

A collection of 12 teal stars of varying sizes scattered across the upper half of the image, some overlapping the text.

**Youth
Together
For Europe**

Index

The project "Youth Together for Europe" represents a distinctive blend of innovative online and off-line participation, fostering cross-border exchange and collaborative envisioning for a vibrant European future. Leveraging digital platforms, 15,000 young individuals from the border regions of Bavaria and the Czech Republic actively contributed ideas and voted on each other's proposals.

Building on the insights garnered through online consultations, a Bavarian-Czech Youth Dialogue unfolded in the autumn of 2023. During this intensive weekend gathering, participants delved into discussions to deepen their comprehension of the online phase's outcomes. The culmination was a set of political recommendations and project ideas, which were subsequently presented and deliberated upon with politicians and representatives from youth organizations.

This report provides a comprehensive exploration of the project's inception, methodologies, and the youth-led initiatives that materialized. By sharing the methodology employed, the aim is to inspire other catalysts and individuals seeking innovative avenues for youth participation and empowerment.

Project Background	03
Phase 1: Online consultation	05
Phase 2: Youth Dialogue	09
A European Manifesto	14
Call for Action	19
Impressions and feedback	26
Next steps: What will follow	27
Imprint	28

Project Background

Why Youth participation?

Democracy is much more than just having elections every few years. It also means that those who are affected by decisions have a say. This applies to children and young people. However, they are not only excluded from elections, but also from a wide range of participation opportunities. In order for children and young people to experience self-efficacy, develop trust in politics and democracy and feel that their opinion counts, it is important that they are actively involved as often as possible, that they can have a say and shape decisions.

Deliberative democracy approaches are an important addition to representative democracy. Allowing young people to participate in deliberative democracy enables them to experience political participation and empowers them on their way to becoming global citizens

Why deliberative democracy?

Deliberative democracy is an approach to politics in which citizens, not just experts or politicians, are deeply involved in public decision-making and problem-solving.

It is based on the idea that citizens and their representatives owe each other mutually acceptable reasons for the laws they make. In the face of the fundamental disagreements that are inevitable in diverse societies, our democracies need to find ways of fostering dialogue and integrating diverse viewpoints. In order to promote our liberal and open societies' democratic values we need new tools that make decisions justifiable and that consider various perspectives of citizens.

New forms of low-threshold, continuous and digital mass deliberation can provide a balanced and fair approach that serves to make the widest range of opinions visible and heard, and to give reason and reciprocity a more prominent place in politics.

Why digital participation plus real-life exchange?

Digital participation combines state-of-the-art information and communication technologies, such as specific digital platforms using algorithms and gamification elements linked to social media channels to attract participants. User-centered approaches in the design of digital participation formats increase their acceptance and inclusiveness.

Not least because of the experience gained during the pandemic, experts around the world largely agree that participation processes should combine the best of both worlds.

Digital formats are particularly convincing when it comes to the asynchronous, transparent provision and communication of information within the framework of structured formats on fixed topics. The advantage of digital participation is that it can reach large audiences and very specific target groups.



Analog formats, however, have their strengths in contexts where the focus is on in-depth, dialogue-based exchange and building trust. For this reason, two phases have been considered and proposed from the outset in the design of the present project, in order to unfold their respective potential.

Project Background

Why Bavarian-Czech exchange?

The State of Bavaria shares external borders with the Republic of Austria (818 kilometres) and the Czech Republic (357 kilometres). While there has historically been a lively exchange in many respects in the border regions with Austria, the language barrier between the Czech Republic and Germany is a significant obstacle to cross-border reconciliation of interests.

German right-wing populism has remained a small marginal current for a long time. But lately, the far-right AfD has risen strongly. In Bavaria, the party is particularly successful in the eastern districts. In the state elections in October 2023, the AfD came third among young voters, just behind the Greens with 17% and the CSU with 22%.

This development was already foreseeable in the spring of 2022. The constellation of upcoming state elections and the EU Presidency in the second half of this year prompted the signatories to apply for a project on cross-border youth participation in the border region between Bavaria and the Czech Republic.

At the same time, the European Commission proclaimed the European Year of Youth for 2022. The aim was to open up new opportunities for young people and give their opinions and ideas a stronger voice. We wanted to contribute to that.

Why dialogue on the future of Europe?

The **Conference on the Future of Europe**, which concluded in May 2022, was a unique example of participatory democracy in Europe. One of the priorities that was widely expressed by the citizens of the various EU member states during the conference was the strengthening of the EU and its values.

The European border regions play a crucial and central role in this process. They connect the citizens in their immediate environment and contribute to the promotion of a common identity.

At the end of the European Year of Youth and in the context of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, the project “Youth Together for Europe” aimed to sustainably strengthen the participation of young people in the border regions between Germany and the Czech Republic and to identify young people’s priorities for strengthening Europe, its values and the cultural ties between its citizens.

To conclude, the aim of this innovative participatory project was to contribute to international understanding, to promote cross-border youth participation and to show new ways and the potential of professional citizen participation.

