EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT - 101081596			
Participant:	1- SUEDWIND		
PIC number:	947797089		
Project name and acronym:	My Participation Revolution – My Revolution		

EVENT DESCRIPTION					
Event number:	9 (work package 9)				
Event name:	1 st European Conference				
Туре:	Conference				
In situ/online:	In situ				
	Austria, Vienna, VHS Praterstern, Praterstern 1, 1020 Vienna				
Location:	(Sept 21 to Sept	22) and VHS Rudolfsheim, Sch	wendergasse		
	41, 1150 Vienna (Sept 23)				
Date(s):	Sept. 20 – Sept. 24,2023				
Website(s) (if any): www.suedwind.at/myrevolution					
Participants					
Female:	61				
Male:	38				
Non-binary:	0				
From country 1 [Austria]:	41				
From country 2 [Poland]:	21				
From country 3 [Italy]:	20				
From country 4	17				
[Slovenia]:	1/				
Total number of	99	From total number of	4		
participants:		countries:	7		

Description

Conference Output

The 1st European Conference took place in Vienna, Austria from september 20 to september 24, 2023. 99 Students and youth workers / teachers of Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Italy took part in the conference. The 10 topics discussed by the youngsters were the outcome of the four national conferences that had taken place before:

- Sustainability and Consumption Issues
- Environment and Animal Rights
- Energy and Transport
- Migration and Integration
- Health and Social Issues
- Economy
- Work and Labour
- Education
- Digitalization, Social Media, Data Protection, Al and Machine Learning
- Democracy, Participation and Civil Rights

World café sessions and committee work sessions led to the composure of the first of a youth manifesto, consisting of an introductional part as well as of the demands regarding the 10 topics (see below).

A conference video giving an overview of the conference days and 5 interview – videos were produced. (see links below).

Social events and a City tour focussing on democracy and political participation completed the program.

A conference evaluation was conducted at the end of the event by using Mentimeter.

Sex aggregated data

Participants

While the Slovenian delegation consisted of 14 youngsters and 3 youth workers/teachers, the Polish delegation consisted of 18 youngsters (one of the students being of Ukrainian origin but part of the Polish delegation) and 3 youth workers/teachers. The Italian delegation consisted of 17 youngsters and 3 youth workers/teachers, the Austrian one of 32 students and 5 teachers/youth workers and 3 persons from « Suedwind » and Mr. Gabriel Toggenburg from the Agency of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

	Slovenia	Poland	Italy	Austria
youngsters	12 female	15 female	8 female	16 female
youngsters	2 male	3 male	9 male	16 male
adults	3 female	2 female	3 female	2 female
	3 Terriale	1 male	3 Terriale	7 male
total	15 female	17 female	11 female	18 female
	2 male	4 male	9 male	22 male

Invitation and Agenda

This was the conference program, sent to all partners in advance and handed out to the participants:



22-09-2023 Conference Day 2

07:30 - 08:00	breakfast at the hostel
08:30	meet in front of the hostel for departure to conference venue VHS Praterstern, 1 Praterstern, 1020 Vienna
09:30 - 11:00	committee work
11:00 - 12:00	social media and interview session
12:00 - 13:00	lunch break
13:00 - 15:00	committee work
15:00 - 17:30	"My Revolution" - city tour
	return to hostel
19:00	meet in front of hotel for dinner at the karaoke bar "Mai Kai",
	1-3 Gablenzgasse, 1150 Vienna (Lugner City)
from 19:30	Indian dinner and karaoke evening

23-09-2023 Conference Day 3

07:30 - 08:00	breakfast at the hostel
08:30	meet in front of the hostel for departure to conference venue VHS Rudolfsheim, 41 Schwendergasse, 1150 Vienna
09:30 - 13:00	plenary session presentation of the draft manifesto
13:00 - 14:00	lunch
	free afternoon for sightseeing and shopping
18:30	meet in front of the hostel for dinner at the Latin-American restaurant "Mibarrio", 2 Münzwardeingasse, 1060 Vienna
from 19:00	farewell-dinner and party

24-09-2023 Departure Day

07:30 - 08:30	breakfast at the hostel

European Youth Conference Curriculum

Arrival day

September 20, 2023

The delegations from Slovenia, Poland and Italy all arrived by train (SLO, IT) or bus (PL) in the afternoon of September 20 at the hostel and were picked up by the Austrian delegation for a short walk to dinner. To make first connections and get to know each other the youngsters where assigned to the tables provided by mixing the four different nations on each table.

Conference Day 1

September 21, 2923

Every morning students from the Austrian delegation met the other students at the hostel and accompanied them to the conference venues, the two different VHS – education centers in the 2nd (Sept 21 and 22) and 15th districts (Sept 23) in Vienna by public transport.

After a short self-introduction of all four delegations Mr. Stefan Grasgruber, head of campaigning, opened the conference officially and welcomed the students by emphasizing the importance of political engagement and participation by the young generation of the European Union. In connection with his motivating speech, the brochures explaining possibilities of youth participation published by the VHS were handed out to the students.

In the next sequence of the conference, the E-democracy-portal (www.my-revolution.eu) was shortly introduced by the Suedwind-staff in order to explain all the possibilities of commenting on, liking, and/or amending the draft introductory parts of the manifesto. It was uploaded on the portal a few days after the conference and will be open for comment for the next months until the 2nd European Conference in Bologna.

By that time the Austrian students had already written abstracts of the 10 issues discussed at the conference, that could be found on the homepage. Also a video introducing the 10 issues that had been produced some weeks before the conference by the students of HTL Spengergasse, one of the Austrian schools participating, was uploaded. Please watch the video "First European Conference Topics": https://my-revolution.eu/ This introductory video was shown at the conference before the participants headed off for the worldcafé sessions.

Next on the agenda was the expert input given by Mr. Gabriel TOGGENBURG, Head of the Human Rights, Structures & Mechanisms Sector Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit of FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights). First he showed the students different charter tools and materials from https://fra.europa.eu/de/eu-charter/fra-charter-resources, especially addressing and focussing on the rights of young people living in the European Union followed by a presentation about rights of younger people in the EU.His input was followed by a Q & A – session, leading to a lengthy open discussion with the audience, in which the students took part so enthusiastically that it had to be broken off in order to keep to the schedule.

At all three lunch breaks from sept 21 to sept 23 there was only served vegetarian and vegan food in accordance with the sustainability guidelines and the focus on animal- and environmental protection of the four participating organisations and with the idea of putting the theoretical principles of the manifesto written by the students into practice. After lunch the world café sessions took place. The students rotated from one working table to the next, giving their personal input on all the 10 issues discussed at the conference.

