

Evaluation of the cross-border German-Polish Citizens' Dialogue

on 24. May 2018 in Frankfurt / Oder

The Citizens' Dialogue in Frankfurt / Oder was arranged by the European Commission in partnership with the Bertelsmann Stiftung



Vertretung in Deutschland

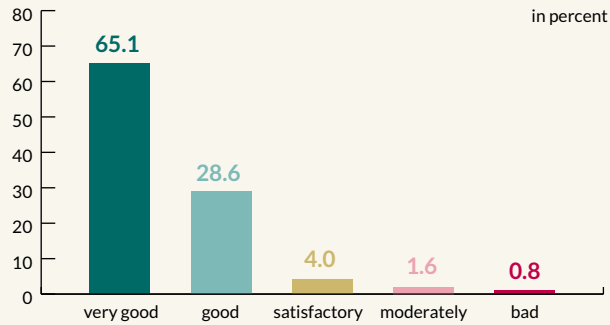


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Democracy lives by participation

200 German and Polish citizens, 66 of them students. Questionnaire response: citizens 64 %, students 92 %

How do you rate the entire event as such?



Source: Own survey.

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From the citizens' point of view, the first German-Polish Citizens' Dialogue was a resounding success: more than 90 per cent gave the Citizens' Dialogue a "very good" or "good" rating.



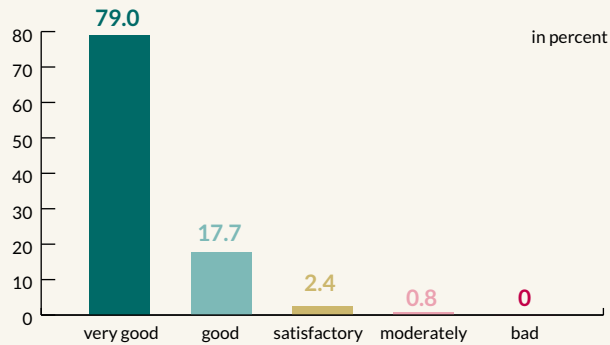
"A fantastic event!"

"I like cross-border events like this. The open dialogue between people from different countries should continue."

"The presentations of the group work, the discussion, questions and answers were all great."

Quotes from citizens

How do you rate the cross-border character of the event?



Source: Own survey.

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The cross-border character of the event was particularly well received, with praise for the dialogues between citizens from different countries! Cultural differences enriched the discussion!



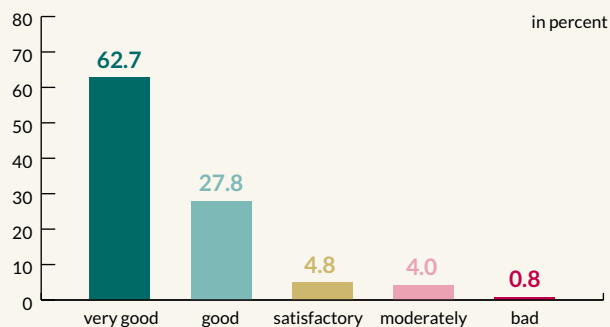
"Poles in Germany talking about Europe. Invaluable. Fortunately, this is becoming more and more a matter of course."

"I liked having the opportunity to speak to people from different parts of Germany and Poland."

"The groups were a very good mixture."

Quotes from citizens

How do you rate the willingness of politicians to listen to citizens?



Source: Own survey.

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The willingness of the politicians to listen to citizens was rated very positively. More than 90 per cent found this "very good" to "good". The participation of Frans Timmermans was praised by many.



