



Results from youth consultations on the Future of Europe in Germany and France

A comparative report on the consultations “Unser Europa, unsere Zukunft” (“Our Europe, Our Future”) and “Parole aux Jeunes” (“Young people, have your say”), which involved **95,000 young people in Germany and France** as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe

The context

On 9 May 2021, the European Union launched **the Conference on the Future of Europe, a new Europe-wide exercise in participatory democracy**. The Conference provides a space for debate in which European citizens can play a more active role in order to voice what they consider to be their priorities and address Europe's challenges.

All European citizens, *"from all walks of life and corners of the Union"*, are invited to take part. **Young people in particular have a central role to play as they are the future of the European project.**



Conference
on the **Future**
of **Europe**

Each Member State is encouraged to create opportunities for its citizens to participate in this Conference.

In France, at the initiative of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **the consultation "Parole aux Jeunes" ("Young people, have your say") enabled more than 50,000 young French people to express what they consider to be their priorities and expectations with regard to Europe**, in order to foster the debate in France, while also making the voice of French youth heard in Europe.

The context

In the wake of this successful engagement initiative, Make.org and the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) repeated the exercise, this time in Germany, in order to identify the major points of consensus among young people in both countries regarding the European Union and its future.

Supported by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), **the consultation “Unser Europa, unsere Zukunft” (“Our Europe, Our Future”)** involved more than **45,000 young Germans** and its results were presented to both German and European institutional representatives.

Together, **these two consultations made it possible to engage 95,000 young French and German people to express what they consider to be their priorities for the future of the European Union.** The sociologists and data scientists at Make.org have used the results to identify **the common priorities shared by young people** in Germany and France.

These major priorities are the ideas that have emerged from the two consultations on which young people in France and Germany agree. These points of consensus can be taken into account and translated into proposals for concrete measures within the framework of the **Conference on the Future of Europe and the European Year of Youth, as well as in connection with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.**



Make.org and young people

Make.org, the platform for participatory citizenship that speaks to young people across Europe



- We have designed an innovative, simple, fun and engaging experience with features that young people are familiar with and appreciate
- We have developed an engagement strategy to reach young citizens where they are, with the right messages
- Our neutrality and transparency are important trust-building measures for them

While many consider it difficult to engage young people in participatory processes, at Make.org, we have succeeded in achieving a high level of youth engagement in all of our consultations by approaching them in the right way and by winning their trust.

Our expertise on the issues that affect them



We have launched several major consultations aimed specifically at young people on the issues that affect them: the future of Europe, bullying at school, empowerment aimed at giving every young person a chance, the eradication of poverty in the world, etc.

We will draw on the expertise gained from these projects to support new initiatives and to provide in-depth analyses of the results of the consultations with young people.

Some examples of our flagship projects with and for young people

How can we give every young person a chance in our society?

220,000 participants
1,663 proposals
1.5 M votes

How can we encourage young people to take better care of their health?

52,300 participants
692 proposals
337,000 votes

Young people, what would help you build your future in the Hauts-de-France region?

22,600 participants
1,980 proposals
183,000 votes

Figures from the two consultations

Question: Young people, what are your priorities for the Europe of tomorrow?

Consultation conducted over a period of 8 weeks, from 09.05.2021 to 18.07.2021



50,008 participants



2,918
proposals submitted



338,330
votes on all proposals

Question: Young citizens, what are your priorities for the future of Europe?

