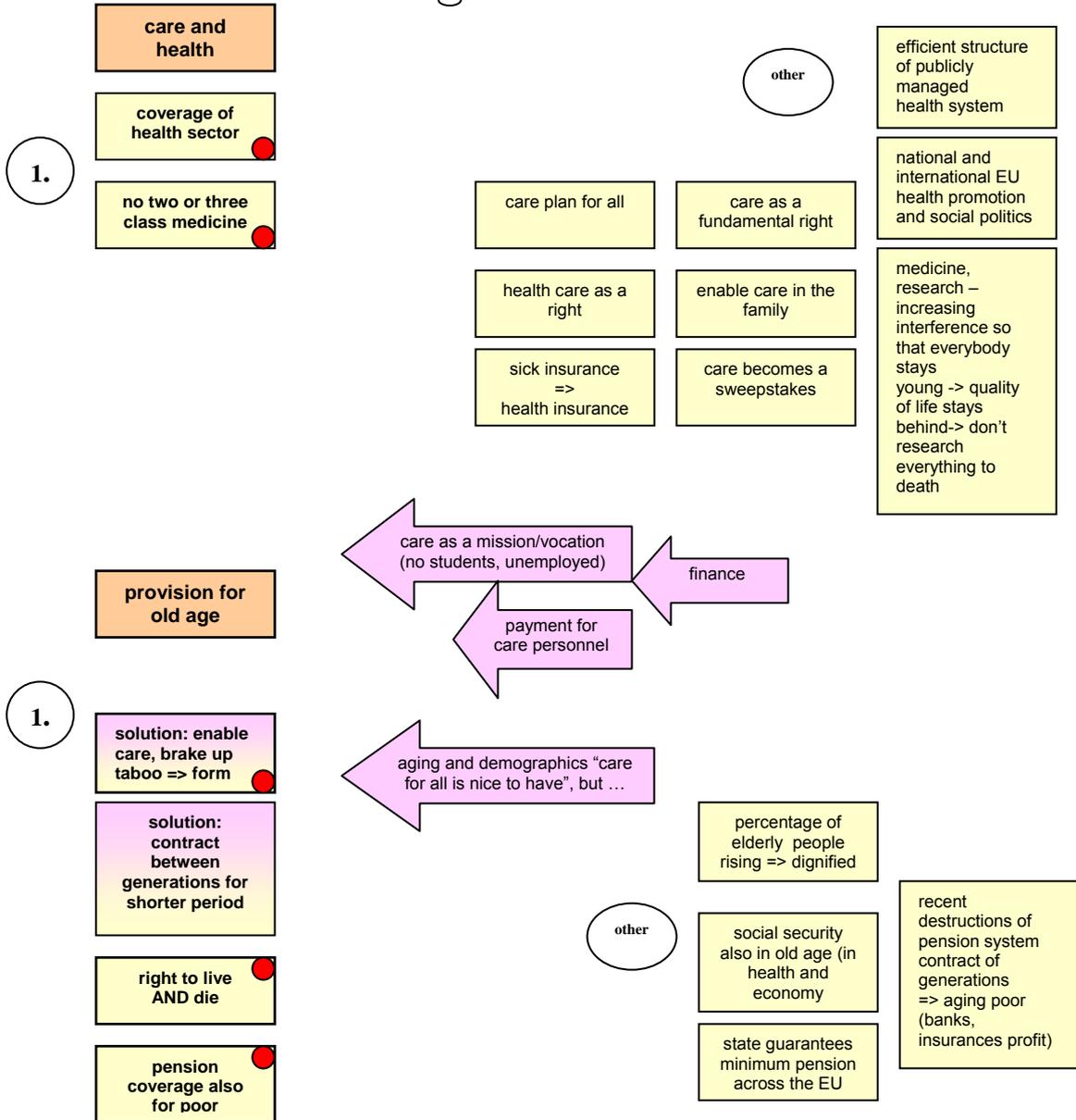


... a Europe in which and family-related structures play an important role.



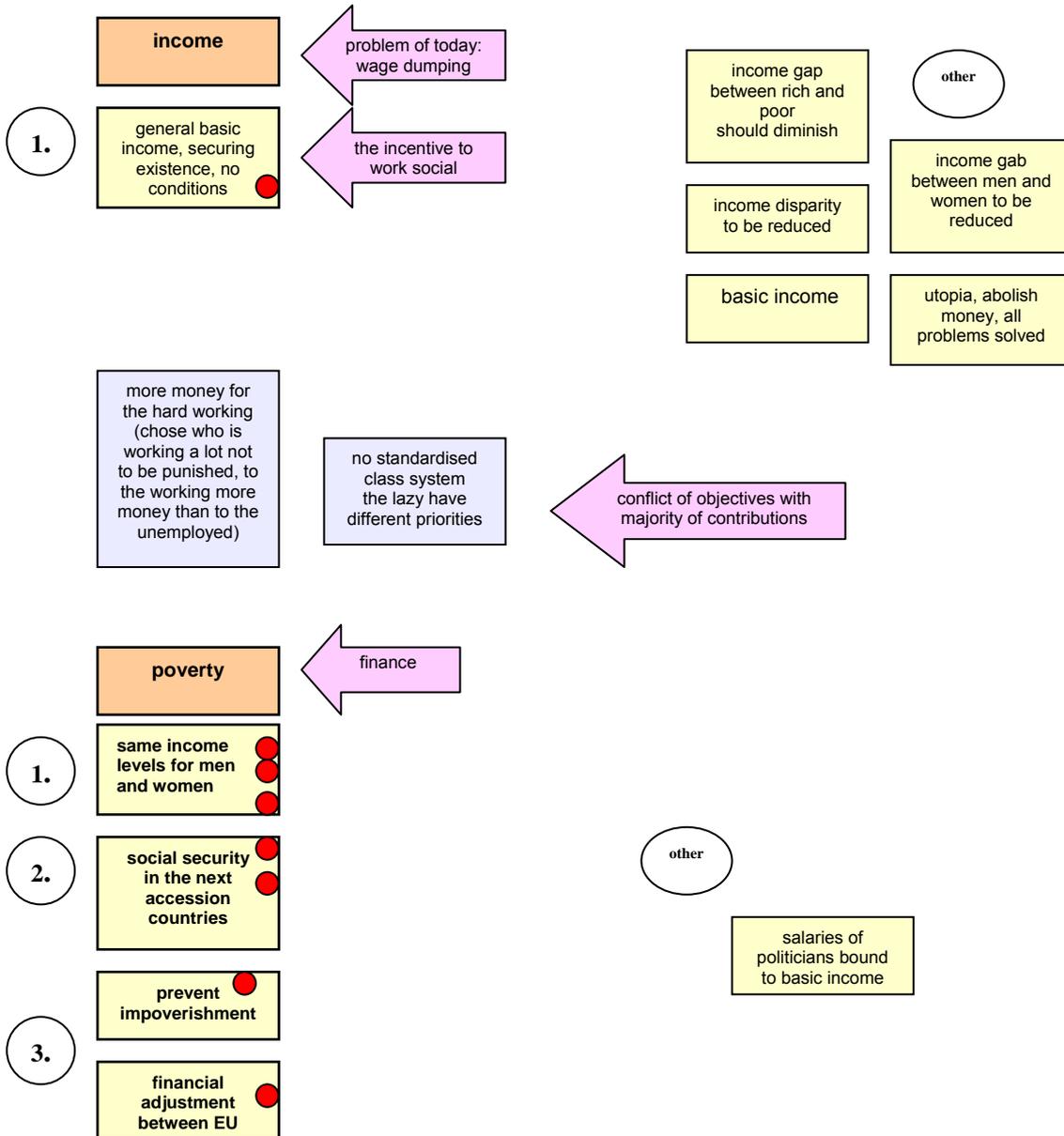


... a Europe in which dignified health care and care for old people is assured for all.



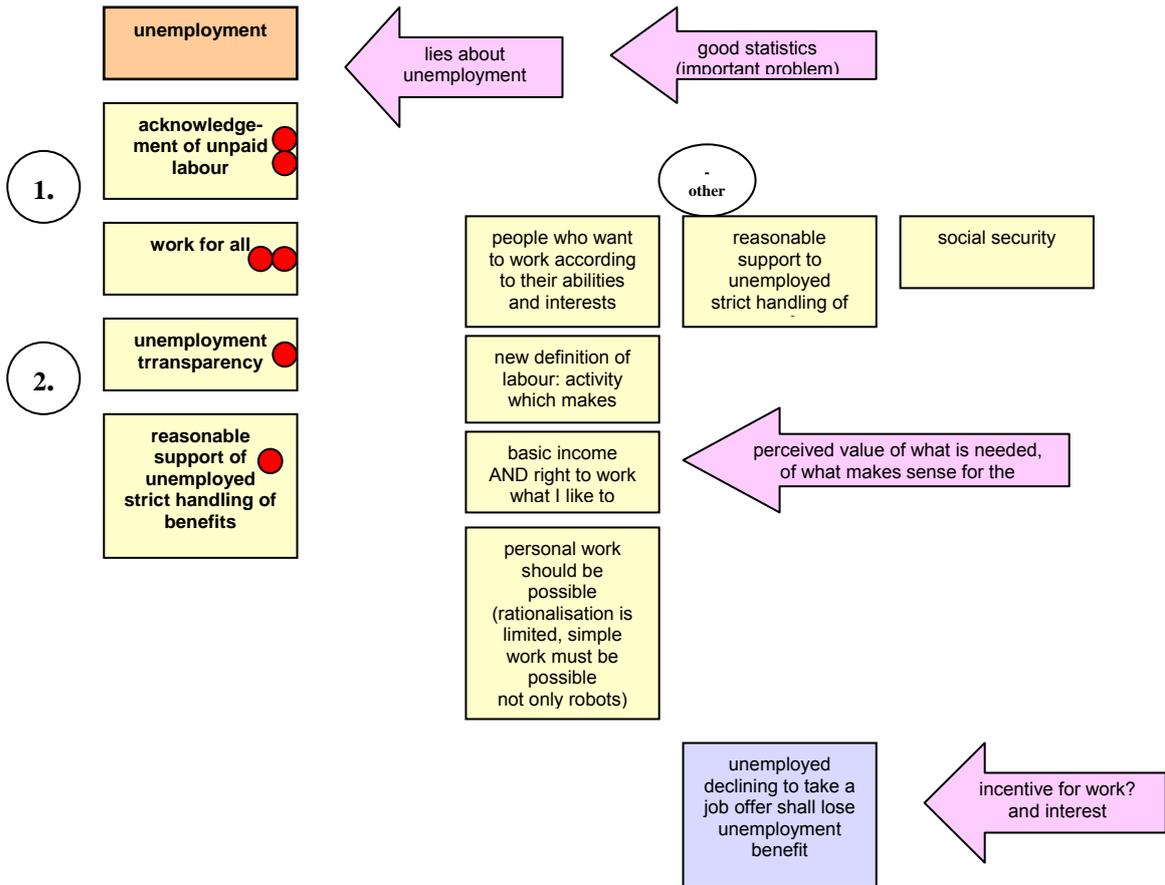


... a Europe in which poverty is no longer an issue, irrespective of gender.





... a Europe, in which the right to work is assured according to his/her abilities and interests.

