

# Visions and Worries of Adolescents and Young Adults for the Future of Europe: The Importance of Social Exclusion Experiences

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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. What exclusion experiences do they face?**
- 3. How are the exclusion experiences related with their visions and worries for a future of Europe?**

## Main Hypotheses

Future Visions and Worries are not independent from daily exclusion and discrimination experiences. **Daily life experience will translate into future expectations.**

1. Young people who experience more exclusion in different domains of life, will have more worries regarding Europe 2038.
2. Young people who experience more exclusion in different domains of life, will have less positive vision regarding Europe 2038.



# 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)*

## Exclusion/Discrimination Experiences

10 newly developed items, life time prevalence, 5 point-rating scale ranging from *very often* to *never*.

1. I was unfairly treated or excluded when applying for a job or during job interviews.
2. I was refused to enter public facilities, restaurants, pubs or shops without any justification.
3. I was unfairly treated or excluded during education or training.
4. I was excluded during my leisure time (e.g., from clubs, sport facilities, etc.) without any justification.
5. I was unfairly treated by or excluded from public authorities or administrative offices.
6. I was unfairly treated in school.
7. I was unfairly treated at work.
8. I was refused to use public transportation without any justification.
9. My right to travel to other countries was restricted.
10. I was unfairly treated when searching for accommodation or when flats were assigned.

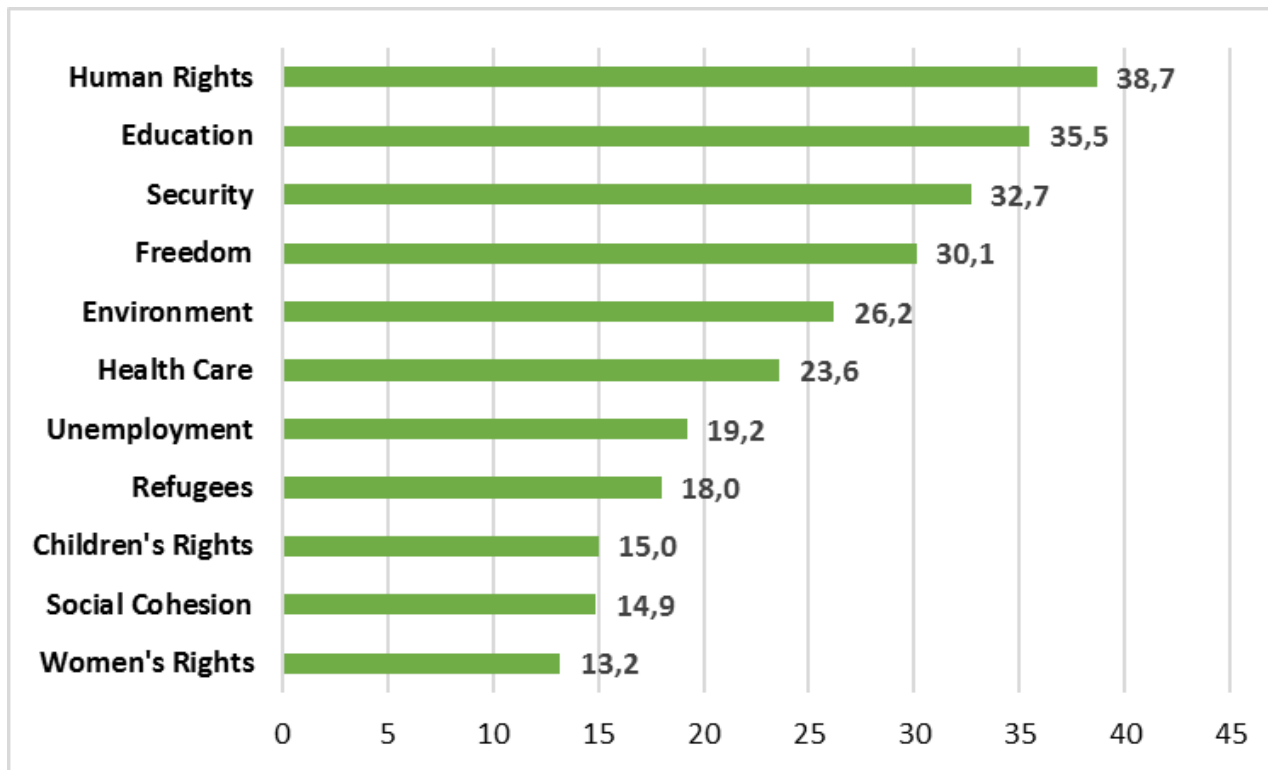
## Austrian Sample

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?

