

„Europe: East and west in dialogue
Living together in an expanded Europe“

"Europa: Ost und West im Dialog
Gedankenaustausch zum Zusammenleben in einem erweiterten Europa"

Documentation

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A note to readers:

In transcribing the record from the posters, every attempt has been made to capture the original intent. Since not every thought spoken during a dialogue is written down, it is sometimes difficult to reconstruct the original context and complete meaning. We hope that the reader is nevertheless able to enter the atmosphere of mutual respect and openness to the other which participants created.

"Europe: East and west in dialogue *Living together in an expanded Europe*"

Documentation

Agenda

Plenum

19⁰⁰

Welcome and getting into groups

Phase 1

19²⁰

- Dialogue groups
- Getting started: "What brings me to this dialogue?"
 - Fears, doubts and deficits I experience in east-west contacts
 - Things in common

Synthesis with blue cards

Plenum

Reports

* Informal talks/ buffet *

Phase 2

20³⁰

- Dialogue groups
- "What could make our living together in Europe easier?"
 - "What would I like others to know about me and my compatriots?"

Plenum

21³⁵

- Reports
- "New perspectives...?"
- "Spreading the dialogue...?"

Open end

DIALOGUE IS...

- An encounter with respect
- Equal entitlement
- An opportunity for each person to express what is important to them
- Listening without resistance
- Reviewing one's own assumptions
- Allowing and respecting differences
- Speaking from one's own experience
- Letting go of the compulsion to reach a specific result

DIALOG HEISST ...

- Begegnung mit Respekt
- Alle sind gleichberechtigt
- Raum für jede/n auszusprechen, was sie/ihn betrifft
- Zuhören ohne Widerstand
- Eigene Annahmen überprüfen
- Unterschiede zulassen und respektieren
- Aus der eigenen Erfahrung sprechen
- Loslassen vom Drang, konkrete Ergebnisse zu erreichen

Dialogue Process Leaders

Practicants:

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"Things we have in common"

Blue group

- we are all from Europe
- we have a common natural environment and share similar problems
- we have the same problems regarding unemployment
- we all have dreams
- we like laughing
- we have hopes for the future
- we care about important things: a certain future, family values
- interest in future generations and the conditions of life they will have
- we like to know new people
- we feel responsibility for the future
- we are in Salzburg
- we are interested in peace & development
- we are interested in the general progress of humanity
- we have fears, basic needs in common
- we want to be happy
- we have similar food & animals

"Things we have in common"

Blue Group

- similar cultural interests
- architecture, history
- values
- hopes for a better life
- employment
- sport, music
- entertainment
- similar food
- natural catastrophes will influence all of us in Europe
- Greek and Roman tradition
- philosophy & science
- Jewish/Christian religions, some Moslems
- we believe in one God
- we all want to be accepted and respected
- to have and to keep one's dignity
- trying to locate the "east"
- the wish to come together in one union in harmony and peace
- wearing trousers

"Things we have in common"

Green group

- we are all human beings
- we are all looking for a prosperous life
- we have never been to Japan
- sometimes we have problems
- we like having fun
- we are open-minded
- we are getting older
- we don't like pain
- we like mountains
- we have an ability to communicate
- networking
- lots of companies from the USA
- globalization
- parliamentary democracy
- we speak English

"Fears, doubts and deficits I experience in east-west contacts..."

Blue group

- fears about jobs:
 - bigger variety of jobs for east Europeans
 - losing jobs to cheaper workers from the east
- eastern countries will "sell out" to western countries
- language: not to be able to communicate
- connected with lack of trust towards democracies
- problems of administration, agriculture
- importing of crime (in both directions)
- EU will cost too much money
- lack of knowledge about eastern Europe
- economic issues
- immigration

"Fears, doubts and deficits I experience in east-west contacts..."