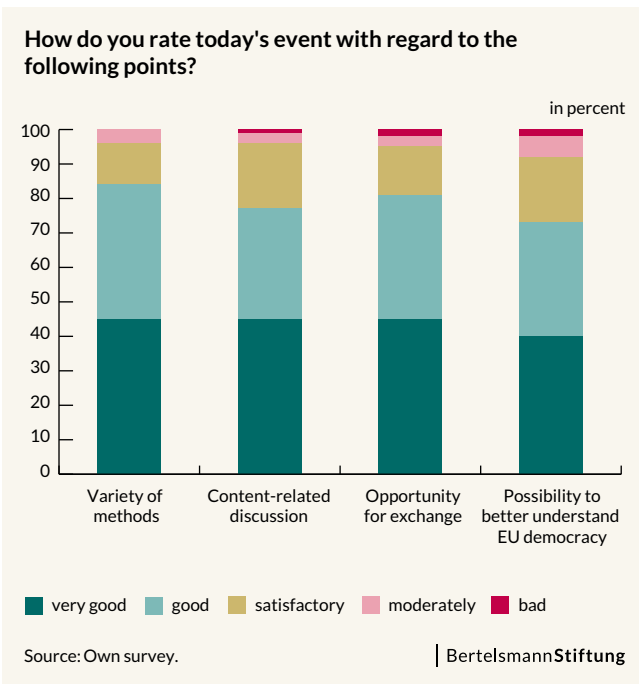
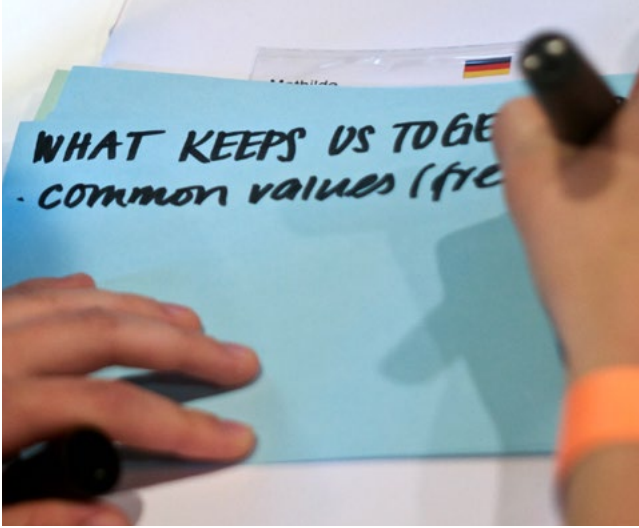
"Europe's value is a Europe rich in values."

"The EU Citizens' Dialogue is a good starting point for discussions and the mutual exchange of information and interests."

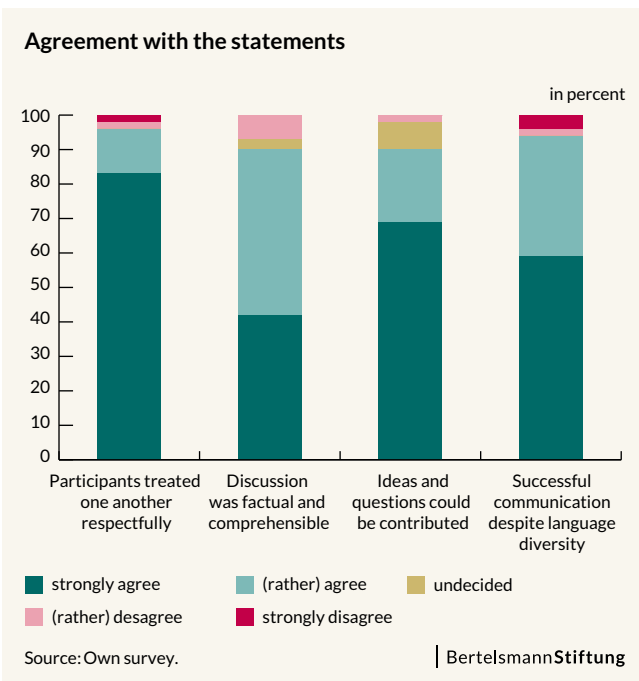
"The dynamic discussion enabled us to express our concern at the current developments in the EU."

"Frans Timmermans was really superb – the perfect European, and a consistently perfect speaker."

Quotes from citizens



The citizens rated the factual discussions, the diversity of methods and the opportunities for a mutual exchange of ideas as very positive. In addition, three quarters of the citizens highly appreciated the better understanding of EU democracy they had obtained through the Citizens' Dialogues.



In a workshop prior to the Citizens' Dialogue itself, students developed suggestions for the future of the EU and concrete questions to ask the politicians. These impulses were an additional contribution to the discussion in the Citizens' Dialogue.

In particular, the students underlined the quality of the dialogue: mutual respect in factual discussions which allowed all participants to contribute their own ideas and opinions, despite the diversity of languages spoken. The citizens assessed the impulses contributed to the Citizens' Dialogue by the students as very positive.

"I particularly liked the fact that I could switch groups several times, which helped me to gain an insight into a variety of viewpoints."

"It was great fun to hear a wide variety of opinions on the EU."

"A lively discussion and a high level of commitment from guests and event organizers alike."

Quotes from students

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www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en/our-projects/democracy-and-participation-in-europe/project-news/among-friends-and-critics-of-the-eu-on-the-german-polish-border/

https://ec.europa.eu/germany/news/20180525-demokratie-mitmachen-deutsch-polnischer-buergerdialog-frans-timmermans_de

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