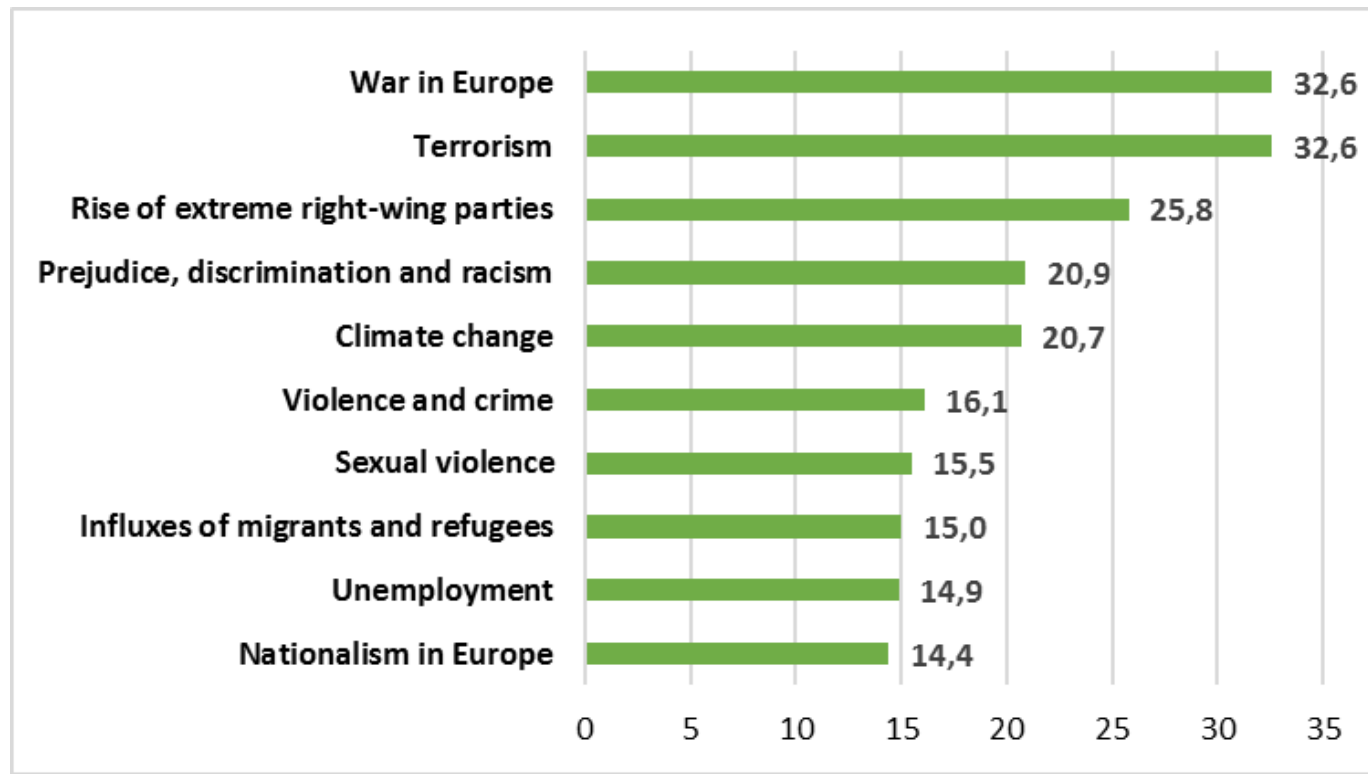


## Human rights as TOP priority for Europe 2038

- 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.



