



REMEMBER - THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Catalogue of Ideas

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REMEMBER - CATALOGUE OF IDEAS

6 countries – 6 places of remembrance – 12 Dome Talks. That was the motto of the 2021 Remember Tour!

In a society increasingly characterised by polarising identities, voices critical of Europe and shrinking civil society space, the European Public Sphere created a common and neutral public space.

Supported by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union, the Remember Tour was a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which former French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman held on 9 May 1951. In this declaration he suggested a common European Coal and Steel Community for France, Germany and other countries willing to join. Remarkable only 5 years after the end of World War II!

To honour the Schuman Declaration as the starting point of what later developed into today's European Union, our team of 6 partners in BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, GERMA-

NY, POLAND, and ROMANIA each organised 1 event in their country in summer 2021. Strengthening acceptance, democracy and cohesion, all 12 Dome Talks of the tour took place at important sites of European remembrance. More than 180 people from 8 countries participated in the discussions. Inspired by the past, we talked about what has already been achieved and the upcoming tasks of the European Union. And there was a lot to be inspired by!

The common denominator? The Europe Dome!

Until spring 2022, our pan-European team of 6 partners analysed the material. The concrete proposals and ideas based on citizens' input are compiled in this Catalogue of Ideas. Topics range from Democracy to Economy, Environment, Politics, and Youth to LGBTQIA+. In the final stage of Remember, we handed over these suggestions to EU policy makers making citizens' ideas part of the political debate.



THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION 9 MAY 1950

On 9 May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman delivered his historic Schuman Declaration. Shortly after the end of World War II, it served as the impetus for the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951, which later developed into today's European Union. Thanks to Robert Schuman, we celebrate Europe Day every year on 9 May!

World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.

The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. In taking upon herself for more than 20 years the role of champion of a united Europe, France has always had as her essential aim the service of peace. A united Europe was not achieved and we had war.

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity. The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. Any action taken must in the first place concern these two countries.

With this aim in view, the French Government proposes that action be taken immediately on one limited but decisive point.

It proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe. The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe, and will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.

The solidarity in production thus established will make it plain that any war between France

and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible. The setting up of this powerful productive unit, open to all countries willing to take part and bound ultimately to provide all the member countries with the basic elements of industrial production on the same terms, will lay a true foundation for their economic unification.

This production will be offered to the world as a whole without distinction or exception, with the aim of contributing to raising living standards and to promoting peaceful achievements. With increased resources Europe will be able to pursue the achievement of one of its essential tasks, namely, the development of the African continent. In this way, there will be realised simply and speedily that fusion of interest which is indispensable to the establishment of a common economic system; it may be the leaven from which may grow a wider and deeper community between countries long opposed to one another by sanguinary divisions.

By pooling basic production and by instituting a new High Authority, whose decisions will bind France, Germany and other member countries, this proposal will lead to the realization of the first concrete foundation of a European federation indispensable to the preservation of peace.

To promote the realization of the objectives defined, the French Government is ready to open negotiations on the following bases. The task with which this common High Authority will be charged will be that of securing in the shortest possible time the modernization of production and the improvement of its quality; the supply of coal and steel on identical terms to the French and German markets, as well as to the markets of other member countries; the development in common of exports to other countries; the equalization and improvement of the living conditions of workers in these industries.

To achieve these objectives, starting from the very different conditions in which the production of member countries is at present situated, it is proposed that certain transitional

measures should be instituted, such as the application of a production and investment plan, the establishment of compensating machinery for equating prices, and the creation of a restructuring fund to facilitate the rationalization of production. The movement of coal and steel between member countries will immediately be freed from all customs duty, and will not be affected by differential transport rates. Conditions will gradually be created which will spontaneously provide for the more rational distribution of production at the highest level of productivity.

In contrast to international cartels, which tend to impose restrictive practices on distribution and the exploitation of national markets, and to maintain high profits, the organization will ensure the fusion of markets and the expansion of production.

The essential principles and undertakings defined above will be the subject of a treaty signed between the States and submitted for the ratification of their parliaments. The negotiations required to settle details of applications will be undertaken with the help of an arbitrator appointed by common agreement. He will be entrusted with the task of seeing that the agreements reached conform with the principles laid down, and, in the event of a deadlock, he will decide what solution is to be adopted.

The common High Authority entrusted with the management of the scheme will be composed of independent persons appointed by the governments, giving equal representation. A chairman will be chosen by common agreement between the governments. The Authority's decisions will be enforceable in France, Germany and other member countries. Appropriate measures will be provided for means of appeal against the decisions of the Authority.

A representative of the United Nations will be accredited to the Authority, and will be instructed to make a public report to the United Nations twice yearly, giving an account of the working of the new organization, particularly as concerns the safeguarding of its objectives.

The institution of the High Authority will in no way prejudice the methods of ownership of enterprises. In the exercise of its functions, the common High Authority will take into account the powers conferred upon the International Ruhr Authority and the obligations of all kinds imposed upon Germany, so long as these remain in force.

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OUR TEAM



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

Emerging around the introduction of the European Citizens' Initiative, Democracy International was founded in 2011 as a non-profit association in Cologne. The NGO aims to strengthen direct democracy and citizen participation at all political levels and advocates stronger co-decision instruments within the EU. Since 2017, Democracy International has been sparking discussions in Europe's public space with the European Public Sphere initiative. So far, more than 1200 citizens in 13 countries have entered the discussion space Europe Dome. The project's online version "Ukrainian Vibes" which brought together young people from Ukraine and the rest of Europe, recently won the national selection of the European Charlemagne Youth Prize 2022.



Asociația Pro Democrația (APD) is a non-governmental, nonprofit and nonparty affiliated organization established in 1990. We are one of the first organizations founded after the fall of the communist regime and which fights for good governance. The mission of Asociația Pro Democrația is to strengthen democracy at national and international level by encouraging civic participation. The main fields of interest and expertise of Asociația

Pro Democrația range from civic education, promoting transparency, human rights, and good governance to Romania, as a member of the European Union.

The Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens' Initiative is a non-governmental organization based in Burgas, Bulgaria that works towards consolidation and further development of Bulgarian and European democracy through citizens' empowerment for meaningful participation in decision-making and agenda-setting processes. We want every citizen's voice to be heard and counted, liberties and freedoms to be protected and misuse of government's power stopped and prevented.



Nyt Europa is a Danish association founded in 1998. Its overall aim is to promote civic engagement at Danish and European level. NE works for a more sustainable, progressive and democratic Europe and believes that the EU institutions play a central role in solving today's challenges. Nyt Europa creates public actions - debates, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, educational programmes, conferences - to strengthen public participation and knowledge. The association has a strong network of young volunteers who design debates and youth-to-youth trainings.



