

EUact2: Towards Democratic and Inclusive Europe

EP Elections and Active Citizens Participation and Contribution

Introduction

EUact2 “Towards Democratic and Inclusive Europe: EP Elections and Active Citizens Participation and Contribution” is a 2-year project funded by the European Union that aims to **enhance citizens’ knowledge of the EU**, its institutions and values, while **fostering greater participation and involvement**, particularly considering the recent **EU elections**.

Key Information

Partners:

- **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)**, Austria
- **GLOBSEC**, Slovakia
- **ELIAMEP**, Greece
- **European Movement Ireland**

Duration: 24 months

Funding: EU

Coordinator for the project at IDM: Sophia Beiter, Research Associate, IDM



Funded by
the European Union

Contact us:

Address: Hahngasse 6/1/24, A-1090, Wien
Phone: +43-1-319 72 58 **Fax:** +43-1-319 72 58-4
Email: idm@idm.at



Objectives

- Engaging, connecting and empowering EU citizens (especially young people)
- Ensuring the sustainability of activism and public participation in European policymaking
- Contributing to an open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive Union premised on the rule of law

Expected Outcomes

- More educated, motivated, and engaged EU citizens, especially young people
- Increased democratic participation, including a higher voting turnout in the European Parliament elections in 2024
- Enhanced opportunities for citizens' cooperation with decision-makers, with a contribution to European policymaking

Methodology

We used a **bottom-up approach**, focused primarily on young citizens, in which we allowed them to influence and discuss EU policies by:

- conducting **focus groups** and **gathering opinions** from the youth
- **analysing data** and **drafting policies** and **practical solutions** with young leaders' involvement
- organizing **public large-scale and small-scale** educational and motivational **debates**, with an innovative element of using **e-democracy tools**
- carrying out a **social media campaign** geared towards EP elections 2024
- introducing **recommendations to EU policymakers**