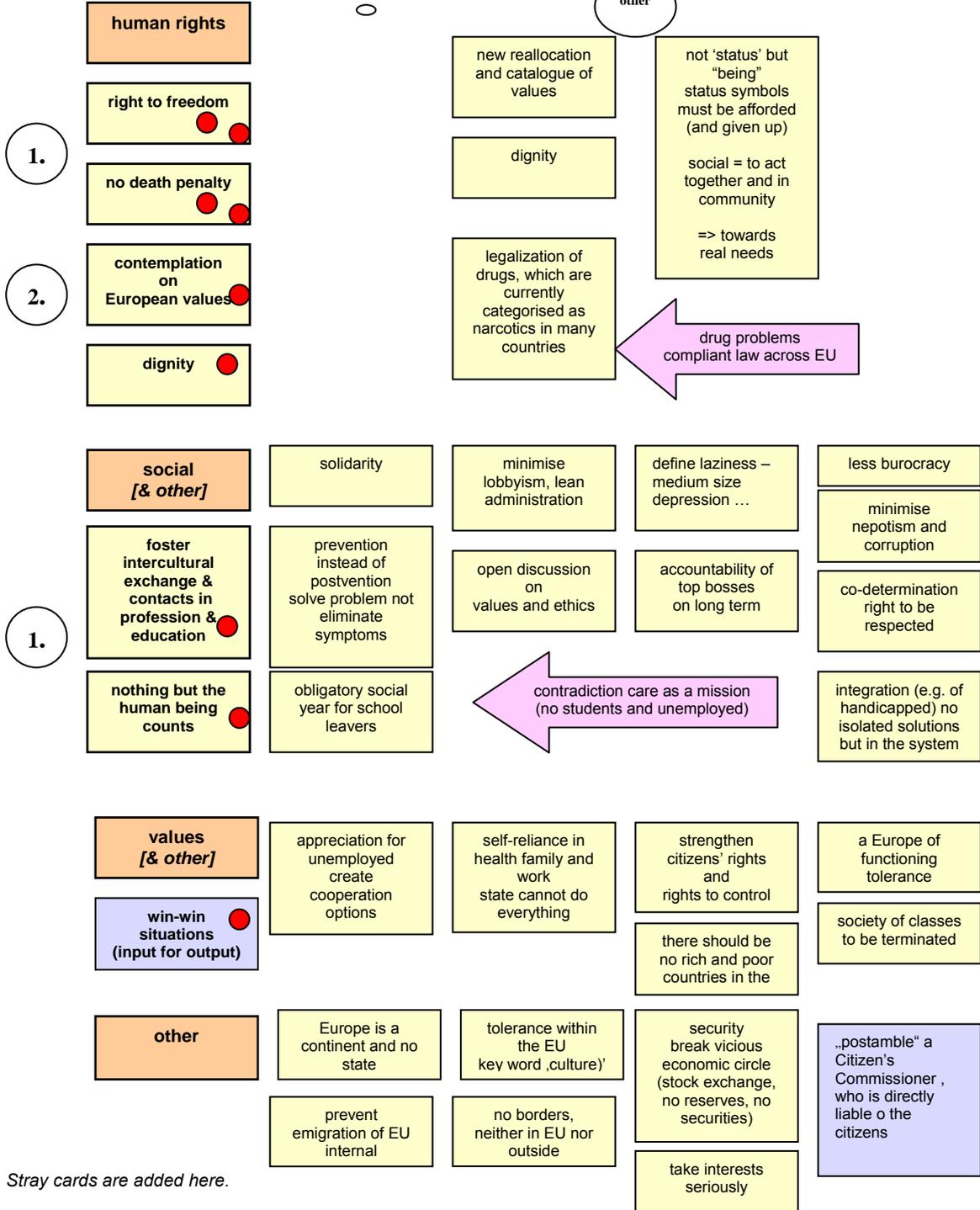


Prioritised cards with most points (in brackets number of points)

- ○ Educational system ... reasonably designed and standardised (4)
- ○ Elites => according to individual strength "personal talents promoted" (3)
- ○ Secure access to universities for Austrians (3)
- ○ Foster family – strengthen the value of family (3)
- ○ Household keepers m/f a profession elevated to payment (3)
- ○ Same income levels for men and women (3)



We want to live in a Europe ...
[rest of statements on the topic]





17:50 - Drafting the Vision

“We would like to live in a Europe,... which ... [and] ... [while] ...”

The expression “would like” is seen as too weak, the group decides for “we want”

Comment of citizens:

- The discussion gets lost when reducing it to a sentence like: “Ugh, the citizens' conference has spoken” (literal translation from ge with a ref. to Karl May's Winnetou; or en 'The Citizens' Conference hath spoken').

Intermediate result: draft vision of orange table:

„Familie und Soziales“

Wir wollen in einem Europa leben, in dem die Familie einen hohen Stellenwert hat, in dem jeder nach seinen Fähigkeiten, Talenten und Wünschen gefördert und ausgebildet wird und sich ohne Nachteile weiterbilden kann, in dem Armut kein Thema mehr ist, in dem das Recht auf Arbeit entsprechend den Fähigkeiten und Interessen jedes einzelnen gesichert ist, und in dem würdevolle Gesundheits- und Altersversorgung für alle gesichert ist.

„Family and Social Security“

We want to live in a Europe in which the family is given a high priority, in which everyone is supported, educated, and trained according to their abilities, talents, and aspirations and where citizens have continuous access to education and training without any hindrance. Poverty has no place in this Europe in which the right to work according to one's abilities and interests is guaranteed, and in which people of every age are treated in a dignified manner while being looked after or in health care.

Day 2

10:15 Table round after inputs from other countries. Result is:

Preamble:

If the EU is not putting forward a concrete action plan within a given time frame, which proposes plausible Steps for an implementation of the Vision(s), a pullout of Austria shall be aimed at.

A really mixed bag of opinions follows. For most of the citizens a pullout is too blatant, yet consequence should be indicated, co-decision should be accepted and interests should be taken seriously, corruption and abuse of authority is an issue at the table - the remainder of this round of discussion is the following:

Vision amended:

Wir wollen in einem Europa leben, in dem die Familie und familienadäquate Strukturen einen hohen Stellenwert haben, in dem jeder nach seinen Fähigkeiten, Talenten und Wünschen gefördert und ausgebildet wird und sich ohne Nachteile weiterbilden kann, in dem es keine Armut mehr gibt, in dem das Recht auf Arbeit (nicht nur als Erwerbsarbeit sondern auch als Beitrag zur Gesellschaft verstanden – Kulturarbeit, Betreuungsarbeit, etc.) entsprechend den Fähigkeiten und Interessen jedes einzelnen mit gerechter Entlohnung gesichert ist, und in dem würdevolle Gesundheits- und Altersversorgung für alle gewährleistet ist. Wir wollen in einem Europa leben, in dem die Mitbestimmungsrechte der Bürgerinnen und Bürger, Gleichberechtigung und Menschlichkeit als Prinzipien gelebt werden, eine effiziente und schlanke Verwaltung besteht und jegliche Art von Korruption eliminiert ist.

Tour de table on “The role the EU should play with respect to Family and Social Security”:

- Male high school student, 18: education is an issue
- Female photographer, 64: equality, we need citizen commissioners, who are committed and liable to the citizens



- Male lawyer, 66: families <must remain to be> regulated on Austrian level.
- Male, professional attendant, 28: EU shall become a peace association again and shall not have a right of co-decision in many issues; we need more humaneness, less bureaucracy.
- Female, unemployed pastry cook, 34: maternity leave shall be fully accounted for insurance period, EU shall not have any co-deciding powers on the level of family, we need more co-determination, more humaneness and less bureaucracy.
- Male historian, currently searching for work, 41: is not participating in the tour since he had been the leading speaker for the preamble, due to time constraint.
- Male, printing house employee, 46: EU should create a positive atmosphere on the basis of which Austria can act in a sovereign manner (e.g. family).
- Female, photographer, 64: aging in dignity (demographic pyramid turns around).
- Male technician, 37: corruption (especially abuse of authority & position), lobbying, civil rights need to be strengthened (to counterbalance lobbying).

“The EU should or should not play a role with respect to ...”:

In the course of formulating answers, several key concepts and terms were challenged and replaced as follows:

“Role”: this term was seen as “temporary” and “superimposed” (played “like in a theater”) therefore it was changed to “Aufgabe” = task [almost duty] and not “play a role” but rather “to fulfil a task”, “to perform a task/fulfil an obligation”(ge “eine Aufgabe wahrnehmen”).

Ad “should”: was changed to “must” (or should and must alternatively).

While writing down in full the specific aspects of the vision, the citizens at the table were ever worried, that the EU could reinterpret the Citizen’s Perspectives to be able to do once again what it wants.

Specific aspects:

The following aspects of the vision were formulated by all citizens together and voted on twice:

1) Should the EU play a role or not?

2) Is the result worked out acceptable to all?

Note: All voting for question 2 (except one where one participant requested an amendment) reached consensus.

The voting results are indicated as pro- and con-votes, e.g. 7:2 means: 7 votes pro, 2 votes contra, abstentions are recorded with “abst.”. If all participants agreed unanimously this is indicated in brackets, like this (9).

The aspects of the vision voted on where:

1) Family and adequate structures for families. (5:4)

The EU must take responsibility for the family and for structures adequate to families, simply by providing the principles to do this. Implementation should take place on a regional level. **(9)**

2) Supported and educated according to capabilities, talents and wishes and without any disadvantages (or discrimination, ge “Nachteile”). (7:0, 2 abst.)

The EU must take responsibility for education and further education according to capabilities, talents and wishes, laying down accountable principles and standards. Again, implementation should take place on a regional level. **(9)**

3) No more poverty (9)

The EU must treat poverty reduction seriously, because in ensuring a framework of basic conditions it is responsible for the welfare of its citizens. **(9)** <one person is not against but would like to add “and not only for corporate players/multinationals” (see below)>

4) Right to work according to abilities and interests (9)

The EU 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). **(9)** <Note: Definition of work: Paid labour is diminishing (rationalisation, automation) => alternative work, which contributes to society/community>.



- 5) **Dignified health and old-age care for all must be provided (9)**
The EU 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. (9)
- 6) **Participation/co-decision making (ge "Mitbestimmung") rights of the citizens (9)**
The EU 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. (9)
- 7) **Equality and Equal Opportunities (ge "Gleichberechtigung") (8:0, 1 abst.)**
The EU will no longer play a role regarding equal rights. By 2020, equality will be a lived reality. (8:0, 1 abst.); remark of the minute taker: the correct version would be: the EU has to play a "role", so that 2020 equality is practiced, like this, this is the only obligation of the EU which is formulated as a negation.>
- 7) **Humanity (ge „Menschlichkeit“). (8:0, 1 abst.)**
The EU must take responsibility for humanitarian matters/humanity, because these come before national interests. <9 approved>
- 8) **Efficient and lean/streamlined administration and abolishment of corruption. (9)**
The EU 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. (9)

Preamble (9) - (final version)

Within a year, the EU must produce a report which outlines concrete steps for the implementation of the visions, otherwise we see the future of the EU as being at risk.

- *Dissenting opinion:* otherwise Austria shall pull out of the EU. (m)
- *Proposal:* A Citizen's Commissioner, who is directly liable to the citizens. (m)

European Café

Ad value/significance of the family: => "family-appropriate" structures (EN family-like is too weak)

- Ability to communicate has to be built as a counteraction to the disrupt of family structures.
- Term „family“ is disputed.
- Inability to live in fixed structures for a long period.
- Dignified care for elderly is an issue nowadays, since nowadays most people are or want to be paid and relations to parents are broken up.
- People cannot communicate with each other and cannot respond to needs differing images and perceptions emerge.
- Respect between generations lost.
- Right to work... too communist and class struggle like (*in brackets* "comment is important").
- Approval of vision on education ... according to abilities.
- "Drugs": Radical step towards legalisation (all drugs assessed according to the same criteria, e.g. alcohol, Marihuana).
- "Two class medicine": Is currently a reality => here more is needed.

Open points: „principles“ = ? = accountable minimal standards.

- "Bureaucracy": therefore part of the vision of a "lean, streamlined administration" and following this discussion the commissioner of citizen's was dropped with a smirk and without audible comments. (23:2:0)

[Remark: the vision of the table was approved by the majority and the preamble contributed was approved as an overall preamble to the entire citizen's perspective from Austria. Pls refer to the voting results in the following.]