Consultation conducted over a period of 6 weeks, from 26.11.2021 to 11.01.2022



45,015
participants



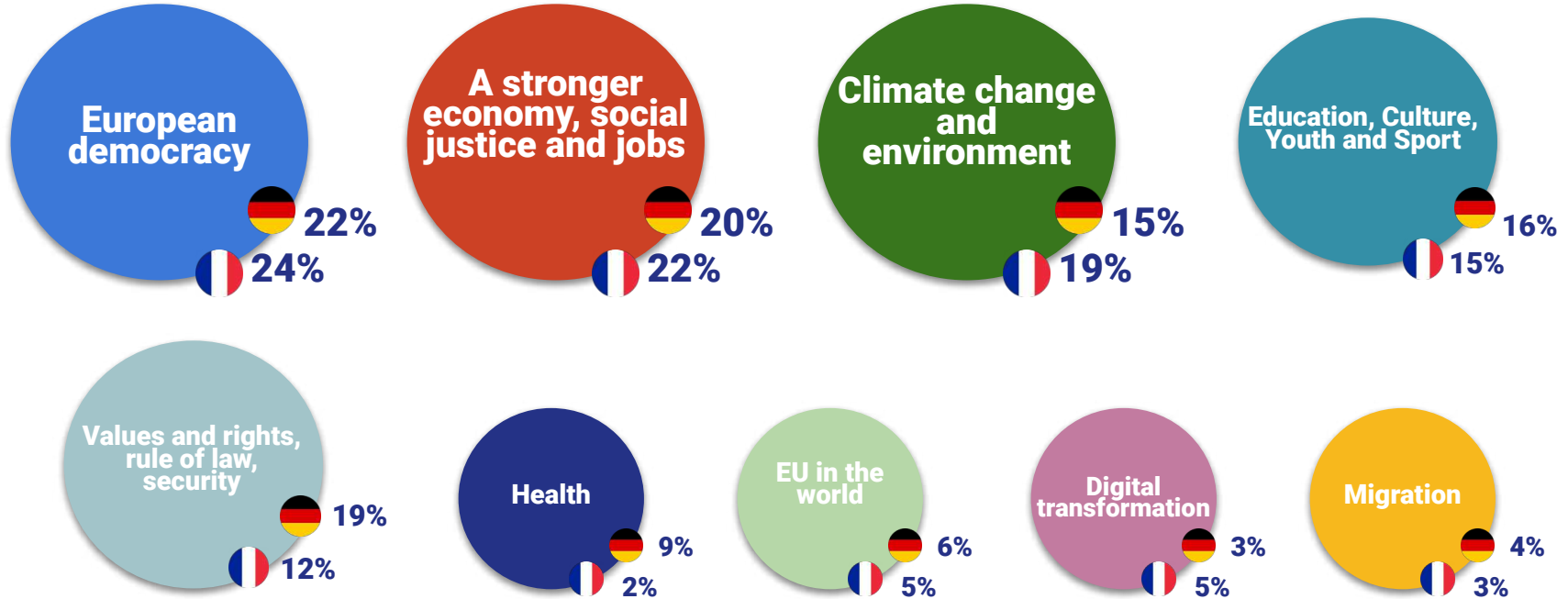
620
proposals submitted



392,164
votes on all proposals

Themes raised by young people

as a % of validated proposals*



The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% because some proposals fall under several themes.

Methodology for the analysis of the proposals



620 proposals submitted

554 proposals validated

Distribution of 554 proposals by level of support



Area of consensus

Area of controversy



Development of ideas by grouping similar proposals together

22 popular ideas

15 controversial ideas



2,918 proposals submitted

2,541 proposals validated

Distribution of 2,541 proposals by level of support



Area of consensus

Area of controversy



Development of ideas by grouping similar proposals together

22 popular ideas

13 controversial ideas

COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS



Common points of consensus

(ideas present in both consultations)

Common points of controversy

(ideas present in both consultations)

Country-specific points

(ideas present in just one of the two consultations)

Key lessons learned

- **Participation targets were reached** in both consultations: 95,023 young people were mobilized to participate (50,008 in France and 45,015 in Germany).
- Numerous subjects were addressed, through **qualitative and constructive proposals, with a view to shaping the Europe of tomorrow together.**
- Contrary to popular belief, the results show **a great deal of interest among young people in the societal, civic, political and environmental issues** of our time and of the Europe of tomorrow.
- The two consultations made it possible to identify **numerous ideas, both popular and controversial, which are reflected in each of the nine themes of the Conference on the Future of Europe.**
- **The two most commonly cited themes are the same in both France and Germany:** *European Democracy* and *Economy*. Correspondingly, the themes of *Digital Transformation* and *Migration* received the fewest proposals in both countries.
- A comparative analysis that highlighted **11 points of shared consensus** within the following themes: *Climate Change and Environment, Economy, Democracy, Education, Digital Transformation, Values and Rights, and Health.*
- **Country-specific ideas**, unique to each country, complete the picture of young people's opinions in both France and Germany.