The Polish Robert Schuman Foundation is an NGO active since 1991. Its fundamental, statutory mission is to 'galvanise Europeans into active citizenship as well as promote European integration, and values which underpin it'. Virtually every activity undertaken by the Foundation is devoted to European matters, especially to engaging citizens for European integration, and co-shaping the future of Europe. Our approach is to reach not only those who are well acquainted with European matters, but also those who are not particularly interested in European matters on a daily basis or who are sceptical of the European project.

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan, and independent think-tank focusing on European integration and cohesion. EUROPEUM contributes

to democracy, security, stability, freedom, and solidarity across Europe as well as to active engagement of the Czech Republic in the European Union. EUROPEUM undertakes original research, organizes public events and educational activities, and formulates new ideas and recommendations to improve European and Czech policy making.



Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

OUR ITINERARY

We kicked-off the Remember Tour in July with 2 discussions at the Border Museum Schiffersgrund. Situated close to the centre of Germany, the Border Museum Schiffersgrund today presents the longest remaining part of the fence marking the former inner-German border until 1989. It keeps the memory alive of a lot of existences marked by separation and struggles for freedom but also by unification in Germany and - as was rightly pointed out during the discussions - in Europe. A place to really feel what all of us gain from unity, open borders, and shared values on a daily basis! We were happy to welcome many civil society representatives from both bordering German federal states, politicians from the local to the federal and even European level, and of course citizens!

Our next stop, also in July, took us to Bucharest. Due to the COVID19-pandemic, we could not take the actual Europe Dome to Romania. Instead, we hosted a political brunch at a local pub including a pop up wall displaying the Europe Dome. The dialogues took place directly at University Square, the city's historical Kilometre 0 of Democracy.

It was at University Square that the Romanian people fought for their liberty in December 1989 against the Ceausescu-regime. It was also at University Square that the conflict between the new rulers and the crystallizing civil society peaked in June 1990, when the new government called on miners in Jiu Valley to violently suppress anti-communist protests. Still today,

University Square is the central spot for demonstrations for democracy, liberties and European values in Bucharest. More than 40 people spent their Saturday with us thinking about democracy, corruption, East and West, the role of youth and many more current matters.

Burgas, the most South-Eastern part of the European Union, was the third stop on our Remember Tour at the beginning of August. Again, COVID19 made crossing several borders a considerable element of uncertainty, which is why the pop up wall showing the Europe Dome travelled with us to Bulgaria. Right next to the beach at Seaside Park the discussion could not have been more fruitful and relaxed.

While the demonstrations for a change in regime in November 1989 took place at Cyril and Methodius Square in the city centre, Seaside Park was one of the few places where these anti-communist and pro-democratic ideas could emerge and be spread among the citizens without putting one's life at risk. Together with again more than 40 participants and several activists who were crucial for the country's democratic development at the time and probably still today, we spent the sunny afternoon and evening discussing democracy and climate action, connecting over a homemade drink in the sunset and of course enjoying local singer Roza Bozhinova's music during the discussion break.



WorldPride 2021 in Copenhagen was the fourth highlight of the Remember Tour at the end of August. The Dome was placed at 1:1 Democracy Festival which was associated with WorldPride. The discussions brought many shortcomings and persisting threats to equality, minority rights and to Europe itself to light. Most memorable was the discussion on the worsening situation for LGBTQIA+ in Poland but also, mostly unnoticed, in Slovenia. With the Polish government proclaiming LGBTQIA+ people as the number 1 enemy of the state and parents of transgender children sending their children away because they fear for their children's lives, a strong call was made by all activists to cut EU-funding for these governments more quickly and support civil society fostering EU-values instead.

Very fittingly, the 5th stop of the Remember Tour took place at Łazienki Park in Warsaw in mid-September. These Royal Gardens, located at the centre of the capital, are known mostly because of Poland's last king, Stanisław August Poniatowski. In his summer residence he organised the famous "Thursday meetings" where the most influential people of the time discussed the functioning of the state. These meetings, among many other things, resulted in great reforms of the state, including Europe's first constitution – the Constitution of the 3rd May.

Under the Europe Dome a really international group came together and discussed, easily switching between English and Polish. A paradox was pointed out with national governments in certain countries being the entities hampering the EU's further development by twisting communication about the EU to their

citizens. At the same time, also Eurosceptic governments receive most of the EU funds and distribute them without highlighting the European support. So could a Europe of the regions help to circumvent these intermediaries if necessary?

Prague was the final stop of the Remember Tour during the yearly Festival of Democracy in mid-October. Rain could not keep our 40 participants from joining the discussions. Together with citizens, activists from the student movements of 1989, national and European politicians, we explored the state of democracy in Czech Republic right after the elections and the state of democracy in Europe. Once more, differences between Western Europe and the rest of the European Union based on the experiences with historical regimes, the role of youth, climate and many more issues were brought up.

To relive the highlights of the tour, you can find our videos, blog articles and photos of each stop here:

Website: www.publicsphere.eu

Flickr: European Public Sphere

Youtube: European Public Sphere

And don't forget to follow us on:

Facebook: @EuropeanPublicSphere

Twitter: @EU_PublicSphere

Instagram: @EU_PublicSphere

FOCUS

The following chapter shows provides a synthesis of the 12 citizen dialogues held across Europe in the framework of Remember – The European Public Sphere. To document citizens' ideas and impressions, all discussions were filmed with the participants' consent. Additionally, passers-by could write down ideas and wishes for Europe and, hence, contribute anonymously to this collection.

In the aftermath of the tour, all partners filtered the Dome Talks in their language for cit-

izens' input to be included into this Catalogue of Ideas. In this context, the term 'citizens' ideas' comprises ideas, impressions, wishes, observations and hopes of the more than 180 participants of the Remember project. The impressions were regrouped into concrete thematic categories such as Democracy or Sustainability.

Making the whole process more transparent, the dialogues remain available in full length on the European Public Sphere YouTube channel.

DEMOCRACY

One of the most discussed topics, regardless of the region of the event and the origin of the participants, was democracy. When people talked about democracy, they mainly talked about participation in decision-making. But they also talked about what democracy means and what they associate with democracy. Regardless of the topic of each Dome Talk, the discussion ultimately revolved around how to involve citizens in decision-making.

One particularly prevalent issue is that decisions in the democratic framework of the EU, but also of individual member states, are not transparent. Citizens are not asked for their opinions, and if they have questions or want to participate, they often have the feeling that they are not taken seriously. Citizens feel powerless, while the EU seems far away, almost inaccessible, viewed from their own country. Citizens particularly want a more inclusive EU that appeals to all citizens. Many citizens who participated in the Dome Talks were aware of some tools they can use to become more involved in democratic processes and institutions. But these tools are often complicated; many would like to see a reduction in bureaucracy and more direct access to decision-makers, involvement in decisions, and honest discussions about the issues that concern them. The debate on a more inclusive EU with more democratic participation also needs to extend to and include those citizens who do not have the personal means and resources to set up, for example, European Citizen Initiatives. In the following, we present criticisms and

Something that would help the European Union a lot is if they were brave enough to give citizens more power so that it's actually fun to get involved and that you have the feeling that you can change something and take your issues from the local level [...] to the European Union so that they can change something and that we also can change something.

