

S.P.A.C.E
STREET
PARTICIPATION
FOR ACTIVE
CITIZENSHIP IN
EUROPE

European Street Debate

**HOW IMPORTANT
IS EUROPE
FOR YOU?**



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



ABOUT THE S.P.A.C.E PROJECT

A last Eurobarometer (European's Engagement in Participatory Democracy) were highlighting the need to empower active citizenship in Europe. Our democracy model based on representation is in crisis and European citizens do not trust political class. As consequences, many citizens do not participate (concretized by the last EU Elections that saw in 2014 the lowest voter turnout on record) or express their views and opinions on European issues (more than two-thirds of Europeans (67%) say that their voice does not count in the EU).

On one hand, for the citizens of Europe, there are few accessible spaces for citizen's expression and initiatives and the European democratic debate do not integrate and valorise a real plurality of views. In the other hand, the Local Authorities (LAs) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have difficulties to reach the citizens to facilitate their participation and they need innovative methods to communicate and inform the citizens about and promote EU tools of participation.

To challenge the citizen's participation issues, a Network of Towns (LAs and CSOs) from 10 EU countries + Neighbouring Countries, usually involved in local democracy, thanks to the 2 years project "SPACE.", is bringing and carrying the European debate in the street, closer to their citizens. This project aims to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level and encourage democratic participation.

The specific objectives of the project are : to create space of expression, debate and exchange for citizens about the future of Europe; to raise the capacities of LA and CSO in new form of citizen's participation; to make the voice of the citizens heard at European level; and to promote the European Tools of Citizens Participation. (ETCP).

Through some innovative methods of social interaction in the public space, 22 participants became "Street

Facilitators" and after being adequately trained, they are now acting as multipliers of "Street Debate". During some local events, they organized some "Porteurs de paroles", a street workshop that permit a large participation of the citizens. All the views and opinions expressed are carried in a European dimension and citizen's voices is valorised and brought up to the decision makers' level. Thanks to this grass-root stimulation of democracy, the participants are also creating some innovative tools to inform in the street the citizens about the existing European tools of participation.

In total, 11 street debate had been organised in 10 countries: Italy, France, Estonia, Austria, Bosnia, Serbia, Greece, Croazia, Slovenia and Romania. For these first street debate, the Street Facilitators raised the question: How important is Europe for you? In order to discuss about the opinions of the Europeans about Europe in general.

In this guide, we have the pleasure to share with all of you some results of our participative democracy process. You can find more information on the Facebook page of our project:

[facebook.com/STREETPARTICIPATION](https://www.facebook.com/STREETPARTICIPATION)



WORD CARRIER KIT

STREET DEBATE<<USER INSTRUCTIONS>>

1 Find a public space where you feel well



2 Choose a question about our society that is accessible to everyone



3 Install the first answers that you collected before among your relatives or neighbours



4 The first passersby arrive, stop, read and you can start the first discussions



5 The exchanges start, between people and the facilitators



6 The facilitators summarise the discussions and write down the answers



Write the answer in big letters on the board



Hang the boards on the wall of opinions



8

Keep the exchange going until planned

9



KAKO
POMEMBNA
JE ZATE
EVROPA?

QUANTO È
IMPORTANTE
PER TE
L'EUROPA?

Wie wichtig
ist Europa
für Dich?

“ HOW
IMPORTANT IS
EUROPE
FOR YOU? ”

KAKAV
ZNAČAJ
ima
~~EVROPA~~
za
TEBE?

Kui oluline on
Euroopa
Sinu jaoks?

