



Evaluation Of The Cross-Border EU Citizens' Dialogue

on December 6, 2018 in Passau

The Citizens' Dialogue was conducted by the European Commission
in cooperation with the Bertelsmann Stiftung

The future of Europe: what holds us together?

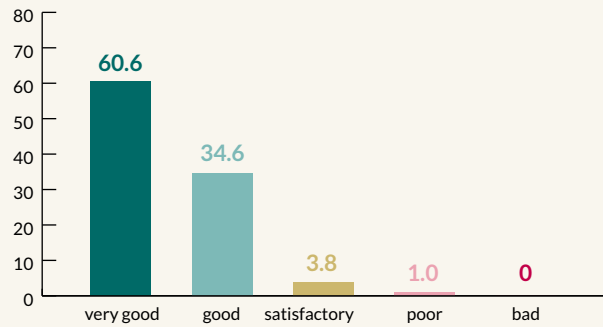
Citizens discuss cooperation in the border region, EU refugee policies and EU social policies.

The set-up involved discussions in small groups followed by exchange with Martin Selmayr, Secretary-General of the European Commission as well as members of the European Parliament and mayors.

114 German, Austrian and Czech citizens, response rate to questionnaires: 93%, 106 questionnaires.

How do you rate the event overall?

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

According to participating citizens, the first German–Austrian–Czech Citizens’ Dialogue was a great success: over 90 per cent gave the Citizens’ Dialogue the rating “very good” or “good”.

“The highly structured organization and excellent table moderation were outstanding.”

“Good mixture of participants. I was very impressed with the diversity at individual tables.”

“Very well organized, event went without a hitch.”

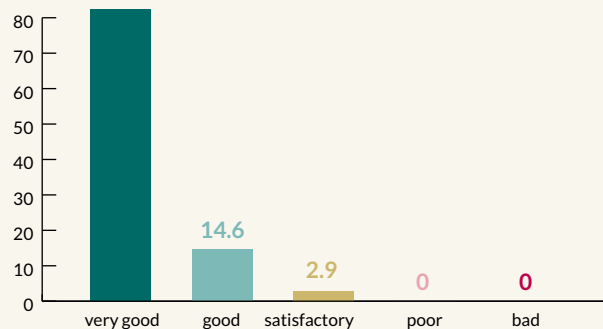
“Methodical implementation was perfect!”

“Excellent work by the moderators and interpreters.”

Quotes from citizens

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

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

Participants were particularly impressed by the cross-border character of the event. The chance to meet citizens from three countries and engage in a direct cultural exchange was highly praised.

“It was wonderful to be able to hear what the citizens of other countries think.”

“What I liked most was that citizens of three countries could take part.”

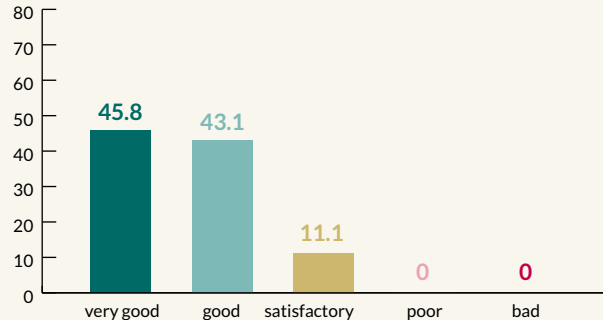
“The contact with citizens and politicians from neighboring countries.”

“The composition of the groups was very good, because they were a mixture of citizens from all three countries.”

Quotes from citizens

How do you rate the opportunity to discuss important cross-border topics?

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

Citizens were very appreciative of the opportunity to discuss important cross-border topics.

“The open dialogue with people of different ages and origin.”

“A round of fascinating intercultural discussions.”

“Table discussions directly with people from other countries.”

“Good overview of the situation on the other side of the border, new experiences.”

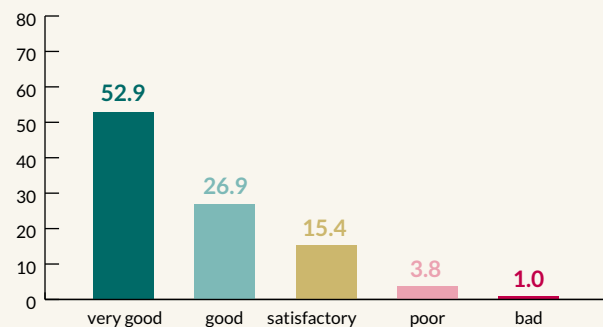
“Interesting discussions with interesting people. New ideas for ordinary citizens.”

Quotes from citizens



How do you rate the participation of the politicians in the discussion sessions?

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

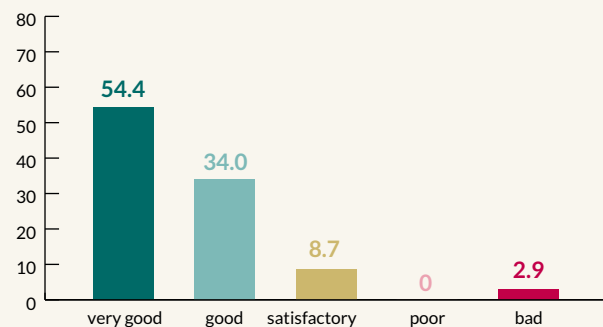
80% of citizens rated the direct discussions with politicians in the discussion sessions “good” to “very good”. Martin Selmayr’s participation, in particular, was praised several times.

- “Inviting an EU politician who even knows Passau, that was nice.”
- “I liked the dialogue with the politicians best of all.”
- “The opportunity to speak directly to politicians.”
- “The discussion with Martin Selmayr was very good.”

Quotes from citizens

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

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

In particular, the politicians’ willingness to listen to citizens was rated “very good” or “good” by 88% per cent of responders.

- “Constructive exchange of different opinions.”
- “Willingness to listen and to solve problems.”
- “Pluralism, willingness of politicians to engage with ordinary citizens, friendly attitude to discussion participants.”
- “Direct communication and the chance to speak face-to-face.”

Quotes from citizens

Address | Contact

Bertelsmann Stiftung
Carl-Bertelsmann-Straße 256
33311 Gütersloh
Phone +49 5241 81-0

Anna Renkamp
Program Future of Democracy
Phone +49 5241 81-81145
Fax +49 5241 81-681145
anna.renkamp@bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Videos, picture gallery and more information about the Citizens' Dialogue in Passau, see

[www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en/our-projects/democracy-and-participation-in-europe/
project-news/europe-on-an-equal-footing-eu-citizens-dialogue-in-passau/](http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en/our-projects/democracy-and-participation-in-europe/project-news/europe-on-an-equal-footing-eu-citizens-dialogue-in-passau/)

[www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/demokratie-und-partizipation-in-europa/
projektnachrichten/europa-auf-augenhoehe-buerger-diskutieren-mit-martin-selmayr-in-passau/](http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/demokratie-und-partizipation-in-europa/projektnachrichten/europa-auf-augenhoehe-buerger-diskutieren-mit-martin-selmayr-in-passau/)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-dialogues>

https://ec.europa.eu/germany/events_de

www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en