



Vienna, March 1st 2018

Event Reporting

Dialogue on EU Cohesion Policy, Feb 23rd 2018, University of Applied Science, Eisenstadt

Description of the discussion during the event:

On Friday, February 23rd 2018, the third citizen's dialogue on EU Cohesion Policy took place at the University of Applied Science Burgenland in Eisenstadt, Austria. Around 62 interested people attended, including many students of the University of Applied Science, various stakeholders and citizens.

The event started with an interactive World-Café with 6 different stations, including best-practice projects and public information centers working on EU-funded projects, namely Europaschirm, Naturparke Burgenland, an ESF project called "Starting a business as an opportunity for Women" as well as two Interreg projects, called InnoWood and ReSTI.

The following panel debate focused on the future of EU Cohesion policy. More than that, communication of EU-funded projects was discussed. Our guests for the panel were MEP and speaker of the Bürgerforum Europa Othmar Karas, President of the Landtag and Member of the Committee of the Regions Christian Illedits, Departmental Head of the DG Regio Leo Maier and the vice-rector of the University of Applied Science, Silvia Ettl-Huber. After the panel discussion, the event closed with an informal 'Get-Together' with snacks and beverages.

Judging from the feedback cards that we collected, it seemed that citizens recognized EU's investment in education and the energy sector. These investments are perceived as very positive and important for the region. The EU should invest more in communication and awareness-raising. The result of the Dialogue was that the people of Burgenland wish for more investments in infrastructure, innovation and sustainability.

Main conclusions:

Citizens did not know about EU-funded projects in their region. But the interest in the projects was high. The participants were actively seeking for individual conversations with the beneficiaries and they asked them detailed questions. **Number of participants: 62**

Type of participants: civil society, students, citizens, project beneficiaries

List of participants:

see annex



Media Coverage:

Social Media activity:

- short Instagram and Facebook stories during the event, streamed on "Bürgerforum Europa" channels, using #EUinmyRegion
- Facebook event promotion, using #EUinmyRegion
- Periscope live-stream of the World-Café
- several tweets during discussion, using #EUinmyRegion
- promotion of event video via YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- promotion of event photos via Facebook, Instagram, and our website

Press release via APA OTS-Service

Report in the regional newspaper BVZ (see annex)