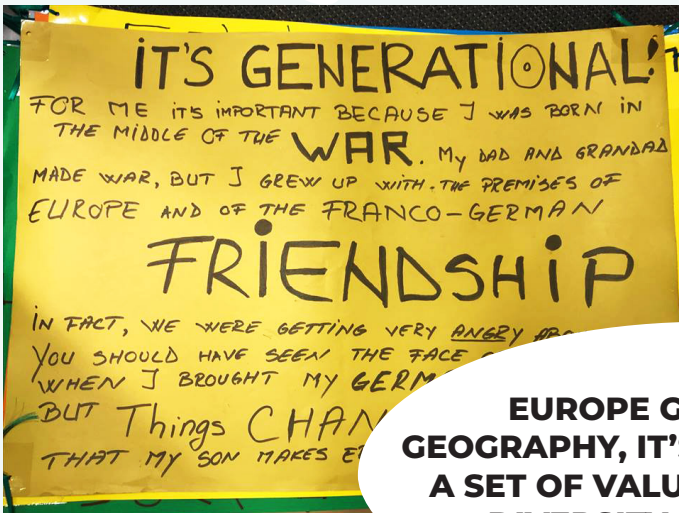
Kesklinna Noortekeskus / 27. september / 19 - 19:30 Hs.

QUELLE
IMPORTANCE
A
L'EUROPE
POUR TOI?

Europe is the symbol of division, although it sounds paradoxically today, when we have supranational entity such as the EU, which we need to acknowledge as the conglomerate of nations. **A HYBRID ENTITY** that doesn't exist anywhere in the world (at least of such strength and importance). The important question is **WHERE THE BORDERS OF THIS EUROPE ARE**. Europe is the continent of culture and blood. - Vladislav, 25, Serbia



EUROPE DOESN'T EXIST IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE. For example, during the recent fires, there was no help from Europe. There could be a European body to deal with such extraordinary phenomena. Some works are being held but **THIS IS NOT SO CLEAR** in our everyday life. - Maya, 35, Greece



EUROPE GOES BEYOND GEOGRAPHY, IT'S A STATE OF MIND, A SET OF VALUES, RESPECT AND DIVERSITY. - Paula, 39, Estonia



Initially **I AM FEELING MORE AS AN EUROPEAN CITIZEN**, than a citizen of Slovenia. - Nikola, 43, Slovenia



For me, Europe is very important because it is a framework in which we can develop, as a country, by having an economical, political and social collaboration with other countries and because it implies the use of a certain set of values meant to **PROTECT DEMOCRACY AND FREE WILL.**

- Ana Maria, 20, Romania



Of course, there are great inequalities in European countries, but many of them that belong to the European Union take care of their people. **OUR GOOD TIMES WERE IN LATE 1980S.** Novi Sad deserves to be the European Capital of Culture and to have higher standard. It's pity that young people are leaving the country, it is beautiful here, but we lack economic stability that they can find it in the countries of the European Union. - Pavle, 49, Serbia

It's generational, for me it is important because I was born in the middle of the war. My dad and grandad made war, but I grew up with the premises of Europe and of the Franco-German friendship. In fact, we were getting very angry about that. You should have seen the face of my grandad when I brought my German pen pal to him. But things change and **I AM HAPPY THAT MY SON MAKES ERASMUS RATHER THAN WAR.** - Yves, 72, France



I think that it **WE COULD DO WITHOUT.** Yes, I don't need to stop at the boarder when I go to see my relative in Germany, but it's the only concrete things that it change in my life. And I go there once a year, so **IT'S NOT ENOUGH** to make me forget the negative side of the EU. - Marco, 36, Italy

From my perspective Europe is an **OLD SLEEPY LADY.** I have nice memories living in Europe, but not so nice memories about finding jobs. - Sandra, 40, Croazia, from New Zeland



EUROPE OFFERS JOBS. When there is unemployment in a country, workers can move to another. You can travel freely abroad. - Stasa, 51, Greece

I see EU as something that I cannot imagine my everyday life without. I think that when we eliminated country borders, we also eliminated borders in our heads. It is important that we are active citizens of our Europe. - Mate, 26, Slovenia



EUROPE IS OUR COUNTRY, SO WE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF IT! - Lou, 8, France

Leaflet realized by Bastien Fillon (Officine Cittadine) and Guillaume Coquand (Sensibiliz'Action)



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