Deliberative democracy serves to strengthen the further development of representative democracy, as an expansion of possible decision-making spaces, as a strengthening of state capacities and as a means of ensuring the responsiveness and ability to absorb the results of participation processes.

Phase 1

From regional to trans-national consultation



From December 14, 2022, to March 12, 2023, young citizens from the western part of the Czech Republic, e.g. Karlovy Vary, Pilsen, South Bohemia, and Prague, as well as Bavaria were invited to share their ideas and priorities for a stronger and more sustainable Europe. They were also encouraged to express their thoughts on the role of cross-border projects in strengthening Europe.

An engagement strategy was meticulously crafted for this project to connect with young citizens through various channels, emphasizing digital technology and social media advertising during the mobilization phase. The project prioritized neutrality and transparency to build trust, essential for effective engagement.

Despite the perceived challenges of involving young people in participatory processes, the project successfully achieved a high level of youth engagement by employing the right approaches and earning their trust. In the initial phase, Bavarian and Czech participants were prompted to respond to the question:

**"Czech-Bavarian cooperation:
How can we build a strong and
sustainable Europe together?"**

At the conclusion of the first phase, a total of 20 ideas emerged from both countries, comprising 16 popular ideas and 4 controversial ones, organized into 9 different themes. In the subsequent phase, Bavarian proposals were presented to Czech participants, and vice versa, fostering a dialogue and analyzing reactions to the ideas.

Online consultation results

Participants in total

14.631

Submitted proposals in total

593

Votes in total

170.976

- 1 A great participation rate with almost 15,000 participants, highlighting the willingness of citizens, especially young citizens, to speak out and to build the future of Europe together.
- 2 A wide variety of topics were discussed and rich and constructive proposals were submitted with a low rejection rate. *Before being published, proposals submitted were validated by the moderators of Make.org, in accordance with the law and our moderation guidelines. The rejection rate corresponds to the percentage of proposals that were rejected during the moderation process because they were not consistent with our guidelines (unethical, off-topic, partial). A low rejection rate underlines the high-quality nature of the proposals.*
- 3 Mutually embraced ideas for fortifying Europe are evident in both countries, particularly in crucial areas such as energy, environment, education, health, and shared values like tolerance and solidarity.
- 4 Numerous impactful suggestions addressed the realm of Czech and Bavarian cooperation and included initiatives such as expanding school exchange programmes, fostering collaborative cultural projects, enhancing mobility, and upgrading technological and digital infrastructure.
- 5 However, some country-specific themes encounter varying levels of agreement in the partner country. Matters like economic and resource independence, as well as economic and diplomatic collaboration, illuminate specific cultural nuances and economic distinctions between the two countries.

The Youth Agenda

The following provides an overview of all ideas generated during the online consultation, encompassing consensual, controversial, and debated concepts. Approximately 10 shared ideas received confirmation through participant votes from the other country. Additionally, 7 ideas were subject to debate, with one of them being controversial in both countries.

Energy and Environment

- Promoting environmental and energy cooperation
- Encouraging the improvement and expansion of nuclear power

Digital Transformation

- Improving technology and digital infrastructure*

International Relations, Institutions and Democracy

- Establishing military collaboration in Europe
- ▲ Promoting diplomatic cross-border cooperation and cohesion in Europe*

Education and social affairs

- Increasing school exchange programmes*
- Promoting youth and public interest in politics
- ▲ Improving the education system and making it more attractive*

Transport

- Improving transport and mobility*

Migration

- Controlling borders or abolishing them

Culture and common values

- Promoting more joint cultural projects and cultural exchanges between the two countries*
- Promoting mutual respect and tolerance
- ▲ Organizing regular events near the border*

Health and social welfare

- ▲ Providing social and financial resources for vulnerable groups
- ▲ Improving the health system, especially mental health care

Economy

- ▲ Promoting economic and resource independence and sustainability
- ▲ Strengthening economic cooperation in Europe and between the two countries*

■ popular idea

■ controversial idea

▲ popular debated idea

▲ controversial debated idea

*Ideas about Czech-Bavarian cooperation

Deep Dive into the results

The youth agenda provides a concise summary of young people's themes and demands. For a more in-depth exploration of the results and a deeper understanding of the ideas, please refer to the full report available in three languages: English, Czech and German.

Make.org serves as a platform for participatory citizenship across Europe, playing a central role in phase 1. The platform's design provides an innovative, user-friendly, enjoyable, and engaging experience, leveraging features that are particularly familiar and appreciated by young people.

ENGLISH



GERMAN



CZECH



Phase 2

Youth Dialogue: Intercultural encounters on site



The online consultation amplified the ideas of young people from Bavaria and the Czech Republic. Building on its outcomes, a three-day Youth Dialogue unfolded, enabling participants from both countries to meet and discuss Europe's future in person. This event took place from October 20-23, 2023, in Furth in Wald, Bavaria.

The goal of this second phase of the project was firstly to create cross-boundary exchange of perspectives, strengthening of binational networks and lasting relations between young people from both Czech Republic and Bavaria. Secondly, the participants engaged with their visions for Europe's future, both at a political level and with regard to their own lived experience.

