

RESULTS OF THE VOLUNTEER VENDOR'S TRAYS SURVEY:

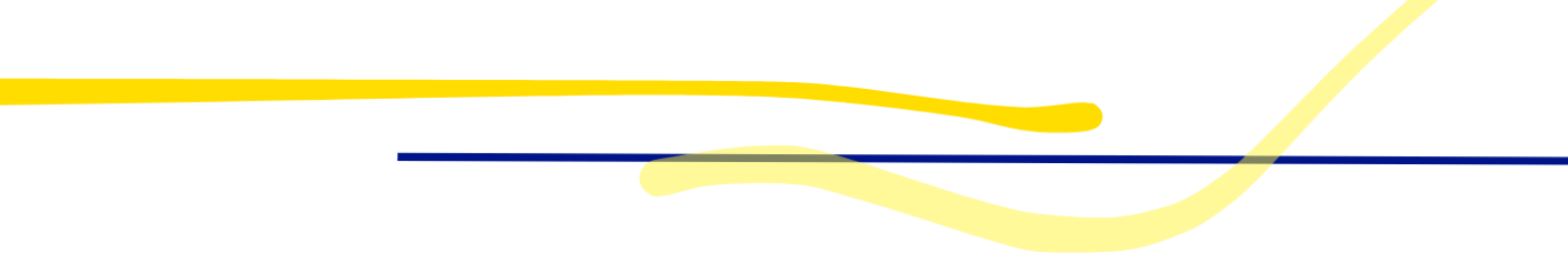
VISIONS FOR EUROPE



Europäisches Parlament
Verbindungsbüro
in München

C.A.P

Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung

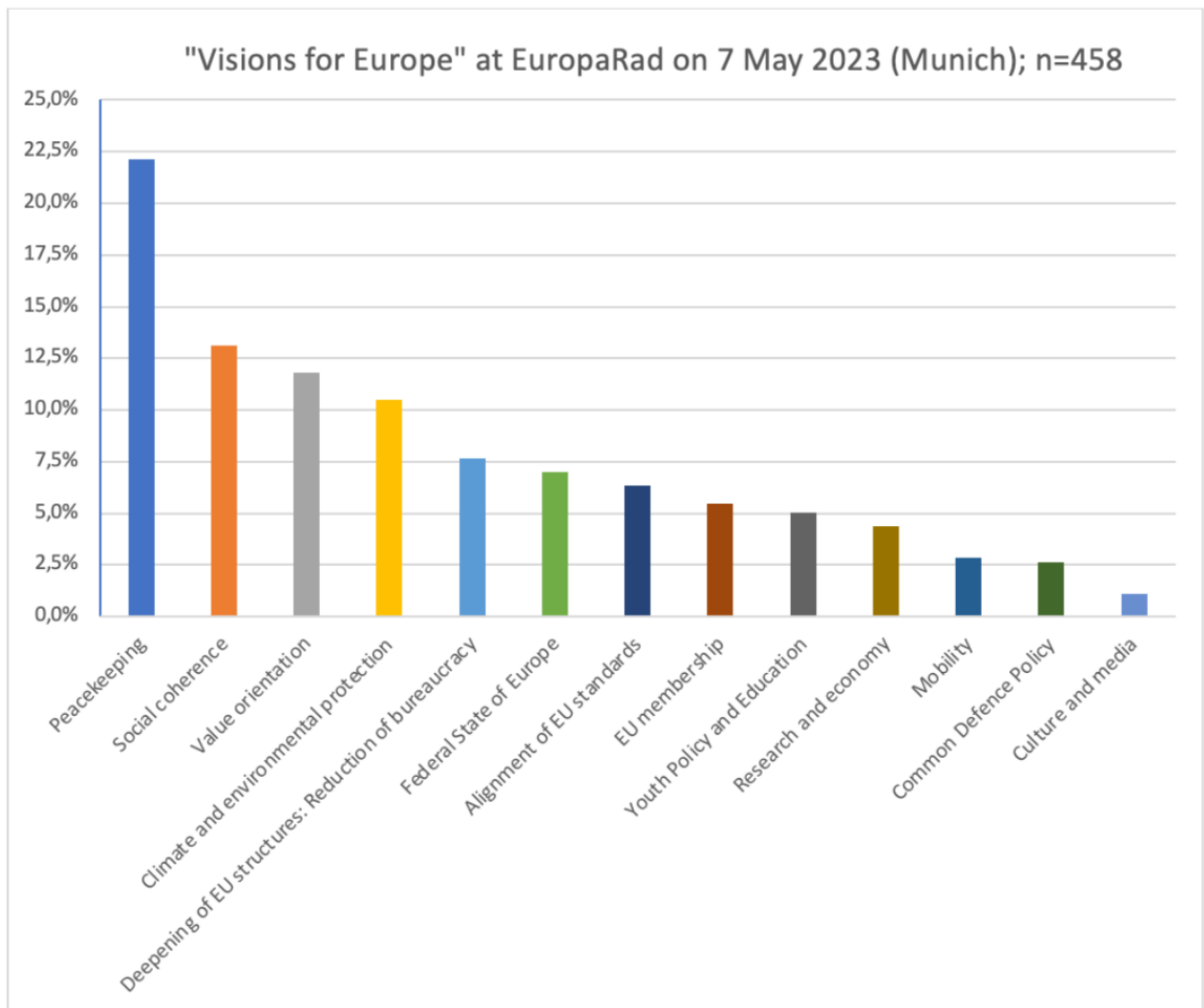


In cooperation with the Bavarian State Chancellery and the Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Munich, the Centre for Applied Policy Research of the Ludwig Maximilian University (CAP) once again organized on the occasion of the 'European month' a vendor's tray action around the 'EuropaRad' (Europe Wheel) at Munich's Ferris wheel and, for the first time, in the 'EuropaTram' on 7 May 2023 in the Bavarian state capital Munich. At this event approximately 3,000 visitors were able to express their visions for Europe.

Together with the EP liaison office in Munich and together.eu Volunteers, CAP team members organized a gondola "wheel dating" with Members of the European Parliament and used vendor's trays to invite people to express their ideas and visions for Europe's future in a low-threshold way. The visitors could write down their vision(s) for Europe on a card and received a European sweet in return, e.g. Mini-Madeleines from France, Giotto-Pralines from Italy or chocolate from Ukraine and Austria. The mini booklet "My fundamental rights in the EU" was also very popular.

The interactive vendor's tray action met with great approval from the citizens. There was also a desire for exchange and discussions. The cards were not only handed in, but the topics were often lively discussed. A total of about **500 people** took part in the vendor's tray action and "handed in" their visions, wishes and ideas for Europe. This is more than twice as many as in the previous year, probably because of the additional tramway 'EuropaTram' action. A total of 507 cards with 544 ideas were collected. Unlike last year, when the action took place in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe, this time no categories were given. Therefore, the visions covered a wide range of topics from peacekeeping to youth policy and education and together.eu campaign.

The vendor's tray action was again very well received as an interactive discussion and information. Whether young or old, in German, English, Ukrainian, Spanish or French and even Chinese, a wide variety of people filled in the cards with a high amount of seriousness and thoughtfulness. In the following, the topics are summarized in 14 areas in percentages and each category is briefly outlined in terms of content. On many cards, high praise was also expressed for the event as such or for the EU in general. These 86 cards are not included in the overview.



Peacekeeping: "Together in peace for a better and sustainable future"

22 per cent of the participants wish for peace in five different languages without further specification. Very often the war in Ukraine is mentioned and "solidarity with Ukraine", "peaceful coexistence" and "peace in Europe" are wished for.