Results from the consultations: 11 common priorities for young people in Germany and France

Climate change and environment

- Establish a strong European environmental policy to fight climate change in a sustainable way
- Accelerate the energy transition by encouraging the consumption and production of renewable energy
- Develop European railways
- Make progress towards more responsible agriculture, in particular with regard to animal husbandry

European democracy

- Ensure transparency in the functioning of EU institutions, including through better communications about their roles
- Develop the democratic functioning of the European Union by involving citizens more in the institutions

A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

- Tackle corporate tax evasion and tax optimization in the EU

Health

- Invest in health systems and ensure access to care

Values and rights, rule of law, security

- Ensure and strengthen the protection of human rights in the EU and in other countries

Digital transformation

- Support new technologies and invest in environmental research

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

- Promote interaction between young people in the EU through educational, professional and language-based exchanges

Theme

1

Climate change and environment

Theme 1: Climate change and environment

Common points of consensus

Establish a strong European environmental policy to fight climate change in a sustainable way (78% of votes *in favour* on average)

Develop European railways (75% of votes *in favour* on average)

Accelerate the energy transition by encouraging the consumption and production of renewable energy (75% of votes *in favour* on average)

Make progress towards more responsible agriculture, in particular with regard to animal husbandry (77% of votes *in favour* on average)

Common points of controversy

The issue of nuclear energy exploitation (46% *in favour* and 35% *against* on average)



Mahamadou, 17 years old



We should ensure that Europe sets up a common policy on global warming



87% in agreement



Nils, 21 years old



We should create a common European rail network that makes it easier and cheaper to travel by train in Europe.



87% in agreement



Brice, 23 years old



We should reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels (lower consumption, decarbonized electrification, etc.)



81% in agreement



Bennet, 18 years old



We should ensure that the State encourages species-appropriate animal husbandry practices and provides financial support to small businesses to improve farming conditions.



83% in agreement



Yassine, 21 years old



We should create new nuclear power plants to guarantee our energy independence and limit our carbon footprint.

36% in favour



44% against

Theme 1: Climate change and environment

Common points of consensus



Establish a stronger and more sustainable European environmental policy



Establish a strong European environmental policy to fight climate change



Consensus

There is a major consensus in both countries, with the **idea of a stronger European environmental policy** embodied in **more specific proposals in Germany**: investment policies and tax sanctions/incentives, as well as measures to encourage recycling and sorting.

Young French people put more emphasis on the importance of a unified policy, for example through the “**Green Deal**” that would become a European model for the world to follow.



Improve the public transport system in the EU



Develop rail transport in the EU



Consensus

Developing European railways is a common point of consensus shared across both consultations, in particular in order to limit greenhouse gases associated with polluting forms of transport, but also to promote connections between territories. It should be noted that **in France, the importance of connecting European metropolises appears to be the dominant issue**, whereas **young Germans cite the need to make transport more attractive in terms of price** or even free of charge.



Encourage the production and consumption of renewable energy



Accelerate the energy transition



Consensus

The issue of **fossil fuel dependency** is addressed in both consultations, as is the need for greater development of public aid for renewable energy. **While young Germans focus more on investment rationale, both French and German participants cite the same types of energy that they believe should benefit from it**: emission-neutral electricity networks, hydrogen, biogas, solar and wind energy, etc.



Develop a stronger animal protection policy



Make progress towards responsible agriculture



Consensus

In France, the issue of **a form of agriculture that is more respectful of nature and animals is widely supported**. Several of the proposals that fall under this theme support the regulation of animal husbandry conditions, accompanied by broader proposals on agroecology and its financing at a European level. **Popular German proposals deal mainly with animal-related issues**: abolishing factory farming, recognizing and severely punishing animal abuse, and even regulating certain practices such as the sale of animals or animal testing.

Theme 1: Climate change and environment

Common point of controversy and country-specific points



The issue of nuclear energy exploitation



Invest more in nuclear power

 Controversy

The **nuclear issue**, as expressed by those in favour of developing its use or, on the contrary, stopping it, is **controversial in both France and Germany**, with the same divisive dynamics.

It is interesting to note, however, that **the German proposals debate the nuclear issue in broad terms**, whereas **the French proposals all concern the development of nuclear power** or, at a minimum, the idea that it should be considered as a form of green energy (but they received as many votes “in favour” as “against”).



The prominent idea in this consultation



Indicate product characteristics in a clear way



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Take greater action to protect biodiversity



Promote environmentally responsible construction practices



Limit packaging and improve waste management



Raise environmental awareness

In **France**, there is a **consensus on other aspects** that concern the implementation of a more ambitious environmental policy: the protection of biodiversity, the construction of **environmentally responsible buildings**, the **limitation of packaging** and efforts to **raise awareness of the environmental cause**.