The Dialogue was thus both a space for co-creation and political discussion that empowered participants in their role as active citizens. At the same time it provided a space for team building and informal learning, fostering connections between young individuals from Bavaria and the Czech Republic.

During the three days, participants discussed the results of the consultation and developed policy recommendations for regional and European legislation. Additionally, they advanced project ideas that can be implemented directly by themselves with the support from local youth organizations.

Future Scoping Workshop

Methodology of the Youth Dialogue

The method

The Future Scoping method is based on the assumption of everyone being an expert in their own affairs. It's designed by futurologist Robert Jungk as a collaborative process for solving shared problems. It leads through three phases of criticism, utopia and implementation and results in concrete plans for action.

Critique phase

In the initial phase, problems are identified and subjected to critical and thorough examination, focusing on issues deemed relevant and significant by the participants.

Throughout the Youth Dialogues, the process commenced by inviting individuals in the room to articulate their concerns, identify ongoing issues, and anticipate potential future challenges. Subsequently, a substantial compilation of thoughts and criticisms emerged, drawing from the participants' personal experiences.

Utopia phase

In the utopian phase, the objective is to formulate a vision for the future, envisioning potential scenarios beyond conventional limits. The emphasis lies in transcending the conceivable and contemplating optimal possibilities. Drawing from the array of topics, each participant selected a primary point of critique and transformed it into a tangible, personal, and positively oriented guiding principle for a prospective (sustainable) Europe.

Subsequently, participants envisaged ideal futures for Europe, collaboratively constructing a cohesive utopian scenario, world, or narrative. The creative outcome is unrestricted, allowing for contributions in various forms such as reports, drawings, or imaginative journeys.

Implementation phase

Ultimately, the utopian concepts transition to a pragmatic phase where they undergo scrutiny and evaluation for practical feasibility. In the concluding step, the focus shifts to practical implementation, involving the design and planning of the ideas. This process entails a meticulous examination of each idea, breaking them down into specific requirements and project outlines, step by step.

Shared Understanding

Online consultation
and on-site discussions
combined

Initially, the ideas from the online consultation were presented to showcase the emerging topics from the discussions.

Each idea was briefly explained and examples of proposals were demonstrated to give a better understanding, also for the statistics on each proposal.

Following this, a discussion ensued, delving into the themes and topics that garnered significant attention and agreement from both sides. This provided an opportunity to leverage the shared foundation, shaping concrete actions and measures that were agreeable to the young participants. It also underscored the widespread support evident among the online consultation participants.

Eight topics have emerged as a consensus among the young people in the Czech Republic and Bavaria. For the Youth Dialogues, we were focussing on six ideas out of them. This focus allowed a successful combination of online participation and co-creative analog formats.

- 1. Increasing school exchange programmes**
- 2. Promoting environmental sustainability**
- 3. Promoting youth and public interest in politics**
- 4. Promoting more common cultural projects and cultural exchanges between the two countries**
- 5. Improving technology and digital infrastructure**
- 6. Improving transport and mobility**



Results of the Youth Dialogue

During the discussion, the participants also reflected upon the need to integrate the perspectives of our direct neighbours and international partners into discussions on EU-related topics. Thus, the participants questioned conflating “the EU” and “Europe” and expressed the need to reflect the European Union in a wider European context.



The participants discussed, argued, and criticized a lot of themes and challenges within the debate. During the workshop approach, well-argued concerns about existing political and civil society actions were raised and ideas for actions based on their personal and shared vision of Europe were generated.



Manifesto

Project
Proposals

In the following, the results from three days of interaction on site are presented as demands collected in a manifesto and as calls to action in the shape of project proposals.

A European Manifesto

Demands and wishes of the Youth

Drawing inspiration from the outcomes of the online consultation and the rich dialogues conducted during the Youth Dialogues, the outline of an European manifesto emerges. This manifesto envisions a more sustainable Europe - one that aligns with the aspirations of its youthful citizens, enhances their daily experiences, and strategically positions the EU for the future.

While not claiming perfect representation of the youth in Bavaria and the Czech Republic, it nevertheless makes a bold attempt to summarise the wishes and expectations of the young generation for the Europe of the future.



Establish a social and local EUconomy!

**Economy and employment:
14 % in the consultation**

The first point tackled by this manifesto is economic imperatives, addressing concerns about the erosion of local industries and the opaque allocation of EU budgets. A fervent plea for a resilient economic framework underscores the significance of transparent financial practices, a unified currency, and a health sector liberated from profit-driven motives.

Stop the sell out of local factories and small businesses! Participants express apprehension about the widespread acquisition of local factories by international corporations. They fear a parallel fate for smaller enterprises, potentially leading to economic imbalances and a dilution of the traditional context of traded goods.

→ In contrast, the online consultation emphasizes a call for a robust trade agreement to fortify the European economy, highlighting the discourse on fostering a robust economic environment within the EU.

Make EU budget allocation transparent! There is a prevailing sentiment among the youth regarding the opaqueness of the utilization of EU funds and the absence of a robust control mechanism. This pertains to funding programmes and investments within the EU budget, warranting a clarion call for increased transpa-

rency.

