



Vienna, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018

### **Event Report:**

Event: Bürgerforum Europa

Place: April 10<sup>th</sup> in Bregenz at the Seefoyer, Festspielhaus.

### ***Description of the discussion during the event:***

On Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, the fourth Austrian citizen's dialogue on EU Cohesion Policy took place at the Festspielhaus in Bregenz. First, eight different beneficiaries presented their best-practice projects of the region in a World-Café (Museum of Montafon; Institute of power; BFI; LEADER; V-Research; Interreg - Alpenrhein, Bodensee, Hochrhein; EuroAccess; EFRE). Statements made by the project beneficiaries focused on the high control mechanisms of the EU Commission, which takes massive time and effort, also project holders do not feel trusted in this process.

In the following panel discussion with our three distinguished speakers (former MEP Herbert Bösch, President of the Landtag Harald Sonderegger and Leo Maier, representing DG Regio) we further debated mainly two important issues of the EU regional funding. First, the feeling of the project holders that sometimes the projects their self and the actual ideas get in the background within all the bureaucratic barriers and high control mechanisms. Some beneficiaries argued that therewith creativity, flexibility and independence workflow get lost. Second, the point about the visibility and communication of the projects. The project holders seemed to wish for more platforms to present their work (such as this dialogue but bigger and in another surrounding). One beneficiary also mentioned that he is not a communication expert and therefore the EU itself should have the major role in PR referring the funded projects.

Participants of the dialogue claimed that most people do not even know the basics of the EU and they know almost nothing about EU funded projects. Some argued that the communication must change to a more direct and modern format, in order to reach different target groups such as pupils or students.

### ***Main conclusions:***

Citizens did not know about EU-funded projects in their region. But the interest in the projects was high. The participants were actively seeking for individual conversations with the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries in turn took the opportunity to talk to someone of the Commission directly and addressed their concerns, issues and critique. The fact that they had an open platform for direct discussion with responsible politicians and officials was received in a very positive way.

### ***Number of participants: 27***



**Type of participants:**

- 9 projects
- 9 civil society (8 associations/citizens; 1 universities)
- 8 local/regional representatives
- 0 national representatives
- 1 EU Institutions

**List of participants:**

see annex

**Media Coverage:**

- *List of Media*
  - EuropDirect Website (after the event)  
<http://www.europainfo.at/home/fotogalerie/171/>
  - BuergerForum Website (after the event)  
<http://www.buergerforum-europa.eu/europa-in-vorarlberg-euinmyregion/>
- *Social media activities before, during and after the event (Tweets, Facebook, etc.)*

<https://www.facebook.com/buergerforum.europa/>  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa)  
<https://www.instagram.com/buergerforum.europa>

Before:

- Facebook event promotion, using #EUinmyRegion  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1720155704736907/>

During:

- short Instagram and Facebook storys during the event, streamed on "Bürgerforum Europa" channels, using #EUinmyRegion  
<https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17920194955118025/>
- several tweets during discussion, using #EUinmyRegion  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/978294158124347397](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/978294158124347397)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983715431419666432](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983715431419666432)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983725510516793345](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983725510516793345)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983736383713042432](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983736383713042432)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983737873760423936](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983737873760423936)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983745726869049344](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983745726869049344)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983748004707491840](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983748004707491840)  
[https://twitter.com/bgf\\_europa/status/983749727333306368](https://twitter.com/bgf_europa/status/983749727333306368)

After:

- promotion of event video via YouTube, Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/buergerforum.europa/videos/vl.198404430950473/1597182693734062/?type=1>  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSOCZXsFVhOORiaar0niDc8eLbLiQ912R>



- promotion of event photos via Facebook, Instagram, and our website  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BqnvPncHO2I/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BqysnujnnM7/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BhWUQI7Hq90/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BhoYgaYn6kV/?taken-by=buergerforum.europa>

- Press Conference : no

- *Press release:*

Vorarlberg Webseite

<http://presse.vorarlberg.at/land/dist/vlk-56395.html>

- Webpage views:

- Video

Burger Forum Channel [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xitch-kxl\\_0&index=2&list=PLnlzGpt\\_rZP44TDRu63wwMDtblDrFRMfb](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](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