

Young initiatives for European policy

Student Research Group on the White Paper on the Future of Europe

Work period	Winter semester 2018/19
Participants	12 students of Politics, Law, Social Studies, Cultural Studies and Communication Studies at Bavarian and other German universities
Organiser	<i>Centrum fuer angewandte Politikforschung</i> (Center for Applied Policy Research - CAP) at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Munich
Format	Four block seminars, three working groups EU economic policy group EU external, security and defence policy group EU asylum and migration policy group
Research process	Development of research questions in example fields of contemporary EU policy, expert interviews, analysis and categorisation of the results in terms of the scenarios set out in the White Paper, generation of recommendations
Presentation of the results 8 February 2019, CAP/LMU Munich	
Public presentation and discussion with the Chair and members of the Europe Committee of the Bavarian Regional Parliament, European Parliament candidates and representatives of academia, business and the media.	
Report	https://www.cap-lmu.de/aktuell/events/2019/weissbuch-der-eu.php
Press response	Deutschlandradio, 4 minutes on 8 February 2019 'Einsichten'. The research magazine of the LMU (3/19) 'Philtrat'. The Munich student magazine (summary)
Follow up	Publication of the research papers Invitation to the European Affairs Committee of the Bavarian Parliament Participation of some members of the group [?] as European Commission 'Young Multipliers' [?] at the call to vote at the Conference of Ministers for European Affairs on 27 March 2019 in Dortmund [?] article on youth unemployment in the EU in the 'Zeitschrift fur Jugendsozialarbeit' (Magazine for Youth Social Work)

Results of the Research Group on the White Paper on the Future of Europe

	Policy Area	Recommendations	Categorisation in terms of the scenarios in the White Paper
E c o n o m i c p o l i c y g r o u p	<p>Taxation policy, using the example of corporation tax</p> <p>Labour market policy, using the example of youth unemployment</p>	<p>Standardising the assessment basis for the minimum rate of corporation tax at EU level, in the interests of social justice</p> <p>Strengthening existing measures (e.g. the Youth Guarantee), creation of minimum standards in education and training in order to enhance equality of opportunity</p>	<p>Scenario 5 Doing Much More Together</p> <p>Scenario 3 Those Who Want More Do More</p>
S e c u r i t y g r o u p	<p>Energy security, using the example of Nord Stream 2</p> <p>Defence policy, using the example of a joint EU army</p>	<p>Expansion of (LNG) infrastructure in eastern European countries, partnership/solidarity with Ukraine, greater diversification</p> <p>Expansion of existing structures, bilateral cooperation between countries based on greater efficiency</p>	<p>Scenario 4 Doing Less More Efficiently</p> <p>Scenario 3 Those Who Want More Do More & Scenario 4 Doing Less More Efficiently</p>

M i g r a t i o n g r o u p	Migration policy, using the example of the CEAS	Establishment of a group of the willing and minimum standards, achieving a common and coherent approach in the long term, focus on respect for human rights	Scenario 1 Carrying on and Scenario 3 Those Who Want More Do More Scenario 1 Carrying on and Scenario 5
	Migration policy, using the example of FRONTEX	Expansion of existing tools with the aim of enhancing competences and control at supranational level, focus on respect for human rights	Doing Much More Together



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Summary

The results of the students' research show that university-educated young people have an open mind with regard to the future of the EU, and see the EU taking on a wide range of competences. Overall, they feel that the EU is on the right track in the policy areas they chose to focus on. This can be seen by the positioning of the EU's action mainly **in Scenario 1 (Carrying on) and Doing Much More Together (Scenario 5)**. However, their support for the EU as a political actor is contingent on the EU embodying its own **values** set out in Article 2 of the EU Treaty and placing them at the centre of its action. These include social justice, equal opportunities, solidarity and respect for human rights. They take the view that concentrating only on the Single Market (Scenario 2) in the future would not be enough.

With regard to the **scenarios** in the White Paper, it is clear that the members of the Student Research Group would like to see more flexibility in the way the EU is structured in the future. There must be a better match with the respective policy areas. Overall, they are in favour of a '**differentiated integration**' approach based on realpolitik, with a view to further deepening cooperation over the long term. It may be helpful, with a view to expected spill-over effects, if some Member States move ahead of the others, in the sense of Scenario 3 (Those Who Want More Do More).

The cooperation project between the Commission Representation in Munich and the CAP has highlighted the enthusiasm and interest of young people for the EU. Specific **participation opportunities**, such as those offered by this research project, make the students feel that they are being taken seriously.

However, the provision of **professional and institutional framework conditions** is vital for a project such as the establishment of a Student Research Group and achieving the associated goals. The format supports students' willingness to engage critically and ambitiously at academic level with future EU problems and challenges. According to the

politicians involved in the project, the students' impartial thinking and expert group analysis resulted in **a real invigoration of Bavaria's European policy**.

More participative projects of this kind are needed so that young adults, despite the increasingly shrill anti-European voices surrounding them, are able to identify over the long term with the objectives and philosophy of Europe. The university provides the perfect framework for academically well-founded and, at the same time, necessarily critical engagement with the issues.

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Eva Feldmann-Wojtachnia/ Dr Barbara Tham

Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Maria-Theresia-Strasse 21, 81675 Munich
Eva.Feldmann@lrz.uni-muenchen.de, b.tham@lrz.uni-muenchen.de