Participants had been asked to rank the topics in order of their urgency for discussion. The following ones made it into the first European conference:

- I Sustainability and Consumption Issues
- II Environment and Animal Rights
- III Energy and Transport
- IV Migration and Integration
- V Health and Social Issues
- VI Economy
- VII Work and Labour
- VIII Education
- IX Digitalization, Social Media, Data Protection, Al and Machine Learning
- X Democracy, Participation and Civil Rights

(see Manifesto part 1 below for further details of the outcome)

In order to support the students in their committee work, the booklet "EU & ME" had been ordered from the European Union before the conference and each student got a printed version for free.

In the evening of conference day 1 the Austrian students gathered in the kitchen of the hostel to cook the famous Austrian sweet dish "Kaiserschmarren" with applesauce for all conference participants, thus about 100 portions.

After dinner the hostel-party started, with informal lobbying by the youthful chairs of the committees to make interested students sign up for their committee sessions on the next day.

Conference Day 2

September 22, 2023

Again some Austrian students picked up the foreign guests at the hostel to accompany them to the conference venue VHS Praterstern, where students split up into 10 groups, according to the 10 issues to be discussed. Every table was equipped with several laptops and a big monitor, so that all committee members could actively participate in formulating the introductory part of the manifesto as well as discussing related demands In the end of the morning session time was given to produce interview videos with members of the different committees, asking what seem to be the most important agendas concerning their topics and what the main goals are they are hoping to achieve. These videos can all be found on Instagram: myrevolution youth.

In the mid afternoon Mr. Stefan Grasgruber, head of campaigning of "Suedwind", picked the students up at the conference venue and took them on a city tour that lasted more than two hours. Because the group was so big, Suedwind had pre-organized the an Audiosystem in order to make sure that each and every one could easily listen to his explanations on the Vienna sights.

In the evening the foreign delegations were again picked up at their hostel by their Austrian colleagues and taken to an entertainment center, where all participants first had a vegan Indian dinner buffet, followed by the amusement-highlight of the conference, the karaoke-evening.

Students from all four nations sang songs in their national languages as well as in English together. Further pictures and a video showing all students dancing a polonaise together can be found on the Instagram page www.myrevolution.ng youth.

After the very successful karaoke event the bigger part of the group was accompanied home to the hostel by Austrian students, some older Slovenian, Polish and Italian students were taken to a students' bar by some older Austrian students for a "nightcap"

Conference Day 3

September 23, 2023

On the last day of the conference the Austrian student guides took the foreign delegations to VHS Rudolfsheim, where the plenary assembly took part. This final event was organised as follows:

Each of the 10 committees had chosen two speakers who came up to the stage and presented their part of the draft manifesto, each topic consisting of an introductory part and demands.

Everyone could also read the texts as they were shown on the beamer. After the presentation, the audience had the opportunity to propose amending or changing a demand or even deleting it from the list. By using a mentimeter code the audience could now support or turn down the proposal. Proposals that were supported by more than 50% of the audience were accepted and added to the manifesto.

This way a genuinely democratic process which all conference participants could be part of was ensured and everyone, no matter what committee he or she had belonged to the day before, could still propose changes to every part of the manifesto.

This procedure took about three hours and was chaired by the students themselves.

Vegetarian and vegan pizza was ordered for a late lunch before the delegation separated and had time off for further sightseeing, again accompanied by Austrian students, or to return to the hostel for packing and time to relax before the farewell evening.

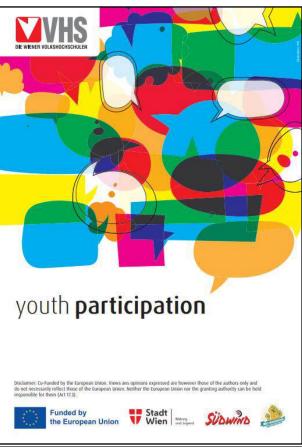
In that evening the Austrian students accompanied the guest delegations to a famous Latin-American restaurant. Enjoying vegetarian and vegan burritos with salad, the students said farewell to each other, looking forward to the next conference that will take place in Bologna in April 2024. In a separate room they could put on their own dancing music, while two students of each nation were DJs and chose the songs to be played.

Departure Day

September 24, 2023

The Slovenian, Italian and Polish delegations all left Vienna during the day by train or private coach.

Presentations Youth Participation Brochure VHS





Basic principles for the participation of children and young people:

Transparency

Participants in participation projects must be made aware of what they are getting into before they start. Both the course of events and the degree of participation opportunities must be presented and named. There must be no hidden agendas on the part of the project initiators.

Institutional clarification of the framework

In order to achieve transparency, the framework and, in particular, the limits of the real possibilities must be explored at the institutional level.

The following guiding questions can be helpful for this purpose:

- What is the concrete objective of the participation project?
- On which rung of the participation ladder are we operating?
- Do we want to achieve concrete change for the participants?
- What influence do the participants have on the decision? (generating ideas, the right to propose and prioritize possible options, taking of final decisions on implementation, participating in implementation.
- What responsibility and decision-making authority can we as an institution pass on? This also raises the question of risk.

Regulation of the decision-making process

Regardless of whether it is a matter of recommendations to decision-makers or complete decision-making and implementation by participants, clear rules for decision-making must be described or worked out with participants in the interests of transparency.

Offer the opportunity for informed discussion

youth participation 💟 3

In different phases of the process, it is necessary to clarify any knowledge needs of participants and to make content-related inputs possible.

Feedback and evaluation

At the end of a participation process, both the process and the results are reflected upon. In the best case, the results of the evaluation are incorporated into following participation projects.

How can it work? - A "Youth Parliament" From interests to politics

Along the following concept, the EU Youth Parliament Simmering (www.vhs.at/de/b/2022/05/09/eu-jugendparlament-simmering) was conducted in 2022 with a total of 40 adolescents and young adults.

The preparation for the Youth Parliament was carried out in groups of about 10 people and is described here.

At the Youth Parliament itself, the topics prepared by the participants were discussed once again in mixed interest groups, presented in plenary and submitted to a member of the European Parliament. In order to give young people the opportunity to take part in participation processes, it makes sense to do this in their own living environment.

Topics that are addressed by young people in a participation process must be their own and should not be oriented towards the presumed or desired topics of decision-makers (whether in youth work, school or politics).

4 Vouth participation

The following three steps will help:

1. What interests me?

The participants collect topics that are important to them.

2. Why is it (more or less) political?

The participants use guiding questions to clarify the extent to which the individual topics are "private" or "societal".

3. What do I want from decision-makers?

What is going well in the individual topics, what is going badly? And what needs to be changed? This is what a workshop on the topic could look like:

DESIGN OF THE WORKSHOP

First Unit:

Goal Setting:

- Collecting common themes that are important to all of us. Highlight COMMON interests and needs.
- Elaborate external and internal factors for these interests and needs.
- Relate to areas of political action and external factors of influence.