Participant in Copenhagen

The second thing I find quite problematic here is the impression that only the less educated have problems with democracy. If only that were the case! Democracy needs democrats.

Participant at Border Museum Schiffersgrund

ideas that can help make the EU more democratic and its democracy more tangible and inviting across the EU. Citizens' input also shows very clearly how people value democracy, also at the European level. Citizens agree: Democracy cannot be taken for granted; we must uphold and protect it.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

Education, civil society, and democracy overall

- Democracy must be accessible for all. This includes democratic education for everyone, regardless of (educational) background (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- It is false to believe that purely higher education is a reason for someone to be pro-democratic or the other way around. This assumption is misleading and diminishes the necessity for the promotion of democracy itself (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Initiatives like the Youth Parliament already teach young people about the legislative processes (Bucharest)
- Associations are democratic institutions on a small scale that already enforce democratic practices (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Volunteer-work and associations should be promoted more, as especially volunteer-work is essential to a functioning democracy (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Real-life consequences of political decision-making should be more present for politicians (Bucharest)
- An introduction of a measurement of citizen satisfaction and happiness (Gross National Happiness Indicator) would be beneficial in order to offer other focal points beside economic prosperity or income (Bucharest)
- We should see democracy as a global issue, not a national one (Prague)

People see how often the voice of the European Parliament is ignored in the European decision-making process. So when people's representatives don't have any influence, how can the voice of the average European be heard?

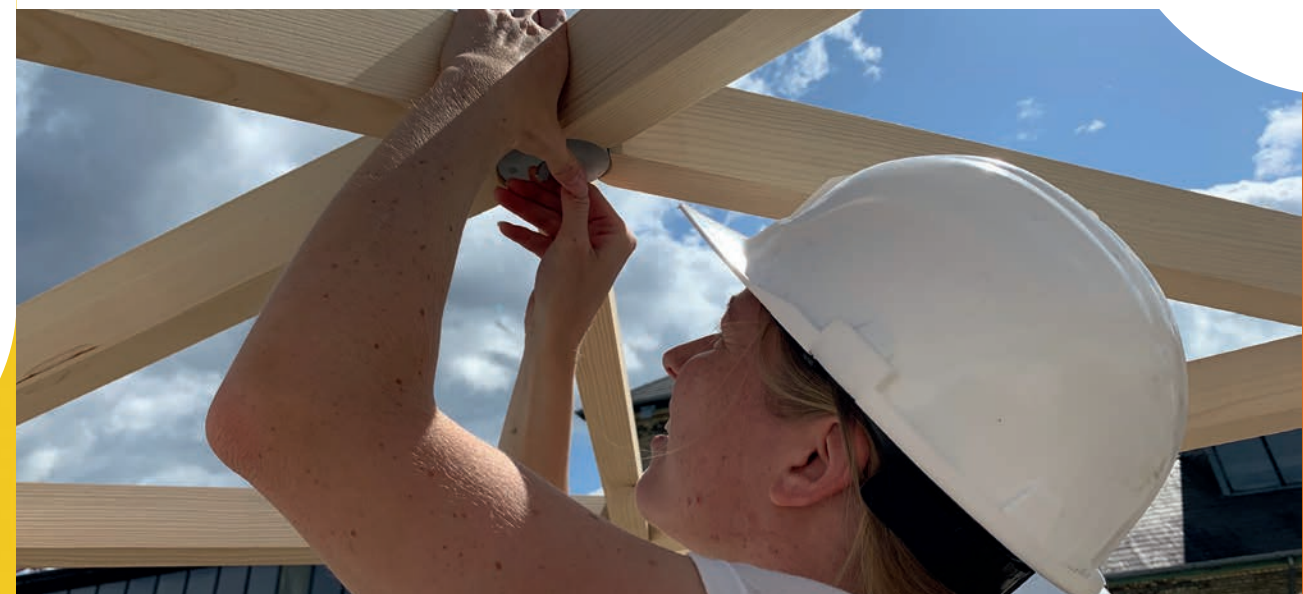
Participant in Warsaw

We have to stop looking at democracy issues per country, Europe is so interconnected that democratic issues in one European country will influence the quality of democracy in the whole European Union.

Participant in Prague

I propose the simplification of mechanisms and tools so that citizens are as close as possible to the institutions of the European Union and their needs reach the competent institutions as soon as possible.

Participant in Bucharest



Democratic trust

- Faith in democracy is decreasing and democratic institutions are not trying enough to build it back. The lack of mutual trust further feeds distrust between citizens and governments (Prague)
- Democracy cannot work if people do not trust it. A lack of citizens' trust in their government can lead them to vote for more authoritative, „strong“ governments to take care of them. Therefore, more trust in government could help in achieving a more free society (Prague)
- Some countries have a difficult relationship with the EU and at the same time the European Union is often taken for granted by its constituents (Bucharest, Prague).
- More transparency and education in terms of what the EU's role is, what the EU does and what it stands for would be important in order to understand the EU better (Warsaw)
- Democracy is not a given, we should not take it for granted. Democracy is decreasing in countries such as the Czech Republic but it has not yet reached the low level it has in Hungary (Prague)

Electoral system

- The electoral system does not guarantee political accountability and thus fake parties and referendums exist. Referendums can be problematic because they are not always used correctly in the member states (Burgas)
- Political awareness is important in order to help overcome structural problems (Prague)
- There are flaws in the electoral system, the party-system needs to be revised (Burgas)
- It is difficult to hold politicians or the system accountable (Burgas)
- Having so many hurdles in policy-making, along with the multitude of political entities that are responsible for putting ideas into action, makes the democratic process feel flawed. A concept for institutions' holistic approach towards democracy is needed (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Voting should be made more accessible to people by e.g. extending voting-by-mail options (Bucharest)

Citizen participation

- Different types of democratic systems, such as direct and representative democracy, are not necessarily mutually exclusive. It could be beneficial to have a mix of both (Copenhagen)
- Citizens participation in political decision-making or taking their problems to the officials needs to become easier (Copenhagen, Border Museum Schiffersgrund). A simplification of overly complicated mechanisms or democratic tools in decision-making processes is needed in order to ensure the closest possible proximity and understanding between constituents and politicians (Bucharest)
- There are already tools that allow active citizen participation, for example when debating normative acts (Bucharest) but it is very difficult for citizens to take actions on important issues (Burgas). There is a necessity for more awareness on possibilities of political participation, such as through European Citizens' Initiatives (ECIs) (Prague)
- Decision-makers often say they are in favour of more participation but then complicate or even block participatory initiatives, such as ECIs, leaving their constituents frustrated. As of now, even successful ECIs can often feel unsuccessful or diminished as they can be undercut by officials. A revamping of ECIs could help further constituents trust in their possibility to participate in democracy (Warsaw)