In **Germany**, there is a consensus on the need for consumers to be able to clearly **identify a product's characteristics**: its origin, its durability and the conditions under which it was produced.

Theme

2

European democracy

Theme 2: European democracy

Common points of consensus

Ensure transparency in the functioning of EU institutions, including through better communications about their roles (76% of votes *in favour* on average)

Further develop the democratic functioning of the European Union by involving citizens more in the institutions (74% of votes *in favour* on average)

Common points of controversy

Create a federal Europe (36% *in favour* and 39% *against* on average)

Strengthen the executive and parliamentary power of the European Union (42% *in favour* and 34% *against* on average)

Give young people more decision-making power by giving them a role in European institutions (47% *in favour* and 37% *against* on average)



Evann, 17 years old



We should ensure that the policies voted for and implemented by the European Union are more transparent and better understood by everyone.



86% in agreement



Julynn, 27 years old



We should involve citizens more in politics through digital tools (like this one).



84% in agreement



Romain, 17 years old



We should make Europe a federal country with real economic, political and military power in the world.

41% in favour  38% against



Josephine, 22 years old



We should ensure that the EU has more powers, with more European decisions than national ones.

39% in favour  34% against



Gor, 17 years old



We should ensure that there are some adolescent representatives in the European Parliament, to propose ideas, and make our opinion count too.

45% in favour  37% against

Theme 2: European democracy



Ensure transparency in the functioning of EU institutions



Communicate better on the role and work of the EU



Consensus

Common points of consensus and controversy

Providing **its citizens with a better knowledge of the functioning of the EU**, in order to limit political mistrust, is a common point of consensus shared across both countries.

While the French support traditional communication tools to achieve this (school lessons, messages from the institutions), the Germans emphasize the importance of greater transparency regarding the functioning of the EU and the role of lobbies.



Involve citizens more in European politics



Develop the democratic functioning of the European Union



Consensus

Giving citizens a greater say in European decisions is a common point of consensus in both countries.

The Germans favour the use of participatory democracy levers (platforms, direct democracy, etc.), while the French emphasize the need for major constitutional reforms that would enhance the role of the citizen: more regular referendums, recognition of the blank vote and the moral reform of political life.



Create a federal Europe



Make Europe a federation



Controversy

The strengthening of the EU through a federal system is divisive among both the French and the Germans, and proposals calling for federalization, in particular for more economic and diplomatic weight, are all controversial.

The French make even more specific proposals, for example on the establishment of a European nationality or a European identity card. These proposals are also controversial.



Give more power to the European Parliament




Establish a stronger executive power




Controversy

While **strengthening European power is a common point of controversy in both countries**, the Germans appear to be more divided on strengthening the powers of the Parliament (for it to have more prerogatives to legislate, more legislative power), while the French are divided on proposals for a stronger European executive (for a single, stronger President of Europe elected by universal suffrage, for example).

Theme 2: European democracy


Strengthen the level of participation and decision-making power of young people


Give young people a role in the European institutions

 Controversy

Common point of controversy and country-specific points

The role of young people in politics is a divisive issue. Both the French and the Germans are divided, regardless of the measures concerned: the election of ambassadors, youth round tables in Parliament or elected youth representatives.

The Germans, however, go further on the issue by addressing the right to vote for under-16s, which is just as controversial.

The prominent ideas in this consultation


Fight against ideological extremism


Regulate the eligibility and working conditions of politicians

The prominent ideas in this consultation


Combat disinformation


Allow Member States more autonomy

The issue of nations' autonomy and sovereignty is a country-specific point of controversy that is only present in the French consultation. The fight against fake news and misinformation is particularly prominent as a point of French consensus.

The Germans have reached a consensus on opposing ideological extremism. Lastly, the German consultation makes a more specific distinction between the supervision of eligibility conditions and an evaluation of the professional skills of political staff.

Theme

3

A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Theme 3: A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Common points of consensus

Improve the fight against corporate tax avoidance and optimization within the European Union (77% of votes *in favour* on average)

Common points of controversy

Reorient Europe towards an anti-capitalist model, through private sector oversight and the introduction of tax measures for the richest (44% *in favour* and 36% *against* on average)



Jacob, 26 years old



We should ensure that companies pay taxes in the country where they generate their profits and that loopholes are eliminated.



82% in agreement



Antoine, 29 years old



We should harmonize the taxation of multinationals, so that they are no longer able to transfer their profits originating in the EU to tax havens.