Procedure

Initial phase

- Pictures on a wide range of topics, interests and needs.
- Selection of two pictures each and short justification of the selection

The participants will be rovided with a wide selection of agraphs. Each participant es two images that appeal to him, and brielly tells why.

youth participation 💟 5

5 topics that determine my life

Which 5 personal, social or political issues are very important for and in my life?

- Clustering of the topics
- Evaluation of the TOP 5 topics by allocating points. The topics of the participants are collected together and similar/related topics are clustered by grouping the pictures on a pin board. Together the group looks for appropriate titles for the groups of pictures.

What can I influence myself and what do external influencing factors (other people, society, politics) look like?

Group work in small groups

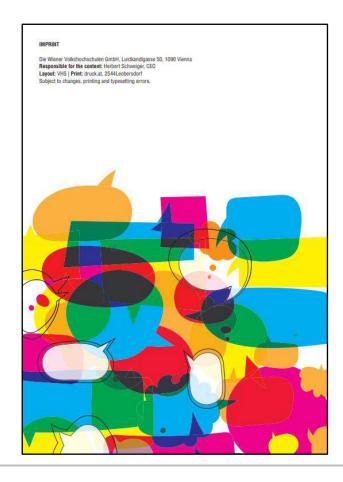
 Writing on posters and short presentation

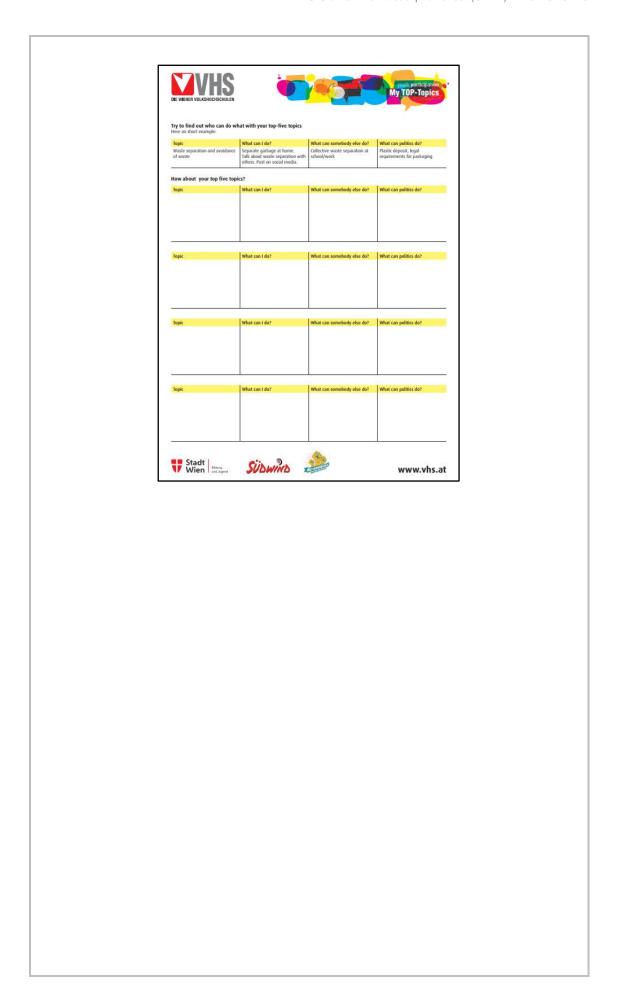
Large group

Collection of political references to TOP 5

6 V youth participation

Second unit Setting objectives: Refine everyday political references. Formulate political desires, concerns, problems, and demands. Repetition Quick poll (e.g. mentimeter) on the TOP 5 of the last unit. Political references to TOP 5 Using documents (digital and analog), the participants work in small groups to find out which political approaches, plans, legislation and offers for support are important for their topics. What is going well in the respective topics? Where do we find problems? Marketplace of demands 5 poster boards on which individual wishes, concerns, demands and problems are formulated. youth participation 🛛 7





Presentation "Rights of younger people in EU" by Mr. Gabriel Toggenburg (FRA)



THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND YOUNGER PEOPLE

FGabriel N. Toggenburg, FRA

FRA EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FURIBALMENTAL RIGHTS

1. What are human rights?



- · Rights of all human beings
- · Inherent to us all, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status
- Written in the laws of the country you live in and in international/European human rights conventions.
- Universal
- Inalienable
- · Indivisible and interdependent
- · Equality and non-discrimination
- Both rights and obligations
 - States' obligation to promote, protect and fulfil.
 - While we are entitled to our human rights, we should also respect and stand up for the human rights of others.

FRA ROBINGALISADON ACCINCA

2. What are children rights?

- · United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1980, 4 principles:
 - Non-discrimination
 - Best interest of the child
 - Right to survival, protection and development
 - Participation
- More info here: https://fra.euroice.gu/en/commit/white-decing-delite.com



Image credit Elton Chen



3. What has the EU to do with human rights?

- The EU was primarily an economic integration (1951)
- ... but human rights were always there as general principles of EU law through court-made law (CJEU).
- The European Union is founded on values: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights (2007 Treaty on European Union)
- · 2009 entry into force of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Charter)







10. What does the EU do with the Charter?

- · Consideration of the Charter in EU policy making
- Use of the Charter in court decisions (by the Court of Justice of the EU and your national court)
- Enforcement of EU fundamental rights through Infringement proceedings (by the European Commission).
 - E.g. Member States may not impose unjustified restrictions on financing of CSOs from abroad (C-78/18, Communication & Financy)
- Respect and promotion of the Charter in EU external action