**Table Social Affairs: Table Facilitator Elke Dall;
Resource Person Angela Wroblewsky; Reporter Dietmar Lampert**



Global Role of the EU, Immigration and Borders

Citizens seated at this table:

f	52	Teacher, University degree	Tyrol	I am very interested in politics, I do expect interesting discussions about a difficult issue; would like to be beamed to Spain.
m	50	Teacher, Academy	Tyrol	I am here by chance, also politically very interested; would like to be beamed to Cyprus.
f	46	“manager of a family” kinesiologist	Tyrol	Motivated because of the topic family and the future; would like to be beamed to Cyprus.
f	49	Medical office assistant	Tyrol	I come from the transit federal state, this is why I am here; would like to be beamed to Cyprus.
f	59	Self employed in the field of health and wellbeing	Tyrol	Interested in life quality, not least because of professional reasons; would like to improve quality of life; would like to be beamed to Finland.
f	60	Insurance employee	Lower Austria	I am very critical towards the EU, Immigration; I would like to make my voice heard, I would like to be beamed to Lithuania.
m	60	Stage designer, graphical designer	Vienna	I am not active/dedicated politically, yet interested, would like to be beamed to Cyprus.
m	30	Artist, photography	Vienna	I was called over the phone, interested in the demographic cross section, politically rather little interest and indifferent, nevertheless I came because “this is a serious offer here”; would like to be beamed to Finland.
m	29	Call centre employee, market research	Vienna	I am interested in the event as such and how it goes, the organisation, could be something trend-setting and future-oriented; would like to be beamed to Spain.
m	65	Textile designer	Vorarlberg	I am interested in Europe “as such/inherently”; would like to be beamed to Cyprus.

Sketch of Europe

- Textile designer: pleads for a unified understanding of EU, a vision for society as a whole is needed, no separation such as in the fields of economy and culture. (m)
- Call centre employee: the historical development of Europe changes its framework constantly. (m)
- Teacher: in social affairs and health Europe is ahead of others. (f)
- Artist: Better connections, exchange between people, cultures, countries – “mutual getting to know each other” is a strength and a necessity in the EU. (m)
- Kinesiologist: *draws a laughing face and a crying eye as a background*, the face has roots as a symbol for common and individual Identity. (f)
- Textile designer: the focus on wellbeing is interesting, it promotes a nice atmosphere. (m)



Together citizens draw a round face with one laughing and one crying eye with openings to all sides (interest in all directions and in new things, not to be sealed off from strangers) with roots representing common history and development of the continent and its countries.

- Question arises: "When do we start working?"

Question: In what kind of a Europe would we like to live in 2020?

Citizens start pinning yellow cards on the boards

- Less nationalism. (m)
- Interior security. (f)
- Social security. (f)
- Human rights Nr. 1.
- Acceptance.
- Much less aggression than USA, nevertheless strong.
- EU policy of peace.
- EU = a link in a chain (worldwide).
- Equal value of peoples.
- No disassociation towards non-EU states.
- Contribution to creation of peace in EU (esp. conflicts like in the Balkans, Southern Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia).
- Foreigners shall have rights and duties as well.
- Europe 2020 = plus Turkey.
- Common EU legal sphere.
- EU 2020: 1st EU, 2nd USA, 3rd China.
- Development towards a/one „confederation of states“ – otherwise cannot be a global player.
- Keeping up European fundamental values a precondition.
- Internal unity.
- Well thought out interventions based on meticulous research, starting off from primarily human and not from economic motives.
- Create incentives, to "make" mass immigration from the Third World obsolete.
- Foreigners should have the same rights and duties once they live in the EU.
- Respect has to be internationally gained, requested and preserved.
- Openness.
- Europe the servant of USA?
- Protection of citizens from controlling capital-driven interests.
- Political independence: consequence in decision making and implementation.
- Social Security also for new member states.
- Peace maker.
- Independent and concrete security policy.
- Stable basis (culture, religion, etc.).
- Corporate greed is everything, people are being forgotten.
- Four Freedoms.
- Research & Innovation power Nr. 1.

The arguments following from the list of topics above:

- Often we hear about cultural law suits, how should we decide in these matters? One example is the case of the Moroccan woman in Germany.
- Open borders, moveable – how shall we deal with these issues legally?
- Some request a unified legal space at the table, agreement – however, how will we be able to achieve that, seeing that we cannot even create that inside Austria, which itself is so small?
- Shall the EU be a State or a (con) federation?
- Diversity shall be preserved; different countries are the strength.(m)



- Unified/consistent jurisdiction has to be created nevertheless.
 - different colours are positive, yet a system scheme should bet the foundation.(m)
 - There shall be general guidelines, which are valid everywhere, but with specific differentiations in the countries.(m)
 - How should the EU states become more harmonised? There is NATO, there are neutral states, there are already so many differences. (f)
 - The table is an image for the many-voiced.
 - There have to be certain rules.
 - *Issue*: Community of values must be perceived and advanced internally and externally. (m)
 -
- [Remark: this topic was repeatedly discussed and again and again the citizens returned to the topic "values".]*
- Are values being endangered? (m)
 - EU is the only power with social components, insurances, pension system, etc. this is fundamental and should be transferred to the outside. (f)
 - Problem: All of these things cost money, but they are very important and worth something to us, I assume.
 - The same goes for food quality, certain EU standards. (m)
 - I do not want social and quality standards to be compromised by standardization.
 - For us social security is under threat, how can we find norms?
 - There are more and more families living under precarious conditions, we need new principles.
 - For example: health insurance is on the one hand raised up as an example? And people are complaining; with petroleum/mineral oil tax this is not such a big affair, this will come more easily.
 - Health should be affordable to all, and this should go without saying, everybody wants the service. (f)
 - EU:USA are complete opposites in terms of social care – *all agree* – yet, the system is suffering, standards are dropping instead of improving, allegedly because of a lack of money.
 - Should the system also apply to immigrants?
 - What role should the EU play internationally? = This is what we should think about first. (m)

Rotation - additional input

- The EU shall be much less aggressive than the USA, yet very strong! (m) – A strong counterpart (f)

Enlargement:

- "No" to a EU of corporate organisations. (m)
- Enjoy enlargement with caution.
- Dialogue instead of fortress EU.
- EU for Africa = EU for EU.
- EU Policy should not be US policy.
- Europe should remain a continent.
- Enlargement should have limits.
- Corporate greed is everything, people are being forgotten.
- More market = more wars.
- first secure existing standards, then integrate new members.
- EU ≠ NATO.
- No preferred states, no EU of two speeds/velocities.
- Tolerant sense of community within the EU.
- More security – no organized gangs (asylum abuse).
- EU should not only be an economic power with respect to the rest of the world.
- Resistance against lobbying, e.g. armament industry.
- Fairness instead of unskilled labour (not only) for migrants.
- Openness to other countries, no blocking of refugees.



- EU: No to US – military policy.
- EU is senior partner, not police of the US.
- Human rights.
- EU is “just modern communism”.
- Research innovation power (Nr 1 in the World).
- Borders which are opened up further create an economic problem.
- Decentralisation with Europe.
- International policy without aggression.
- „4 columns of Europe“ without reservations and prejudices.
- No borders, either within the EU or externally.
- Respect internationally: achieved, requested, preserved.
- Acceptance.
- right to work for asylum seekers.

Statements (from citizens of orange table)

- Borders have to be quite closed, no poor countries should be let in, this is bad for the economy, criminality and causes a rise in aggression. (f)
- EU must not become the henchman of NATO. Should also not be an instrument of the corporate world, and if we do not want to ruin economy in Africa through export subsidies we have to actively do something against immigration. In addition to this, we should not support US policing policy. The EU should not act as an economic power and deprive poorer countries of their raw materials; right to development also for poor countries. (m)
- I have seen points on the Agenda, lots of criticism, Europe has the potential to be a paradise, needs positive visions, I do not want negative visions, I do not agree with the perception of unqualified immigrants, we need to take care which images are being promoted.
- Europe should be strong, but not aggressive. Migration is just everlasting migration (*Remark: as since early history*). We need solutions, and we need to give immigrants opportunities to adapt to language and culture
- Europe of Citizens has to be created; Union of citizens is my wish.
- This requests an independent Defence policy, a self-confident stance internationally.
- No enlargement without limits. (m)
- In regions of conflict we automatically run into the problem of world police, because political positions are bound up with this.
- EU should not be seen as a economic power, tolerance is necessary. Everyone together is the positive Vision. (f)
- Before enlargement, aid to poorer countries would be better, yet existing standards have to be maintained in the EU.
- I do not see a discrepancy between citizens and corporate organisations, we discussed... yes, because we are well off, they finance all of us as well, because they are well off – only this makes thinking about this topic possible. (m)

Statements (from citizens of green table)

All in all identical with cards, additional cards are:

- Environmental technology nr. 1 in the world.
- Inclusion instead of exclusion. <From the start a category into which nothing is taken in... changed categories.>
- It is a question whether I want to understand somebody or rather wants to discover differences. (m)
- EU needs clear definitions of acceptance of other cultures vs. own culture.
- Often mentioned example of Koran court decision in Germany, moral question. (f)
- EU has to clarify, what it wants.
- Objection: culture is not necessarily also religion.
- Stricter asylum law is a request– yet with right to work for asylum seekers. – *Confirmed*.
- Taking advantage of asylum is a problem to those who really need it.
- Austria is too small a state in too big an organisation like the EU. There should be a framework; it needs individual identification.



- 7000 dead at Schengen external borders, there are people dying every day at the Schengen borders; they should be opened for all refugees ... also for the bad guys.
- Life comes before morals!
- Objections immediately, those who are well off do not need to and should not seek refuge. (m)
- Global role should bring advantages, medical provisions, education, international work, a legal system, unified executive authority – I would like to have a kind of „Guantánamo Bay“ for EU criminals, if it is cheaper. It could even be positioned outside, if this is cheaper. *Disagreement in the group*
- EU should utilise development aid money in a targeted manner.
- E.g. Palestine, coordination should be better.
- EU shall act as a global peacemaker, see Great Britain's problem during invasion of Iraq.
- it is necessary to move from economic to political Union, this is why the constitution needs to be advanced.
- I push for a European education contract, recognition of all diplomas in all countries.
- EU should no longer be an arms dealer.
- More weight to the UN.
- EU should be a role model for the world, because it shows how to live in peace.
- EU has the problem that there are too many know-it-alls who ruin everything... it doesn't care enough about the simple citizen – because that's too boring.
- Simple thinking is required!
- Decision also needed: what is "our" culture?
- Globalisation cannot be stopped, precious values are being lost – but also politics do not support them any more.

[Discussion of examples, cultural polemic, emotional and with reference to nation, no global and European context visible.]

- Everyone is afraid that Islam is coming, but how about my beliefs?
- Catholicism has been forced to go global.

Additional cards:

- Peace policy
- Clear definition when accepting other cultural areas vs. preservation of own culture.
- Determination regarding external borders.
- No final external borders defined, current borders are only for the moment.
- There has always been migration, yet as immigrant conditional adaptation is necessary, as is fair treatment.
- Utilise development aid in a targeted manner.
- Small organisational units to be able to live in the bigger context.
- Stronger contribution of EU in the UN.
- Role model for peace and security internationally.
- More power = more wars?
- Subsidies for food production? Overproduction is prosecuted with penalties?
- Overproduction in the Third World.

Summary Discussion

Security: as the first category – consensus

- Is it interior, exterior (which is what?) military?
- Social security in the new member states.
- Relation of EU towards NATO with reference to security.
- Inner security is economic, legal, and social. (m)
- Policy of peace – from there directly to foreign security? (m)
- Social is internal. (*consensus*)



- Asylum as a new category, changed to immigration.
- Is aggression of EU in comparison to US Foreign policy?
Peace-keeping.