Democratic discourse

- Democracy needs debate in regards to its foundations in order to truly work. In some places, there is more than 50 years of social debate missing for this (Prague)
- Understanding the past and having active debates which include people of all ages is necessary for keeping democracy active (Border Museum Schiffersgrund).
- Political processes should leave no one behind, even those who are wary of said them (Burgas)
- It is necessary for citizens to remember the importance and value of the construct of the EU (Bucharest)
- Policymakers need to be more in touch with their constituents in order to involve them more in the decision-making process and to ensure that the will of the people is being enforced (Bucharest). A murky overview of „who does what“ is difficult. This makes politics feel inaccessible and far away. Politicians should be more willing to communicate with their constituents about different things, even if they are not part of the exact subject the politicians are working on (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)



ECONOMY

In the economic field, citizens are primarily concerned with financial equality. In 2021 we are still living in a pandemic, which also affects the financial situations of people and, ultimately, the European society. Citizens are worried, they fear for their future. While products are becoming more and more expensive, wages have often not increased. This situation is pinnacle by the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In several EU member states, participants mentioned how a handful of individuals, including politicians, used the pandemic for personal financial gains. Recent medical face mask affairs in Germany are just one example of this corruption. At the same time municipalities, but also NGOs, which are in direct contact with the citizens, are drastically underfunded.

Many see these incidences as the root of many citizens' growing anger; people often feel left alone. Distrust in their own government and institutions is on the rise.

Even when exploring Europe's economic situation in our dialogues, citizens made a connection back to democracy. Many see the problems that economic injustice brings as a major threat to democracy. Only when all people are (equally) well off financially, European citizens can continue to uphold democracy. Increased citizen participation was identified as a means to tackle economic injustice.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

Funding

- There is a stark underfunding of municipalities and independent institutions that could be disadvantageous to peoples' satisfaction (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- A lot of projects require long-term funding. The EU's two-year funding terms undermine the effort for this type of long-term projects (Copenhagen)

Economic prosperity

- Unchanging salaries during times of inflation cause people to get angry (Prague)
- The correlation between economy and democracy should not be disregarded (Prague)
- Economic well-being can support the democratic system. Policies such as universal basic income, a minimum wage, and minimum pension should be implemented for this (Prague, Bucharest)
- There should be a strive for economic equity, for social and economic justice (Bucharest, Prague)
- In order to prevent extensive inner-EU migration that may be detrimental to certain economies, the EU should try and bring all economies to an equal level (Bucharest)
- Inner-EU roaming should be free for all (Prague)

The migration of Romanian workers to Western countries must stop. Even if these countries are well served by the forces, Romania is about to perish. A solution should be found to bring all the countries of the EU on the same level to avoid the disastrous effects of these migrations.

Participant in Bucharest

I think it's very important, maybe the most important thing next to governance, to understand that we need social and economic justice. That only through social and economic justice, everybody can fully enjoy their human rights.

Participant in Prague

EDUCATION

One topic that was also particularly important to the visitors of the Dome Talks is education. Education is multi-layered and diverse, because it is often provided individually from school to school within a single country.

However, there are aspects of education that are common to all EU countries. These include, for example, multilingualism, but also educational opportunities outside of the official school systems. This includes programmes like ERASMUS, but also memorial centres and NGOs that are primarily concerned with political education.

The participants of the Dome Talks often mention that they lack a stronger involvement of EU issues in the general education of children, young people and adults. Among other things, they would like to see the EU become more involved in democratic education and in creating opportunities where adults can continuously educate themselves in the political sphere and receive the best possible support after they have finished their main education.

Participants also argued that environmental education should play a stronger role in the education of children and adults. Through the interaction of political and environmental education, community thinking and awareness of democracy would be strengthened within the EU and especially in individual member states. A stronger involvement in education would help the EU to reach all people in all walks of life, regardless of their academic education or job.

In order to achieve this, the participants would like to see a reduction in bureaucratic hurdles, less complicated funding of educational projects by the EU and more teaching about the EU and its institutions, both in schools and beyond.

Communication between the generations is also seen as a central aspect to this. Children and young people can learn a lot from their parents and grandparents, for example about what it was like without the EU and why democracy is such an important pillar of our social coexistence. Just as well, the older generations can learn from the younger ones, who might speak more languages, have studied in more countries and are more conscious about their environment.

I think we need solidarity, I believe we can work on the things that unite us and those that divide us are just signs of ignorance and lack of education. I think that Europe needs to invest more in the education of its own citizens.

Participant in Bucharest

The EU is something that we are not taught a lot in schools and don't know very much about in general. It is not like it makes the headlines and discussions among young people. Even though it's where we can make changes that affect the whole continent and the member countries.

Participant in Copenhagen



One is the idea of Erasmus for All. [...] Still [Erasmus] is designed so it just reinforces the communication between different cores of [...] Europe, but it does not contribute to the cohesion of the people from the periphery. So it does not actually have any positive effect on the nationalisation of the debate in different countries, or on the xenophobic elements.

Participant in Prague

It is very important that we also support those who are supposed to do all this work with staff, not only with project funds, which then remain single beacons, lighthouses.

Participant at Border Museum Schiffersgrund



CITIZENS' IDEAS

EU's influence on educational matters

- The EU creates (opportunities for) dialogue (Warsaw) but lacks power in educational matters (Bucharest)
- There should be a standardisation of some aspects in schools all across Europe (Copenhagen)
- Multilingualism is something that is supported and perpetuated by the EU (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- The Bologna system allows people to learn in other EU-countries (Bucharest)

Political and democratic education

- Children need to be taught the importance of democracy theoretically but also practically. Being an active citizen and the benefits that stem from this need to be taught in school (Burgas, Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Schools do not teach about the EU enough. There is a lack of understanding of what the EU does and what competencies it has, in parts due to educational frameworks combined with a lack of motivation to learn about the EU and its background (Warsaw, Copenhagen)
- There are good, existing initiatives that educate on matters of democracy (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- There needs to be stronger support for voluntary work (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Redefining social and civic competencies as citizen competencies furthers a sense of European-ness (Bucharest)
- In terms of travel it is highly beneficial to visit places one does not know in order to combat stereotypes and prejudices (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- History needs to be documented in a thorough, reflected and unbiased way in order to not forget the value of today's freedoms (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- There should be dialogue towards young people on what it was like without the EU (Warsaw)
- By inviting people from places without democracy and good governance as guest speakers (e.g. to schools) people can get a better appreciation for democracy and its values (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Democracy cannot only be taught to adolescents by ways of older generations, democracy needs to be taught in interactive ways fitting to the various age groups (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- The situation of refugees should be thematised in schools (Warsaw)

Accessibility to education

- More funding and other monetary support should go towards education (Bucharest)
- Financial aid aside, there also needs to be support in finding or educating the persons previously not involved in EU activities (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)

- School curriculums often do not provide or have enough time nor staff for good, sufficient political education (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Political education should not be exclusive to those currently in schools. Grown-ups, especially those that have had hardly any political education in school also need to have the possibilities of being informed on and learning about politics (Bucharest, Burgas)
- Erasmus programmes should not be solely tied to education and instead be made more accessible to further the European feeling between all parts of Europe (Prague)
- There need to be more possibilities for EU-citizens to share their European experiences (such as Erasmus+) in order to gain more participants and strengthen the European identity beyond the participants (Warsaw)
- Education must be accessible to all and disregard classes (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)

EQUALITY

Injustice was one of the hot topics. This injustice is particularly evident in the unequal treatment of people within the EU and in different contexts.