The 54 Charter provisions

Preamble	Peace - committy values	Universalivatues	Olversity, etc.	Rights wore visible	Reaffirms constraints int linghts	Paths, duties, responsibilities	Rights, freedoms and principles
(Articles 1–5)	1 Human dignity	215	3 Integrity of the person	A Tortune, inhuman, degrading treatment	5 Slavery and forced labour		
	6 Liberty and security	7 Private and family life	8 Personal date	9 Marry and found family	10 Thought conscience and religion		
II Freedoms (Amicles 8–19)	11 Expression and information	12 Assembly and essociation	13 Arts and sciences	14 Education	15 Choose occupation and engage in work		
	10 Conduct abusiness	17 Property	18 Asylum	19 Removal, expulsion or extradition			
II Equality (Articles-20-26)	20 Equality before the law	21 Non-discrimination	22 Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity	23 Equality: men and women	24 The child	25 Elderly	26 Integration of persons with disabilitie
ty Solidarity (Articles 27-38)	22 Workers right to info and consultation	28 millective bargaining and ection	20 Access to placement appropriate	30 Unjustified distributed	III Foir and just working conditions		
	32 Prohibition of child lebour, prof. et work	33 Femily and professional life	54 Sociel security and essistance	at reath our	36 Atomitis servitos of economic interest	37 Invironmental protection	35 Consumer protection
V Citizana" rights (Articles 39: 46)	39 Vote and standes candidate to EP	03 Vote and candidate at municipal elections	4t Good administration	42 Access to documents	- #3 European o ambuchmen	44 Petition (EP)	45 Movement and residence
	46 Diplomatic and consular protection		÷				2
A Justice Articles 47-90)	47 Effective remedy and fair trial	48 Presump Innocence, right of defence	49 Legality and prop. of offences and penalties	50 Ne bis in Idea			
Alt General provisions Articles 51–54)	SI-Application	53 Stope and Intermetation	SE laws of protection	54 Prohibition of abuse			





7. What makes the Charter difficult?

- The Charter does not apply in all situations (as the ECHR). There must be a connection with an EU law provision.
 - It always applies to EU institutions, bodies and agencies always.
 - To Member States only when they are implementing Union law.
- · Distinction between rights and principles
- · Direct and indirect effect of Charter provisions



FRA DEFENDATION ROLL TO THE PERSON OF THE PE

8. What makes the Charter potentially powerful?

- Supremacy and direct effect
 - · Individuals can invoke it in disputes
 - · National courts must disapply contrasting national law
 - National courts can request preliminary ruling
 - Infringement proceedings
- · Modern encompassing wording
 - More rights and principles
- Increases visibility of rights
 - · Can inspire interpretation of national law
 - Throws light on other fundamental rights catalogues
- EU specific rights
 - · Free movement
 - · Political participation
 - EU administration





9. What does the EU do with the Charter?

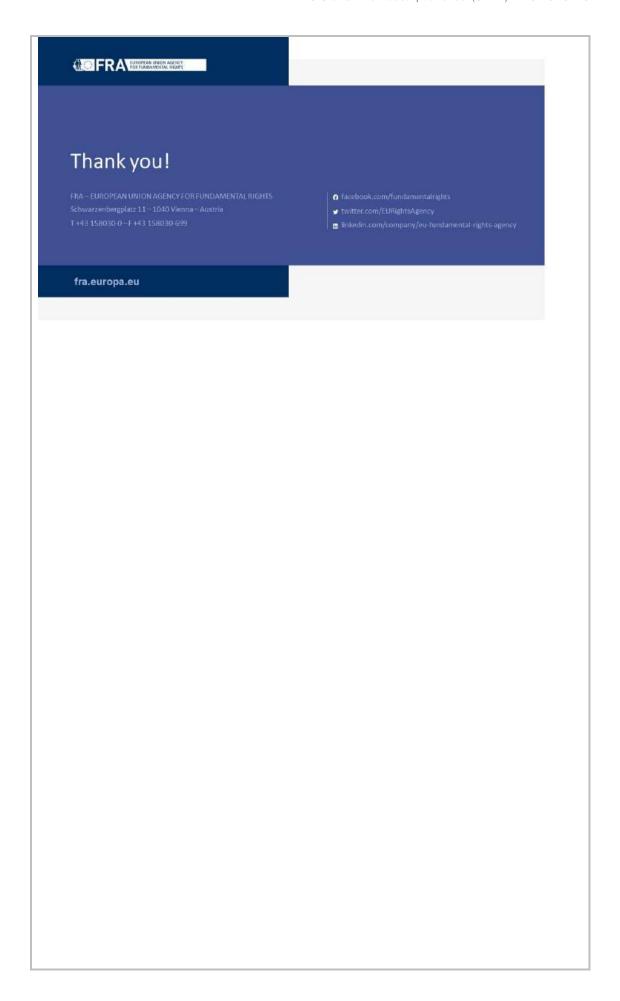
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- · Respect and promotion of the Charter in EU external action

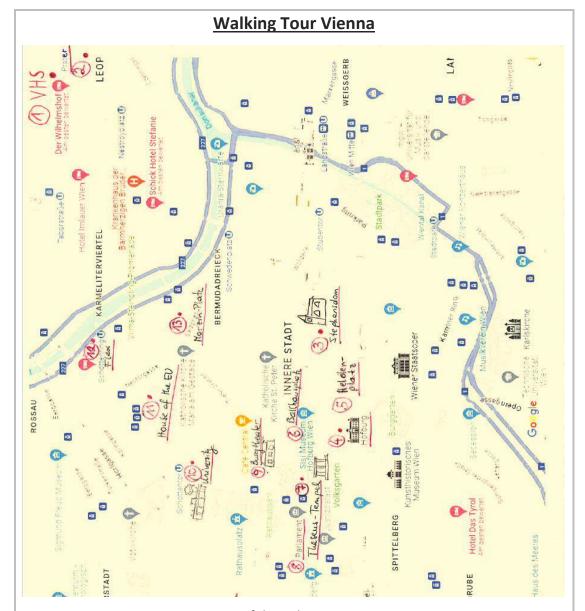


10. How can your Member State use the Charter?

- · Policy making
- · Administration: government, regional, local authorities
- · Human rights monitoring: national human rights institutions, equality bodies
- · Justice:
 - Facebook must remove identical unlawful content or prevent access to it (C-18/18,
 - Member States must recognise same-sex marriages for the purpose of freedom of movement of an EU citizen (C-673/16, ________)
 - Workers may not be discriminated on ground of their child having a disability (C-303/06,
 - Member States may not send suspects/accused to a Member States with deplorable conditions of detention (C-404/15 and C-659/15,







Map of the sightseeing tour

Welcome to My Revolution 2023 Vienna City Tour – Alternative focussed on protest, revolution, youth participation

1. VHS Vienna - Adult Education Centers or literally translated People's High Schools of Vienna

The Adult Education Centers were founded 125 years ago when Austria was still a monarchy to educate specifically workers that had no chance for further education — mostly they only finished elementary school VHS Vienna developed into the biggest organisation for adult education in the German speaking countries being present all over Vienna in each of the 23 district at least 1 VHS. Their main goal is to make education easily accessible to all inhabitants of Vienna. This is why courses at the VHS can be attended

regardless of previous education, social status or background.

VHS Vienna is also the largest provider for second chance education in Vienna for youth and young adults. Preparation courses for lower secondary school leaving certificates, for Matura (A –Levels) and university entrance examination.

Besides the free basic education there are many courses that specifically cater to teenagers and young adults in all kind of areas. They range from art to technology to political education and languages. The VHS offers also self- defense classes as well as youth counselling. Specifically in summer there are free of charge courses/workshops in public parks.

