

Political Participation for the European Union The Importance of Visions and Worries for the Future of Europe

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Main Goal

The main goal of the Europe 2038 project which is currently conducted in seven European countries (Albania, Austria, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain, and UK) is to find out the visions and the worries of young persons aged 16 to 25 years regarding a future Europe – “Europe 2038”.

In this presentation, first results of the data collected in Austria are summarized and the following questions will be answered:

- 1. What visions and worries do young people located in Austria have for the future of Europe?**
- 2. To what extent do these visions and worries translate into conventional and non-conventional political participation for the European Union?**

Main Theoretical Idea

Two mechanisms are driving **participatory behavior** for the European Union.

1. We assume that the content of the visions and worries of a future Europe matters.
2. We hypothesize that different visions and worries predict conventional vs. non-conventional participatory behavior.

Worries and Visions for the Future of Europe

A mixed method study was conducted.

Qualitative interviews were conducted with approximately 50 young people located in the seven countries. Based on these qualitative interviews, a list containing 31 worries and 39 visions for the future of Europe was created and integrated in a PAN-European survey.

1. *Imagine yourself in 2038, which of the following things are you worried about? Please also indicate for each topic whether this is one of your top 5 worries. (5 point-rating scale ranging from a lot - not at all)*
2. *Imagine that you are the head of the European Union and you could set priorities for Europe 2038. Which topics are the most important? Please also mark your top 5 priorities. (5 point-rating scale ranging from very important- not at all important)*

Participatory Behaviour

1. Conventional political participation (e.g., voting in the next EU elections)
2. Non-conventional political participation (e.g., signing petitions for European topics)

(these items were taken from the PIDOP project; Barrett & Zani, 2016)