Immigration:

- Right to work for asylum seekers
- Tighter asylum laws
- The same rights and duties for immigrants

EU Fundamental Rights: a new category.

- Human rights should be added.
- Cultural values have to be upgraded – as a principle value (approved).
- For “acceptance”.
- Open – less nationalism.
- Is nationalism a failure of politics, opportunism, national politicians putting the blame for negative things onto the EU?
- Clear definition of European culture – acceptance of other cultures – basic values yes/no divided opinions.
- Recognition of Islam? – Controversial, emotional issue.
- Acceptance” (*ge “Akzeptanz”*) to be replaced by “respect for basic values” .
- Proposal: world policy as a category? (m+f)
- Counter-proposal: Foreign policy.

Maastricht Common Foreign and Security Policy (since Maastricht), hence one voice of the EU as a target ... EU is an economic power ... consequences for foreign policy (RP).

- *Proposal 1: economic policy (as a category).*
- Social market economy.
- *Proposal 2: role model (as a category).*
- Human economic policy is something in itself or is it part of basic values?
- Economic policy needs overall trend humanistic tendency to be preserved, not just materialistic orientation. (m)

Humane economic policy: new category

- Does this include development policy?
- Less arms trade - can't that be positive? (m)
- Corporate greed is everything, people are being forgotten.
- A Europe belonging to the people, not to corporate organisations.
- Resistance to corporate interests.
- Centralistic economy is rather restrictive, but giving it full rein is dangerous as well. (m)

„EU foreign policy“: new category

- Peace policy is a core value, requested and accepted.
- *Question is: What is the motivation for EU foreign policy action? (m)*
- If foreign policy is just driven by security, this may be too little.
- Objection: Foreign policy is always just driven by economy, humanitarian affairs or security.
- Switzerland as a positive example with respect to security.
- Objection: it would be unpleasant if we were such a heavily armed country.
- Switzerland in contrast to US: weapons privately and publicly >owned> also misleading. This is a question of awareness. (m)
- EU policy contra US policy - *has to be added to “foreign policy”.*



[Remark of reporter: discussion about what security is and what foreign policy is merging – differentiation is almost impossible in practice, participants' disapproval of the design of the conference voiced, e.g. policy of peace - is it a basic value?]

- Equal footing of people ... to foreign policy.
- From „corporate EU – No“ to a humane economic policy.
- EU = Africa = EU for EU ... foreign or economic policy?
- New card demanded: EU is senior partner, not world police for Foreign policy. (m)
- New category: EU internal consensus for EU foreign policy.
- How this shall be defined. (f)

Common jurisdiction as a category?

- Section „aid“ (auxiliary means)?
- Constitution of the EU as a auxiliary means? (m)
- Yes, to steer things better. (m)
- We need the category to formulate the inner, internal links.
- *Proposal*: Preconditions? (f) - *Is not debated further, strong single approval.*
- E.g. openness and securing identity is a precondition.
- Card European educational contract to table “Social Affairs”.
- *Card (from other group)*: “no borders”, *where shall we put it?*
- EU a link in the chain worldwide... foreign policy... Is EU the key to keeping things going?
- EU is modern communism... *controversial.*
- Mobility no external borders...
- Foreign policy is requested, since it is a global issue.
- Mobility is a basic value; the question is whether this is wishful thinking. (m)
- Mobility is presented, but not realized.
- Adopt & utilize 4 columns of Europe without reservations and discrimination – *approved under the “requirements” or “basic values” it should be listed under requirements (although very similar).*

Headers, major categories are:

1. **Requirements**
2. **Security**
3. **Immigration**
4. **EU-basic/fundamental values**
5. **Humane economic policy**
6. **Foreign policy**

In hindsight, new cards where added:

- Consistent representation of the basic values externally. – *Approved.*
- Basic values and requirements are interdependent, can they be merged? (f) – *Objection.*
- Which basic values are already preconditions or the other way round?
- *Proposal*: Acceptance card is indeed both, and each are necessary. (*card duplicated*)
- *Objection*: “Basic values as requirement” *as a new heading category rejected. Pinned to requirements.*
- Common jurisdiction moved to requirement, as well: No favoured states (within the EU).
- Capital is an issue.
- Reference to 4 freedoms: Capital, labour, goods, persons.
- Link between humane economic policy and foreign policy established (*with an arrow*).



want
We would like to live
in a Europe ...
I/we

which values?
conflict of interests: "Austria vs. the rest of the EU"
indifference towards EU-related topics, e.g. the constitution

prerequisites [1]

barely any structure, constant blurring with other

additional topics related to the statement of principles can be found under difficulties challenges

basic values as prerequisite ●●●●

less nationalism ●●●

unified EU legislation ●

stable basis (culture, religion, etc.) ●

decentralisation within the EU ●

the 4 freedoms
free goods, services, etc.-

research innovation leader

openness with respect to identity

internal unity

no favoured states (same speed for all)

Yes/ No? relevance (as 27 states) ●

inflated structures

raising awareness instead of legal regulation

statistics are being manipulated

redistribution of funds

scepticism towards EU

content of EU constitution

adjustment of EU structures

lack of transparency

citizens rejecting the

raising awareness

We want to live in a Europe ...

security [2]

social security ●●●●

Europe, role model for peace and security in the world

strengthened EU positioning with regard to the UN

independent, concrete social policy

- minimum wage security
- medical care
- pension structures,
- legal system – custody of prisoners ●
- advantages
- secured social framework of conditions

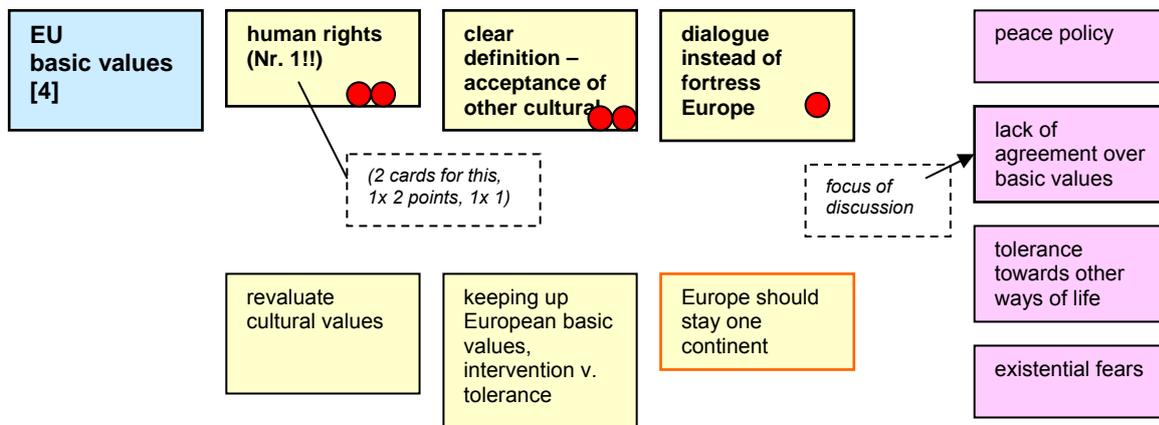
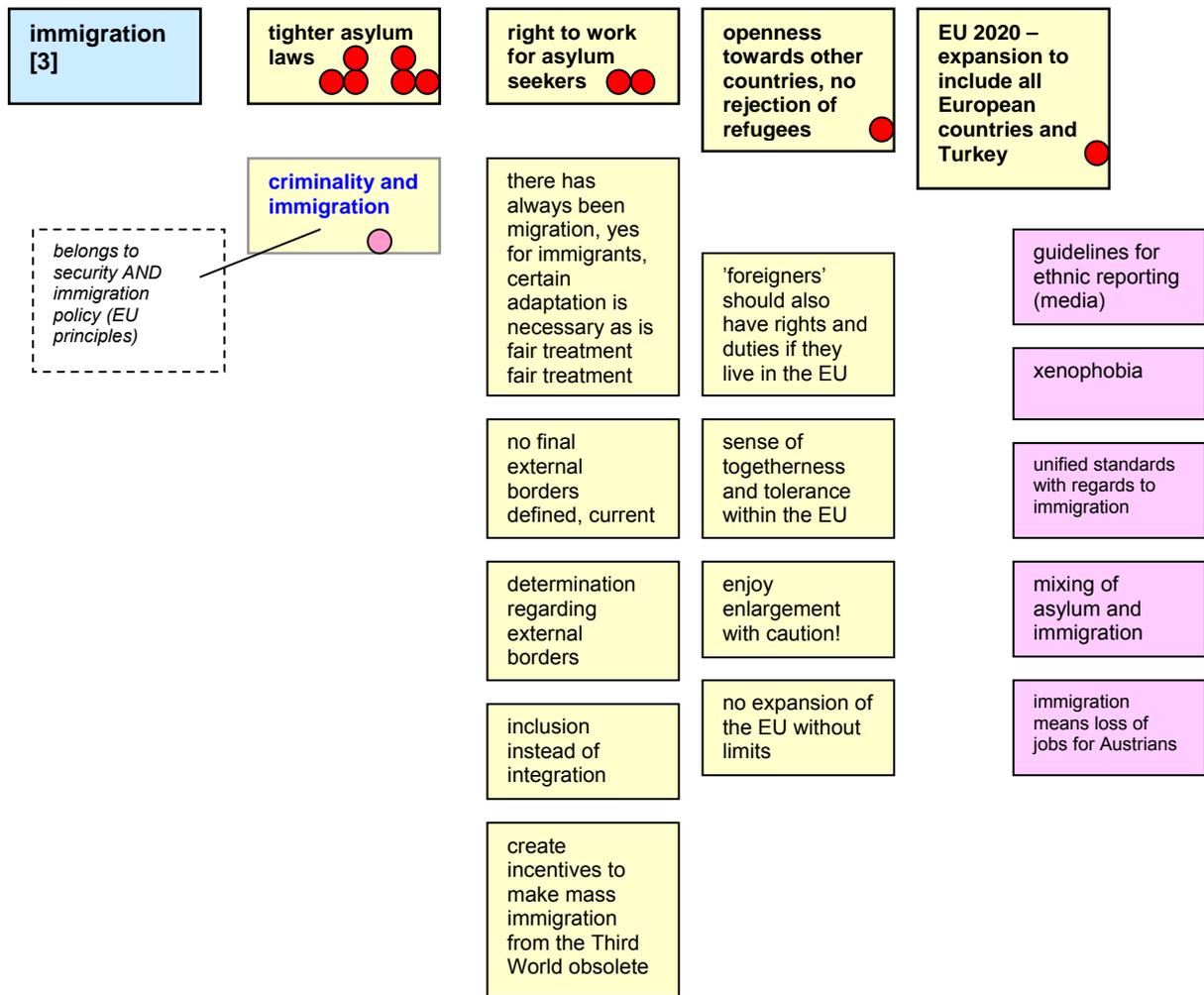
this card made its way to our table

role model for peace and the environment

belongs to security AND immigration policy (EU principles)

