

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT - 101081596	
	1- SUEDWIND
PIC number:	947797089
Project name and acronym:	My participation revolution – My revolution

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	5 (Workpackage 5)
Event name:	National Conference AT
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	<i>in situ</i>
Location:	Austria, Vienna, VHS Favoriten, Arthaberplatz 18, 1100 Vienna
Date(s):	01.06.2023
Website(s) (if any):	www.suedwind.at/myrevolution Participating school homepages: www.spengergasse.at , www.g11.ac.at , www.szu-home.at , www.wenzgasse.at , www.billroth73.at
Participants	
Female:	26 (24 students, 1 female teacher, 1 female representative of Suedwind)
Male:	25 (20 students, 4 male teachers, 1 male representative of Suedwind)
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [name]:	Austria
From country 2 [name]:	
From country 3 [name]:	
...	
Total number of participants:	51
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

National conference program for schools and youth centers



KONFERENZPROGRAMM

Nationale Konferenz

„My participation revolution“

VHS Wien 10, Arthaberplatz 18

1. Juni 2023



09:00 - 09:30	Registrierung der Teilnehmer
09:30 - 09:45	Konferenzeröffnung
09:45 - 10:15	Experten-Input der European Agency for Fundamental Rights
10:15 - 10:30	Input zur Politischen Partizipation durch die VHS
10:30 - 10:45	Pause
10:45 - 12:30	Weltcafé
12:30 - 13:15	Pause
13:15 - 14:30	Weltcafé
14:30 - 15:00	Photo- und Interview-Session Flash Mob „My revolution“
15:00 - 15:15	Pause
15:15 - 16:00	Online - Meeting mit der polnischen Delegation
16:00 - 16:15	Feedback - Runde

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Finanziert von der Europäischen Union



Participants

In the National Conference on June 1, 2023, the following Austrian schools participated (see participants' lists):

HTL Spengergasse (1050 Vienna)

7 students and 1 teacher



AHS Geringergasse (1110 Vienna)

9 students and 1 teacher

(1 student didn't consent to being in the group picture, this is why only 8 students are seen in the picture)



HAK Ungargasse (1030 Vienna)

8 students and 1 teacher

(3 students didn't consent to being in the group picture, this is why only 5 of the 5 students are seen in the picture below)



AHS Billrothstraße (1190 Vienna)

10 students and 1 teacher



AHS Wenzgasse (1130 Vienna)

10 students and 1 teacher



The 44 students participating in the conference came from the schools that hosted the five preparation workshops in April 2023. The five teachers had selected the students according to their level of commitment to the project and their interest in participating in the National Conference. All school delegations were accompanied by their teachers. Additionally, the project manager and the head of campaigning from Suedwind attended and coordinated the conference, which makes for a total of 51 persons in the conference.

Sex-disaggregated data on the participation

The 44 students participating are 14 to 17 years old. In total 24 girls and 20 boys participated in the National Conference.

Conference material

The conference took place at the VHS Favoriten and lasted from 9:00 am to 4:15 pm. Every student got three brochures, all in the printed version:

“Die EU und ich” (see picture 2)

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/eu-me_de

“Human rights – passport”, issued by Amnesty International (see picture 1 & 2)

<https://issuu.com/udhr60/docs/menschenrechtspass>

“Political participation” – Folder, issued by VHS (see picture 3)

file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/JugenPartizipation_FolderA5FIN.pdf



Opening ceremony by Suedwind and FRA

After the registration of the participants in offline participants' lists the conference was opened by Mag. Stefan Grasgruber, head of campaigning, from Suedwind, pointing out the importance of participating in political processes on the national level as well as in the European Union.