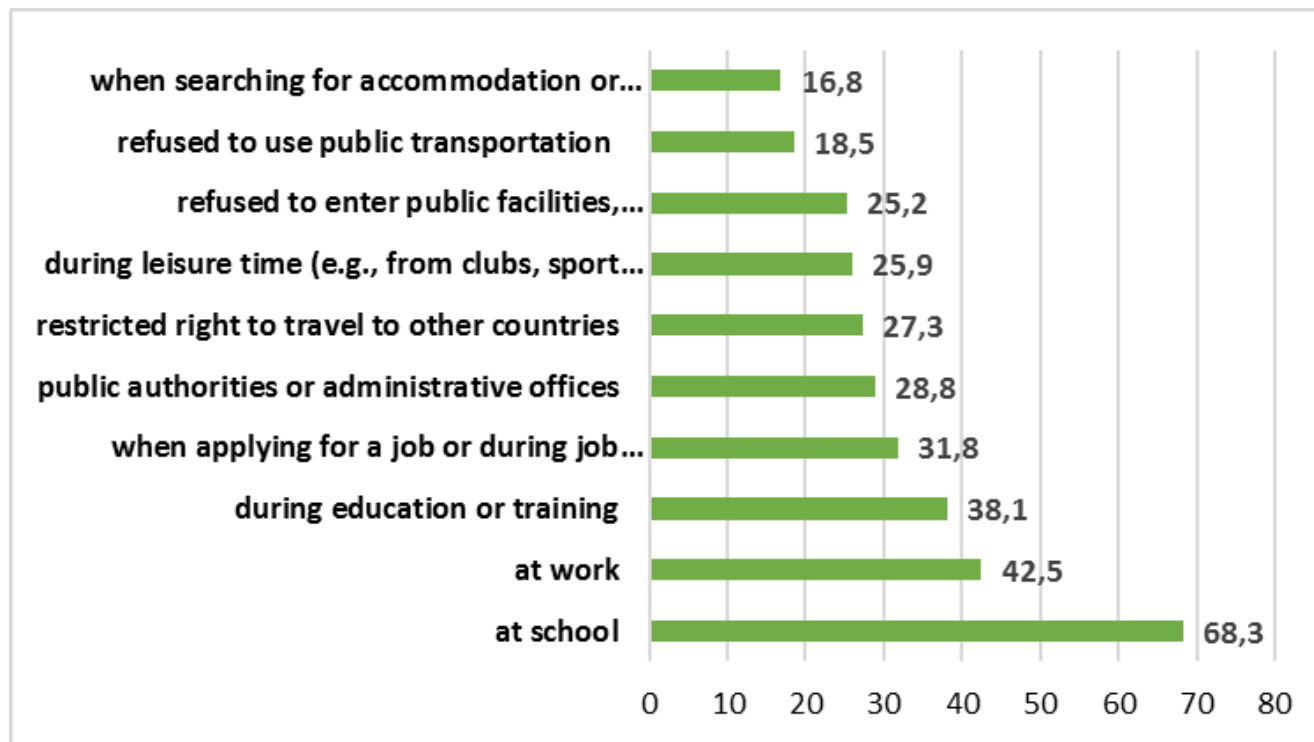
## What TOP5 worries do young people in Austria have for Europe 2038?



## 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.

## What kind of exclusion/discrimination experiences do young people in Austria face?



10 items,  $\alpha=0.86$ ; Median= 1.40 (55 %  $\leq$  1.40); Modus (N=180) = 1.00; Range: 1.00 – 5.00

## Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFAs): 31 Worries

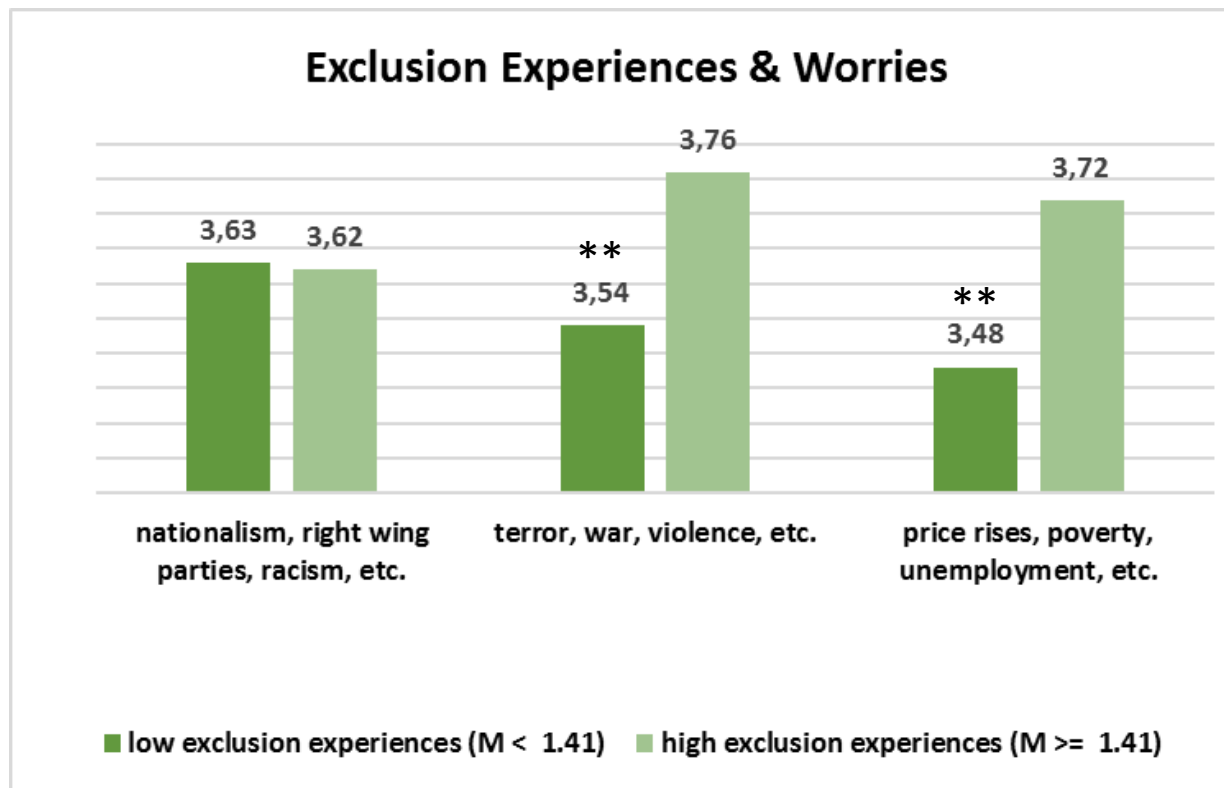
Initially, 6 factors emerged with an Eigenvalue  $> 1.00$ . However, the 6 factor structure was not interpretable. Moreover, the scree plot indicated a 3 factor structure which was interpretable.

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,  $\alpha=0.81$



# Young people with higher levels of exclusion experiences have more fears for the future of Europe!



Gender, age and first generation immigrant status were controlled in the analyses.

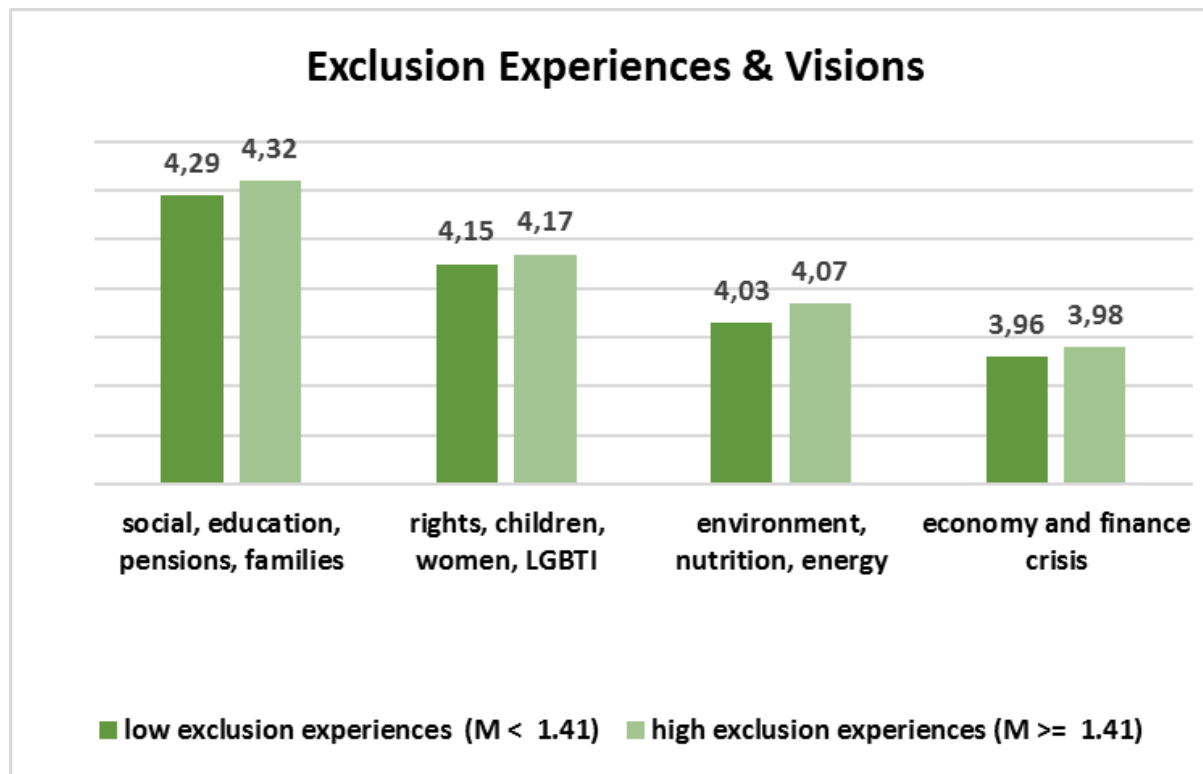
## Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFAs): 39 Visions