criminality and immigration ●

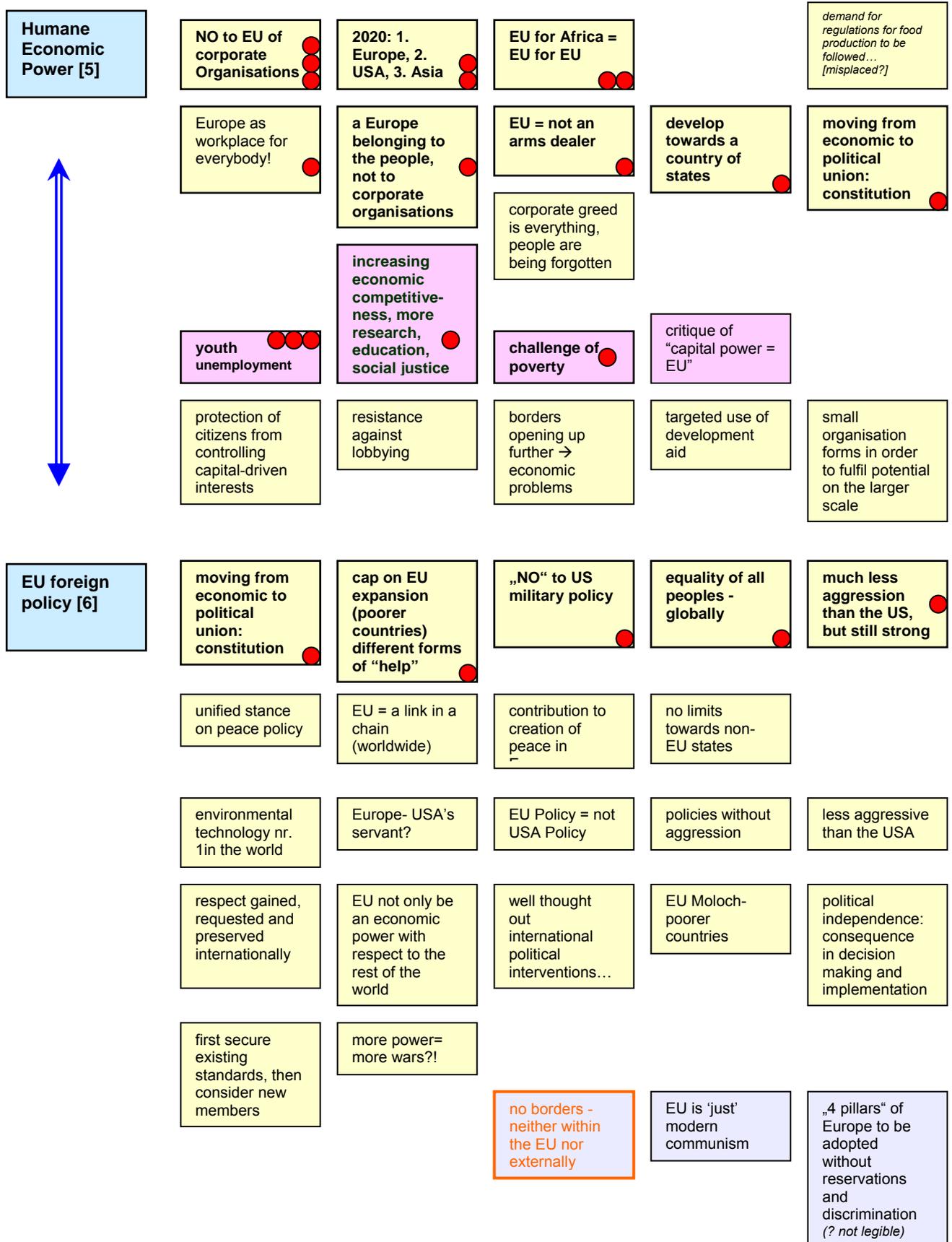
- foreign security
- social security in the new EU member states
- more security – no organised gangs (asylum abuse)





European Citizens' Consultations

Making your voice heard





General background and challenges, conflict of interests

[The conflicts of interests and challenges discussed here are also included and highlighted by the pink cards from above.]

- Positive and negative prerequisites are equally important.
- Immigration means loss of jobs in Austria which is more negative than a challenge and conflict of interests. (f)
- Immigration means surrounded „by a wall', if it were just a ‚soft wall', immigration would be something else entirely. (m)
- Topic of values: Which qualities should be expected from an immigrant? An evaluation of desirable qualities for EU citizens is required!
- Which requirements are really needed? Is there a conflict of interests with basic values if only those who ‚contribute something' are allowed in? (m)
- I see natives being disadvantaged, because low-skilled jobs are being taken away (m)
- *Objection, that...* the requirements then also need to change, politics, as well as the state need to act – they ought to meet variable guidelines.
- But we are also immigrants elsewhere – what pushes somebody to go somewhere else, what do we have to offer to them?
- Immigration has a bad name here; it's always connected with ‚the bad guys'.

Can these challenges (immigration) be solved at the level of the EU?

- Yes, the majority of them. (m)
- Yes, if they stick to their word. (f)
- Conflict of interests: Asylum seekers – immigrants.
- Asylum cannot be sought on economic grounds.
- If one considers Europe, that can't really be a topic because of free movement. One needs to differentiate between internal migration and movement from outside. (m)
- We are debating above all movement from outside.
- Nobody in this world is illegal, why is there no asylum for illegal immigrants in Austria, who had no other way to come into the country? (m)
- Human Rights come under basic values. Asylum is a human right – how does this fit in with the points above on the level of the EU?
- Key phrase: Quota regulation. (m)
- A big problem is the speed with which an asylum application is processed – if it is done quickly, one person too many can quietly be rejected or one too many accepted. (m)

Should there be a standard on the level of the EU?

- Then there would be no ‚immigration countries' anymore. A standard would be helpful. (m)
- States should, however, be free to decide....
- Agreement on a clear distinction between asylum seeker and immigrant.

Agreement on card, seen as a conflict:



mixing of asylum and immigration

Further issues:

- *Unemployment, in particular youth unemployment – is very important for the participants (was given its own card).* Young people in Austria have no training positions – they should be assisted – this is a political appeal.
- The education system has changed, there is no freedom, the parental situation has changed too, there are generations missing. (f)
- *See discrepancies:* There are already so many difficulties in the smaller picture – how should it work in the big picture without reflection upon basic values, stability, fears, e.g. there shouldn't be fears about finding a job. Protests the priority of basic values, resulting from individual fears. (f)



- Internal security is needed before security in the big picture can be created – values.
- Spiritual and material values.
- You can't solve the question of values EU-wide, because it is basically a question of beliefs. (m)

Discussion gets more emotional, philosophical and probes more deeply into questions of values and culture

Is there such a thing as universal values?

- Worries about pensions lead to existential fears, as well worries about medical care. It is these facts from the edge of society which at some point encourage a general uncertainty. (m)
- Why on earth take more people in, then, when we already have such big problems? (f)
- Values without religion – is there such a thing?
- Dagmar: Values determine themselves... it is not a matter of personal prescription. (f)

Consensus as value, or value as consensus?

- The EU as such, should have a system – indeed it has already, but with contracts – determining who can migrate and for what purpose. Immigration also has necessary and positive aspects, which we shouldn't forget. (f)
- Demands for this reason a Green Card System also for countries bordering the EU. (f)
- No consensus that criminality is connected with immigration – the opposite opinion was represented, however. (f)
- Open or closed system: a middle way needs to be found, there needs to be a small wall, but there needs to be a basic start off point (ge "Sockelwert") so that somebody can be accepted as a citizen. (m)

Consensus on:

Reject Roman-Catholic values

- Differing opinions on Christian values.
- Respect for other people, dignity, human rights as universal values, which are of highest importance – and also still need to be codified.
- Respect for human dignity – demanded as base for the economy and politics.
- We are scared of immigration, because somebody could take something away from us – Xenophobia, the fear of that which is foreign (Xenophobia as challenge → card). (m)
- protests the lack of agreement over basic values (should not be Christian, or any other religious references) → challenge (discussion keeps returning to immigration, for nearly every example). (m)

Rotation of tables:

Leave EU Yes/No - plus EU Policy yes/no. (*Option is missing, to be added*).

- Leaving can't be an alternative, but rather the only option. How can this happen?
- Currency and Schengen are independent of the EU contract. (m)
- If one considers low social classes and growing problems, people are telling lies, politicians and statisticians are lying to us, we have to leave the EU!

[Sceptical group (Family & Social Affairs) but not homogenous, fundamental questions being asked, discussion becomes more emotional...]

Important Topic:

poverty

- Find the principal idea of the EU good, the problems are teething problems. (f)
- Learn from mistake and improve the situation. (f)
- Glad that there hasn't been any war in the past 50 years – but EU institutions need to be reviewed, eg. Changing presidency of the European Council. (m)



- *Card*: Structure needs to be adapted to the actual size.
- Problem of lack of financial transparency! *Card*: Challenge.
- If the EU is not accepted and finds no adequate solutions, the EU makes itself superfluous. (m)
- For me, the EU represents a huge stumbling block and problem for large parts of the population, working on solutions, economy, capital is the real, but negative motor driving EU policy. (m)

Card:

- **capital power = EU**

- How could it become bigger and stronger? It needs better bodies, the path of the USA and China cannot be taken as a role model. (m)
- Leaving would mean cherry-picking countries. It would lead away from every thought of solidarity to every country against each other.
- *Convinced opponent of the EU argues*: Agricultural subsidies go above all to the richest aristocratic landowners, with respect to the new countries, EU bureaucracy is contaminated by and acting on the behalf of lobbies e.g. transport policy often follows the wrong environmental priorities. (m)

Heated discussion!

Rotation

- It won't do that some countries go to war and others don't – common, stable values are needed, such as tolerance of other ways of life. (m)
- *Objection*: that, if one country goes to war, all countries have to go to war. (m)
- Another problem is that I cannot force someone to be tolerant. (m)
- The role of the media, e.g. banning racist reporting, general question, paying attention to minorities (m)
- Guidelines for the media vs. freedom of the press. (*Is discussed extensively*)
- Ethnic (!) Commission for the EU, would this be a solution for the media? (m)
- The Constitution is a topic – what's actually meant to be in it, we're always just being asked yes or no. The contents of the constitution is important. (m)
- Surely it is the duty of every citizen to read up on the Constitution?! (f)
- Rules are made to be broken – but you should read it to get an idea of solutions. It's a question of raising awareness rather than legal regulation. (m)
- The constitution should be changeable, but it should start to be implemented, you don't have you put it to the people. Politicians are, after all, voted in in order to sensibly implement projects such as the Constitution. (f)
- Objection, that means that the EU should be a supranational state, rather than a confederation of states?
- Whether non-voters agree with or reject the politics of those in power being discussed. (f)
- Priorities need to be set, e.g. the environment, because everyone is agreement about this and everyone if affect by it – which is not the case in the case of the Constitution. (f)
- Criticism of the Berlin Declaration, but it's better than nothing. Why every commitment always is pulled to pieces immediately? (f)
- Those are the basic principles of bringing about productive procedures...



Prioritised cards with most points (in brackets number of points):

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Tighter asylum laws.</i> (6) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Social security.</i> (5) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Values as prerequisite.</i> (4) ○ <i>"No" to a EU of corporate organisations.</i> (4) ○ <i>Less nationalism and equality of peoples.</i> (4) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Youth unemployment.</i> (3) ○ <i>Human rights.</i> (3) |

Intermediate result of day 1:

Vision

- 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.
- Discussion whether short and flexible is better or long and detailed – (Over) regimentation?
- The EU doesn't act, it just discusses– the opposite of the USA and its partially justified criticism (m = *American citizen, who grew up and lives in AT*).

Day 2

The role the EU – should play the role /should not...

- The importance of culture is missing in all of the visions – in the sense of promotion and support, like the so-called 'Culture Shilling' we used to have... (m)
- Scepticism regarding the implementation, importance, effect... empty words, just pen-pushing.(m)
- But there is an altercation process here, for the participants of the EU-Citizens' Conferences. (m)
- Acknowledgement here of intention to take input here to use in his job as a teacher, and to pass it on to others.
- It's interesting that at the other tables it's also the case that everyone is saying that this and that is missing... why doesn't everyone just take the initiative themselves to make things happen. Its meant to be a challenge. (f)
- Does everyone need someone else to do that for them?
- All of the participants want the same thing anyway, cross-nationally, but everyone wants to keep their own culture – is the word patriotism to be seen anywhere here? Are you even allowed to say that anymore in the EU? Are you even allowed to say 'homeland' anymore? (f)
- Yet, despite all of this, everyone has the same visions.
- There are a lot of areas where people want the EU to help by intervening, but at the same time bureaucracy should be reduced – how is that meant to happen? For me, what we are missing here is a demand for more federalism and decentralization. (m)

Do you want the EU to set frameworks in selected areas of importance, or do you want a move back towards national states?