After this introduction Mrs. Sanja Jovicic, the project manager for institutional cooperation and networks unit of the European Union Agency for Fundamental rights (FRA) visited the conference personally and spoke about the EU Charter and the fundamental rights of EU-Citizens, focussing especially on youngsters and their possibilities of political participation as shown in the following PPT-presentation to the audience, including a video (link in the PPT): <https://fileshare.fra.europa.eu/index.php/s/M3aHEDcw9gDwXBa>

This input about the Charter of the European Union was followed by a Q&A session and a lively discussion about civil rights with the audience.

Participation workshop by VHS

Mr. Nikolaus Ecker, head of "JUBIZ", the youth education center of the VHS, gave an interactive input on youth participation as well, handing out the following worksheets as well as the VHS folder on youth participation mentioned above:



PartzipaWTF?

Partizipation heißt eigentlich, dass Menschen an Entscheidungen und der Umsetzung beteiligt sind.

Versuche zu beantworten wie viel Partizipation hier drinnen steckt (Zeichne auf der Linie ein wieviel Partizipation du hier siehst)

Deine Eltern Fragen Dich und Deine Geschwister was ihr am Wochenende gerne machen würdet.
Entscheiden tun sie es selber.



Neben Deiner (Berufs-)Schule (Deinem Kursort,...) soll der Park erneuert werden. Die zuständigen Politiker*innen machen eine Befragung wie der Park aussehen soll. Zum Schluss gibt es eine Abstimmung über die Vorschläge. Diese werden auch so gemacht.



Es ist Dein 16ter Geburtstag. Du darfst zum ersten Mal wählen gehen. Du gehst ins Wahllokal und gibst Deine Stimme ab.



In der Schule/Arbeit macht ihr einen Schul-/Betriebsausflug. Alle bringen ihre Ideen ein. Dein Klassensprecher/Betriebsrat entscheidet dann wohin ihr den Ausflug macht.



Es ist Samstag Nachmittag. Du und Deine Freund*innen überlegen, was ihr heute noch machen wollt. Zum Schluss entscheidet der/die Älteste von Euch, was heute noch passieren wird.



In Deinem Jugendzentrum werden Vorschläge für die nächsten Sportangebote gesammelt. Danach kann von allen Jugendlichen abgestimmt werden. Alle Vorschläge die mehr als die Hälfte der Stimmen bekommt, werden umgesetzt. Der Rest nicht.



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Versuche zu Deinen TOP-Themen herauszufinden, wer, was machen kann.

Hier ein kleines Beispiel:

Thema	Was kann ich tun?	Was können andere tun?	Was kann Politik machen?
Mülltrennung/-vermeidung	Zu Hause den Müll trennen. Mit anderen darüber reden. Postings auf social media.	Gemeinsame Mülltrennung in der Schule/Arbeit	Plastikpfand, gesetzliche Vorgaben bei Verpackung

Wie ist das bei Deinen TOP-Themen

Thema	Was kann ich tun?	Was können andere tun?	Was kann Politik machen?

Thema	Was kann ich tun?	Was können andere tun?	Was kann Politik machen?

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Thema	Was kann ich tun?	Was können andere tun?	Was kann Politik machen?



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Besides using the brochure, Mr. Ecker used the worksheets above for the input; the education expert made the students decide how much participation they thought the different situations described on the sheet “ParticipaWTF?” required from young people. Then he made them stand in different places in the room according to the level of participation they had chosen.



Worldcafé sessions

After the first break the students split into nine different groups for the first worldcafé-session, where they discussed their ideas, changing to the next table to discuss another topic every 15 minutes. One student-coordinator stayed at each table to inform the rotating students about what had been debated by the groups before.



This first debating session was followed by the lunch break, where only vegetarian and mainly organic food and juices were offered:



After lunch the worldcafé sessions were continued, until every student had attended every table, discussed every one of the nine topics and thus had the chance to contribute his/her ideas on all issues.