Unequal treatment for example persists among different citizens of different countries: some feel they are considered less valuable than people in other countries. Crises that affect only a minority are not taken as seriously as EU-wide crises. Participants felt refugees from war and crisis zones are left alone by the EU and its member states. Human rights are less protected in Europe's East than in the West.

People with lower incomes or education levels have fewer opportunities to participate in democracy and tools like the European Citizen Initiative. They are also not sufficiently supported in the educational system. People living in rural areas receive less attention than people living in urban areas. The concerns of young people are not taken as seriously as those of the older population in most countries.

The participants of the Dome Talks would like to see more support from the EU for equal treatment of all people in all countries, of all regions, regardless of wealth or level of education. They want a more inclusive Europe where everyone gets the support they need.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

(In-)Equality for EU-citizens

- There is a disparity between how citizens from different member states are being treated and how much they trust the EU (Bucharest, Copenhagen)
- There is a different level in trust towards democratic institutions between Northern and Southern member states (Copenhagen)
- Citizens from rural areas often feel disconnected from what they see as distant, elitist politics (Prague)



As as someone from the diaspora, I believe that European citizens are of two kinds [...]. Eastern European citizens are treated as second class citizens in Western Europe. I have seen and felt this first hand. [...] And I think this should be solved in the European Parliament so that there are no more double standards.

Participant in Bucharest

This is also very characteristic of our society, the way we deal with the issue of flight and migration today. [...] It's actually a core issue. It is THE core issue. [...] And I am shocked, again and again, how we deal with the topic on the supra-regional level - no matter whether it's the state or the federal government or Europe. There is a lack of uniform regulations and, above all, a lack of a clear commitment to human rights, which is a core element of democracy.

Participant at Border Museum Schiffersgrund

- It is too difficult to talk about social justice. A discussion needs to be started on how to create an even more inclusive society for all Europeans (Prague) and there needs to be a greater dialogue with EU citizens (Copenhagen)
- ECIs are helpful to put topics of equality on the agenda, but they are difficult to access and do not offer an opportunity to be directly involved in the decision-making process (Warsaw)

Equality and human rights

- Refugees need better treatment (Warsaw)
- There need to be more discussions with victims of flight and violence (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Human rights issues are not being taken seriously by certain member states (Prague)
- Certain issues and crises are being ignored for various reasons by pretending they do not affect the EU (Warsaw)
- It is necessary for there to be a way in which people who need extra support can get this support. For this, all citizens, regardless of any background, need to be taken seriously (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)



LGBTQIA+

One topic covered extensively and widely connected to the ideal of equality was the situation of the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ stands for the community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual people as well as other people on the spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities and their allies, including in common culture or social movements. The treatment of the members of this community within the EU is a topic that was close to the hearts of the participants of the Dome Talks. There are, of course, differences across the EU. The LGBTQIA+ community was a particularly central topic in Copenhagen, where participants in the Dome Talks at WorldPride 2021 talked mainly about the unequal treatment of the community in the Central and Eastern parts of the EU.

It is countries like Poland that were especially worrying to the participants, where the Church and politics have jointly been contributing to the defamation of the LGBTQIA+ community for some time now. As a result, queer people there are under permanent pressure, are seen as enemies of the state and are afraid to live in their homeland. According to the participants there is

a lot of support from the communities of European neighbour states; a lot of people, members of the queer community or allies, are showing solidarity with people who are discriminated against in their home countries because of their sexual orientation or their overall identity. What concerned participants is that queer people in countries like Poland are being let down by the EU. European citizens want more support through funding for queer-friendly and supportive NGOs, but also an enforced European standard and set of rules regarding discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA+ community across the EU.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

The EU and the LGBTQIA+ community

- LGBTQIA+ people's rights should not be a politicised issue (Prague)
 - The Church's influence on political matters is too big (Bucharest)
 - Cultural norms are being used as excuses to discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community (Prague)
 - In some EU member states there are no rights for people of the LGBTQIA+ community as, for example, in Poland and increasingly and mostly unnoticed in countries like Slovenia. This community is specifically targeted by the government because it is seen as an enemy of the state. Discrimination as such causes people to have serious - e.g. mental health - problems and to be scared to remain in their home countries. The situation has become so hopeless that parents of transgender children are sending their children away because they are fearing for their lives (Copenhagen, Prague)
 - The EU should have a system in which hate crimes against the LGBTQIA+ community can be reported and followed-up on (Copenhagen)
 - Funding for LGBTQIA+ supporting organisations is too hard to come by, especially in Eastern Europe. Funding for governments disrespecting human and LGBTQIA+ rights should be cut and redistributed to civil society fostering a society rooted in these values (Copenhagen)
- The European Commission's LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the EU declaring itself an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone were welcomed as first steps that the EU now needs to build on (Copenhagen)

EU citizens and the LGBTQIA+ community

- There is already a lot of awareness around and empathy for those who are being discriminated against in Poland, nonetheless there needs to be even more awareness for the topic (Copenhagen)
- There is a lot of support in most parts of European society for the LGBTQIA+ community (Prague)
- There should be more education on the situation of LGBTQIA+ people (Copenhagen)
- Political activism - even in forms as small as just reporting hate speech - should be valued (Copenhagen)

You mentioned in the beginning that people are afraid of reporting to the police, so they do it through Instagram or self-driven initiatives. Shouldn't the EU have a global, EU-wide way to report crimes, hate crimes and these kinds of things?

Participant in Copenhagen

Activism is not such a huge thing as people commonly think. Activism is reporting hate speech on Facebook. [...] You can show solidarity with minority groups on a special occasion or without any special occasion. That is activism! This is something that we all can do!

Participant in Copenhagen

LGBT people strongly look up to the EU institutions because they see it as a family. Family who may approve the issues we are not sure about. Family representing the West who will say, yes, you can implement it, we have made good experiences with it.

Participant in Prague

LGBTI people don't have rights in Poland. There is no hate crime and hate speech legislation. We do have three panel codes for hate speech and hate crimes, but they don't have a premise of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. The law proposals were proposed I don't know how many times. They were always rejected. We don't have equal partnerships. We don't have same sex marriages. We don't have legal gender recognition. We have nothing basically.