Deprivatize profit-oriented health care systems! A dedicated debate on the health sector ensues, with concerns raised about its increasing profit orientation. Participants highlight the proliferation of private hospitals, critiquing a prioritization of profit over people. This, they argue, leads to economic disparities, exacerbating existing wage gaps and potentially amplifying gender inequalities.

Implement a green Economy!

The young voices resound with a desire for a self-sufficient, green circular economy that relies on no external resources. They envision a Europe capable of rejuvenating regions, transforming erstwhile coal mines into flourishing nature parks.

Strengthen European democracy!

Institutions and Democracy:
8% in the consultation

During the Youth Dialogues, there was a strong reflection on the perilous state of the EU: rise of Euroscepticism, fragility of security paradigms, integrity of democratic institutions etc. A call for unity and collaborative problem-solving emerges, emphasizing the need to combat divisive ideologies and solidify the EU's role on the global stage.

Prevent disinformation!

Youthful concern intensifies over the surge in extremism and populism across European countries, viewed as a snowball system of lies and fake news permeating political discourse. There is a resounding demand for enhanced education and control systems to counteract disinformation, coupled with a sense of shame towards the scapegoating of immigrants by right-wing entities.

Fight against Euroscepticism!

Amidst growing debates about EU departure, the group critiques ideas of leaving the EU, attributing most arguments to the right-wing sphere. The plea is for enhanced collaboration and communication among countries, recognizing that a lack thereof diminishes the EU's capacity to address global challenges such as climate change and conflict.

Support EU enlargement!

While lacking consensus in the online consultation, some participants expressed hope for a more accessible pathway for European countries to join the EU. The vision includes flexible borders, fostering economic and cultural exchanges, with a particular emphasis on cultural exchanges.

Politicians shall act value-driven and comply with common ethical standards! Discussions within the group focus on the behavior, values, and ethical standards of politicians. The debate delves into the perceived dichotomy between politicians acting in self-interest and those deserving trust and goodwill. Calls for transparency in decision-making and mechanisms to hold politicians accountable for actions contrary to public interests emerge.

Champion diplomacy over military actions and craft a unified migration policy! The youth advocates for diplomatic solutions in crisis management, asserting that military actions yield more negative consequences than victories. They stress the need for a common migration policy aligned with EU law, emphasizing the importance of coordination among member states.

→ *In the consultation the idea of establishing a stronger military collaboration in Europe was discussed controversially.*

Tied to the ongoing challenges, a big concern for the youth is the migration and human rights situation in the EU and globally. They're pushing for a united foreign policy that all member states follow, and they want, at the very least, the current EU migration laws to be put into action.

We demand a Europe that improves people's daily lives!

Education system: 17 %

Economy & employment: 14 %

International cooperation: 10 %

Public Transport: 6 %

in the consultation

The manifesto pivots pragmatically towards a vision of Europe that enriches the daily lives of its citizens. Embracing mobility, unifying diverse infrastructures, addressing concerns about profit-driven healthcare, and transforming regions into vibrant spaces feature prominently. Education takes center stage, emphasizing the need for a harmonized system fostering an internal labor market.

Resolve infrastructure confusion!

The youth advocates for the unification of diverse infrastructures to integrate the EU's supply systems. Standardization, common technical railway networks, uniform broadband and mobile pricing, and a connected energy system are proposed. The vision is for an organic system with interfaces and shared ecologically friendly technologies, including publicly owned cars.

→ *The participants of the consultation also requested an improvement of technological and digital infrastructure.*

In essence, there is a prevailing consensus for transportation systems that seamlessly integrate into individuals' daily routines and remain economically accessible. Specifically, there is a call for standardized practices, such as uniform fare structures regardless of travel distance, or the implementation of pricing harmonization.

Furthermore, the existing challenge of managing various currencies remains a pertinent issue. Consequently, there is a resolute advocacy for the adoption of the Euro as the universal currency, extending its standardization uniformly, even to prospective member states.

→ *The currency issue was not a shared popular aspect in the online consultation. The czech and bavarian youth could not agree on a single currency in Europe.*

More knowledge transfer and standards in education to support the European labour market!

There's a clear need for improved information and standardized rules to facilitate working across Europe effectively. Navigating the process of working in another EU country remains complex, despite existing EU initiatives. Clarifications on aspects like taxes and insurance are essential. The call is for streamlined administrative processes, increased fairness among countries, and a level playing field in education. Additionally, fostering a common language in the EU, preferably English, is proposed to enhance understanding in both educational and professional spheres.

A European Manifesto

Conclusion: A Europe at the scale of the citizen

Social aid, solidarity and common values: 18%

„This manifesto strives to shape an inclusive and forward-looking European narrative, placing the citizens at the heart of its evolution.“

In conclusion, the manifesto converges around the idea of a Europe at the scale of the citizen. It encapsulates values that foster a sense of pride in being European, emphasizing social cohesion, tolerance, and solidarity. The vision extends beyond economic and political realms, calling for a governance system rooted in transparency and accountability.