- A compromise suggestion – the EU should not be a central state for everyone, but rather a kind of grid, framework, which facilitates the development of specific regional states. Each country should be able to develop along its own lines (in the North and in the South). (m)
- A grid as a framework upon which a tower can be built – A Europe of Regions.



All of this is NOT in opposition to official EU policy (Principle of Subsidiarity); there is a problem, because there are more states, and bigger complication. (RP)

- *Objection:* The central prescription overshoots the mark again and again (e.g. shape of bananas). (m)
- Or also because the four freedoms are no longer guaranteed, measures for these contradictions.

Education:

- A better example for failed EU guidelines: University access, overflowing universities in Austria, German students are overrunning the schools of medicine. (m)
- The problem facing students was acknowledged in Austria ten years ago. Many measures would have been possible for a long time. (f)
- The university of Innsbruck is being hit badly by this influx of Germans. Better administration, efficiency and individual regulation should and must be possible. (f)
- Objection, these are exactly those things which the petty bourgeois feel the effects of. (m)
- I am in favour of free access to university in principal – also the EU should guarantee this. (m)
- I would offer the suggestion that only those students who would also have been accepted in their homeland should be accepted here. (f)
- Our 'Matura' (school leaving examination) is not as demanding as the 'Abitur' in Germany, our pupils can't pass the Numerus Clausus to secure university places there. (f)
- I am in favour of the EU providing a framework of conditions, but bilateral agreements should also be possible in this area and should be able to be valid for the EU. (m)
- Why do I have to beg and plead and worry about my children's future? (f)
- It's connected with quality, teachers are overloaded. (m)
- Education systems should be formed nationally.
- There is quality in the universities, there needs to be some entry restrictions. At the same time, there should be differences in quality. (m)

Areas in which the EU should provide frameworks:

- With respect to education, the EU should create the basic principles and framework of conditions, whilst still facilitating and tolerating exceptions and/or individual alternatives from state to state.

Emotional discussion about nationality issues connected with these problems.

- Individual regional or even global dimensions to the topic of education. (m)
- Side-tracking to Immigration.
- The EU should provide unified and transparent frameworks (of conditions) in order to implement/facilitate quick asylum proceedings, but immigration should remain/be regulated nationally.

Question of timescale, EU bodies provide the frameworks, but how are they implemented – in what timescale? (RP)

- Unity of asylum proceedings should be regulated by the EU. (m)
- Suggestion of regulation by quota. (m)
- The definition of asylum worked out a new, another suggestion. (m)
- It should remain a national decision as to who gives somebody a place. The UN and the EU already provide frameworks and grids anyway. (m)
- The question is whether the EU should appear to be stronger than the states, whether it should be allowed to dictate to a country, or if it has the task to take a higher position. In my opinion, it should stay at the national level. (m)
- The EU has no borders, which means that if someone migrates to Spain, they can then go anywhere, that's why there should be a common regulation. (m)
- Example of health care: The highest standard should be adopted as standard in other countries; at least as an aim for less developed states; possibly one has to dare to cut down overstretched resources. (f)



- Demands a strong EU military. (m)
- You also need to consider the existence of the Schengen borders. (m)
- The topic itself is ridiculous because Austria is politically insignificant. (f)
- Austria has its place in a bigger structure, namely the EU, so the topic needs to be addressed a new, we are therefore also politically and militarily our own group of states. (m)
- All EU countries leave NATO. (m)

Participants show agreement.

- All small national histories contribute to the bigger picture, of which one needs to be aware, in order to come to a consensus with consideration of respective interests. (f)
- Justification: The EU should be strong and powerful.
- There would be no reason for visions, if there wasn't already an EU. I am in favour of being positioned as a power; this does not have to be military. (f)
- The EU is first and foremost an economic power, and that was its intention all along, it has a certain technical quality, which is a real strength, which should never be abandoned in production. (m)
- One should keep in mind that the dimensions well represent questions of power. (m)
- Common foreign and security policy, in a defensive sense, national defence but against any kind of US-like agitation. (m)
- If you say you are a member of the EU, then you need to participate, which means that every country must participate aliquot in the EU military. (m)
- If there were to be an exit from NATO, then the EU would have to be rearmed – I have a problem with that because I am a pacifist. (m)
- Also cannot sign a formal censure of the EU's military power and back out in such a case.

This avowal led to the formulation of the final version of the catalogue of measures (military and non-military means...), which was established as being ambivalent:

- EU definitely can't build up a common army with the USA or something similar, Russia would stop that without a doubt. (m)
- If power is strength, then I also need to be able to defend. (f)
- If Europe presents itself like this to the outside world, it needs a common foreign and security policy. (f)
- It would be good if Europe created a structure which was respected worldwide. (m)
- If all national armies were abolished and then a super army created, I'd be really scared! (m)
- I don't believe that there is an external threat, this is always constructed, besides, there's always tradition. (f)
- The military is necessary, but if there is strong policy, then I can also envisage a picture of the EU in the distant future which manages without an army – to take this as an aim for the EU would be really visionary. (m= army officer)
- You also need to know the visions for the USA in 2020 – Europe is not alone in the world. (f)
- People always say you don't need an army, but what about with catastrophe aid, with enemies globally – but we all want peace. (f)

Emotional discussion.

European Café

- The topic arises of whether the EU has too much power, or when it is too much.
- Could be dangerous, with expansion one also takes in areas of conflict, where a taking a strong stance is necessary. Turkey gives an historical background – Turkey – expansion topic arises.
- Objection, then we also have to talk about Israel – but that's going too far... (m)
- There are demands for the EU to be a power and for an army for the whole of Europe...some citizens are also very unhappy with this and see internal danger, but also the problem that it will not please the rest of the world...



- How should a military block encourage world peace? Whoever has an army deploys this army too. The emphasis should then really be peace policy.
- Immigration once again leads to development policy. How can we make people stay where they are from, and see to it that things are good where they are?
- Unfortunately, this whole topic was missing from our discourse at the global role of the EU table. *This was complained about.*
- Question as to what development aid actually is.
- Question about the political nature of UN agreements and how binding they are, as well as what should happen with these. Is in any case, a method of resolution in order to get immigration under control.
- This is also connected to education within the EU, as well as externally, which should be facilitated, because otherwise aggression will result above all, which itself is concerned with the topic of security policy.
- Can one leave the EU, is that thinkable even?
- If it makes sense, it is yet another discussion...

The following topic extensions are discussed:

- Expansion Turkey? Area of conflict.
- Too much power? When does this become dangerous?
- Formulations too aggressive.
- Education – Austria first.
- Numerus Clausus in Germany!
- Security - whoever doesn't have an education encourages aggression within and outside of the EU.
- China? How to deal with this?
- Development policy in the sense of peace, security, migration, is important for immigration.
- Development policy is missing as a topic .
- Instead of investing more money in Fortress Europe and/or a common army, investment in developing countries – if you can still say that – would make much more sense, in the sense of peace, security and immigration. (m)
- ... better in education and economy.
- Should politics do this? Would be better if done by NGOs, e.g. model of micro-credit á la Bangladesh.
- One should at lift people out of the severest poverty, help, and then an important step towards reducing migration would already be made. (m)
- Objection, nice vision, which is nothing new, many experts are working on it – our environment here is meant to be more acute to treat. (f)
- China: How to deal with this?
- Punitive tax duties on their products and in China there are social problems which need to be taken into account, therefore a protective duty would be better than punitive tax duty. (m)
- Chinese products are of a low quality. Europe stands, however, for (social) quality, which needs to be deliberately linked to the consumer behaviour of citizens. (m)
- Adding duties makes goods expensive, therefore the question of profitability and China stays with goods. (f)

Topic field primacy of politics opened, after the objection that corporate organisations have the final say

- In this context, the EU should create rules of play, which it should be compulsory to stick to, e.g. intellectual property. We could also produce cheap or copied products, but after consideration we don't do this. (m)
- If development policy is to be understood as a measure for security, peace, immigration, then Brussels needs to understand this too. (m)
- wants development aid as 1% of GDP to be paid compulsorily to the EU. (m)



- Another alternative is that EU funds (contributions from members) are increased and the EU itself then operates development aid. (m)
- If asylum is defined anew, new assessments are necessary – formulate asylum more tightly, assess development aid for this? Problem: “Economic migrants”. (m)

In concrete terms: 0.7 % of GDP compulsory, administered by the EU and used for development aid

- If you look at it in a visionary manner, you forget the military power situation and hope that everything will be okay, that it will work... (m)
- Understanding is however, the history of the EU shows it can also be dangerous when it isn't utopian.
- I am against adopting a Christian system of values e.g. in the constitution, in order to be able to one day accept Turkey – my humanitarian values. (m)
- *Following the suggestion from group “Family and Social Affairs”, table accepts the preamble with an overwhelming majority (which will be placed at the top of the whole text of the citizens' consultations).*

Preamble:

Within a year, the EU must produce a report which outlines concrete steps for the implementation of the visions; otherwise we see the future of the EU as being at risk.

After extensive formulation and deliberation, the group was able to agree upon the following text:

Vision:

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.

***Table Global Role: Table Facilitator Rossalina Latcheva;
Resource Person Josef Hochgerner; Reporter Johannes Waldmüller***



Voting on the Austrian Vision and Perspectives

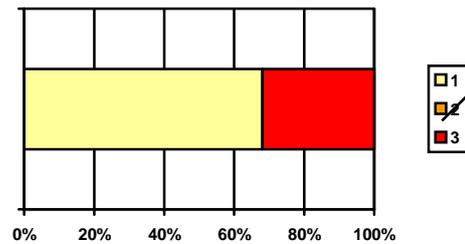
The following charts show to which extent the vision has been approved by the majority of the participating citizens in Austria

Count of votes

25 of the 30 citizens were in the hall at voting time

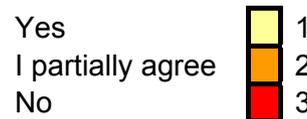
Preamble for the whole Citizens' Perspective from Austria

In agreement (= yes)	yes	17
Objection (=no)	no	8



Explanation of voting procedure/how citizens voted:

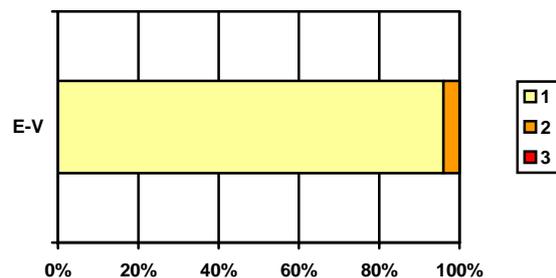
- Step 1 = yes = I completely agree
- Step 2 = I partially agree
- Step 3 = No = I do not agree at all