Participant in Copenhagen

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

Media & communication affects participants on many levels. The omnipresent Covid-19 crisis casts a special spotlight on the current situation. Many people in the EU want to be able to rely on media coverage and communication by politicians but have many concerns.

On the one hand, there were many comments on communication between the EU and EU citizens. Many do not feel aware of what the EU decides and on what basis it does so. While the vast majority of politicians is very active and committed, citizens often complain that politicians only make speeches and promises that they eventually do not keep, both at the EU level and at the national level. Too often they are perceived as not caring about exchange with citizens and prejudiced against less educated, less well-off people from more rural areas. In general, citizens wish for their politicians to be more open to improve communication and they would like to see more open communication between the EU, EU politicians and citizens.

On the other hand, many participants experience themselves as lacking necessary communication skills. Especially in the Covid-19 pandemic, dialogue between people who hold different opinions and views has become increasingly difficult.

Many participants wish that people would once again approach each other more openly and respect each other. One should build upon common ground instead of emphasising differences. Discussions should again be conducted more rationally instead of emotionally.

The latter could be strengthened above all if the EU, but also individual member states, were to take stronger action against misinformation. The participants in the Dome Talks noted that disinformation is a problem for the entire EU and that this should be addressed accordingly.

The proposals from participants are numerous: Media training also for adults outside the school system, legislative interventions against the targeted dissemination of fake news and institutions that monitor and reflect behaviour on social media.

CITIZENS' IDEAS:

Exchange and collaboration

- The EU itself is far away from the reality of actual people. Improvement of communication between the EU and its member states is needed (Copenhagen)
- Perceptions of how the EU is currently performing are often different in different member states (Copenhagen)



- There are NGOs that are doing great work on democracy, however, there is almost no link between political parties and civil society, for example the NGO sector (Prague)
- We live in a world where immediate response rules over thinking and reflecting. This is infringing on politicians' possibilities to come up with sound solutions (Prague)
- Citizens find it hard to trust politicians because they are often perceived as talking without acting. Further prejudices, such as that politicians are unapproachable, also make communication difficult (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- We Europeans should radiate confidence, we should exchange and develop ideas more often and push them forward (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)

COVID-19

- Governments overreact while dealing with the pandemic (Prague)
- COVID-19 has put the spotlight on problems of democracy and shown that we now personally have to take on more responsibility (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Society is divided (Bucharest, Prague) and the Coronavirus makes it hard to discuss with people. People sometimes no longer agree on basic facts or values. There are more conflicts within families due to vaccination discussions. Trying to find common ground is the main prerequisite to stay in conversation with people. We need to be more considerate of each other (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Part of our democracy is having personal responsibilities, for example deciding ourselves whether or not to get vaccinated. Nonetheless, personal responsibility as such does not exclude taking other people into consideration (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)

(Social) Media literacy

- We need to create social institutions or networks to figure out how to reflect and work ethically in the social media sphere and how to work with information in general (Prague)
- Adults also need to learn how to deal with (online) media (Bucharest)
- Journalists in the Czech Republic (and elsewhere) are under pressure. Freedom of press is not a given because journalists must fear lawsuits for their work (Prague)
- In order to protect journalists (or for them to defend themselves) against attacks on the freedom of press or the freedom of expression there needs to be (e.g. legal) training for them (Bucharest)
- Control is needed over what information children have access to (Bucharest)
- Some member states are perpetuating a narrative of how harmful the EU is (Copenhagen)
- The problem of dis- and misinformation is an EU-wide problem. The EU does not have the necessary resources to combat misinformation. Legislative interventions against large platforms are needed (Bucharest)

If Winston Churchill were forced to use Twitter, I'm quite sure he would have lost the war. Not because he would not be able to make good Tweets, he would be, but he would not be able, I think, to suffer the permanent pressure of the public and the need for reaction. You need time to reflect, time to react. The government also needs time to react, and democratic institutions need time to react, while we live in a world where immediate response is the one that rules.

Participant in Prague

I wish for more respect. What concerns me most at the moment [...] is the tone that has taken hold. The anger, the aggression, also partly the hate so that we can't talk to each other anymore.

Participant at Border Museum Schiffersgrund

Media literacy is no longer for young people, media literacy is for everyone. We are tempted to link the term education to youth because in our minds, whether we know it or not, we think that education is done in school and once we are done with school 10, 12, 15, 17 years old, we are done with education.

Participant in Bucharest

(GEO)POLITICS

The political situation within the EU and its individual member states was another topic on top of citizens' agendas. Citizens are particularly concerned that individual states within the EU are increasingly invoking their sovereignty, barely a year after Brexit.

Many citizens have the feeling that the EU is barely holding together because countries are intent on their own goals. In addition to that, Dome Talk participants worry that human rights are being violated in individual European states, that states are moving further and further away from the rule of law, all seemingly without EU action that could improve the situation for the citizens in those countries.

Many see the solution for this in national politics, but also at the EU level: policymakers should be more approachable and open to people's problems. Cooperation between states is considered positive in many aspects. Above all, citizens enjoy the freedoms they have in other countries through the EU and the cooperation for peace.



CITIZENS' IDEAS

Differences in nations' relationships with the EU

- The different ways that member states deal with laws is problematic (Copenhagen)
- Some nations are sabotaging the EU while profiting from it (Warsaw)
- Many MEPs blame the EU for things that are going or have gone wrong (Prague)
- EU member states might take issue with their citizens relying more on the EU than on them overtime (Warsaw)
- States are not committed enough to the EU in order for them to solve problems on the EU-level (Copenhagen)
- People blame the EU for inactivity on certain issues and yet do not lend them the power in order to take action (Prague)
- Leaving the EU is not a feasible solution to issues, as Brexit has shown (Prague)
- In some places, basic human rights are being undermined and ignored. There, the only focal point is the economic advantages that arise through the EU (Copenhagen)
- Some countries are stirring up anti-migration and anti-refugee sentiments (Copenhagen, Warsaw)
- It is very hard to streamline politics between states that used to be communist and the other Western states (Prague)

Issues at EU level

- The EU rarely takes a stand on political issues that do not affect it or on difficult topics, thus giving the impression that the EU is weak and disregards or ignores other countries' issues. For example, the EU sees the rise in the (far-)right but is not undertaking anything against it (Copenhagen)
- There is a lot of pressure on the EU for various reasons, for example ideological ones (Prague)
- There are parties partaking in the political decision-making process that are anti-democratic and that suppress freedoms (Prague)
- There was little to no communication between similar parties e.g. the green parties during EU-wide elections (Prague)
- Extensive bureaucracy makes potential projects unfeasible (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)

Positive aspects and potential solutions to EU-wide issues

- International institutions are preventing wars (Prague)
- There needs to be stronger inner-EU-cooperation (Copenhagen)
- The strengthening of the European Parliament will make people feel more heard and thus give them more reason to trust and put their faith in the EU again (Warsaw)
- There should be a stronger federalisation in the EU in order to make it harder for states to get around EU policies and to thus strengthen the EU (Bucharest)
- The EU shouldn't take on too many tasks but instead focus on executing the fewer ones well (Copenhagen). At the same time, politicians should also tackle issues outside of their fields (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- In order to tackle certain issues that might arise due to nationalities and national tensions, cooperation at a regional level between similar areas might be beneficial (Warsaw)
- Several of the solutions mentioned in the field of democracy apply: Politicians should strive for more contact with their constituents and there needs to be more accountability for politicians' actions (Burgas, Prague)

I think that the idea of a united Europe is very welcome, very natural and healthy and I think that in this sense it should go more towards federalization, because if a greater degree of sovereignty is given to the states there could be slippages.