77% in agreement



Idryss, 20 years old



We should nationalize big companies, which would give more income to the States and thus lower taxes.

35% in favour  **38% against**



Niklas, 21 years old



We should tax the rich more and eliminate loopholes (such as foundations or asset-based limited liability companies in Germany).

59% in favour  **26% against**



Marvin, 24 years old



We should bring the ECB under the control of the European Parliament instead of exposing it further to the influence of banks and the financial lobby.

48% in favour  **20% against**

Theme 3: A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Common points of consensus and controversy



Prevent corporate tax optimization within the EU



Combat tax avoidance and optimization

♥ Consensus

Two points of consensus converge with almost the same wording in France and Germany: combating corporate tax optimization, for example through a common minimum tax throughout Europe, combating tax havens – directed primarily at GAFAM – or applying tougher sanctions against tax optimization schemes.



Establish a tax rate for the richest



Reorient Europe towards an anti-capitalist model



Improve oversight of banks and companies

⚡ Controversy

These two points of controversy in Germany, which aim at greater redistribution in the creation of wealth, can be likened to a point of controversy in France. More theoretical, the latter concerns the **orientation of the European economic model towards an approach that is also more redistributive** (by nationalizing companies, favouring degrowth, taxing inheritances or the highest incomes, etc.).

Theme 3: A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Country-specific points



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Establish a common policy to better manage the health crisis



Prevent situations of poverty



Protect and standardize working conditions in the EU



Better reward and recognize the care profession



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Relocate production to Europe for more autonomy



Make business practices and trade more responsible



Introduce a universal income



Harmonize European wages

- It is interesting to note that only **the French consultation reached a consensus on the issue of economic re-industrialization**: bringing back agricultural, textile and pharmaceutical production in order to maintain economic independence from foreign powers. The French also address **the way in which companies can adapt to the environmental challenges of our time**.
- In economic terms, **the Germans put more emphasis on the need to align economic policies in order to better manage the pandemic and limit the economic impact of the health crisis**, particularly on young people, notably through joint aid. The need to better reward and recognize certain professions, such as that of carers, was also addressed.
- **The German consultation revealed a consensus on the prevention of poverty among the vulnerable and the elderly** through the use of aid and public pension funds, or via a European social security system capable of guaranteeing minimum social benefits.
- **In France, the introduction of a European universal income is a controversial idea.**
- **The harmonization of certain working conditions** (through equal labour laws between EU countries, the harmonization of wages and gender wage equality) is a matter of consensus in Germany.
- The issue of **wage harmonization** (for example, by capping the highest incomes, to limit social dumping) **appears to be highly divisive in France**.
- The Germans are in agreement on the need to better reward and promote the care profession, so that it enjoys better social recognition.

Theme

4

Values and rights, rule of law, security

Theme 4: Values and rights, rule of law, security

Common point of consensus

Ensure and strengthen the protection of human rights in the EU and in other countries
(76% of votes *in favour* on average)



Luke, 16 years old



We should prevent and punish more severely discrimination against people because of the colour of their skin, their origin, their sexuality or their appearance.



70% in agreement



Leonie, 22 years old



We should enforce human rights beyond the borders of the EU, for example by preventing imports and exports of products made with child labour.



78% in agreement



Sophie, 21 years old



We should make EU trade agreements systematically contingent on the respect of human rights and the environment.



77% in agreement



Frinesa



We should have the means to sanction countries (within the EU) that do not respect human rights or the rule of law.



85% in agreement



Bennet, 18 years old



We should impose heavier and more significant sanctions on States for human rights violations.



80% in agreement

Theme 4: Values and rights, rule of law, security

Common point of consensus and country-specific points



Ensure the protection of human rights in the EU and in other countries



Strengthen EU efforts to enforce human rights



Consensus

The proposals from both consultations converge on the need to strengthen the system for the protection of human rights at an EU level. Both consultations bring up the same need to sanction countries that do not respect human rights, both within the EU and outside its borders. Among the violations mentioned are racism, sexism and discrimination against LGBT people.

The German consultation, however, also features some country-specific elements. The German proposals focus on the need to recognize and punish sex crimes and police violence more severely within the EU.



The prominent idea in this consultation



The issue of gender diversity and inclusion



The prominent idea in this consultation



Strengthen actions in support of women's rights

A country-specific point of controversy on the issue of gender is present in the German consultation. German votes are divided on specific actions that aim to promote or limit gender diversity in society. Making LGBTQIA+ education in schools compulsory, penalizing states that do not respect LGBTQIA+ rights, and banning or expanding inclusive writing practices are major issues of controversy in Germany.