Fundamentally, it imagines a Europe rooted in EU values, with added dimensions of tolerance, inclusion, unity, peace, and equality.

The key theme, constituting 18% in the online consultation, revolves around social aid, solidarity, and shared values. The youth underscores the need for ongoing support for vulnerable individuals and preventing the growth of negative-oriented groups impacting societies across social, economic, and political dimensions.

Call to Action

Concrete project ideas
for implementation

In the following all concrete project ideas ready for implementation and concretisation are presented.

Project title:
FUSION FOR PUBLIC

Project description
Tvorba aplikace pro zveřejnění podání o nukleární energii a vytvoření motivační podpory místního výzkumu

Project idea
Requests
- IT firma
- Expert s obor
- Informační
- Programování
- Kreativita
- Kvalitní pracovní
- Finanční podpora
- Edukační a sdílení

Next steps
what needs to be done...
- next week? vytvoření webu a rozšíření uživatelského rozhraní
- next month? výše nákladů investic
- next year? řešení problémů s veřejnou správou

Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Expert
- Seznam

Project title:
PRAVDA VÍTEŽÍ!!!

Project description
Informovat občany o situaci v obci a o politice, která se má stát. Překladat.

Project idea
Requests
- Zastupitelstvo
- Občané
- Politici
- Které
- Se má stát
- Překladat

Next steps
what needs to be done...
- next week? vytvoření webu a rozšíření uživatelského rozhraní
- next month? výše nákladů investic
- next year? řešení problémů s veřejnou správou

Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Expert
- Seznam

Project title:
JUST STOP LIVESTOCK (JSL)

Project description
Uveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí. Zveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí.

Project idea
Requests
- Zastupitelstvo
- Občané
- Politici
- Které
- Se má stát
- Překladat

Next steps
what needs to be done...
- next week? vytvoření webu a rozšíření uživatelského rozhraní
- next month? výše nákladů investic
- next year? řešení problémů s veřejnou správou

Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Expert
- Seznam

Project title:
Europa - eine Einheit, viele Geschlechter

Project description
Uveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí. Zveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí.

Project idea
Requests
- Zastupitelstvo
- Občané
- Politici
- Které
- Se má stát
- Překladat

Next steps
what needs to be done...
- next week? vytvoření webu a rozšíření uživatelského rozhraní
- next month? výše nákladů investic
- next year? řešení problémů s veřejnou správou

Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Expert
- Seznam

Project title:
KOLA VE MĚSTĚ

Project description
Uveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí. Zveřejnění informací o produkci a distribuci živočišných produktů a jejich vlivu na životní prostředí.

Project idea
Requests
- Zastupitelstvo
- Občané
- Politici
- Které
- Se má stát
- Překladat

Next steps
what needs to be done...
- next week? vytvoření webu a rozšíření uživatelského rozhraní
- next month? výše nákladů investic
- next year? řešení problémů s veřejnou správou

Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Expert
- Seznam

Project title:
JUST STOP LIVESTOCK (JSL)

Project description
What needs to happen and how can you take an influence?
Was muss passieren und wie könnt ihr darauf Einfluss nehmen?
Co se musí stát: a jak to můžete ovlivnit?

Project idea

Requests
Who do you need? Wen braucht ihr dafür? Koho k tomu potřebujete?
① Landwirte, Produzenten, Distributoren, Supermärkte
② Konsumenten

Responsibilities
Who (of you) can do that? Wer (von euch) kann das angehen? Kdo (z vás) to zvládne?

Next steps
what needs to be done...

next week?
- Umfrage erstellen
- Marktstudie vorbereiten

next month?
- Marktstudie durchführen
- Team aufstellen
- Kontakte knüpfen
↳ Pilotprojekt starten
↳ Partner finden
(LIDL, Beyond Meat)

next year?
- Ergebnisse auswerten
- Upscale

JSL
(to be founded)

Drawing/Zeichnung

Just Stop Livestock!

A real green label

The objective is to reshape the landscape of meat production, where the reality is that producing meat incurs higher costs compared to plant-based alternatives. However, this fact is often masked by subsidies, effectively externalizing the actual expenses.

The goal is to render plant-based food production not only more cost-effective but also to ensure the ethical treatment of animals until their natural end.

To initiate this transformative process, it is essential to establish new funding systems for farmers, encompassing financial support, educational initiatives, and the adjustment of market conditions. The adoption of the shift towards plant-based food is integral for farmers, distributors, and consumers alike.

Subsequent steps involve conducting a market study, formulating innovative pricing models, persuading supermarkets to collaborate in fundraising efforts and the redesign of distribution chains.

Throughout this transition, addressing the financial gap experienced by farmers, particularly at the outset when lower prices for plant-based food are anticipated, becomes paramount and necessitates funding.

→ *In line with online consultation feedback, prioritizing economic and resource independence is crucial. The emphasis is on diminishing imports from inhumane or non-environmentally friendly sources and reinstating agricultural and food self-sufficiency.*

FEEDBACK

Politicians:


It is complex, because most of the arable land is not usable for plant based farming and is more applicable to animal husbandry. Therefore, business solutions could be limited, at least in Bavaria.