Green group

- foreigners who take our jobs
- eastern neighbours are "very far" away (Spain, Italy are not so far)
- unification
- diversity gets lost (multinationals, uniformity of food everywhere)
- mainly economic contact, not personal (human souls do not develop as quickly as economic activities)
- law and changes, school system
- we get sold out (westerners buy everything very cheaply)
- migration
- unemployment
- agriculture, economy
- languages, assimilation
- people are not accepted
- foreigners buy land
- loss of national identity, traditions, values
- lack of knowledge about other nations is a barrier for communication
- fear in west of unemployment due to cheap labour from the east

"Fears, doubts and deficits I experience in east-west contacts..."

(cont'd)

- fear of unemployment
- loss of jobs, especially in the border areas
- communication; I won't understand the other person
- communication problems because of different culture & education
- process of bringing us together could go too fast, not supported by the people, economic development
- stereotypes, lack of knowledge
- loss of national identity, loss of our values, language, traditions
- fear of changes
- fear of globalization
- lack of knowledge of history and culture

Reports in plenum

(before the break)

- we need more time for discussion of these topics
- there is a lack of equal participation from both sides
- both sides have prejudices

- I wasn't expecting to talk about things in common; I was surprised to find so many things in common
- I had the impression, that young people have fewer fears & doubts than older persons
- I realized that the fears & doubts of different people are very close and similar, this surprised me
- I didn't think there were people of different countries in the room

- in a short time, we can learn a lot
- happy that open-ended questions allow for rich results
- sharing our fears brings us closer together

- it's a good way to have different cultures in one place
- it's good to have different cultures in every group
- it is a good way to know what other people think
- we are so different and so similar at the same time

- this is a great opportunity
- the whole process, especially changing groups, woke me up and inspired me
- working in a small group is very effective

- there are big changes in subject and in the process from one group to the next
- it was really interesting to hear other persons' opinions
- meaningful communication is difficult

- we are select participants: what about other people in the east & west who are not well informed?
- I'm glad to hear other people's opinions
- I'm concerned about cultures & traditions, which could get extinct when we get together
- I am looking forward to the informal part of this meeting

"What could make our living together in Europe easier?"

Blue group

- peace
- be more open-minded
- getting to know each other
- understanding
- exchanges of culture & language
- students exchange
- learning languages
- taking care of the environment
- concentrating on really important things
- do not spend money on war
- improve social networks
- increase awareness of values
- same laws
- open borders

"What could make our living together in Europe easier?"

(cont´d)

- open markets
- cheaper communication
- no prejudices
- less stereotypes
- more information about other countries
- more international events, festivals
- access to internet

- sponsorships
- make EU more attractive
- find the balance between Europization & individualization
- breaking stereotypes
- become aware
- become open
- role of media in informing about good things
- each of us developing own responsibility for our common future

"What could make our living together in Europe easier?"

Blue group

- more jobs
- same laws
- open borders
- same language
- less car/van traffic
- less pollution, nuclear power
- less bureaucracy
- more conflict resolution seminars
- more free time, less stress
- better health system, open for all
- better politicians
- the same education system
- to validate and respect differences
- more concern for the little people
- people should learn languages, not only English
- less capitalism and more solidarity
- more helping each other to develop
- open mind to accept others
- less stereotypes and generalizations
- environmentally sustainable economic development

"What could make our living together in Europe easier?"

Blue group

- speak together in one language
- more information
- exchange of pupils, students & politicians
- experts & teachers
- to learn each others' languages and cultures
- to learn eastern countries' languages
- it is difficult to remember the room number
- no borders
- a common vision
- motivation to live together
- courage
- if one could pay for it, it would be easier
- more human interests and less economic interests
- equal economical conditions
- try to break up stereotypes & prejudices
- share our resources in a better way
- inhabitants feel responsibility
- more respect for nature & ecological resources
- looking out for human rights

"What could make our living together in Europe easier?"