Conference topics

The nine topics of the Austrian National Conference were the following:

1. HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRACY
2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & CLIMATE CRISIS
3. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ISSUES
4. MIGRATION AND MOBILITY
5. SPARE TIME AND CONSUMPTION ISSUES
6. WORK AND LABOR
7. EDUCATION
8. ANIMAL RIGHTS
9. DIGITAL CHANGE

The last two topics (animal rights and digital change) had been brought up by the students in addition to the seven original ones during the workshops. In order to fulfil their demands and meet their interests in the best possible way, they were integrated into the National Conference as separate topics.

Conference results

National Conference, June 1, 2023, Vienna, Austria

Summary of the outcome of the worldcafé – sessions

I. Human Rights, Political Participation, Democracy

A. Human Rights

1. immediate and complete cancellation of EU subsidies in case of non-compliance with human rights
2. creation of an external EU-independent, investigative commission to clarify EU breaches of international law and human rights (E.g.: UN, CH)

B. Political Participation

1. youth parliaments in every member state of the EU, following the example of Switzerland and the Austrian SiPs
2. creation of a school subject “Political Education” to strengthen the interest of young people in politics and to show they can make an impact
3. The EU presents 10 proposals for topics, each EU citizen has a right to vote, the three topics chosen most often have to be dealt with the next year (Exists already: European Citizens’ Initiative: any individual or group can start an initiative on any topic they choose. In case 1 million signatures are collected, the topic has to be dealt with by the EU.)
4. set down voting age for European Citizens' Initiatives at 14 years to give young people an easy entry into politics
5. boost information and advertising campaigns for European Citizens' Initiatives/referenda, especially on social media frequented by young people

C. Democracy

1. oblige EU parliamentarians to take part in panel discussions with young people in their countries 4 times a year
2. review and possibly revise the admission criteria for new member states with regard to real democracy. (There are already strict admission criteria (The Copenhagen Criteria) with regard to democracy and market economy. But once in the EU, governments may change and thus the way they behave!)
3. if a European Citizens' Initiative is not accepted in the Commission, the EU Commission has to explain why

II. Environmental protection & Climate crisis

A. Transportation/Traffic:

1. promotion of goods/passenger transport per train
2. expansion of public transport networks
3. cheap public transport ticket nationwide / Europe-wide
4. better Europe-wide cooperation in transport !!
5. subsidize train services (done by member states)
6. de-privatization (each state must possess at least 50% of the railroad companies)
7. one car-free day a week
8. ban private jets

B. Water waste/Pollution

1. promote water saving industry / agriculture
2. education on how to save water in daily life
3. compulsory filtering of waste water for industries

C. Plastic

1. prohibit non-essential use of plastic products
2. final plastic disposal - financing by producers (polluter pays-principle)
3. obligation for vendor/producer to take back and recycle plastic
4. ban of non-recyclable plastic

D. Supply chain law

1. mandatory supply chain labeling on all products
2. mandatory information on all products on the amount of CO2 produced in the production process

E. CO2 tax**F. Compliance with climate targets**

1. interim targets (incremental reduction: by 2025 5% CO2 emission reduction. In case of non-compliance: exclusion from subsidies)
2. ban coal-fired power plants by 2027, end subsidies immediately
3. promotion of solar power

G. Stop soil sealing

1. step up subsidies for the renovation and insulation of old houses
2. deforestation: control of the origin of the wood, regulations (they already exist but are often eluded)
3. promotion of solar power without too much red tape
4. simplify the establishing of nature reserves

H. Stop deforestation

1. rezoning for new development according to new standards by environmental committees
2. promotion of and reforestation with mixed forests
3. better control of river regulations (environmental committee)

III. Healthcare and Social Issues**A. Healthcare**

1. Education
 - Increase medical study places to a number which covers the need for medical professionals within a region or beyond
 - implement mandatory first aid courses in schools
 - additional courses for teachers to recognize early symptoms of mental problems
2. Prevention
 - extend public sport facilities and establish publicly financed sports clubs
 - mandatory participation in sports events and championships for educational facilities
 - workshops informing on physical health and wellbeing
3. Treatment
 - medical professionals should pay more attention to symptoms and complaints voiced by women
 - strongly suggested: yearly checkups for every European citizen in every country to detect diseases in their early stages and enable easier treatment
 - medical check-up stations in parks to encourage citizens to undergo medical examinations
 - easily and discreetly accessible psychological treatment and the implementation of mediators in educational institutions (obligatory in schools?)