2. Wiener Prater now a nice green area for relaxation and fun – also now for Vienna Oktoberfest

It has been since 1537 the official hunting area for the Austrian emperor and his family 1766 opened to all people by Joseph II – who said Everything for the people but nothing by the people. A lot of reforms from above but no participation.

More than 100 years later 1890 Prater also became the place of workers and youth protest at the first of May Labour Day.

The second socialist International designated 1st of May as the international day of action for the 8 hour working day.

In Vienna for the First 1st of May 1890 in Austria a strike was planned but forbidden.

However still the strike was held in all Austria and 100.000 workers came to demonstrate and celebrate the first of May in Prater. **U1 – to Stephansdom!**

3. Stephansdom O5 - Widerstand

Meeting place of Austrian Resistance against Nazi-Facism, young communists, socialists but also conservative resistance in Austria

4. Hofburg

Winter Palace of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor – now housing the national library, museums and government offices

5. Heldenplatz - Heros Square part of Hofburg

Unfortunately this also was the square back in 1938 Austria welcomed Hitler and the annexation of Austria to Nazi-Germany

6. Ballhausplatz

Prime Minister and Presidents Office

Always used for Demonstrations of young people e.g for Climate Strikes

Back in 2000 when first government coalition with extreme right FPÖ came into power so-Called Thursday Demonstrations started weekly each Thursday here.

Also more recently with the new right-wing government of prime minister Kurz in coalition with the extreme right FPÖ the demonstrations started again in 2018 under the Motto "It is Thursday again". Then in May 2019 the scandal so called Ibiza video came out showing drunk FPÖ leaders selling Austria to a Russian oligarch lady in a villa on the island of Ibiza. This scandal led to the government to fall and on 30th May 2019 the last Demonstration became a huge celebration. The Vengaboys with their song "We're going to Ibiza where touring Europe and spontaneously came to Vienna for a live performance on Ballhausplatz – as their song already was the unofficial anthem of the protests -> Original Recording!

7. Theseustempel - Hippies

Theseustemple neo classical art with statute of greek hero Theseus (who battled minotaur), back in 1968 used a lot by hippies and young peace movement for gahtering, chill outs and happenings

8. Parliament and Monument for the first republic

Austrian Parliament was still built in the monarchy without formal power – now newly renovated

In world war 1 when Austria was basically trying to defend its colonies in Poland, Slovenia, Bosnia, Italy etc. from becoming independent a huge strike movement was led by young people against the war and for democracy.

The union of young workers played an important role in the strike movement. With fliers they mobilised young people against the war.

The young international and youth organisations always spoke out and mobilised against the war, even against their own parties.

Since the first hunger-winter 1916/17, continuous mass-strikes and disputes, food-revolts and hunger-riots especially by young people and women.

Beginning of December 1917: Foundation of the association of the working youth of Vienna

January 1918: 2000 Young people and women take part in market riots in the market hall in Vienna Landstraße. Strikes throughout Austria during 2018

Always young people were driving forces of the strike and took care of a fast distribution of the strike messages in Vienna and around Wiener Neustadt.

After suppressing the strikes always high-treason-trials and prosecution especially of young workers and students. Prosecution especially against the associations Free youth and Poale Zion, which were dissolved

The strike movement continued nevertheless the whole year 1918, also the war did not go well as you all know and the countries are independent since then.

So the emperor slowly realized he has to give in

21st of October constitution of a provisional national assembly 30th of October, large demonstration.

11th November last emperor laid off his duties and exclamation of the republic on November 12th 1918 3 o'clock p.m. with hundreds of thousands of people on the Ring

Universal, equal, direct and secret voting right without a gender-difference.

Some young people wanted to go further in democracy and founded youngsters councils, workers and soldiers councils that existed till 1924 as direct democratic pilot models but without real power

9. Burgtheater - Vaclav Havel 1990 and protest against stalinism

Václav Havel who would have celebrated his 80th birthday on October 5, 2016, was a playwright and dissident, critical of the regime, who was repeatedly sentenced to prison, before becoming President of Czechoslovakia. Under director Achim Benning numerous of Václav Havel's plays premiered successfully at the Burgtheater - the reason why the man, who refused to lie, respectfully called this theatre his mother stage - *mateřské divadlo*. – 1976-86

1989 voted as president of Czechoslovakia

Till now – important for young art and protests – see current campaign.

10. University of Vienna

Back in 2009 protests against so called Bologna system education reforms, access restrictions and budget cuts on universities. After rubbish bins were burning and students were arrested the movement "Uni on fire-Uni brennt" started with demonstrations and

squatting of the huge auditorium the audimax 2009 for over half a year with students organizing their own studies, their own plenaries, their own parties even their own support for homeless and refugees in Audimax.

11. House of the EU

European Youth strategy 2019-2027 – with main principles Engage, Connect, Empower – And this is what we also do in My Participation Revolution

EU – Youth Dialogue - Youth Participation

EU youth Coordinator since 2021 Biliana Sirakova

European Year of Youth 2022

- Also some of you will go to Brussels for Roundtable in the EP!

12. Donaukanal Flex u. Zona Antifacista

Vienna Danube Channel is an artificial channel created to carry the wastewater from inner city towards the danube and the heart of modern youth culture in Vienna.

FLEX – one of the main clubs in Vienna, - founded by youngsters from the alternative house squatting movement back in 1990 with focus on Punkbands

Art Scene – graffiti Zona Antifacista Graffiti – Neo Nazis try to cover it , but again restored

13. Morzinplatz Former SS Headquarter and now monument immortal victims

Erected in 1985 made of Granite stone from the Austrian concentration camp in Mauthausen.

Thank you very much! Enjoy Vienna, enjoy the conference.

1st European Youth Conference Documentation

A video documenting the European youth Conference, produced by the students of the Austrian school HTL Spengergasse, can be found on these websites:

https://www.suedwind.at/myrevolution/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf07TV9Vrm4

It provides a good overview of the conference days.

Several students attending the different committees where interviewed. Their thoughts and opinions regarding the topics they discussed during the worldcafé and committee sessions can be found on the Instagram page myrevolution_youth



Opening speech by Mr. Stefan Grasgruber, Head of Campaigning Südwind



Presentation of the VHS brochure



Presentation of the E-democracy portal "My Revolution" (my-revolution.eu)



Presentation of the E-democracy portal "My Revolution" (my-revolution.eu)





Presentation and discussion with Mr. Toggenburg



World Café sessions



Committee sessions



Material: EU & ME (printed Booklet)

Download: https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/eu-me_en



Walking Tour Vienna









Vegetarian and vegan food



Karaoke Event



Presentation of the results



Presentation of the results



Evaluation

Additional fotos and videos can be found on the project's Instagram page: www.myrevolution_youth

Youth demands - Output

The first part of the draft manifesto was uploaded on the E-democracy portal www.my-revolution.eu , so that conference participants as well as additional students contributing to the manifesto can continue working on it until the second European conference in Bologna, where possible solutions concerning the demands will be discussed and developed by the participants in order to complete the manifesto.