Social Coherence: "Daring More Europe"

50 of the 60 responses include "community", "cohesion" and "togetherness". The general consensus can be described as "More 'Together' instead of 'Everyone for him*herself'". Many explicitly referred to the cooperation of European countries and stressed on the importance of efficient cooperation for the success of the European project, as one answer explicitly let us hear.

Value orientation: "Strengthening human rights"

In this category, citizens plead for the acceptance of all minorities and the end of racism and homophobia. Human rights for all and fair treatment of refugees at external borders were important issues. "Diversity with equal fundamental rights and strength for human rights" and keywords such as "equality", "justice", "freedom", "inclusion" and "solidarity" made up 30 of the 53 cards.

Climate and environmental protection: "Greener, freer and better"

Many of the responses imagine a better climate protection in general as a vision for Europe, but more concrete concepts such as a "Climate Neutral Europe", the "Common Energy Turnaround" and the advocacy of better cycling infrastructure were also popular answers. Animal protection also interested the visitors.

Structural integration of the EU: "Reduction of Bureaucracy"

Another important topic was the structural integration of the EU, 35 cards dealt with the structures of the European Union. In particular, "reduction of bureaucracy" was mentioned, the "unanimity in the Council of the EU" was criticized and the "abolition of unanimity" was demanded. Voting from 16 and more direct democracy were also frequent topics. "Efficient administration in Brussels", a "strengthened rule of law mechanism" and "decisiveness and motivation in implementation" were visions of the future.

Federal State of Europe: "Less Nation-State, More Europe and Regions"

Here, most were in favour of a "Federal Republic of Europe", the "United States of Europe" and the "abolition of nation states" and rejected a "Europe with domination of national ideas". A European passport and especially "Europe without borders" were also felt to be important.

Alignment of EU standards: "Consistent EU-wide decision-making"

"Consistent EU-wide decision-making" is desired on almost all 26 of the 29 cards. These ranged across from topics like "deposit system for the whole EU" to an "European job platform" and "equal tax laws in the member states" to "clarification of a common asylum policy". Support for refugees was also called for by several, while some also felt that "travel without borders" is important.

EU membership: "Easier access for new member states"

Many respondents want specific additional countries or regions to become new members of the European Union, with Ukraine at the forefront. Some also favoured the reintegration of the United Kingdom. However, there were also some cards submitted with the opposite opinion and in favour of stopping new member states for the time being.

Youth Policy and Education: “More European education and exchange”

The two topics “More European education” and “more exchange in education” were mentioned in this category. More often, “more European teachers” and “European education also in lower grades” were also suggested. Exchange opportunities and “study opportunities in many different countries” are also often mentioned. Among them was also the wish that “all pupils should do a year abroad at school in another country in Europe”.

Research and economy: “Economic success”

Above all, the search for sustainable technologies made up the majority of responses. “Economic success” was one of the biggest topics in this category, as was “cheaper food”, less inflation and the “retirement from age 64”. Individuals also called for “legalization” of Marijuana.

Mobility: More international rail transportation”

All responses in this category referred to cheaper and better pan-European train services. Ticket reductions for Interrail as well as a general standardization of European rail transportation made up a large part of the answers.

Common Defence Policy: “Strong EU”

A “Common Defence Policy” and a “European Defence Policy” were wishes that, together with the demand for a “Strong EU”, made up the majority of cards in this category. Two responses see Europe as a future world power.

Culture and media: „Making Europe more a topic”

“Cultural cohesion” was a multiple demand in this category, while “More presence of Europe in the media” was also felt to be important.

Conclusion: More Europe!

In the summary of this snapshot at the Europe Wheel Event 2023, it is noticeable that visitors expressed a constructive, friendly, positive and differentiated manner towards Europe. Although one could have expected criticism, for example, of the corruption scandal in the EP, this was not an issue for the visitors. For the future of Europe, they would like to see more European cohesion, more exchange and more cooperation in the various policy areas.

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