B. Social work

1. mandatory training and employment of unemployed persons in the field of social work after a fixed period of unemployment
2. increase the attractiveness of social jobs through benefits and subsidies for social services, such as cheaper tickets for public transport, lower interest rates on loans etc.

C. Accessibility

1. involve handicapped people in the planning and design of special needs infrastructure
2. EU wide standards and requirements for special needs infrastructure

D. Homelessness

1. Prevention: more protection of the tenant, notify in advance before cancelling rental contracts (already existing, 3 months notice period)
2. Immediate support: provide enough short-term housing for homeless people, especially under harsh weather conditions
3. Reintegration: support programs for reintegration into the job market, training for social work

IV. Migration and Mobility**A. Immigration Process**

1. equal treatment of all cultures
2. faster asylum approval process
3. non-bureaucratic process
4. enough preparation time in case of deportation
5. non-violence
6. reasonable distribution
7. guarantee safe routes to the EU
8. fight Frontex
9. deportation to safe countries
10. improve pull factors -> (in EU) reduce push factors
11. secure means of transport for deportation
12. child protection during deportation (during or from?)

B. Integration process

1. right to work for asylum seekers!
2. language courses (obligatory)
3. functional migration for work
4. Extend "EURES"
5. mental support
6. better working conditions etc.
7. faster issuing of visas

V. Spare Time and Consumption Issues**A. Right to repair – Tech Products**

1. possibility for consumers to carry out simple repairs themselves
2. more complicated repairs need to be manageable for third party repair shops
3. increase mandatory warranty for technical devices to 3 years

B. Mobility

1. increase public investment into public transport by 20%
2. provide financial support for interstate transport by train

C. Teenage spare time

1. increase financial support for sports clubs
2. increase spending on public exercise locations

D. Food waste

1. create institutions which collect leftover food and centrally distribute it to social aid organisations (subsidized by the EU)
2. legalise the sale of expired goods

E. Information Campaign – Consumer society

1. raise awareness on consumption issues

F. Flights

1. add CO2 taxes to short distance flights (>300km)

VI. Work and labor**A. Reduce shortage of skilled workers**

1. better pay for all professionals in understaffed branches (in a market economy: a matter of contracts between employee and employer! EU can't fix pay level!)
2. accept degrees and studies from other countries, quickly and without bureaucracy
3. more recognition (for social work) through e.g. advertisements, insights into working life, showing system relevance)
4. Create incentives with privileges (e.g., shorter work hours, 32-hour week) for qualified professionals in understaffed branches
5. Make civilian service mandatory for all genders

B. Labor migration

1. Asylum seekers should be allowed or even obliged to work on the right to remain already after application (before possible admission).
2. Asylum seekers should be obliged to learn the language of the country and be offered language courses.
3. Asylum seekers should receive bonuses and faster promotion opportunities for good performance and strong improvements in language skills.
4. Asylum seekers who do not have a good command of the national language should be offered jobs demanding little or no language skills at fair wages.
5. uniform measures for guest workers and asylum seekers: which means: change the asylum laws!
6. unbureaucratic asylum procedures
7. right to education and residence
8. ban "all in" contracts

C. Unemployment

1. offer unemployed people jobs according to the branch desired
2. Offers must be made with fair pay for a minimum time
3. stronger proofs of efforts to get a job when receiving unemployment benefits
4. mandatory training
5. exponentially reduce unemployment money for the long-term unemployed
6. find out with psychologists why long-term unemployed have no urge to work (many reasons known)
7. more motivation for work through recognition and advertising