Please read the draft manifesto (part one) below:

I Sustainability and Consumption Issues

Introduction

Humanity is steadily destroying the environment, and the effects are already evident as seen in the increase in natural disasters, pollution and much more. These trends have already had an influence on our lives, and that is why we will concentrate on problems like food waste, fast fashion, plastic use and poor transportation practices. For instance, the wasting of food which results in about one third of all food produced going to waste, is a major issue on a global scale. By planning meals, controlling portion sizes and composting, individuals can reduce food waste on their own, but it is also critical that the EU promotes and controls the sustainable use of food. In addition, the speedy manufacture and disposal of inexpensive apparel contribute to the waste of resources, pollution and labor exploitation. The manufacture and use of electronic gadgets including smartphones and laptops has exploded as a result of the rapid advancement in technology. Although these gadgets are useful and convenient, electronic waste is a serious sustainability issue. Another important factor in environmental deterioration is the extensive use of automobiles and airplanes for transportation. The unsustainable practices of food waste, fast fashion, plastic use, and excessive reliance on planes and cars have far-reaching environmental consequences. Addressing these issues requires a collective effort involving the EU and the governments of its member countries as well as businesses and individuals.

Demands

- reduce food waste
- fight fast fashion
- ban plastic packaging
- encourage reduction, repair and correct disposal of electronic devices
- increase transparency in supply chains

II Environment and animal rights

Introduction

Nowadays, observing animal rights and environmental issues are two of the biggest challengeshumans have to face. We are not only destroying our environment but also the animals' natural habitats Instead of protecting nature we use it to our advantage.

Animal testing for instance involves subjecting animals to often painful experiments in the name of human progress. Another example is using animals for entertainment in zoos or circuses. Likewise, overfishing and factory farming show man's ruthless exploitation of nature. Overfishing threatens marine ecosystems and factory farming raises ethical and environmental concerns due to the inhumane living conditions animals have to endure.

The second crucial issue we need to address is climate change and the rampant consequences that will follow. The worldwide temperature is rising rapidly, causing fires, floods and the destruction of entire ecosystems. This leads to a number of problems, including, but not limited to, the rising of sea levels, largely caused by the melting of the global icecaps and glaciers, and the resulting refugee crisis, when islands and coastal regions will inevitably have to be evacuated. Returning to our first issue, climate change is already having a tremendous impact on all life forms inhabiting the sea, for in a changing environment, many of them face grave dangers, to the extent of extinction. All in all, we have to watch the environment more closely, because if we lose control over the process of climate change, we'll be left with severe consequences.

- ban the sale of animal-tested products
- reform the meat industry and factory farming with a view to keeping animals in a nearerto-natural environment
- reduce, reuse and recycle plastic
- make processes in the recycling, fashion and meat industry transparent
- ban unnecessary hunting on land and water
- stop overfishing and marine pollution
- ban farms that raise animals for their fur and leather
- fund institutions that prevent environmental damage
- make cities more sustainable by insulating buildings, supporting public transport at the expense of car traffic and prescribing solar panels for all new buildings.

III Energy and Transport

Introduction

Energy costs are rising across Europe and the world, starting in late 2021 and continuing in early 2022 due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions on Russia. The shortage of oil and gas caused a rise in inflation. The European energy market operates according to the Merit-Order system, which means the highest price bid is the one traded on the market. The main source of energy in Europe is fossil fuels, which is one of the causes of ongoing climate change. This is why we need investments in renewable energy sources and nuclear power plants as soon as possible. Prices skyrocketed after the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Previously, Russia was an important source of energy for many European countries, which thus gained an economic advantage. Due to the lobbying of fossil fuel companies they can raise prices disproportionately and independent of the rise in costs and not face any consequences.

The EU still relies on other countries for its energy production and does not aim at self-sufficiency. How can the EU become more independent of foreign energy? Why is the EU trying to make the same mistake as before with Russia, by trading with the Middle East, where human rights are violated everyday?

European society is focusing too much on cars as the main means of transport when we should focus much more on expanding public transport infrastructure. Electric and hydrogen cars are important, because they are the future alternative for internal combustion cars. However, they cannot meet the demand for transportation.

The main goal should be to close the city centers for cars in all of Europe and pedestrianize them so people are obliged to use public transportation or walk instead.

Besides, agricultural and industrial goods are mostly transported by trucks in many European countries when they could be transported by rail, for which infrastructure is lacking in all EU countries. Trucks should only cover the "last mile", i. e. the distance from the station to the company site. This would significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

- reduce energy prices, control energy companies, expand renewable energy sources
- reduce pollution of air, soil and water
- find sustainable ways to dispose of and recycle waste from nuclear power plants
- limit long-distance imports of energy and goods
- Provide free train travel and expand public transport infrastructure
- Fine private jets for producing excessive carbon emissions

IV Migration and Integration

Introduction

Migration and integration are critical issues for Europe's future, impacting on social cohesion, cultural identity, the economy, and security. Addressing the complex issue of migration in Europe requires a multifaceted approach. At its core, our demand is for equitable treatment of all refugees, irrespective of factors like skin color, gender, or sexual orientation. Furthermore, we advocate against deportations to war-torn regions or pushbacks on sea.

To facilitate successful integration, our focus extends beyond humanitarian aid. We emphasize the importance of language courses, quality education, and immediate access to employment opportunities for refugees. Government spending priorities play a pivotal role in this. Funds used for weaponry and war exacerbate the very conflicts that drive people to migrate. By fostering peace in third countries, governments can reduce the refugee influx and allocate resources more effectively.

Media portrayal of migrants has long been problematic. Sensationalized stories depicting criminal behavior perpetuate negative stereotypes. Instead, we urge the media to amplify the voices of hardworking individuals striving to adapt to new societies, thereby nullifying pessimistic notions.

Dehumanizing refugees and promoting unfounded fears of competition for resources are counterproductive. We must recognize that refugees seek safety and peace, and that their intention is not to exploit host nations. To combat racism and xenophobia, anti-discrimination measures are essential. Education plays a pivotal role in shaping empathetic future generations.

Also, making dual citizenship accessible to all is crucial, and integration must be a priority. Additionally, recognizing misinformation through heightened awareness is essential to fostering empathy and understanding.