Energy and Environment AT

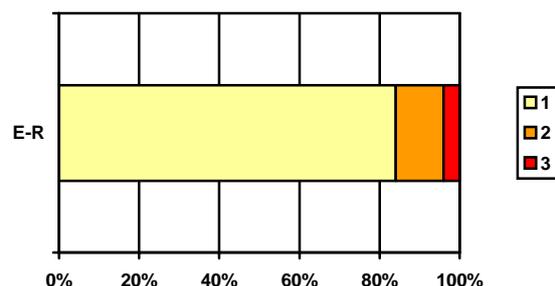
Vision

yes	24
partially	1
no	0



Role of the EU

yes	21
partially	3
no	1

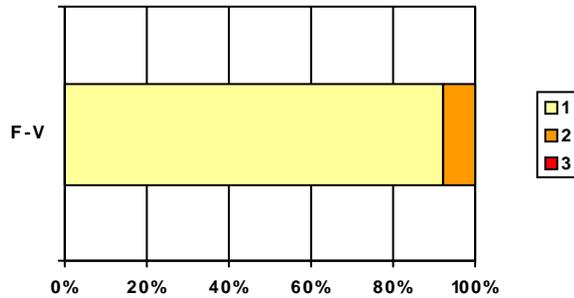




**Family and Social Affairs
AT**

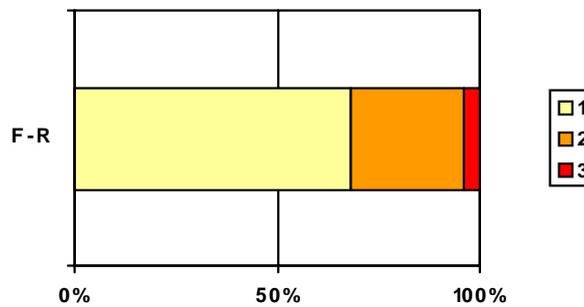
Vision

yes	23
partially	2
no	0



Role of the EU

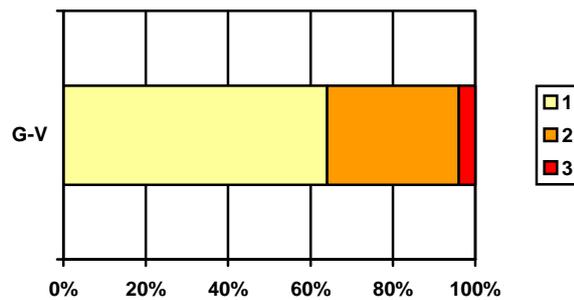
yes	17
partially	7
no	1



**Global Role of the EU, borders, immigration
AT**

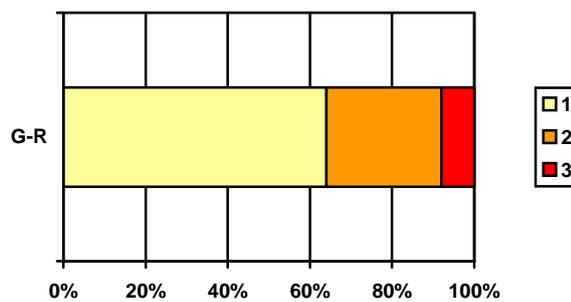
Vision

yes	16
partially	8
no	1



Role

yes	16
partially	7
no	2





2 BACKGROUND OF CONSULTATIONS IN AUSTRIA

Recruitment of Participants

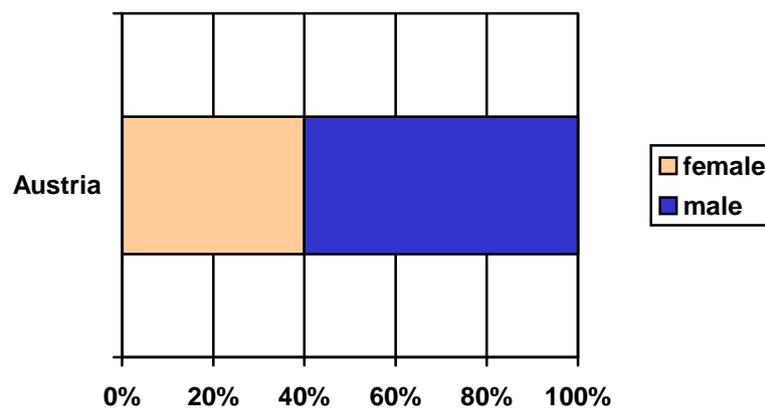
ipr Markt- und Sozialforschung (based in Vienna) was chosen from the available recruitment offers because it met the requirements and at a more favourable price compared to other national and international offers.

As in all member states the three socio-demographic selection criteria for randomly choosing participants were:

- gender balance: 50% men and 50% women
- all age groups
- diverse educational backgrounds and levels (to prevent over-representation of those highly qualified)

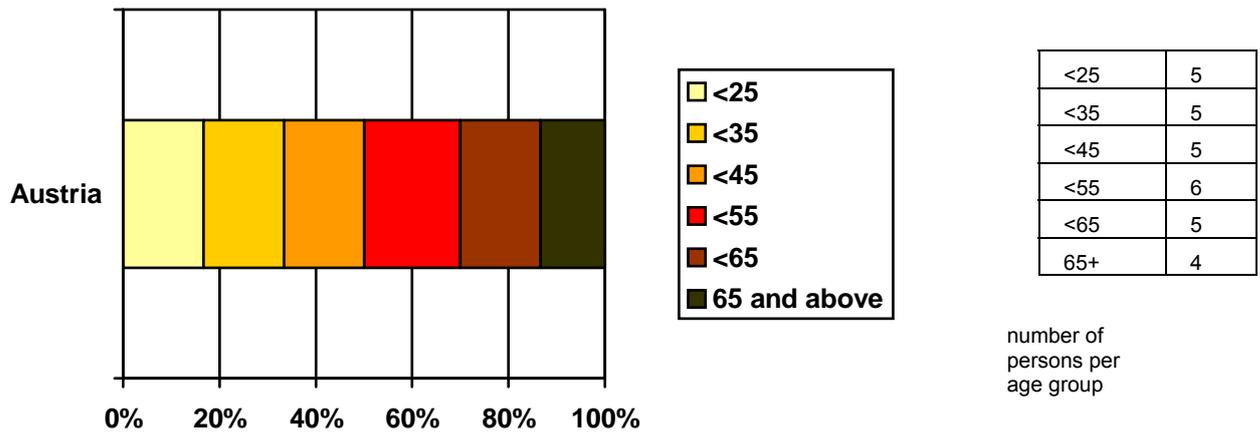
The group of 30 citizens who actually attended the consultations were:

- **13 : 17 – women : men** (this gender imbalance occurred because 1.) one recruited woman sent her husband, 2.) too many women withdrew in the last 10 days before the conference and could not be replaced).





- **Evenly distributed number of all age groups:**



- **Composition of the group according to educational level (completed education):**

- Compulsory education (=Pflichtschule): **9**
- Secondary technical and vocational education and training or vocational school for apprentices (=Berufsbildende mittlere Schule oder Lehre): **15**
- Certificate of secondary education (= Reifeprüfung or Matura): **9**
- University: **6**

- **List of professions:**

Ambulance man
 Artist
 Austrian Army officer
 Call centre employee
 Clerk Austrian Railways
 Confectioner
 Construction technician
 Cosmetician
 Graphical designer
 Health and wellbeing specialist
 High school teacher
 Historian
 Hotel & catering manager
 House painter

House wife
 Insurance company employee
 Kinesiologist
 (Multi) media designer
 Medical office assistant
 Photographer
 Psychologist
 Retired civil servant/lawyer
 Salesperson in editing house
 Secondary school teacher
 Secretary
 Shipping clerk
 Stage designer
 Technician (radio engineering)

Technical high school student
 Textile designer
 Trained carer for elderly
 Trainee animal keeping
 University students

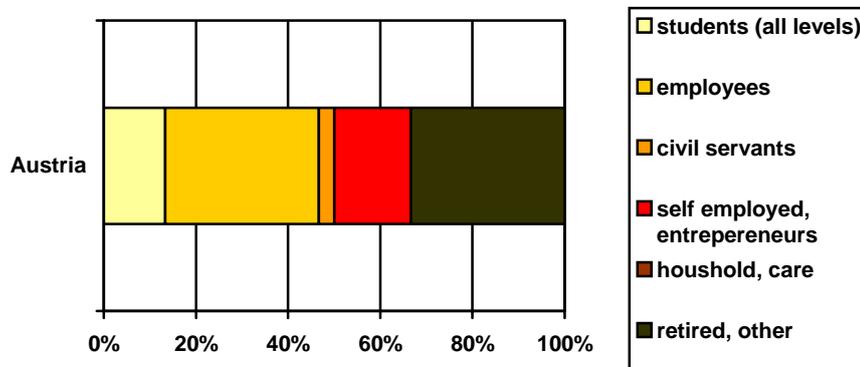
 (Housekeeping family members
 With or without other professional obligations)



- **Groups of professions background and status**

students	4
employees	10
civil servants	1
self employed	5
retired	7
unemployed	3

number of
persons
professional
group
(status)



ipr originally planned to base recruitment on a list of 40 candidates who had agreed to participate. In fact, 51 persons had to be recruited. To take precautions against the (unduly) expected lack of sufficient young male participants, **ipr** proposed - reacting to the experience that young men easily state that they will attend focus and discussion groups, yet very frequently do not show up - to list a higher share of them on the recruitment list. Therefore we had more men than women on the recruitment list. In contrast to what was expected, we finally had more men than required. It was easier to recruit older people than younger people of both genders. Some citizens felt the event was irrelevant to them (politics don't affect me", "I have too much to work", "I have to run a business") or it was requiring too much time ("two days away from family", "one or even two overnight absences would not be possible", "long travel-distances"). Therefore it was obviously difficult for many citizens to agree and actually attend.

During the recruitment procedure ZSI gave feedback on the relevant criteria for Austria and pointed out profiles (or professions, even though no selection criteria) still missing on the recruitment list. **ipr** partially succeeded in adding some of the requested profiles to the amended recruitment list in the last two weeks before the event.

In addition, a further criterion was proposed and introduced for Austria: regional distribution – the number of citizens from the West, the Center/South and the East should be in proportion to the



population size in these areas. Hence participants from all federal states were present at the consultation in Austria.

After recruitment by **ipr**, those citizens who had agreed and stated that they would come, were contacted by the Centre for Social Innovation. An invitation letter with information and a response post card (for written approval of participation) was sent out. This was followed up with telephone calls in order to build trust in the reliability/seriousness of the undertaking and so that citizens could ask any questions they might have.

In March, as the event approached, a surprisingly high number of persons, 18, (among them 8 women) revoked their initial promise to come. Due to these late cancellations the target to recruit a representative and balanced group of citizens from Austria could not be met completely. The slightly uneven gender balance of 14 women to 16 men on the invitation list was further accentuated by the fact that one recruited woman sent her husband (due to personal health problems and childcare obligations). Generally the reasons given for cancellation were health problems or professional commitments. The two female candidates on the list with names suggesting migration or non-native German speaking backgrounds unfortunately withdrew because of family obligations.

Another limitation deserves mention: persons from the lowest level of education or agricultural background (male and female) were not or not adequately represented. In respect to features of the Austrian population, too few civil servants (clerks employed by public institutions) were amongst the group of citizens who attended. No unskilled workers could be motivated to join the consultations at all.

While an appropriate representation of the unemployed (three persons) was achieved, this was not possible for the other groups mentioned above. This may be seen as a mirror-image of their marginalization in the society and it may well have had repercussions in the results of the ECC consultations.

Originally recruitment was expected to be completed in February or no later than the beginning of March. In fact, recruitment efforts ended only two days before the event, eventually reaching the minimum number of 30 participants.