(cont´d)

- accept difference
- to build up a common infrastructure
- to deal with discrimination
- everybody should participate in a summer school for conflict resolution
- politicians should participate
- "the olympic games of conflict resolution"
- international meetings & financial support
- respect each other
- this is the main point
- create a common European identity
- we would be stronger
- vote for politicians with open minds
- harmonize laws and systems of education
- open for people outside of Europe
- get rid of mutual fears
- protect minorities
- respect animals

"What would I like others to know about me & my compatriots?"

Blue group (I)

- history & traditions
- customs
- tourism (Croatia)
- nature/ beauty
- historical places
- diversity
- politics
- geography
- eating/ drinking culture
- education
- music - art - sport events
- there are other people & movements than Haider in Austria
- language
- hopes, interets, goals
- our Polish hospitality
- Austria ... that there is great diversity within my country
- Linz & Salzburg are quite different

"What would I like others to know about me & my compatriots?"

(cont'd)

- fairy tales
- unique animals & plants
- chauvinism - overconfidence - glorification - seeking importance
- heritage - art
- telling stories of my family
- lifestyle
- national catastrophes
- our struggle for independence
- religious wars
- gender situation
- non-commercial festivals for dance & music

"What would I like others to know about me & my compatriots?"

Blue group (II)

- we are open-minded
- I´m for the enlargement of the EU
- I want other people to see my country
- we are not racists
- to know where my country is
- we like to have fun
- we have a long history & heritage
- we are not only "Sound of Music" - we have more to offer
- we have health food
- we have a clean sea
- we have the biggest newspaper in the world (Kronenzeitung = readership as percentage of population)
- the war is over
- we are without stereotypes
- we have a great hospitality
- some famous persons are from my country
- we are good in sports
- we have a functioning social net

"What would I like others to know about me & my compatriots?"

Green group

- that we are nice people
- in Austria there are about 1,500 choirs to sing with
- not everybody in Poland drinks vodka
- not everybody in Prague drinks beer
- we are open & hospitable
- we would like to share our culture
- there are a lot of beautiful places in our country
- Austria is not a part of Germany
- Poland is different from Holland
- Czechs & Slovaks are 2 countries, and still have a lot in common
- a part of Germans is interested working & living with German history
- we are fighting for the equal status of men & women
- the second person in our government is a woman
- some Germans have a strange accent
- some Austrians too

"What would I like others to know about me & my compatriots?"

(cont´d)

- most Hungarians have an open mind
- the average Austrian speaks 2 languages
- Austrians speak not enough foreign languages
- the Communist party has 20% in the government
- about one-third of Austrians have a heritage to their neighbour countries
- Vienna is a multicultural city
- after the October revolution, we lost one-third of our country
- we have really good bread in Poland
- in 1999, 73% of Austrians did not vote for Haider
- life in Germany is fast, less attentive than in Hungary
- many Hungarians still suffer from the results of the treaty of Trianon
- some people would like Temelin not to function
- Miep is not in parliament any more
- Turkey has no death penalty any more

"What new perspectives do I take from this dialogue?"

Ideas gathered in the final plenum

- there is no Slavic language in Georgia
- the capital of Georgia is Tbilissi
- I want to get to know much more about the countries I heard about
- I want to travel there
- Slovenia has a fish which has "hands"
- we need a lot more dialogues
- we need more time for each other and patience
- we need the CESS-CR more, for instance also in winter
- Austria is the second homeland for Georgian opera singers
- you can marinate watermelon
- Georgia is a great country

"How can we spread this dialogue to others?"

Ideas gathered in the final plenum

- use the internet for similar dialogues
- with a good structure, it is possible
- spread dialogue to NGOs
- hold more public events like this one
- involve schools
- government
- tell everyone you meet, also neighbours
- spread enthusiasm
- dialogue on TV (before or after soap operas)
- make a film - copy the tapes
- waiting for Stan to finish his tape
- imitate dialogue (structure) at meetings, conferences
- create a computer game for kids