In terms of values and human rights, there is a country-specific consensus in France on women's rights, which is expressed through different approaches: sanctioning countries that do not respect women's rights, setting up women's shelters, ratifying the Istanbul Convention, and standardizing access to the right to abortion and to feminine hygiene products.

Theme

5

EU in the world

Common points of controversy

The idea of a European defence and arms policy
(41% *in favour* and 37% *against* on average)



Yannick, 19 years old



We should better equip the different armies of EU Member States.

43% in favour  29% against



Marvin, 24 years old



We should drastically reduce military spending: the arms industry is bad for the climate, wastes taxpayers' money and endangers peace.

41% in favour  41% against



Micka



We should create a European army to defend the interests of the EU.

41% in favour  36% against



X, 21 years old



We should create a European military service.

31% in favour  50% against



Christoph, 29 years old



We should establish a European army with a unified defence strategy.

42% in favour  35% against

Theme 5: EU in the world

Common point of controversy and country-specific points



The idea of a European defence and arms policy



Create a European armed force

 Controversy

The reinforcement or creation of a European army appears to be a divisive issue on both sides of the Rhine (although no proposal on limiting military spending was put forward in France), regardless of the terms proposed: unifying a common army or police force, creating a European military service, or even more investment in a form of defence that would once again be EU-wide.



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Strengthen the EU's role in international conflicts



Develop relations with other world powers



The prominent idea in this consultation



Make the EU capable of greater influence on the international stage

- Regarding the role of the EU in the world, two distinct and yet similar ideas were put forward by both countries, albeit with differing levels of support.
- In Germany, the idea of strengthening the role of the EU in certain international conflicts, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is controversial.
- Similarly, the EU's relations – whether cooperative or adversarial – with other world powers, such as China or Russia, are divisive among the Germans.
- In France, there is strong support for strengthening the EU's influence in the world, but only when it comes to its role in diplomatic relations and its economic strength, so as to compete with other world powers such as China and the United States.

Theme

6

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Common point of consensus

Promote interaction between young people in the EU through educational, professional and language-based exchanges (73% of votes *in favour* on average)



Laura-Sophie, 21 years old



We should strengthen exchanges between young people in the EU, for example through exchange programmes and international gatherings (online if necessary).



67% in agreement



Josephine, 22 years old



We should offer more cross-border training programmes that are valid in all countries – as is already the case for university programmes.



79% in agreement



Hugo, 20 years old



We should give young Europeans the opportunity to discover a European Union country from secondary school onwards.



81% in agreement



Margot, 21 years old



We should enable young people aged 18 to 25 to go away in the EU for 2 months for free (to learn a language, to do voluntary work) and strengthen European citizenship



73% in agreement



Thorsten, 31 years old



We should promote the cultural characteristics of each country and teach people from other countries about them in specific institutions.



64% in agreement

Theme 6: Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Common point of consensus and country-specific points



Promote educational exchanges between European countries



Enable young people to engage in more interactions and exchanges with other EU countries



Consensus

The will to strengthen exchanges (educational, professional, etc.) between European countries is a subject of consensus shared across France and Germany. Both consultations mainly mention international exchange programmes as the primary way to build links between countries.

The French consultation offers us targeted proposals on more concrete measures, such as the opportunity to do work experience in Europe or the opportunity to learn European languages from an early age.

The German consultation also addresses the issue of recognition for education and training within the EU.



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Modernize the European education system



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Encourage the learning and use of alternative languages to English



Make European trips compulsory for young people

In the German consultation, transforming the education system represents a major issue of consensus for the Europe of tomorrow. In particular, German participants call for an education system that focuses on less “theoretical” and more “concrete” subjects, such as sex and political education, or money management. They also voice the need for an education system that is more inclusive and egalitarian and for schools to be better equipped with digital equipment.

Other subjects linked to changes in the education system divide the French. These include the promotion of other European languages to counter the hegemony of English in institutions and the more radical measure of making trips abroad compulsory.

Theme

7

Health

Common point of consensus

Invest in health systems and ensure access to care
(77% of votes *in favour* on average)



Léa



We should organize a European plan to invest in public health infrastructure, including mental health.