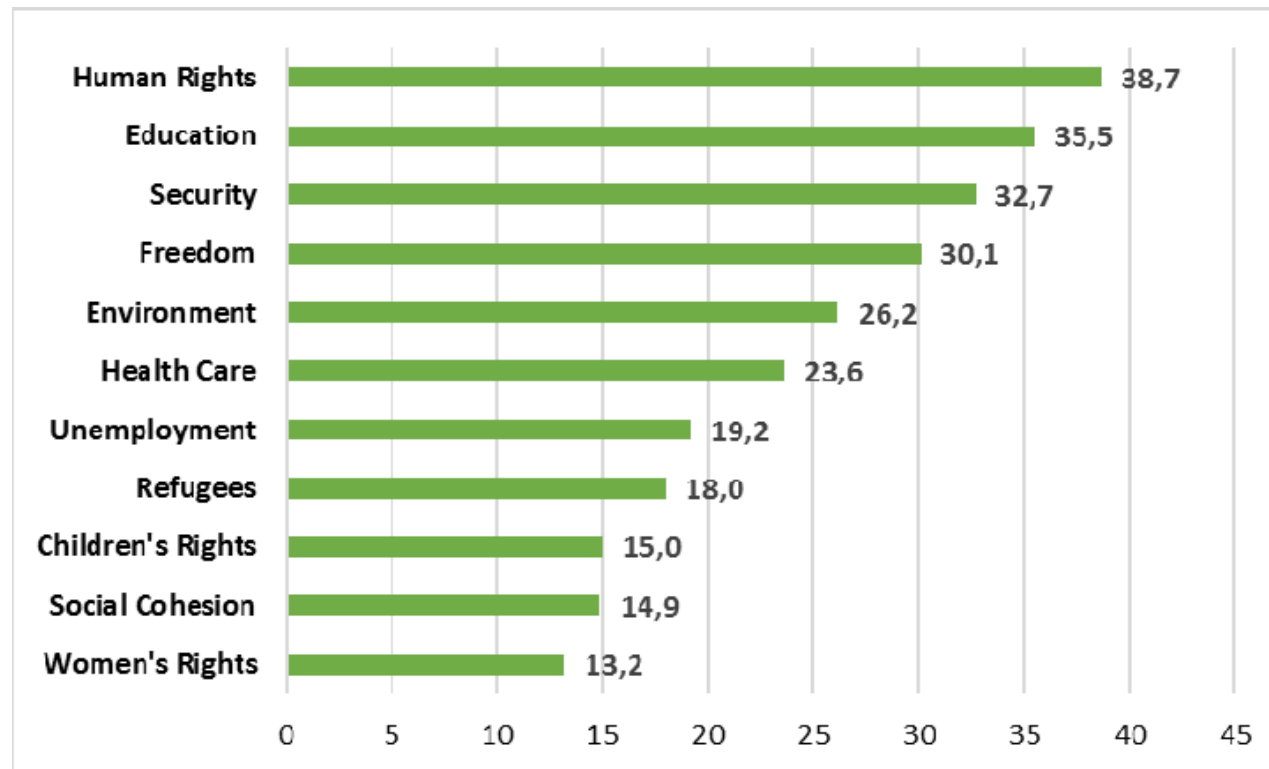
Austrian Sample

In Austria, quantitative data was collected between April and June 2016.

In total, 1348 young persons aged 16 to 25 years answered the online-survey:

- 58% women and 42% men;
- 58% were 16-19 years old and 42% were 20-25 years old;
- 88% were born in Austria and 12% in another country;
- 51% finished compulsory school; 36% finished apprenticeship or hold a university entrance degree; 12% completed a university study.

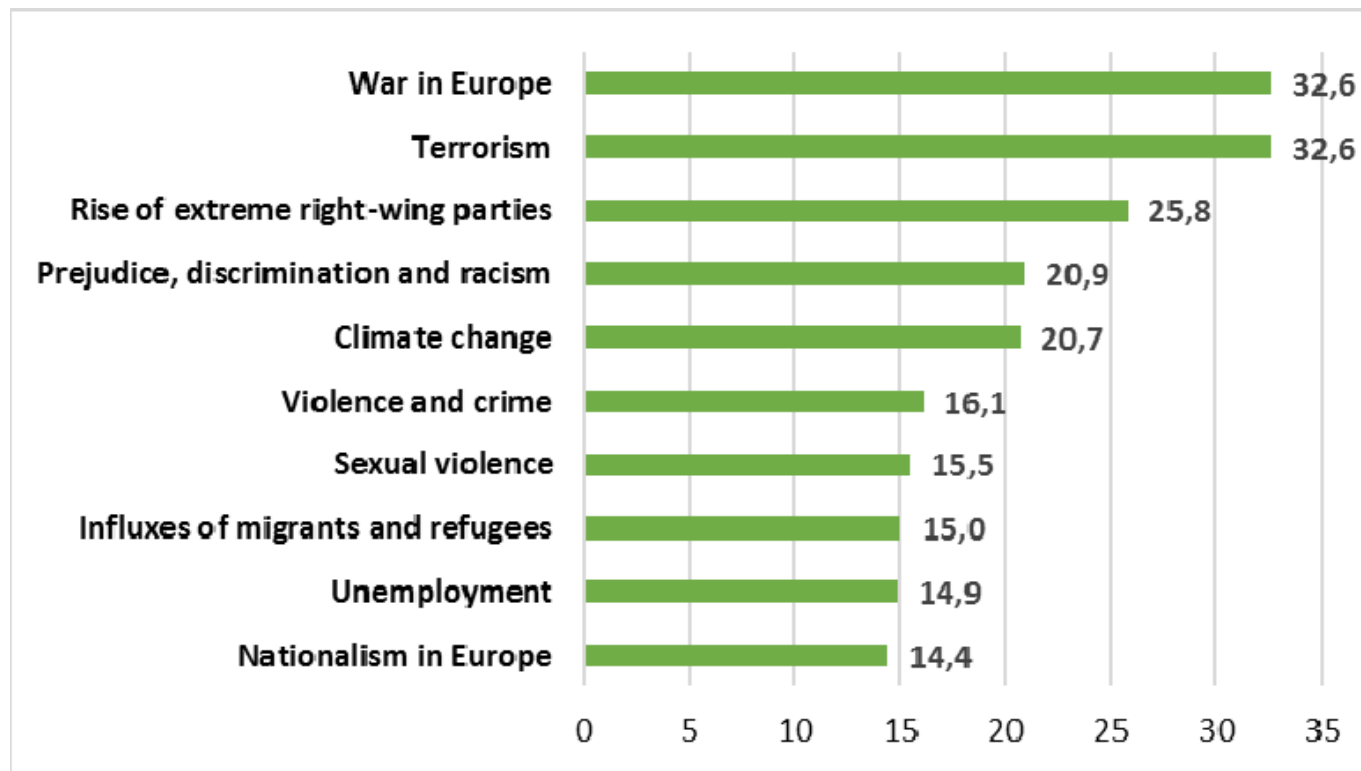
What TOP5 visions do young people in Austria have for Europe 2038?