Participants' arguments:

Soy import is to be interrupted, because it causes negative environmental impact. An option could be renaturation programmes.

Project title:
Europa - eine Einheit,
viele Gesichter

Drawing/ Zeichnung/ kresleni



Project description
What needs to happen and how can you take an influence?
Was muss passieren und wie könnt ihr darauf Einfluss nehmen?
Co se must stät a jak to mözete ovlivnit?

Bewusstsein schaffen regionale Kultur
und diese ins tägliche Leben holen

- Kultur verstehen
↳ Bürgerforen + Straßenumfragen
- Veranstaltungen
Neue schaffen
Existierende fördern
↳ Kulturschaffende, involvieren
↳ Werbung auf versch. Plattformen
↳ Zusammenarbeit mit bestehenden
Organisationen (Heimatvereine) &
Kommunen
- Lokale Produkte/Dienstleistungen fördern
↳ Erweiterung des Produktangebots

Project idea

Requests
Who do you need? Wen braucht ihr dafür? Koho k tomu potrebujete?

- engagierte, teilnehmende Bürger
- bestehende Organisationen
- regionale Gewerbebetriebe
- Kulturschaffende
- Kommunal- und Regionalbehörden

What do you need? Was braucht ihr dafür? Co k tomu potrebujete?

- Örtlichkeiten für Veranstaltungen
- gute Zusammenarbeit
mit Kommunen
- Werbung

Next steps
what needs to be done...

...next week?

- eine Gruppe gründen
- Fragen für Straßenumfrage erstellen
- offene Fragen klären

...next month?

- Straßenumfragen
- anfangen mit Kulturschaffenden und politisch Verantwortlichen Kontakt aufzunehmen

...next year?

- eine erste Veranstaltung organisieren
- Netzwerke aufbauen
- Aufmerksamkeit generieren
- Politisch Verantwortliche in die Pflicht nehmen

Responsibilities
Who (of you) can do that? Wer (von euch) kann das angehen? Kdo (z vás) to zvládne?

Jeder kann einen Beitrag leisten
und ein Teil davon sein

The second concept revolves around preserving the distinctiveness of regions, encompassing culture, traditions, and geographical characteristics.

The objective is to integrate regional elements into daily life. Initial steps involve gathering data for various regions in the Bavaria-Czech Border region, serving as a foundation for decision-making. Subsequently, citizen forums and street surveys will be conducted to engage the population and understand their expectations. Central to this initiative is organi-

zing events that celebrate unique holidays and festivals, showcasing artists, cultural representatives, and communal rituals. To enrich these occasions, local food products and services will be integrated to boost local markets, requiring collaboration with companies.

Success depends on extensive media coverage, volunteer engagement, support from established organizations, and cooperation with local administrations. Establishing a clear framework for promoting local products is essential.

→ *In alignment with insights from the online consultation, this idea echoes the desire for economic and resource independence, emphasizing the reduction of imports from inhumane or non-environmentally friendly sources and the restoration of agricultural and food self-sufficiency. This underscores a connection to regional production.*

Europe: Unity with many faces

FEEDBACK

Politicians suggested tying into an existing project: A multicultural association in Rodingen shares similar goals and could be scaled up or integrated into this specific idea.

Another possible partner could be the Karl Klostermann association, which urgently needs new young members.

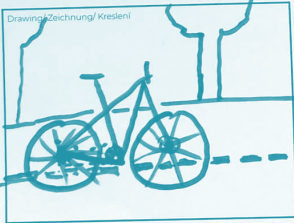
Additionally, politicians proposed taking the topic to Brussels within the European Committee of the Regions or to the organization Bavaria Bohemia to garner support and foster further cooperation.

Considering school partnerships as enablers for this idea and potential sources of diverse funding is also under consideration.

Expanding the new contact with COJC could be facilitated with the assistance of Tandem and BJR.

Project title:
KOLA VE MĚSTĚ

Drawing / Zeichnung / Kreslení



Project description
What needs to happen and how can you take an influence?
Was muss passieren und wie könnt ihr darauf Einfluss nehmen?
Co se musí stát a jak to můžete ovlivnit?

- INFRASTRUKTURA
- DOSTUPNOST
- ZÁKONY
- JINÉ BENEFITY
- PLZEŇ

Project idea

Requests
Who do you need? Wen braucht ihr dafür? Koho k tomu potřebujete?

POLITIKY
SPONZORY

What do you need? Was braucht ihr dafür? Co k tomu potřebujete?

POVOLENÍ,
PENÍZE, KONTAKTY

Next steps
what needs to be done...

...next week?

- KONTAKT A
- KONZULTACE
- VÝOĚR

...next month?

- KONKRÉTNÍ PROJEKT
- PARTNERI

...next year?

- REALIZACE PROJEKTU
- INOVACE

Kola ve městě
jakub.smitka
@ 3024901.62

The third idea focuses on expanding local biking infrastructure, starting with the creation of local bike repair stops to encourage bike usage. Educational programmes be implemented.

