



# 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?

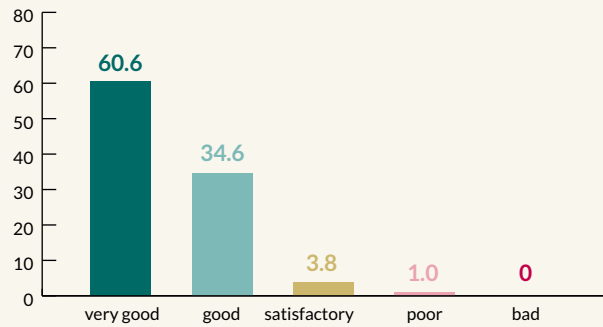
Citizens discuss cooperation in the border region, EU refugee policies and EU social policies.

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.”*

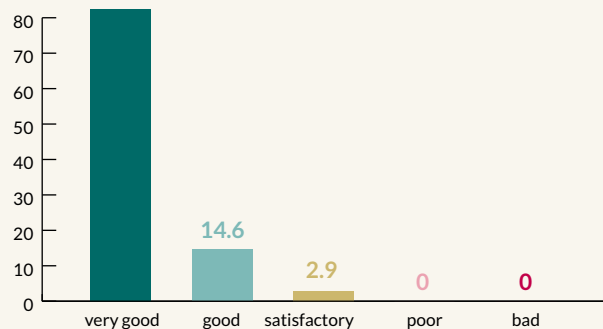
*“Methodical implementation was perfect!”*

*“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.”*

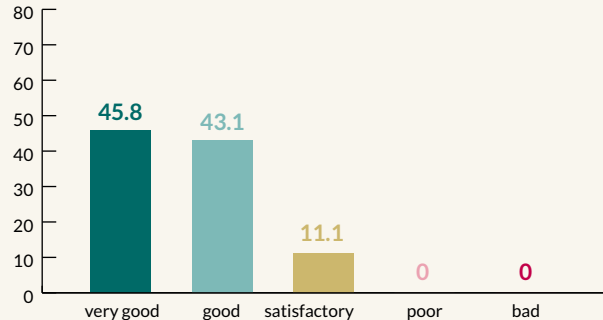
*“The contact with citizens and politicians from neighboring countries.”*

*“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.”*

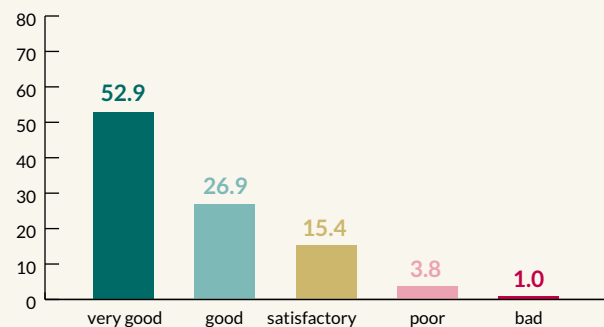
Quotes from citizens





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

in per cent



Source: Own survey

| BertelsmannStiftung

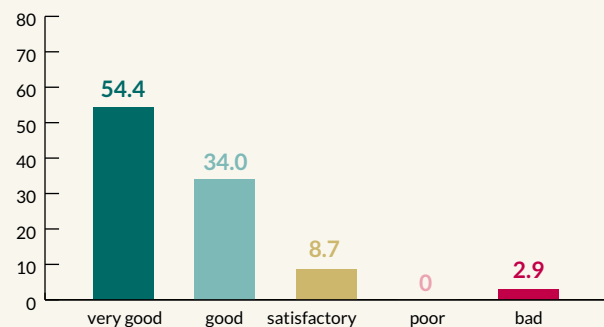
80% of citizens rated the direct discussions with politicians in the discussion sessions “good” to “very good”. Martin Selmayr’s participation, in particular, was praised several times.

- “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

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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](https://ec.europa.eu/germany/events_de)

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