Participant in Bucharest

I think the EU needs to be as modest as possible and only take on as few things as possible, but then do them very well and in a very clear way and with a lot of possibility to enforce the rules that are actually made.

Participant in Copenhagen

Maybe the Europe of regions would be the answer. Somehow people from different regions, they can find much more in common when they are talking about problems connected to their regions and their local surroundings. [...] Maybe this is even the future for Europeans because we would start thinking in a wider perspective.

Participant in Warsaw



SUSTAINABILITY

Just like all other issues in this Catalogue of Ideas, environmental sustainability is one that no country in the EU can afford to avoid. The consequences of climate change are felt in every corner of the EU: floods in Germany, forest fires in Greece and melting ice in the Alps. Accordingly, the issue of environmental protection is important to citizens.

On the one hand, the participants of the Dome Talks emphasise the responsibility of the citizens. It is important that everyone realises that the environment concerns everyone. The problem here is often a lack of interest. In order to draw attention to issues of sustainability, these should be dealt with in popular culture and brought to the forefront through different forms of art. Many associations and individual citizens are already active in environmental protection, on a voluntary basis.

On the other hand, citizens also believe that they alone cannot stop climate change. Both politics and the economy in the individual EU countries must be held accountable. The EU should play a central role in this.

According to the participants, legal foundations are needed to encourage individuals and companies to take more responsibility for the environment. A central systematic convert is needed in order to achieve a change towards less climate change. In addition, citizens would like the topic to be dealt with more intensively in schools, so children learn what it means to be an active and responsible citizen and how to take the protection of the environment seriously at an early age.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

Citizens for sustainability

- Environmentalism should be mainstream culture. Sustainability starts with the people. Therefore, there has to be education for all on this matter (Burgas)
- More ecological awareness about the close ties between

humans and their climate is needed, as we are a part of nature ourselves (Burgas)

- Consumerism and lack of appreciation for the environment are dangerous for the environment and should be fought (Burgas)
- There is a lot of environmental activism already, which is great. Still, there should be more incentives and motivation to become active (Burgas)
- Activism for sustainability does not only come in one form, it can be conveyed in many ways, for example through visual arts (Burgas)
- Being environmentally aware and active means putting pressure on both the national governments and the EU to do the same (Burgas)

Systemic sustainability

- There needs to be a systematic change in order to stop climate change and achieve environmental progress (Burgas)
- Laws are needed that protect the environment (Burgas)
- Sustainability is not solely the responsibility of individuals, corporations also need to play their part. Every company can ensure that their ecological damage is held at as small a level as possible (Burgas)
- It is necessary to ensure that whole economic sectors turn in more environmentally friendly directions, away from pollution. A political response is overdue (Burgas)
- Local municipalities sometimes do not comply with their own regulations, which puts all the responsibility on their constituents. This cannot continue, as the people cannot do it alone (Burgas)

Everything related to ecology starts with each of us, starts with the literacy of our children, by showing our attitude to the environment we live in, with perseverance and consistency (which is more or less the same) and most of all with our actions.

Participant in Bucharest

I, myself, have gone through different stages of my own environmental awareness and I still think that individual examples and everyday steps are very important, but we also need systemic change. Nothing would happen without such a change. And we don't have enough time, we don't have the luxury of allowing ourselves to do things slowly, slowly. No! Adequate, timely measures must be taken at a more serious level, on a larger scale.

Participant in Bucharest

In fact, part of being eco-friendly is being an active citizen and demanding that your government and the EU and the world itself be eco-friendly.

Participant in Bucharest





VALUES

28 years after the founding of the EU, its values were discussed in all the countries welcoming the Europe Dome in 2021. When the EU was founded, values such as justice, social protection, solidarity, mutual respect between peoples and, most importantly, strict respect for international law were established.

Almost 30 years later, however, European citizens are asking themselves which values the EU represents at all, especially when people are dying at its borders while trying to find a safe space to live, with the lack of political representation of women and minorities, and recent threats to the livelihoods of the LGBTQIA+ community. Populism, racism, and crises seem to be shaking the foundations of the EU and also the views of the European people. Although there are already enough reasons to move closer together, many citizens are afraid that the divisions in society will become greater and that it will take an even bigger wake-up call than the ones that have already taken place in recent years.

Even though there are great projects on the part of the EU and Europeans have many common values, people want a stronger commitment to human rights, more cooperation for these values, more promotion of inter-European exchange and the long-term guarantee of peace, open borders and prosperity.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

Defining European values

- Equality is a big European value (Warsaw)
- There needs to be a reflection of everything that the EU has achieved so far in order to strengthen our European identity. Inter-EU exchanges and furthered political conversation may help Europeans engage more with the European spirit and values (Warsaw)
- We need to reflect upon our values: What do we stand for if refugees are dying at our borders? (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Freedom and peace should be our focal points for the future (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Art and culture should be held at an equally important level as political factors and other shared values (Copenhagen)
- Europeans have a lot in common (Prague). Still, it is partially unclear what the EU's concrete values are. It would be helpful to have a kind of common basis in order to better understand them (Copenhagen, Warsaw)
- It is necessary for us to retain and pass on our European values (Bucharest)
- Europe is about stability and helping each other; it means collaboration and leaving differences aside, for example by defeating national biases (Warsaw). The solution for the future can only be working together as a joint European Union through more collaborated, joint action (Warsaw, Prague)
- The future is one without borders (Burgas, Warsaw)

I think there should be more emphasis on another indicator. An indicator that shows the degree of happiness, satisfaction, and fulfilment of people, because apart from income and money, I think it is important how happy people are.

Participant in Bucharest

For me, Europe and the future are kind of the same. Europe is the future and that should be our future here in Poland, which is not a mainstream opinion at the moment considering our government.