Events and Activities



6 June 2023
“ONE YEAR TO GO
European Parliamentary Elections 2024:
What Themes and Narratives?”



20 November 2023
“Young Leaders Transnational
Reflection Event in Vienna”



22 May 2024
“20 Jahre EU-Osterweiterung & EU-Wahlen
2024: Bilanz und Ausblick aus dem Donauraum”



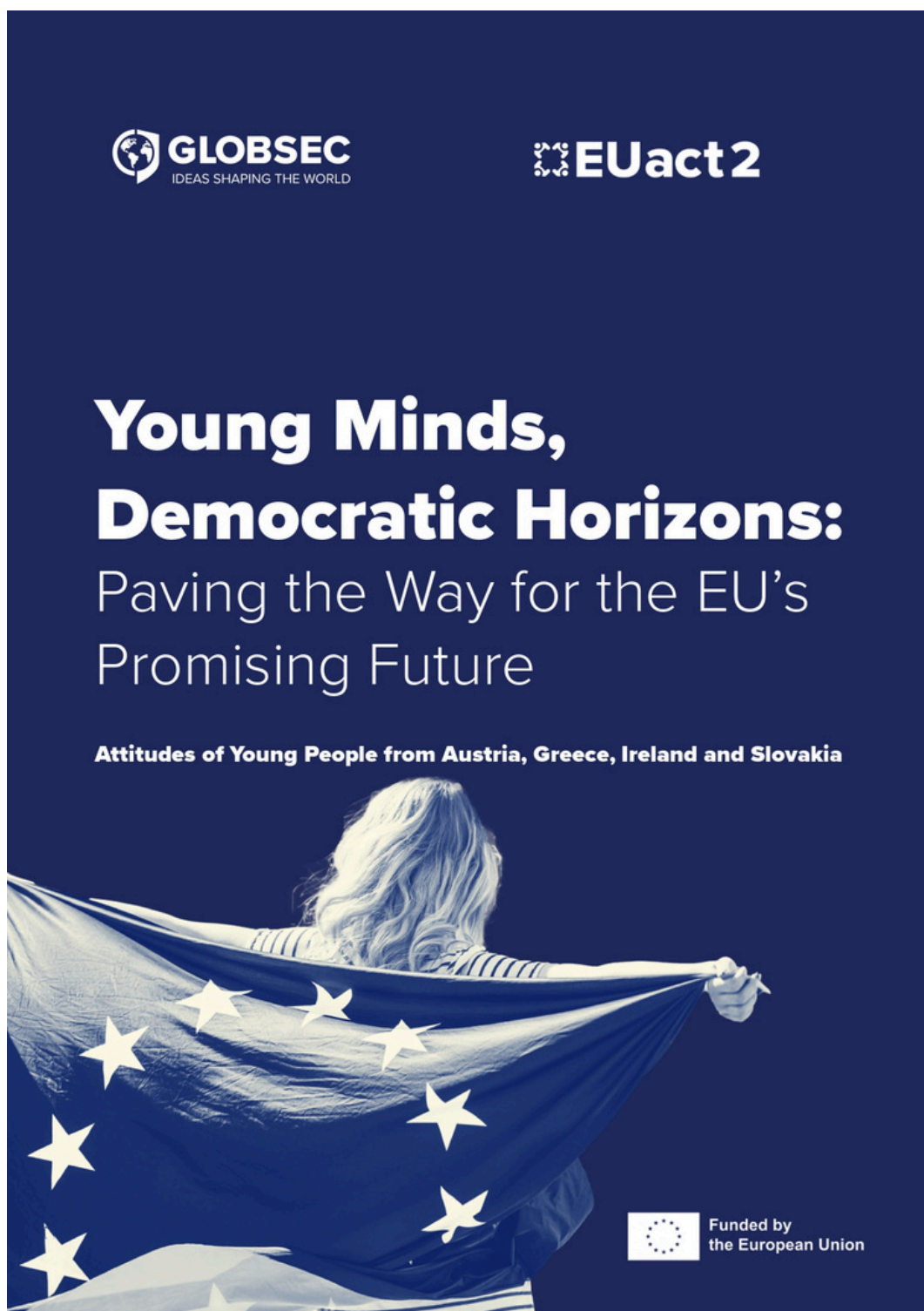
Funded by
the European Union

Contact us:

Address: Hahngasse 6/1/24, A-1090, Wien
Phone: +43-1-319 72 58 Fax: +43-1-319 72 58-4
Email: idm@idm.at



Publications



Download the Report



Check our Websites

- www.idm.at
- www.globsec.org
- www.eliamep.gr
- www.europeanmovement.ie

Main Findings

- The meaning of democracy is **broadly understood** among young people, and it is still their **preferred choice**, but...
- There is **no clear understanding** of what **democracy** means at the **EU level**: many citizens **do not feel represented** and **do not believe** in the power of the EU Parliament elections
- At the same time, they see themselves as **actively engaged citizens**, and they feel ready to **take responsibility** for their countries' future
- Therefore, they feel that **the future of the EU will be bright**, but **much needs to be done**: in particular, the EU should continue **deepening integration**, be more **transparent** and exert a **more assertive hand against democratic backsliding**

Recommendations

- How can the **engagement of young people** (and all citizens) in **EU affairs** be **ensured**?
- **Improve communication** between EU, national institutions and young people
 - Focus on **knowledge-building**, educating EU citizens on key principles of European integration and democratic participation
 - Institutionalize deliberative formats **involving young people in the policymaking process**



Funded by
the European Union

Contact us:

Address: Hahngasse 6/1/24, A-1090, Wien
Phone: +43-1-319 72 58 **Fax:** +43-1-319 72 58-4
Email: idm@idm.at



About IDM

The **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)** is a non-governmental regional think tank based in Vienna. Founded in **1953**, it acts as a gateway to the region and serves as a **platform for stakeholders** from academia, politics, economy, administration, culture, media, and civil society. Under the slogan “**European perspectives – Regional actions**”, the IDM experts enhance dialogue, knowledge exchange, and mutual understanding through **events, publications, podcasts, and educational programs**.

The IDM is one of few institutions **working on the EU integration of both the Western Balkans as well as Ukraine and Moldova**.

70 Years IDM – Locating the Future

On 5 December 2023, the IDM celebrated its **70th birthday**: an opportunity to **assess our progress** over the years and look at what **milestones** lie ahead. Our **70th Anniversary Celebration** featured a year-long program of events that brought together both established **experts** and **young scholars** from the IDM network. We organised **20 initiatives**, each in one of our target countries, dedicated to **better understanding present pan-European issues**. The year ended with a ceremony in Vienna, with greeting words by high-ranking speakers such as **Federal President Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen** and **Federal Minister of Education, Science, and Research Dr. Martin Polaschek**.

Becoming a Member

If you share the goals of IDM, consider **becoming a member**. You will receive **information on the Danube region, Central and Southeast Europe** on a regular basis, **invitations** to IDM’s numerous events and information about other events, as well as access to our scientific publication “Der Donauraum” and our journalistic issue “Info Europa”.

Check our website for more information!



5 December 2023
“70th IDM anniversary at Palais Niederösterreich”

Join our Next Event!



THE ERHARD BUSEK AMBASSADOR TALKS

70 years | IDM | European perspectives | Regional actions | Cooperation and expertise since 1953

S.E. DR. VASYL KHYMYNETS
Botschafter der Ukraine in der Republik Österreich

Moderation:
Mag. SEBASTIAN SCHÄFFER, MA
IDM-Direktor

DIE UKRAINE ALS SCHLÜSSEL ZUR SICHERHEIT UND ZUM WOHLSTAND IN EUROPA

SEMINNARRAUM, INSTITUT FÜR DEN DONAURAUUM UND MITTELEUROPA (IDM)
HAHNGASSE 6/MEZZANIN 1090 WIEN
27. JUNI 2024 | 16:00 UHR (CEST)

www.idm.at @IDMVienna



Funded by the European Union

Contact us:

Address: Hahngasse 6/1/24, A-1090, Wien
Phone: +43-1-319 72 58 **Fax:** +43-1-319 72 58-4
Email: idm@idm.at