The objective is to enhance sustainability in the city, reclaim space, and promote environmentally friendly transportation. Securing funding is crucial for establishing more biking lanes and bike-friendly traffic lights, improving the overall safety of the biking network.

Connecting existing bike lanes poses a significant challenge, requiring an upscale effort.

Citizens' approval, sponsorships, and political support are essential for these initiatives. Advertisement partnerships will be pursued. The next steps involve engaging with sports organizations, consulting with experts, and defining project details. It is vital to link this idea to the existing project in Pilsen aimed at reducing car traffic.

→ This idea effectively addresses local and sustainable mobility concerns, as indicated by the reflections from the online consultation. The youth perceives these localized actions as a catalyst for influencing measures on broader levels.

Bikes in the City!

Boosting crossborder biking infrastructures

FEEDBACK

The Bavarian federal state could potentially provide funding for this specific local idea due to its concrete nature.

Additionally, the notion of promoting biking for enjoyment aligns with fostering a commitment to altering personal mobility habits.

Project title:
PRAVDA VÍTEŽÍ!!!

Project description
What needs to happen and how can you take an influence?
Was muss passieren und wie könnt ihr darauf Einfluss nehmen?
Co se musí stát a jak to můžete ovlivnit?

Project idea
Informovat mladou generaci o bídě politiku, které se mají přestát přehlížet.

Requests
Who do you need? Wen braucht ihr dafür? Koho k tomu potřebujete?
Influencer, odinující mladou generaci: IT tým, Dobrovolníci

What do you need? Was braucht ihr dafür? Co k tomu potřebujete?
500 000 €

Responsibilities
Who (of you) can do that? Wer (von euch) kann das angehen? Kdo (z vás) to zvládne?
7, vichhi, Tanir-vrdar, Khai-finance, Luker-IT

Next steps
what needs to be done...

...next week?
Sháníme finanční IT firmu, influencerů a propagaci

...next month?
Pracovní web, systém, obsah, marketing

...next year?
Začínáme!

Drawing/ Zeichnung/ Kreslení
TRUST LOGO RESPONSIBILITY ACCOUNTABILITY

This initiative envisions a digital platform dedicated to screening and validating political statements, aiming to combat disinformation. The core features include transparent documentation, a public but moderated validation function, and a verification system. Swift suspensions and direct legal actions for incidents are prioritized.

Key requirements involve a modern verification system, debunk webs, new laws, and collaboration with investigation institutions. Effective advertising strategies are deemed crucial to encourage incident reporting, leveraging influencers with a reputation for reliable political media coverage. The target demographic is young people, necessitating a modern UX design.

The estimated financial need is substantial, requiring professional IT support to establish a clear business model. The initiative aims for a non-profit, social enterprise model, with transparent and neutral funding secured through a structured framework. Citizen Watch is considered a potential partner organization.

The truth wins!

Integrity control system for politicians' perspectives

FEEDBACK

The feedback received was somewhat reserved, with politicians emphasizing the role of media exposure and the freedom of the press as crucial structures for accountability.

While acknowledging the potential value of an app as a complement to existing platforms, they underscored the importance of a robust and unchallengeable judiciary overseeing such matters. They recognized the need for diverse sources and actors to contribute to ensuring accountability.

Project title:
FUSION FOR PUBLIC

Project description
What needs to happen and how can you take an influence?
Was muss passieren und wie könnt ihr darauf Einfluss nehmen?
Co se musí stát a jak to můžete ovlivnit?

Project idea
Requests
Who do you need? Wen braucht ihr dafür? Koho k tomu potřebujete?
- IT FIEHA - POLITICI
- EXPERTI Z OBLASTI - INFLUENCERI
- DOBROVOLNÍCI - CELEBRITY

Next steps
what needs to be done...

next week?
- VYTVOŘENÍ TEXTU A ZODĚLENÍ ÚLOH ZODPOVĚDĚLÍM VĚCÍM

next month?
- PREZENTACE VÍDEO HOŘÁKŮM INVESTORŮM

next year?
- SPOLEČNÝ PROJEKT PŘES BERLANKY A VEŘEJNÉ ZÁJME OSOBY

Responsibilities
Who (of you) can do that? Wer (von euch) kann das anstellen? Kdo (z vás) to zvládne?
- MARKETING EXPERT
- SEBASTIAN

This proposal seeks to advance a new era of clean energy by addressing the lack of widespread public awareness regarding the benefits and possibilities of fusion energy. Collaboration with renowned physicists is considered crucial to fostering a common understanding.

On a local scale, a pilot project, assisted by international organizations, aims to establish a fusion cell. Further, the idea is to develop an interactive application (app) with digital

content, potentially funded by the EU, to raise awareness. Collaboration with partners for content creation, possible EU funding, and partnerships with influencers, TV channels, and energy companies are essential.

The subsequent steps involve presenting the concept to a pilot region, providing a model plan, and finalizing the app's concept. Validation of the content will be sought from climate activists and experts.