Points for discussion concerning recruitment

Given our experience regarding external recruitment, we recommend the consortium to consider the following points: to develop shared recruitment guidelines. This might help to sharpen the comparability of the European result:

- (Dis-) Advantages of internally implemented recruitment versus external recruitment → clearly defined rules and procedures.
- A group of persons specifically trained for the project should do the recruitment. Such training should include national partner organisations. Content supervision in the initial recruitment period by an external recruiter should be considered, e.g. the content manager of partner organization could get involved.
- Reflect on how to integrate experienced citizens with experience of discussion groups, focus groups, market research or political functions in an adequate manner and without risking that these persons dominate the discussions too much.
- Agree in advance on the transfer of recruitment documentation of each recruitment.
- “Representative” cross section of population: How can the set of criteria be extended to be more inclusive with respect to minority, migration background, non-native German speaking, non-white composition of citizens group and with respect to an inclusive practice with reference to special needs, including physical impairments.
- How to convey basic understanding of the selection procedure and random choice with respect to gender, age, education and other criteria to avoid self-recruitment or -replacement by citizens (there were several offers from citizens who heard or read about the Consultations in Austria) to propose themselves via phone, e-mail or even by contacting ZSI in person. Citizens should not be allowed calling the recruiter directly to propose their candidature; such “self-recruitment” cannot be accepted.
- Methodology of recruitment procedures needs to be shaped in such a way to be able to assure the participation of inexperienced discussion candidates and hesitant distant persons. This would include the selective recruitment of particular target groups who would not easily follow a telephone invitation, such as minority members, women (and men) from diverse cultural backgrounds, non-native, yet fluent enough German speakers, persons with special needs etc.
- Measures to encourage enough women to attend should be taken; these could include: arranging for child care in a professional facility, considering regional events (without overnight stay), and adding target group specific recruitments. It should nevertheless be discussed how the principle of random selection ought to be met.
- The idea of cross-boundary consultations could be tested. It might be a step forward from the national/member state based concept of discussions towards intercultural, yet mono-lingual groupings, across member states boundaries. E.g. Native German speakers from Belgium,



France, Germany, Austria, Italy and other countries with minority German speaking populations. The same could go for other languages spoken in several member states by minorities and majorities or second languages spoken across EU Europe. Also in such settings opinions differing by country of origin could become an issue to be documented and analysed.

- Assess feasibility of bi- or multilingual tables in member states with guests from neighbouring countries.

Size of citizens' group(s)

- The minimum number of persons in a countries' consultation is set at 30 persons (seated at 3 tables of 10 persons plus 1 table facilitator plus 1 note taker at each table). This proved to be a size too small for the overall group to meet the aim of a representative cross-section of the population with a minimum of three criteria
- Table facilitators and organisers felt that the size of the table groups was too large to make citizens feel at ease; an external observation was, "citizens seemed intimidated"; telephone recruiters reported that the size of the citizens group (30) was seen as "a large group, a big event". One has to bear in mind that the actual number of persons at the table was 13, including facilitator, note taker and resource person. Also the public atmosphere of the ceremonial hall of the RadioKulturhaus (the public radio station) discouraged participation to a certain extent (although the live discussions were not transmitted and interviews only conducted with citizens who volunteered). The organizers had underestimated these impacts and thought of a manageable size like a "classroom" in an attractive "historical ambience". A conference hotel might be a more appropriate venue in the future.
- Smaller groups of 6 maximum 8 persons (instead of 10 citizens plus 3 facilitation/documentation/resource team members) per table are generally seen to be appropriate for discussion groups. Social science collaborators and facilitators suggest working with smaller groups of citizens. To discuss the same topic at different tables could add to a deepened and widened quality of dialogue.



3 SUMMARY OF WRITTEN FEED-BACK

See form on page 74.

Feedback from the participating citizens

1. **27 of 30 Citizens turned in the feed back form**
Some did answer on a part of the questions only

2. **For me the content of the dialogue and discussion rounds was:**

Very interesting:	13
Interesting:	14
Of little interest:	0
Not interesting:	0

All responding citizens found the Consultation "interesting" or "very interesting".

Additional remarks under this questions where:

- *Too much was pre-determined*
- *Friendly, human, international climate*
- *The enlargement forgotten a little however other topics (e.g. education) were discussed extensively*

3. **Could you make your voice heard at the Event?**

Very well:	12
(Quite) well (ge "gut"):	12
Not so well:	3
Not at all:	0

Additional comments under this point:

- *It is by its nature depending on the issues /topics*
- *It was very interesting*

4. **I assess the Austrian Citizens declaration as ...**

Very important:	15
Important:	11
Less important:	0
Not important:	0

Additional comments under this point:

- *Very important*
- *It is difficult to judge, because it is not clear what will happen with the vision*
- *Hopefully the kick-off for further and intensified democratic participation*



5. How satisfied were you with the organisation and services?

Very satisfied:	5
Satisfied:	13
Less satisfied:	0
Not satisfied:	0

Additional remarks under this questions:

- *Great and thanks*
- *One should have given more time to some parts of the process, time which would have been requested for it*
- *More information on hotel and prices would have been nice*
- *Superbe*

6. Which topics would you recommend to future citizen's consultations and conferences?

- *More Youth → too few young participants*
- *Segregation of Legislative and Executive*
- *Additional accessions to the EU*
- *Faster implementation of the discussed topics*
- *EU enlargement / decentralisation*
- *Persistent voice (not just during weekend)*
- *What is EU*
- *Transparency*
- *Visions*
- *Market economy ↔ capital economy*
- *Future of the EU*
- *Local topics*
- *Social*
- *Regional policy*
- *Justice*
- *Peace and economic policy*
- *Animal protection*
- *Taxes*
- *How can every individual EU citizen make the EU and his/her life more worth living??*
- *Social security*
- *Regular frame framework <of consultation like this?>*
- *EU of the corporate organisations ↔ EU of the people*
- *Nuclear energy*
- *GM technology*
- *Transit*
- *Security policy*
- *EU-analysis, what has been done in the social field*
- *No death penalty*
- *No suffering for humans and animals*
- *Humanism*
- *Human rights*
- *Bureaucracy*
- *Corruption*
- *Lobbyism*
- *Subsidies good and bad practice (ge "Förderungs(un)wesen")*



7. What do you think can be improved in future citizen's consultations with this concept?

- *The selection of citizens*
- *Representation of different social strata*
- *Involvement of unemployed, handicapped etc.*
- *Broader basis*
- *Broader variety*
- *Traceability of results*
- *More discussion outside the Group*
- *Large group discussions*
- *Less speeches*
- *Longer discussions*
- *More time*
- *Less odds given*
- *More discussions'*
- *Improvement of time plan*
- *Programme may be less strict and exhausting*
- *Fresh air in the conference hall*
- *Reception with breakfast*
- *Table cards*
- *Vegetarian food*

Feedback from guests

1. Return of feed back from guests (including journalists)

Of 25 guests (3 returned a feed back form) and approximately 7 journalists (1 returned a feed back form)

2. For me the content of the dialogue and discussion rounds was:

Very interesting:	1
Interesting:	0
Of little interest:	0
Not interesting:	0

3. Could you make your voice heard at the event? – Not relevant.

4. I assess the Austrian Citizens declaration as ...

Very important:	2
Important:	1
Less important:	1
Not important:	0



5. How satisfied were you with the organisation and services?

Very satisfied: **3**
Satisfied: **0**
Less satisfied: **0**
Not satisfied: **0**

Additional comments under this point

- *Good atmosphere*
- *Interesting setting*
- *Good that this happens*
- *Lets cooperate for similar events*
- *We are interested in participation processes in our own organisation (interest group, social partner)*
- *Day light venue*
- *Possibility to listen into table work would have been interesting*
- *Important for the discussion on the constitution*

6. Which topics would you recommend to future citizen's consultations and conferences?

- *Based on this topics, concrete recommendations for solutions*
- *Relations EU 12 vs. EU 15*
- *Agriculture*
- *Regional policy*
- *Budgetary/household policy*
- *Traffic policy*

7. What do you think can be improved in future citizen's consultations with this concept?

- *Venue with natural light*
- *Inclusion of minority members.*
Gender imbalance was a real pity – often at all tables men only spoke
- *Did the resource person understand the role of the resource person?*

Feedback from team members

1. Return from team members

Of the 14 Team members 11 gave their feed back

2. For me the content of the dialogue and discussion rounds was:

Very interesting: **6**
Interesting: **4**
Of little interest: **0**
Not interesting: **0**

- *Resource person has influenced the discussion too much*
- *Resource person EU and Environment were too dominant*

3. Could you make your voice heard at the Event? – not relevant



4. I assess the Austrian Citizens declaration as...

Very important:	2
Important:	3
Less important:	1
Not important:	0

5. How satisfied were you with the organisation and services?

Very satisfied:	3
Satisfied:	6
Less satisfied:	0
Not satisfied:	0

Additional comments under this point

- *Notes in word is not very functional*
- *Better preparation of format for minute takers would have eased their job*

6. Which topics would you recommend to future citizen's consultations and conferences?

- *Based on this topics concrete recommendations for solutions*
- *EU Citizens and direct participation*
- *Education (2)*
- *Global economy*
- *EU Institutions*
- *(Re)distribution*
- *equal opportunities*
- *Constitution*
- *Common foreign policy*
- *Cultural and democratic values of Europe and the EU*

7. What do you think can be improved in future citizen's consultations with this concept?

- *More free exchange (2)*
- *True dialogues*
- *Reassess options of RTFC, World Café, group facilitation, etc.*
- *methodological variety*
- *Small and large group facilitation elements, work in pairs, trios*
- *Too much focus on text based work*
- *Give a break from ppt*
- *Creative phases (at a later stage and professionally facilitated)*
- *Full appreciation of the exchange and "presence" of other countries parallel to event*
- *Give full estimation and active role to visiting citizens present at venue*
- *actively involve citizens from other EU countries resident in country of consultations (from partner countries) – also on content*
- *Clear messages to other countries (not just waving hands)*
- *Seat resource persons at a outside/higher chair with a head set and make them listen to the table, then step in when really required? Resource persons need good introduction/briefing and should ideally participate in part of the facilitator's training.*
- *Promote understanding of the role of the resource person (facilitator calls them in)*



- *Resource and info table (with electronic, physical info and experts available)*
- *Prompt start up*
- *Speeches in the beginning?*
- *Less protraction as the intro to work*
- *Better climate of conversation*
- *Activity zones, self-gearred interaction, i-contact*
- *Speaker corners*
- *Guests more focused on participation and on the topics*
- *Longer preparation period*
- *More team members, stand-by organizers and support people (in case needed)*
- *Additional team members: e.g. support head facilitator, translator, editing team*
- *More support to organizers and content manager*
- *More money, more people to run the show*
- *Better organization*
- *Better formatted and easy to handle formats*
- *Larger team on a longer preparation period*
- *Citizens contact point international*
- *Facilitate and animate exchange amongst citizens from different countries*
- *Smaller groups more tables*
- *Follow up-activities for the citizens, content and social*
- *More citizens*
- *Inclusion of minority members*
- *Migrants, people of non-European origin*
- *More female citizens*
- *Bread instead of cakes*
- *Larger hall*
- *Venue with natural light and access to a garden.*



Feedback-Bogen

Erhebung der Zufriedenheit mit der Europäischen Bürgerkonferenz in Österreich

1. Ich war an den Europäischen Bürgerkonferenzen beteiligt als:

Bürger/in
Gast
Journalist/in
Mitwirkende (Team)
Andere Rolle (welche?)

2. Die Inhalte der Dialog- und Diskussionsrunden waren für mich ...


|
|
|
|
|
|


sehr interessant interessant wenig interessant nicht interessant

Anmerkungen:

3. Konnten Sie (die Bürger/innen) bei der Veranstaltung Ihre Stimme einbringen ?


|
|
|
|
|


sehr gut gut weniger gut gar nicht

Anmerkungen:

4. Die Bürgererklärung aus Österreich halte ich für ...


|
|
|
|


sehr wichtig wichtig wenig wichtig nicht wichtig

Anmerkungen:

5. Wie zufrieden waren Sie mit der Organisation und Betreuung?


|
|
|
|


sehr zufrieden zufrieden wenig zufrieden nicht zufrieden

Anmerkungen:

6. Welche Themen würden Sie für zukünftigen Bürger/innengespräche und -konferenzen vorschlagen?

Anmerkungen:

7. Welche Verbesserungen sollten bei der Realisierung weiterer Bürgergespräche und -konferenzen mit diesem Konzept Ihrer Meinung nach berücksichtigt werden?

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