In summary, addressing migration in Europe demands fair treatment of refugees equal to that of European citizens, access to education and employment. To ensure and maintain the Europeans' acceptance for refugees, it is necessary to establish a fair and responsible media portrayal of refugees accompanied by broad anti-discrimination campaigns. These multifaceted efforts can contribute to a more inclusive and empathetic society.

- embrace diversity regarding migrants
- support easier access to the European labor market for migrants
- promote policies for family reunification
- make sure that immigrants have immediate access to general and vocational education in the host countries
- allocate funds to invest in programs that facilitate legal immigration into the EU in order to counteract problems arising from shrinking populations
- urge countries to provide an easier pathway to citizenship for immigrants already
 in the country
- help combat discrimination and xenophobia against immigrants on all political and social levels
- punish illegal pushbacks more severely
- establish better integration programmes in the EU

V Health and Social Issues

Introduction

Stable mental and physical health is the cornerstone of high quality spare time, a successful education, a strong workforce and a stable economy. Fair democratic processes and active political participation both rely on fair social conditions. Health is a fundamental human right. Everyone should have access to basic health services, no matter when and where they need them, without suffering financial hardship. In times of war, a pandemic and a climate and energy crises, the gap between the lower and upper classes is growing by the minute. The lack of medical professionals and the ridiculously long waiting time for a necessary doctor's appointment carries lifelong consequences for patients. Therefore, the EU needs to invest in preventive medicine and research to recognize diseases in their early stages.

Mental health problems are at an all time high, especially teenagers struggle, with their mental health and don't receive the necessary support. Addiction, whether substantial or behavioral, is a hidden part of the daily life of many, cutting social ties, destroying families and even leading to death. The lack of caregivers and other social workers is leaving people without care, meanwhile hundreds of thousands of homeless people struggle with reintegration into the job market. We urge the politicians of the European Union to prioritize people's needs and to ensure the highest quality of public and social services to improve the lives of the people of Europe.

Therefore we demand:

- make psychological and psychiatric care more accessible
- offer prevention and treatment of obesity in youth
- make inclusion of disabled people in the planning process and customizing of facilities mandatory
- offer more workshops to raise awareness of rape, harassment and mobbing
- fund programs for accessible drug rehabilitation centers
- retrain and reintegrate homeless people to fill positions in the social field (ex. nurses, caregivers, drivers in public transport etc.)
- provide more scholarships and increase attractiveness of professions in the medical field
- offer more money for treatment of burnout patients
- protect free physical expression

VI Economy

Introduction

Without the influences of a globalized economy, without the communication and the kilometers that transport goods travel millions of times every day, this would be no more than wishful thinking for the people in the EU. The goods which are available in the EU are only with us through the import route from all over the world.

Fair trade and fair incomes should become a matter of course. Furthermore, more emphasis should be placed on quality than on quantity. Poorly processed products from cheap productions must be replaced by high quality goods.

In addition, more emphasis must be placed on sustainability. Aggressive advertisements are designed to manipulate us into buying things we do not need or want. They often use fear, uncertainty, and doubt to make us feel like we are missing out if we do not buy the product or service they are advertising, which leads to unnecessary overconsumption.

Monopolies are getting bigger and prices are getting cheaper. Countries like China are monopolizing the global market, buying into developing countries, exploiting their land and soil to the point of displacement, and leaving the land without profit. Furthermore, action must be taken against the exploitation of developing countries. Countries, such as The People's Republic of China, are making aggressive pushes to monopolize national resources of developing countries in an exploitative manner, while the EU does not leverage its economy enough to combat this influence and loses access to valuable resources. When the world is coming apart at the seams and trade chains are stagnating, prices are rising and headlines about inhumane working conditions are becoming commonplace, it is time to turn empty promises into deeds.

- implement fairer trade standards and make fairly traded goods attractive for the general public
- curb inflation in order to end the economic recession
- protect the European market from being flooded with low quality foreign products, make the European industry more competitive and avoid unsustainable consumerism
- make the EU-economy less dependent on non-renewable energy sources in order order to tackle climate change, create a sustainable society and to make the EU less susceptible to foreign crises
- combat the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs, especially to non-democratic countries, to make the EU economically independent of countries with questionable human rights records

- implement stricter antitrust laws to avoid monopolization and reduce the disproportionate political influence of multinational companies
- combat excessive overconsumption which is exacerbated by aggressive advertisement
- support small, regionally operating businesses
- implement penalties for companies on par with the severity of their infringements,
 especially when making money by illegal means
- stop exploitation of developing countries and combat their exploitation by countries like China in order to not lose access to valuable resources
- stop heavily subsidizing the meat and dairy industries and start promoting plantbased diets and sustainable farming practices

VII Work and Labour

Introduction

The last 50 years have seen an enormous change in our markets and our working conditions but the system has stayed relatively the same. Now we have to adapt the system to the modern working world, especially in the last few years due to the Covid Pandemic and the Ukraine war.

The pandemic caused a huge call for home office, better working conditions and more mental health care in various sectors. The average working hours are often too long in terms of efficient productivity. People working in the health sector are not able to work fully focused and concentrated for so many hours. The EU must discuss the four-day week now, in order to have benefits for both sides and to decrease the risk of developing mental and physical illnesses.

In addition, the unemployment rate in some EU member countries is unacceptable. However, we still don't have enough specialised workers in many sectors. That's why we need immigrants and refugees. Moreover, many of them live in inhumane conditions. We simply cannot accept that immigrants and refugees have to wait many years to get their asylum status. How can they be integrated without the chance to work? Besides immigration, emigration is also a significant issue in the EU. Brain drain and the exploitation of universities in other EU countries must be discussed and regulated. We all live together in a community, but it won't work if we don't work together.

- shorten waiting periods for asylum seekers and immigrants with work ambitions
- take measures against the brain drain
- equal work, equal pay!
- implement and accept the right to work-life balance
- implement the four-day week
- decrease unemployment, "the tumor" of our modern working world
- raise awareness of mental health problems
- stop inflation preserve the value of our money!
- strengthen workers' right to complain, especially in unions
- oblige companies to compensate workers who suffer from work-related illnesses

VIII Education

Introduction

Democratic governments depend and rely on educated citizens. Even though we are living in the 2020s, our generalized educational system is still decades behind, from what we learn to how we learn it. Teachers are overworked and disrespected, an entire generation is suffering the consequences. We cannot allow the apathy towards the education of our youth to go on any longer. The divide between the genders starts in schools and impacts students all their lives. The inequalities we face in life have trickled its way into our education system, our curriculums often enforce gender roles and we are forced to receive different educations based on our sexes. Religious classes are biased, Christian-centered or subjectively taught depending on the religious inclination of the teacher.