Participant in Warsaw

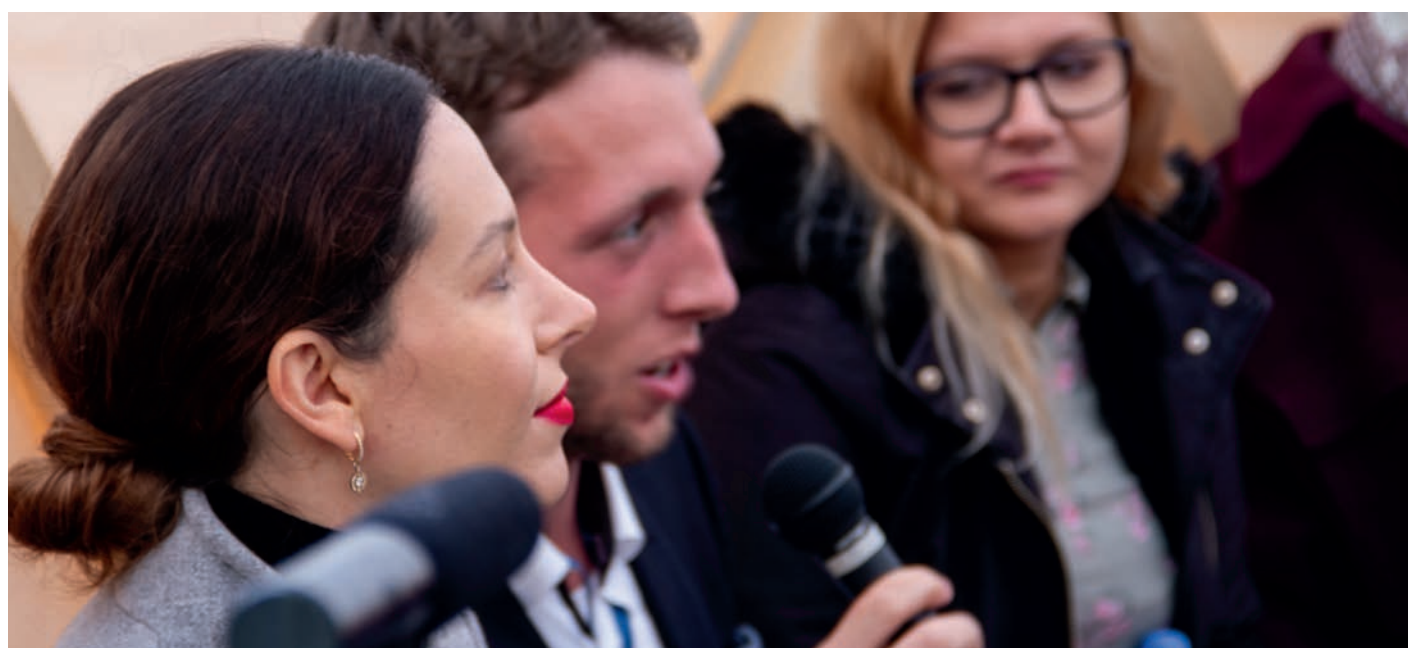
Our only way forward is to be members of [the] European Union, active members of [the] European Union, and try to stay rooted in Europe no matter what happens. Because that's our only way.

We are not a small country, we are a middle-sized country, but outside of Europe, outside of that network of cultural and traditional values, we would be really lost as a country.

Participant in Prague

Among other things, we Bulgarians should stop opposing "us" to "the ones over there, in Europe" or "those there in Brussels". We are part of Europe, and if we don't feel European enough, it is not because Brussels is telling us that we are not, but because we cannot accept that fact yet.

Participant in Burgas



Threats to European values

- There should be a shift away from nations and their borders and towards Europe as a whole, also in language. We should no longer talk about “them” and “us” (Prague, Burgas)
- Populism is one of the biggest threats to the EU (Warsaw)
- The political landscape is in need of a wake-up call that does not feel like it has arrived yet (Prague)
- Some nations’ political centre-left parties that are important for a balanced political landscape are disappearing (Prague)
- Some places in the EU are experiencing a corrosion of democracy. There therefore needs to be a strengthening of democratic institutions and their values (Prague)
- There is sometimes a cycle of hope and then frustration towards the EU when things do not get better even though it was promised or when for example democratic systems are undone. This cycle is especially prevalent in Eastern European states (Prague)
- Anti-migration and anti-Roma sentiments are being normalised in some member states. There needs to be a stronger protection of human rights (Prague)
- Big corporations such as Google and Facebook have immense power on issues such as human rights issues and need to be controlled better (Prague)
- The EU relies on many foreign nations to supply them with basic necessities (Warsaw)
- In the past, crises have been overcome. Nonetheless, there needs to be a stronger focus on crisis prevention in order to ensure a future (Warsaw)Yout



YOUTH

Youth is also a topic that has received a lot of attention during all Dome Talks and at all other stops so far. This is hardly surprising; movements like Fridays for Future are present in all countries in Europe and young people everywhere care about the future they will live in. Especially on the topics of equality, LGBTQIA+ and democracy, many young people raised their voice during the talks, but also other participants spoke up for young people.

The participants noted that political interest among young people is very high and continues to grow. Young people in Europe have praised existing opportunities for participation in the EU, including the European Youth Parliament.

For the participants of the Dome Talks it is important to promote this interest and to approach young people openly so that they do not lose interest. It is necessary to actively reach out to them and support them in networking and democracy-building across Europe.

CITIZENS' IDEAS

Youth participation in the democratic landscape

- Even though there are tools that involve European youth, they are by far not enough (Copenhagen, Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- European youth barely has a role in the political landscape, as they usually are not represented in EU- or national parliaments (Copenhagen)
- Young people are often very politically interested and active. It is important that youth continues to be willing to participate politically, regardless of the conditions. They should be trusted and actively involved in the democratic process more often and there should be more support to help youth grow more in this regard (Border Museum Schiffersgrund, Prague)
- Youth will fight for their democratic rights (Burgas). European youth should be taught to perceive democracy as a project necessary of their work and participation (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- It would be beneficial to connect engaged youth and provide them with (financial) support (Border Museum Schiffersgrund)
- Communication between political decision-makers and Europe an youth needs to be furthered (Copenhagen)

We are not necessarily reflected in the system because they talk with another language. When you look at the members of parliament, the average age is somewhat - I am sorry not to offend anybody here - but they are old.

Participant in Copenhagen

Give the youth some credit. That is very, very important to me. I always hear that young people are disenchanted with politics, I don't believe it.

Participant at Border Museum Schiffersgrund



WHAT IS LEFT TO SAY...

Sadly our Remember Tour has come to an end. However, a holistic European Public Sphere is far from being finished. Democracy International has been building such a participatory sphere for Europe's citizens since 2017. In five years, the Europe Dome has hosted more than 1200 citizens in over 100 discussions in 13 countries. And the next tours are already in the making!

You want stay tuned? Simply follow our work or join one of our Dome Talks in your area. We hope to see you there!

Website: www.publicsphere.eu
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Finally, we want to thank all the people who made this Catalogue of Ideas possible through their commitment to Europe and our common future in it:

Our partners, interns, European decision-makers, and of course our inspiring participants.

Lastly, we would like to thank the European Commission for their support of the Remember - The European Public Sphere project.