D. Social rights

1. Gender equality
 - gender inequality should not be accepted
 - equal pay should be guaranteed
 - employers must take more responsibility for their workers' physical and mental health
 - big differences between salaries should be reduced

E. Justice for working youngsters

1. young workers (interns, apprentices) should be actively made aware of their rights, both by educational institutions and by the Chamber of Labor
2. young workers should be treated equally to older workers, as long as their performance is similar.
3. fairness in employment contracts should be more closely monitored.
4. young people should be offered jobs that can be done without work experience.

F. Payment for private care

1. if a relative stays at home to care for a family member who cannot take care of him/herself, they should be paid (children, sick family members, elderly). Single parents should receive more support in case the ex-partner cannot pay.
2. paternity leave should enjoy more support and publicity.

G. Retirement benefit

1. secure unconditional pension should be guaranteed to everyone, (no matter, if they have paid into the system before?)

VII. Education**A. Reform the educational system**

1. look at the Scandinavian school system (less grade-based, less stress-oriented, compulsory instruction in the student's native language, smaller exams instead of only few grade-determining tests...)
2. digitalization standards in schools
3. future-oriented subjects (financial education, political education, dealing with AI)
4. extension of Erasmus+: short term but numerous exchanges with partner schools across Europe

B. Teacher training and support staff

1. dealing with new technologies (AI, learning with computers,...)
2. psychological training of teachers (understanding personality development of students).
3. permanently available school psychologist & school doctor.
4. teacher shortage: emphasize advantages of teaching job, better conditions for staff (workplace, more freedom for teachers regarding curriculum design, grading method = more free projects)

C. Funding for schools

1. raise digitalization standards in schools (support for disadvantaged students).
2. more green spaces as well as recreational sports activities

D. Promotion of individual skills

1. expansion of elective subjects

VIII. Animal Rights

- A. No sale of animal-tested cosmetics within the EU
- B. Education on and awareness about vegetarianism/veganism for both children and adults.
- C. Label meat packaging with the origin of animal feed (as products are often advertised based on animal welfare, such as being raised in Austria).
- D. No exploitation of animals for entertainment purposes.
 - Design zoos to meet animal welfare and ethical standards.
 - Ban the use of animals in circuses.
- E. Either relocate wolves to nature reserves or grant farmers permits to kill wolves when they attack their livestock.
- F. Make wind turbines safer for birds.
- G. Ban real fur and genuine leather.
- H. Reduce bycatch by eliminating bycatch-promoting nets.
- I. Quality labels
 - Improve the verifiability of quality labels and sustainability certifications (addressing corruption and insufficient inspections).
 - Prohibit issuing quality labels by non-governmental organizations. Make quality labels more affordable, as inspections are costly and some farmers cannot afford them even though they produce organic products.
- J. Increase vegetarian/vegan options in school cafeterias.
- K. Impose taxes on cheap meat and subsidize organic meat/meat alternatives.
- L. Ban the use of antibiotics in trout and salmon farming.
- M. Invest more in animal shelters

IX. Digital Change

- A. Data security
 1. Update data protection regulations to meet current standards
 2. Make privacy policies understandable for everyone, especially regarding the use of cookies
 3. Take more active measures to combat cybercrime
 4. Provide assistance for mental health issues caused by social media
 5. Increase efforts to investigate and punish bullying and racism on the internet
 6. Prevent spying by China or other foreign powers, including considering a ban on platforms like TikTok

B. Digitalization

1. Ensure schools have up-to-date technical equipment as a basic requirement
2. Assist schools in keeping pace with technological progress
3. Expand the fiber optic cable network system in Europe
4. Lift all member states onto the same technological level
5. Make the allocation of budget funds for digitalization more transparent
6. Expand 5G technology infrastructure