78% in agreement



Lovely, 18 years old



We should raise awareness about mental health. There is no shame in not feeling well, in going to see a psychologist or a psychiatrist.



77% in agreement



Marcia, 22 years old



We should de-privatize the health system. People who are ill should be treated in order to provide care for their health and not to create a profit.



82% in agreement



Ilijan



We should guarantee equal access to health care and first aid for everyone in the EU.



82% in agreement



Kai, 31 years old




We should ensure more government funding for research into better treatment of mental illness, including basic research.



87% in agreement

Theme 7: Health

Common point of consensus and country-specific points

 Ensure more accessible and egalitarian health care


 Invest in health

 Promote mental health protection


 Consensus

While the issue of **safeguarding public hospitals** (and fighting privatization) at a European level **remains a point of common consensus shared by both countries**, the **Germans place more emphasis on the notion of accessibility to all types of care** (vaccination, feminine hygiene products, treatment) and on raising awareness of the issue of mental health (which is less prevalent in France), while **the French are more inclined to bring up the notion of investment in public hospitals and harmonization at a European level.**

The prominent ideas in this consultation

 Provide better treatment for drug addiction


 Regulate or ban unhealthy lifestyles

 Encourage vegetarianism and veganism

 The issue of compulsory vaccination at a European level

 Decriminalize drugs

The prominent ideas in this consultation

 Improve the quality of our food products

Country-specific ideas relating to the field of health are more numerous and more precise on the German side of the consultation: these specifically concern **treatment for drug addiction**, while also covering a range of controversial issues, including **the restriction of addictive practices** (alcohol, cigarettes), **the decriminalization of drugs throughout Europe**, **the wider introduction of vegetarian diets**, notably in schools, and even **the issue of compulsory vaccination**.

In France, there is a greater consensus on the issue of food composition (by limiting the processing of products, the presence of pesticides, increasing the proportion of organic food, etc.)

Theme

8

Migration

Common points of controversy

The issue of immigration in Europe
(46% *in favour* and 35% *against* on average)



Kalle, 19 years old



We should introduce state rescue services in the Mediterranean and ensure humane and organized migration.

51% *in favour*  32% *against*



Ivy, 22 years old



We should protect the EU's external borders in a robust way: by extending Frontex and the legal possibilities to apply for asylum and stopping mass migration.

45% *in favour*  33% *against*



Lucas



We should re-establish Europe's external borders and stop illegal immigration.

41% *in favour*  41% *against*



Angie, 25 years old



We should make it easier for refugees to obtain papers.

45% *in favour*  36% *against*



RM, 30 years old



We should legalize once and for all turning back illegal immigrants at the EU's external and internal borders.

35% *in favour*  36% *against*

Theme 8: Migration



The issue of immigration in Europe



Reduce or facilitate immigration to Europe

Common point of controversy and country-specific points

 Controversy

Border protections and controls aimed at limiting illegal migration flows represent a divisive issue in both consultations.

The Germans, in particular, debate the need for a common agreement on rescue at sea.



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Modify residence and reception conditions for migrants

- A country-specific point of consensus on the issue of migration is present in the German consultation.
- While the parallels we have observed reveal divisions on border control among both the Germans and the French, **this country-specific point of consensus completes the picture of German opinion, especially with regard to residence and reception conditions for migrants.** In this case, residence and reception are influenced and even conditioned by measures that are supposed to guarantee better integration of migrants: checking their origins, reasons for residence and professional ambitions, and creating reception and training centres.
- Another facet of this country-specific consensus concerns **the desire to expel “criminal” and “violent” migrants.**
- The issue of how migrants are “distributed” between countries is also raised, with a focus on punishing countries that do not agree to receive them.

Theme

9

Digital transformation

Common point of consensus

Support new technologies and invest in digital and environmental research (77% of votes *in favour* on average)



Elijah, 24 years old



We should tackle the technological issues of the future (quantum computers, AI, sustainable energy generation) together and become frontrunners.



79% in agreement



Christoph, 25 years old



We should provide substantial funds for the development of new technologies: innovation is our strength and our capital.



69% in agreement



Gauthier, 22 years old



We should make Europe a world leader in research and innovation by pooling our researchers and programmes.



83% in agreement



Jérémy



We should develop European digital sovereignty (today we are dependent on the United States and China).



76% in agreement



Pierre, 21 years old



We should ensure that Europe provides more funding for scientific research within its member states, especially for the ecological transition.