Our teachers are disrespected, undervalued and underpaid.

Our students are left to fend for themselves when looking for housing, this is especially true for exchange- and international students.

- recruit and train more teachers
- raise teachers' salaries
- provide opportunities for schools to compete with each other
- install more professional sex education classes
- make attendance in religious or ethics classes obligatory for all age groups at school
- provide affordable and appropriate student housing at university level
- religion classes should provide equal information on all religions

IX Digitalization, Social Media, Data Protection, AI and Machine Learning

Introduction

In an era in which technology is the "heartbeat" of society and shapes the way we live, work, and connect, awareness of digitalization is necessary. Recent developments of the technology of Artificial Intelligence have raised awareness and led to controversial debates about the potential impact of technological progress on our society. Furthermore, it is more important than ever to involve multi-stakeholders. We need appropriate rules, regulations and laws when it comes to digitalization, social media, data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Currently, there are not any written regulations or laws which could prevent the unregulated use of AI and provide control over important systems and infrastructure. Additionally, since the digital world is changing so fast, school systems need to be adapted to prepare young people for the new digital environment. Nowadays, most jobs require a minimum knowledge of digital skills. Imagine a world where data flow uninhibited, where information is a currency, and where the boundaries between reality and the digital realm blur. Envision machines that not only mimic human intelligence but surpass it, potentially replacing millions of jobs, endangering individual privacy and public trust through content manipulation tools and AI-generated deepfake videos. We need to prepare for the developments the future holds in store for us. And the future is now.

- improve awareness of racial, gender, socio-economical, political, and cultural bias in Al development
- take measures against job loss through AI
- develop guidelines for dealing with ethical problems
- integrate digital education into school education (raise awareness of positive and negative sides, e. g. its possible impact on mental health)
- restrict access for children in order to protect children's rights
- develop regulating tools for use against digital manipulation, fake news, and hate speech
- provide free use of AI for all citizens of the EU
- establish an EU-media center

X Democracy, participation and civil rights

Introduction

"Democracy requires effort, deserves bravery, needs leadership." European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, G7-Conference in Berlin, 2022

The recent decline in voter turnout in the EU-elections, especially among younger people, poses a huge threat to our democracy. For instance, the last EU-election had a voter turnout of just barely over 50%, which is less than in a majority of national elections. There is also a notable contrast between regions, with central and eastern Europe generally having lower voter turnouts than western regions.

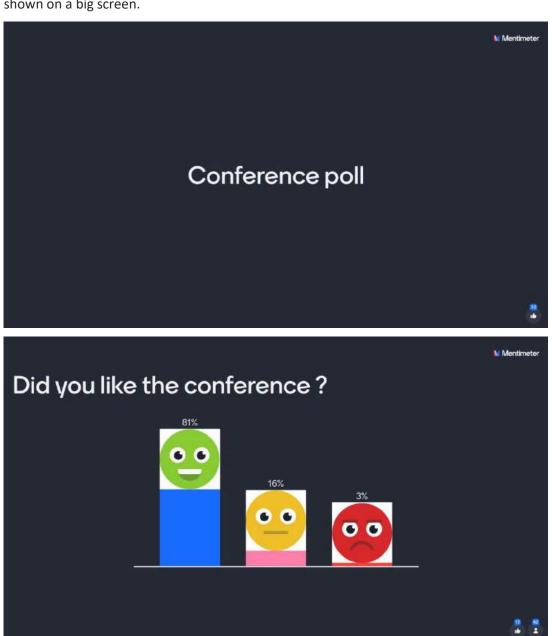
Another problem is the imbalance in the availability and accessibility of information regarding politics and democracy itself. Due to fake news and the lack of independent and unbiased journalism and media in some countries, misinformation had and still has the opportunity to spread quickly. Additionally, freedom of press is not fully developed in all member countries, some even going as far as not reporting about any political opinion opposing the governments at all.

The shift in attitudes towards civil and political engagement has its own set of challenges. Not educating people, especially youngsters, about politics has been a powerful tool of anti-democrats, assuring that yet another generation doesn't question the ones in power. Often, it's not the lack of interest that keeps Europe's youth from education, but the current school system. This is why we, as representatives of European youth, demand the following actions on the part of the European Union:

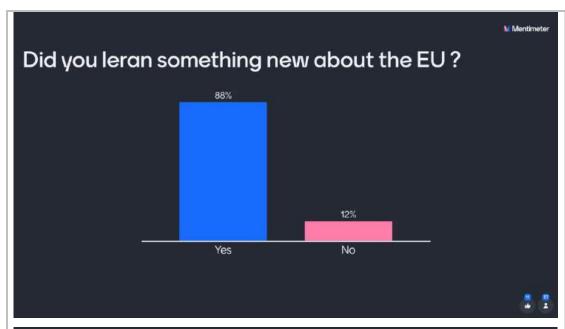
- establish mandatory unbiased political education in secondary schools
- organize easily accessible youth parliaments
- organize campaigns on how to properly inform yourself on current EU policies, also in non-election times
- provide laws in more understandable language
- strengthen European cooperation and identity

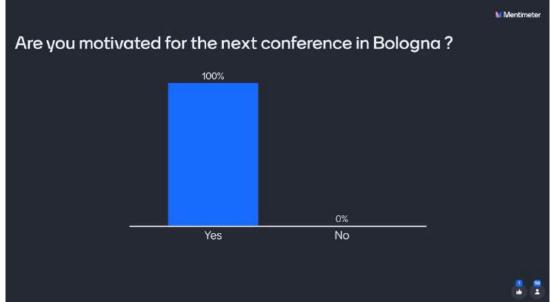
Evaluation

A mentimeter poll was used for the conference evaluation within the closing ceremony on September 23, 2023. The students used their phones to participate in the poll, the poll was shown on a big screen.









Evaluation results

Do you like the conference ?				
Yes	Neither nor yes/no		No	
81%	16%		3%	
Did you learn something new about the EU ?				
Yes		No		
88 %		12%		
Are you motivated for the next conference in Bologna ?				
Yes		No		
100 %		0%		

When being asked what they liked most about the conference days the students mentioned the discussions with other students in the worldcafé and committee sessions, meeting new people and the karaoke evening, which was the highlight of communication and socialising with youngsters from other nations. Interacting with others, making connections and debating were mentioned as well.

The students of all four participating nations were especially interested in exchanging their views and opinions with the young people from the other nations. The participation of students who were originally born in Ukraine, Russian, Turkey and other non – European nations made the discussions even more interesting and fruitful.

Disclaimer: (Co-) Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. The European Union can not be held responsible for them.

HISTORY OF CHANGES				
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE		
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).		