Human rights as TOP priority for Europe 2038

- More women than men chose human rights (48% women vs. 26% men).
- More young people who were not born in Austria chose human rights (44% vs. 38%).
- More young people with higher education chose human rights (42% with university degree vs. 38% with compulsory education).
- Young people who chose human rights as one of their TOP 5 priorities, identified more with Europe compared with those who had other priorities.
- Young people who chose human rights as one of their TOP 5 priorities, think that diversity, rule of law and democracy are more important compared with those who had other priorities.

What TOP5 worries do young people in Austria have for Europe 2038?



War and terror as TOP5 worry for Europe 2038

- More men than women chose war in Europe as TOP5 worry (63% women vs. 73% men).
- More men than women chose terror in Europe as TOP5 worry (61% women vs. 76% men).
- Age, education, country of birth did not moderate the results.
- Young people who chose war or terror as one of their TOP 5 worries, identified more with Europe compared with those who had other worries.
- Young people who chose war or terror as one of their TOP 5 worries, think that human rights and rule of law are more important compared with those who had other worries.

Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFAs): 31 Worries

Initially, 6 factors emerged with an Eigenvalue > 1.00 . However, the 6 factor structure was not interpretable. Moreover, the scree plot indicated a 3 factor structure which was interpretable.

Thus, eight items with loadings < 0.40 and double loadings were excluded. The final 3 scales (23 items) were the following:

1. **Nationalism, right-wing parties, racism, etc.:** 8 items, $\alpha=0.84$
2. **Terror, war, violence, etc.:** 6 items, $\alpha=0.83$
3. **Price rises, poverty, unemployment, etc.:** 9 items, $\alpha=0.81$

Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFAs): 39 Visions

Initially, 8 factors emerged with an Eigenvalue > 1.00 . The scree plot indicated a 3, 6 or 8 factor structure. These 3 possibilities were checked. Best interpretable was the 8 factor structure.

Nine items with loadings < 0.40 and double loadings were excluded. The final 8 scales (30 items) were the following:

1. **Social, education, pensions, families:** 6 items; $\alpha=0.73$
2. **Rights: children, women, LGBTI, etc.:** 6 items; $\alpha=0.76$
3. **Environment, nutrition, energy:** 4 items; $\alpha=0.63$
4. **Economy & finance crisis:** 2 items; $\alpha=0.61$
5. **Migration & refugees:** 2 items; $\alpha=0.71$
6. **Technology, communication, mobility:** 5 items; $\alpha=0.76$
7. **Strengthening of EU:** 3 items; $\alpha=0.63$
8. **Reduction of EU :** 2 items; $\alpha=0.61$

Conventional participatory behaviour - Descriptives

- **73,2 %** stated that they voted in the last European Union elections in 2014.
- **94,1%** stated that they will vote in the European Union elections in 2019?
- **17,3%** stated that they will you join a particular political party to campaign or canvass on their behalf in the European Union elections in 2019.

Non- Conventional participatory behaviour - Descriptives

- **56,1%** stated that they ever visited a website on the internet that is about the European Union.
- **27,6%** stated that they ever liked a group on Facebook (or a similar online social network) dealing with European Union issues.
- **24,9%** stated that they ever shared content to your friends/contacts on Facebook (or a similar online social network) about European Union issues.
- **24,4%** stated that they ever signed a petition or an e-petition about an issue regarding the European Union.
- **17.0 %** stated that they ever attended a public meeting or demonstration dealing with European Union issues.
- **5,6%** stated that they ever wrote an email or a letter to a newspaper or magazine about an issue regarding the European Union.
- **5,5%** stated that they ever wrote an email or a letter to a Member of the European Parliament or to an official at the European Commission.

