



## 1. OVERVIEW OF THE SESSION

The session aims to engage young people in discussion about political system and electoral process.

### Methodology used:

- Introduction and presentation of the organization and of the project,
- Roundtables presentation of each participant,
- Offering a space of discussion without judgement about political system forces and weakness and about the role of young people to create the world of tomorrow.

## 2. KEY INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

### Responses to "Describe politics in one word or phrase" and reasoning:

- Chaotic, because of power fight between politicians
- legitimate violence because politicians have the power of legitimate violence
- Propaganda, because in some countries it is used to organize misinformation to keep the power.

### Recollections of first exposure to politics:

- election of class representatives
- manifestation of militants
- discussion in family

### Issues in the community participants believe politics can address

- Ending war
- Fighting inequalities
- reforming Justice for a better respect of human rights
- declassify secret information for greater transparency

### Politicians or political leaders participants recognized and what they knew

- Trump, Macron, Putin, Sarkozy, Jean Paul David (the mayor in the village), Ramzan Kadyrov, dictator of Chechnya, Jean Luc Melancon, leader of Extreme Left in France, Marine Le Pen, leader of the extreme right in France, Olaf Scholtz because he gave a lot of money and help to Ukraine, Viktor Orban, a president that is almost a dictator.



## 3. THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

### Good vs. Bad Governments

Participants defined good governments as those that listen to the people, are transparent, respect democracy, and allow citizen participation. In contrast, bad governments ignore public opinion, hide information, and act dictatorially. Above all, a good government is the one that respects people's will.

### Speculation on the Absence of Government

Almost all participants agreed that without government, regimes would become totalitarian, extremist, or even terrorist in the long run. A few, however, maintained that people would perform well spontaneously.

### Do Leaders Care About Young People?

Unanimous negative response. Some noted populist promises that remain unfulfilled, while others cited real support policies in Hungary as the economical support for young families.

### If They Were in Charge for a Day...

Participants would fight corruption, improve education, remove borders, depollute war zones, and establish democracy in conflict areas.

## 4. EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS

### Decision-Making in Politics

Participants believe decision-making should reflect the will of the people, but many feel disconnected from politicians and unaware of how decisions are made. Politicians are disconnected from reality of the people.

### Understanding Government Systems

Opinions were divided: some see understanding politics as essential since elected officials shape society, while others think the system is flawed and change is impossible.

### Media and Political News

Social media platforms (TikTok, X, YouTube) are the primary news source, while two participants declared learning from traditional media (BFM TV, Le Monde, France 2). Participants trust these outlets but recognize fake news, especially during COVID-19 and since then.

### Elections and Voting

Many don't understand elections. While a few see voting as impactful, most of participants didn't. Suggestions included lowering the voting age, counting blank votes, and avoiding mandatory voting. The most shared suggestion was the implementation of ID voting.

## 5. BRAINSTORMING QUESTIONS

### New Political Systems & Rules

Ideas included abolishing money and borders, eliminating political authority, and ensuring politicians are not career professionals but «outsiders».

### Campaign Promises

If running for office, participants would legalize blank votes, open borders and redefine them according to historical landmarks, fight climate change, and promote referendums.

### Engaging Young People in Politics

Suggestions included bringing politicians closer to communities, making them as familiar as local mayors, using social media to engage youth, and develop local youth councils.

### Key Political Concerns

Top priorities were fighting disinformation, economic stability, environmental protection, long-term financial security, the migration problem, and raising awareness of ethnic cleansing.

### Questions for Leaders

Participants should ask: "When will your actions match your words?", "Why did you choose this role?", "When will you step down?", "How much do you earn?", and "Is there anything you fear?"

## 6. CLOSING ACTIVITY

### Key Takeaways

- Participants recognized more clearly the relevance of understanding political mechanisms.
- They gained a broader perspective on electoral systems.
- Participants welcomed the opportunity to discuss politics within a democratic context such as that of Europe.
- The high percentage of participants from countries outside Europe raised interest about the democratic system.
- Participants showed themselves thankful for the opportunity of engaging in discussions about politics in a democratic system as the European.

### Feedbacks:

- Participants found the session engaging and felt their voices were heard.
- Participants were happy to talk about topics they never speak of with older people.
- They are enthusiastic about knowing better about the electoral systems in Europe, and the implementation of democracy.
- Feedback was positive at all levels, participants are enthusiastic about next steps of the project.