→ *The proposal strongly aligns with the notion of advancing thermonuclear and nuclear power technologies, as highlighted in the reflections from the online consultation. Participants express the view that nuclear power should be affirmed as a clean energy source and expanded, particularly as the phase-out of coal power is advocated.*

Fusion for public!

An app to support fusion energy

FEEDBACK

The proposal is well-received, especially as it aligns with the need to enhance the German-Czech partnership and addresses a topic that resonates with regions. A promising initiative could involve schools in disseminating the idea.

A visionary goal is to potentially witness the construction of the first fusion facility in the border region within the next 15 years. However, a critical concern remains regarding the repository problem, a global issue requiring a comprehensive solution.

Potential partners in this endeavor may include future funds and state ministries.

Presentation

for politicians and
civil society actors



Dr. Gerhard Hopp
Member of Parliament

Lucie Tarabová
TANDEM

Kristýna Šimková
Sojka - spolek mladých

Tobias Gotthardt
Member of Parliament

Stephan Meier
eKairos



Finally, on the last day of the Youth exchange, the participants presented and discussed their results with political representatives and civil society actors: The political guests were two chairmen of the European Affairs Committee in the Bavarian state parliament, Dr. Gerhard Hopp and Tobias Gotthardt.

Bavarian - Czech civil society was represented by Lucie Tarabová, head of the Czech office of Tandem and Kristýna Šimková, chair of the board of the non-profit association Sojka - spolek mladých.

Impressions



“Tandem was impressed by the variety of topics that young people are dealing with. The projects presented in Furth im Wald - as part of the 2nd phase - largely focussed on sustainability issues. It is relieving to know that young people are thinking intensively about the common, cross-border future.”

- Lucie Tarabová, Head of the Czech Coordination Centre for Czech-German Youth Exchange TANDEM

“Exchange is more important than ever”

- Dr. Gerhard Hopp,
Member of Parliament

Dr. Hopp, who as a local member of parliament has long been committed to Bavarian-Czech friendship, was all the more pleased to have the opportunity to exchange ideas on Sunday afternoon in Furth im Wald. The topics on which the young people from Bavaria and the Czech Republic presented their ideas to the political guests ranged from mobility and energy to media skills and dealing with fake news and populism. Hopp was impressed by the discussion. ***“Especially in these times, being together and in dialogue is more valuable than ever”***, Hopp emphasized.

“I am impressed by the European power of this process and would like to see the young generation in Bavaria and the Czech Republic continue to act as a think tank and engine room for a Europe that delivers in concrete terms. Thank you to all the organisers and participants for their commitment.”

- Tobias Gotthardt,
Member of Parliament



Further support & next steps

Contact of the politicians:

Both parliamentarians were re-elected to the state parliament in October 2024 and remain committed to expanding cross-border cooperation. They are both approachable and happy to support specific projects:

Gerhard Hopp MdL
www.gerhard-hopp.de

Tobias Gotthardt
www.tobiasgotthardt.de

TANDEM can offer very specific support:

- we organize events for young people every year
- we arrange offers from other organizations
- we are happy to offer advice when it comes to realizing your own projects (content, concept, funding options).

TANDEM aims to provide the following to young people in the Czech/Bavarian border region:

There is a great importance of co-operation in the border region. In the future, the border will only be marked on the map, but will become less and less important in people's hearts and everyday lives.

Joint concepts should be developed for dealing with each other (labour market, investments, infrastructure, cultural offerings). Active participation in shaping the border region can turn the border region into the center of Europe.

TANDEM would like to see participative projects in the context of cross-border youth participation and the future of Europe:

Our advice is that planned projects are thought small and big things are achieved. You shouldn't start out wanting to change the whole world, you should start with your own immediate living environment. Young people are predestined for participative projects because they have new perspectives and a lot of courage.

Want to know more? Ask us!

The initiators behind the project



Initiative Offene Gesellschaft (IOG) is a German non-profit organization whose vision is a society that is open and fair for all. It strengthens democracy through political participation and dialogue. IOG uses innovative formats to create a connection between citizens, civil society and political institutions, to improve social cohesion and to bring new ideas into practice. It has many years of experience in designing and moderating participatory dialogue and meeting formats. Its partners and sponsors include Robert Bosch Stiftung, Hertie Stiftung, Open Society Foundation, Deutsche Postcode Lotterie.



Make.org is a neutral and independent civic tech organization developing a methodology and toolset to engage millions of citizens on issues of public interest. The unique digital consultation platform enables a very high level of citizen participation based on an open question at the beginning and produces clear and actionable results. The main goal of Make.org is to create mutual understanding among the population, soften hardened fronts and create a common basis for action.



eKairos sees itself as an interdisciplinary team of consulting and implementation experts for large-scale participation processes. Regardless of the provider, eKairos selects the appropriate instruments and formats for each project that promise the greatest impact on the participants. By dovetailing digital and analog participation offerings, eKairos aims to give as many young people from Bavaria and the Czech regions as possible a voice.

This project was funded by the Bavarian State Ministry for Family Affairs, Labor and Social Affairs through the Bavarian Youth Federation. It is part of the Bavarian Youth Action Plan.

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Familie, Arbeit und Soziales