Prediction of Future Voting Behaviour



EUROPA
EUROPE
EVROPE

Koeffizienten^a

Modell		Nicht standardisierte Koeffizienten		Standardisierte Koeffizienten	T	Sig.
		Regressionskoeffizient B	Standardfehler	Beta		
1	(Konstante)	,693	,091		7,607	,000
	gender Geschlecht	,011	,018	,026	,628	,530
	age_k Alter	-,012	,016	-,026	-,721	,471
	firstgen Migration erste Generation	,010	,026	,013	,373	,709
	wor_nationalism Worries: nationalism, right wing parties, racism	,023	,013	,082	1,727	,085
	wor_terror Worries: terror, war, etc.	-,008	,012	-,032	-,682	,495
	wor_economy Worries: price rises, economy, etc.	-,028	,016	-,085	-1,716	,087
	vis_tech Visions: technology, communication, mobility	,023	,014	,075	1,592	,112
	vis_social Visions: social, education, pensions, families	,044	,021	,106	2,127	,034
	vis_reduction Visions: Reduction of EU	-,013	,009	-,057	-1,358	,175
	vis_strenghten Visions: Strengthening of EU	,002	,011	,008	,183	,855
	vis_environment Visions: environment, nutrition, energy	-,013	,015	-,039	-,909	,364
	vis_migration Visions: migration and refugees	,020	,009	,089	2,322	,021
	vis_economy Visions: economy and finance crisis	,006	,012	,020	,461	,645
	vis_rights Visions: rights, children, women, LGBTI	-,002	,017	-,005	-,099	,921

a. Abhängige Variable: vo_2019c

Intended Voting Behaviour for the EU elections in 2019 was only predicted by 2 types of visions:

Migration visions (B =0.11)

Social Visions (B =0.09)

Prediction of Non Conventional Behavior



Koeffizienten^a

Modell		Nicht standardisierte Koeffizienten		Standardisierte Koeffizienten	T	Sig.
		Regressionskoeffizient B	Standardfehler	Beta		
1	(Konstante)	,397	,587		,676	,499
	gender Geschlecht	-,376	,120	-,123	-3,141	,002
	age_k Alter	,563	,106	,185	5,286	,000
	firstgen Migration erste Generation	-,041	,167	-,008	-,245	,806
	wor_nationalism Worries: nationalism, right wing parties, racism	,327	,089	,168	3,664	,000
	wor_terror Worries: terror, war, etc.	-,300	,079	-,169	-3,800	,000
	wor_economy Worries: price rises, economy, etc.	,122	,109	,053	1,122	,262
	vis_tech Visions: technology, communication, mobility	,078	,095	,038	,821	,412
	vis_social Visions: social, education, pensions, families	,066	,136	,023	,481	,631
	vis_reduction Visions: Reduction of EU	,030	,061	,020	,490	,624
	vis_strenghten Visions: Strengthening of EU	-,035	,075	-,019	-,464	,643
	vis_environment Visions: environment, nutrition, energy	,002	,098	,001	,019	,985
	vis_migration Visions: migration and refugees	,044	,057	,028	,763	,446
	vis_economy Visions: economy and finance crisis	,049	,080	,025	,610	,542
	vis_rights Visions: rights, children, women, LGBTI	-,086	,110	-,037	-,784	,433

a. Abhängige Variable: nc_beh Non-conventional political participation

Non-conventional participatory behavior was predicted by several variables:

Gender (women more)

Age (older youth more)

Nationalism worries (B =0.17)

Terror worries (B=-0.17)

Summary

The analyses revealed that the 3 kinds of worries and 8 kinds of visions predicted the conventional and non-conventional participatory behaviors differently.

Conventional political participation (=future voting) was associated with migration visions and social visions among the Austrian youth.

Non-Conventional political participation was associated with being a women, being older, worries regarding nationalism, worries regarding terror!

Towards a renewed project of Europe...

The TOP priority for Europe 2038 of young people are human rights!

The European Union should have a strong public stance regarding human rights and should ensure that human rights are respected!

The TOP worry for Europe 2038 of young people are war in Europe and terror!

The European Union should take measures to secure peace and to give people the feeling to be safe.

The European Union should develop into the direction of a Social Union!



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