



Vienna, April 30th 2018

Event Report: Event

Event: Bürgerforum Europa
Place: Klagenfurt, April 30th

Description of the discussion during the event:

On Friday, April 27th 2018, the fifth Austrian citizen's dialogue on EU Cohesion Policy took place at the Café Como in Klagenfurt. First, Miss Julia Hahn interviewed four different beneficiaries with their best-practice projects of the region (NEKTEO, EU Futur - Geoparkkarawanken, Interreg Alpine Space – Consenso, Konrad Forsttechnik GmbH). The project beneficiaries underlined the positive effect their projects have in the region and described how they did promote this to the public. There was no real critique referring the bureaucratic barriers or control. The interviewees saw that as necessity because public money is involved.

In the following panel discussion our five distinguished speakers (Speaker of the Bürgerforum Europa and MEP Othmar Karas, Member of the Provincial Government Gaby Schaunig, Head of the liaisons office Carinthia-Brussels Martina Rattinger, Head of the KWF Sandra Venus and Leo Maier, representing DG Regio) debated about the future of EU regional funding in Carinthia. The speakers emphasised the importance of EU funding for competitiveness of the businesses in the area. Furthermore, they talked about the essential investments in research. Especially in this sector cooperation all over Europa is an enormous advantage and thus excellence research should be further promoted. Now Carinthia is in a good position, but the speakers were aware about the challenge of the financial lack in the budget caused by Brexit. Therefore, it is primarily important for the EU-Nations to make concessions to save the cohesion policy. Regarding the funds, reduction of double-control and a simplification of the report system have been discussed.

Participants of the dialogue brought up other topics as well, such as digitalisation, protection of data privacy and basic income. It turned out that in this sense many people from the audience overestimated the competences of the Union.

Main conclusions:

The Feedback of the event was mainly positive. Most of the participants had some basic knowledge about cohesion policy but still they were surprised about the details and the effect of the projects. During the discussion people were interested in several different topics and were happy to have a platform to address their concerns.

Number of invitations: 328



Types of people who were invited: local politicians, regional politicians, professors, teachers, members of the local government

Number of participants: 46 on the list, though more present

Type of participants:

- 5 projects;
- 25 civil society;
- 12 local and regional governments;
- 4 EU institutions

List of participants: see annex

Media Coverage:

- List of Media
Kleine Zeitung

Event promotion: Announcement Article in Kleine Zeitung

- Social media activities before, during and after the event (Tweets, Facebook, etc.)
- short Instagram and Facebook storys during the event, streamed on "Bürgerforum Europa" channels, using #EUinmyRegion

<https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17920194955118025/>

- Facebook event promotion, using #EUinmyRegion
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1756271487785671/>

- several tweets during discussion, using #EUinmyRegion
https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989888391562055680
https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989890224863039490
https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989891795059380224
https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989894897686712321
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https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989916755320549376
https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/989927730820124675

- promotion of event video via YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BiUQPqAHUir/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSOCZXsFVhOORiar0niDc8eLBLiQ912R>

- promotion of event photos via Facebook, Instagram, and our website



https://www.facebook.com/pg/buergerforum.europa/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1637609079691423

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BiFJ4sCnroC/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BiFE7TYHeNE/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bh6hWuHHXAV/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>

- Press Conference: no
- Press release:
https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20180502_OTSO106/buergerdialog-europa-in-kaernten-ua-mit-mep-othmar-karas-und-lh-stv-gaby-schaunig-bild
- Webpage views:
- Video
 - Burger Forum Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xitch-kxl_0&index=2&list=PLnlzGpt_rZP44TDRu63wwMDtblDrFRMfb
 - To be upload on CEMR You Tube channel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xitch-kxl_0&index=2&list=PLnlzGpt_rZP44TDRu63wwMDtblDrFRMfb
- Press clipping after the dialogue indicated and number of articles echoed by media: no