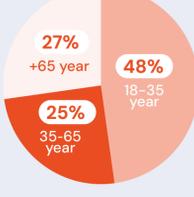
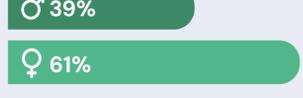


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During the consultation organised in Dijon, the citizens of **Bourgogne Franche-Comté** (France) shared their views on environment, EU integration, and Rule of Law, exploring potential synergies that could shape future decision-making and policies.



Participation Overview



The participants' diverse backgrounds enriched the discussion, bringing varied perspectives to each theme and resulting in a wide range of recommendations.

1 Rule of Law



Rule of Law was perceived as a **pillar of the EU**, and as a guarantee of the **independence of justice** and of the **protection of fundamental freedoms**. Citizens nonetheless underlined that a **lack of understanding** of the notion could lead to a **rejection of the principles**.

Identified Problems

- Lack of understanding of the notion
- Lack of understanding of EU decisions
- Enlargement will lead to a decline of Rule of Law in the EU
- A principle imposed from above

Proposed solutions

- Increased pedagogy, train teachers to talk about it more in schools, make it more visible in the public sphere
- More transparency, and better communication campaigns
- Gradual integration will give candidate countries the money and the time to align
- Put the notion at the heart of civic education and develop a positive narrative about it

2 Environment



Citizens stressed the role of the **EU as a leader of the green transition** on the world stage. However, they also underlined the **economic and social dimensions** of the transition, which need to be taken into account for it to be accepted by the population.

Identified Problems

- Incoherence between ecological ambitions and economic reality
- Perception of a constraining transition
- Perceived lack of democratic transparency
- Candidate countries are not able to align with EU environmental acquis

Proposed solutions

- More pedagogy and better communication on the policies implemented by the EU
- Develop an attractive narrative about the transition, focused on the opportunities it brings
- More traceability of products, and transparency in the decision-making
- Gradual accession process as a way to give time for candidate countries to harmonize with EU acquis

3 EU integration/Enlargement



The issue of EU enlargement received a fairly positive reaction from the citizens. While they raised concerns about the **economic impact**, the **cultural cohesion**, and **institutional challenges** associated with it, they acknowledged the importance of it.

Identified Problems

- Risk of weakening of the internal fundamental principles
- The EU might lose its coherence
- Risk of political blockades in an enlarged Europe
- Lack of knowledge of citizens about the EU

Proposed solutions

- Strict framework to uphold and guarantee the respect of fundamental principles
- Put focus on an attractive and credible narrative about EU enlargement
- Institutional reform of the EU, and gradual integration of candidate countries
- Better training for teachers on European issues, harmonize EU civic education, extend the reach of EU institutions to the local level



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