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;  $\alpha=0.61$

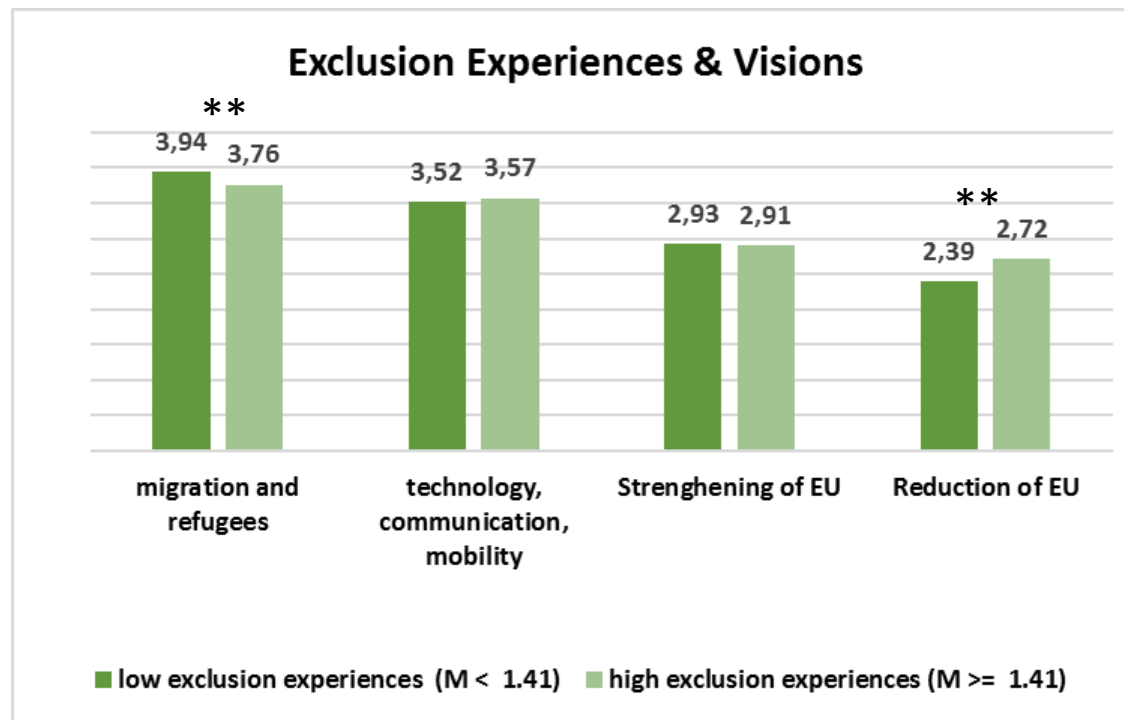
# All young people would equally prioritize social topics, human rights, environment and economy!



**More first generation immigrants who have exclusion experiences would prioritize economy** compared with first generation immigrants without exclusion experiences. No differences in non-immigrants!!!

Gender, age and first generation immigrant status were controlled in the analyses.

**Young people with higher levels of exclusion experiences would prioritize migration & refugees less, BUT would prioritize the reduction of the EU more!**



Gender, age and first generation immigrant status were controlled in the analyses.



## Conclusions and Discussion

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

- Gender (being female), education, migration are relevant moderators
- Exclusion experiences are irrelevant

**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:

- Gender (being male) is a relevant moderator
- Exclusion experiences are relevant

**The European Union should take measures to secure peace and should ensure that young people do not face exclusion or discrimination experiences in their daily lives.**

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



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