C. AI (Artificial Intelligence)

1. Establish regulations and laws for the use of AI
2. Encourage meaningful and limited use of AI in specific areas
3. Require watermarks on AI-generated art to ensure proper attribution
4. Prohibit the use of deep fakes on the internet
5. Promote transparency of major AI companies regarding functionality and data security
6. Incorporate human oversight over AI, involving ethics commissions
7. Address and minimize bias in AI systems
8. Encourage international cooperation on AI security
9. Implement measures to prevent misuse of AI in sectors such as politics, finance and education
10. Educate children and young people on the responsible use of AI

Flashmob and interview session

After the worldcafé sessions a flashmob was organized instead of the originally planned city walk through Vienna, because all of the participating students attend a school in Vienna and therefore know their city well, so the decision was made to organise a social event instead to get better connected with each other.

An extensive city walk will of course be part of the European Conference in autumn 2023 that will take place in Vienna for the Italian, Slovenian and Polish students anyway, also including the Austrian students. The flashmob was danced to the Beatles – song “Revolution”. See the video of the flashmob on the Instagram page [myrevolution_youth](#), some pictures here:

While most of the students participated in the dance, some preferred only to watch. The video of the flashmob can be found on Instagram under [myrevolution_youth](#).





The afternoon was also used for an interview- and photo-session. The video with the interviews, filmed and produced by the media-students of HTL Spengergasse, can be found on Instagram under myrevolution_youth.

Online meeting with the Polish students

After a short coffee break the Austrian and the Polish students met online in a Zoom conference. The students shared their results of the worldcafé sessions with each other, having a speaking time of two minutes per topic each.



Conference evaluation

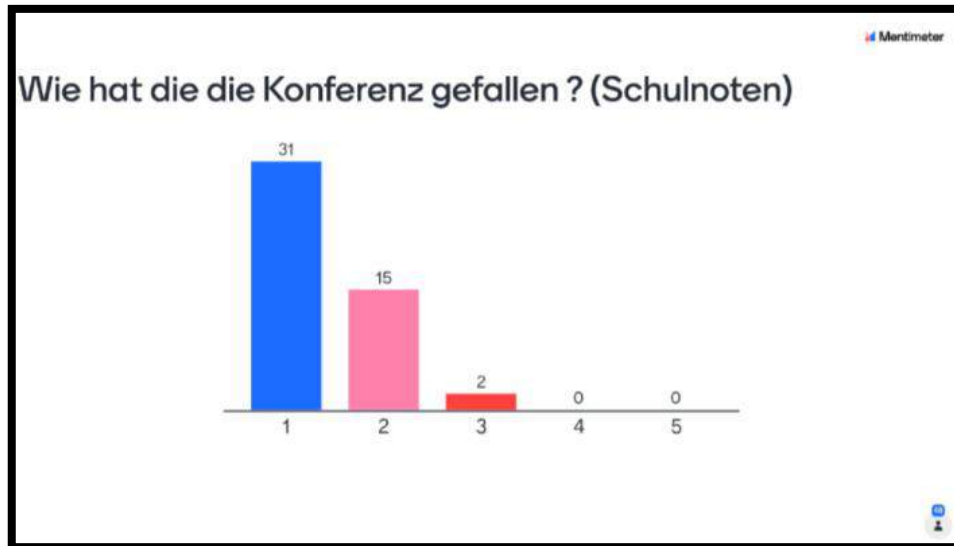
At the end of the conference the students were asked to fill in a Mentimeter asking the following four questions:

- Did you like the conference?
- Did the conference fulfil your expectations?
- What did you like best about the conference?
- Which of the topics/issues would you like to keep on working in the European conferences?

Here is the outcome:

Did you like the conference? (Rate in schoolgrades from 1-5)

very good (1)	good (2)	satisfying (2)	sufficient (4)	insufficient (5)
31	15	2	0	0



Did the conference fulfil your expectations?

Yes	No
45	5