64% in agreement

Theme 9: Digital transformation



Support new technologies



Invest in technological, digital and environmental research

♥ Consensus

Common point of consensus and country-specific points

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Investment in new technologies is a common point of consensus in both countries. **The two consultations converge on an image of Europe as a world leader in research and technological development.**

The French consultation yielded concrete proposals on developing scientific research programmes and orienting them towards the **ecological challenges of tomorrow**, among other things.



The prominent ideas in this consultation



Develop cryptocurrencies in Europe



Raise awareness of the digital world and its dangers

In France, we can identify more digital-related proposals, which reflect two country-specific ideas: **the issue of cryptocurrencies**, which seems to be the focus of some apprehension, and **a more general consensus on better communication** with the general public but also in schools, in order **to prevent the risks of cyber-bullying**, among other things.

Appendix:

The results of “Parole aux Jeunes” (“Young people, have your say”) and “Unser Europa, unsere Zukunft” (“Our Europe, Our Future”)



16 prominent popular ideas, 6 singular ideas and 13 controversial ideas

Climate change and environment

- Establish a stronger European environmental policy
- Make progress towards more sustainable agriculture
- Take greater action to protect biodiversity
- Develop rail transport in the EU
- Accelerate the energy transition
- Limit packaging and improve waste management
- Raise environmental awareness
- Promote environmentally responsible construction practices
- ⚡ Invest more in nuclear power

European democracy

- Communicate better on the role and work of the EU
- Develop the democratic functioning of the European Union
- Combat disinformation
- ⚡ Make Europe a federation
- ⚡ Allow Member States more autonomy
- ⚡ Establish a stronger European executive power

⚡ Give young people a role in the European institutions

- Prominent idea (> 10 popular proposals)
- Singular idea (< 10 popular proposals)
- ⚡ Controversial idea (> 3 controversial proposals)

A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

- Relocate production to Europe for more autonomy
- Make business practices and trade more responsible
- Combat tax avoidance and optimization
- ⚡ Harmonize European wages
- ⚡ Introduce a universal income
- ⚡ Reorient Europe towards an anti-capitalist model

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

- Enable young people to engage in more exchanges with other EU countries
- ⚡ Encourage the learning of languages other than English
- ⚡ Make European trips compulsory for young people

Digital transformation

- Invest in scientific, digital and environmental research
- Raise awareness of the digital world and its dangers
- ⚡ Develop cryptocurrencies in Europe

Values and rights, rule of law, security

- Strengthen EU efforts to enforce human rights
- Strengthen women's rights

Health

- Invest in health
- Improve the quality of our food products

EU in the world

- Make the EU capable of greater influence on the international stage
- ⚡ Create a European armed force

Migration

- ⚡ Reduce or facilitate immigration to Europe



17 prominent popular ideas, 5 singular ideas and 15 controversial ideas

Climate change and environment

Establish a stronger and more sustainable European environmental policy

Improve the public transport system in the EU

Develop a stronger animal protection policy

Encourage the production and consumption of renewable energy

Indicate product characteristics in a clear way

The issue of nuclear energy exploitation

A stronger economy, social justice and jobs

Protect and standardize working conditions in the EU

Prevent situations of poverty

Establish a common policy to better manage the health crisis

Better reward and recognize the care profession

Prevent corporate tax optimization within the EU

Improve oversight of banks and companies

Establish a tax rate for the richest

European democracy

Ensure transparency in the functioning of EU institutions

Regulate the eligibility and working conditions of politicians

Involve citizens more in politics

Fight against ideological extremism

Strengthen the level of participation and decision-making power of young people

Give more power to the European Parliament

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Modernize the European education system

Promote educational exchanges between European countries

Digital transformation

Support new technologies

Health

Ensure more accessible and egalitarian health care

Promote mental health protection

Provide better treatment for drug addiction

Regulate or ban unhealthy lifestyles

Encourage vegetarianism and veganism

Decriminalize drugs

The issue of compulsory vaccination at a European level

EU in the world

The idea of a European defence and arms policy

The development of relations with other world powers

Create a federal Europe

Strengthen the EU's role in international conflicts

Values and rights, rule of law, security

Ensure the protection of human rights

The issue of gender diversity and inclusion

Migration

Modify residence and reception conditions for migrants

The issue of immigration in Europe

Prominent idea (> 5 popular proposals)

Singular idea (< 5 popular proposals)

Controversial idea (≥ 3 controversial proposals)

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