



Storyboard for training

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The stories in this storyboard have been collected as part of the Eurosense training program in 2025 and 2026.

The following additional specification was used in the collection process

Think about an event , an experience that is related to **your life** in **your neighborhood** : building, street, village,

In this version there are 48 stories. Stories are grouped by the self selected category. Since each story can be assigned to multiple categories, it may appear multiple times in the document

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Mobility and transport

Car sharing as a stepping stone to local democracy

Last Saturday, I attended a get-together hosted by a citizens' initiative within my municipality that offers the shared use of electric cars. My wife and I have been participants/'customers' of this car-sharing service for two years now. This means you can reserve, unlock, use, and pay for a car via an app. This gathering was the first time I met and spoke with other participants. I enjoyed hearing a bit more background on how this initiative originated, who had contributed to it, etc. We got into a conversation about how everyone experienced using the shared cars and what other possibilities we saw. Could we apply for a subsidy from the municipality? Could we, as a cooperative, handle this even more ourselves (setting rates, etc.)? How great would it be if there were fewer cars parked on the street? How can we achieve that, in particular? I had never had conversations like that via the app. In short: the introduction and connection naturally led to conversation and ideas for follow-up action. It leaves me wanting more. Especially if the government also provides support for this and leaves sufficient room to develop it further as a society.

Original title: Autodelen als opstap naar lokale democratie

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: Where political power in Europe is concentrated

Europe is like: A very large group of people who can strengthen each other

Democracy is like: organizing our society, from local to European and beyond

Who should hear: Dutch Democracy Theme Group

Question: How do you experience having power? What do you consider important in the shaping of democracy?

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Afgelopen zaterdag was ik bij een borrel van een burgerinitiatief binnen mijn gemeente dat het samen delen van elektrische auto's aanbiedt. Ik ben samen met mijn vrouw al twee jaar deelnemer / 'klant' van dat autodelen. Dus via een app kan je auto reserveren, ontgrendelen gebruiken en afrekenen. Deze borrel was voor het eerst dat ik andere deelnemers trof en sprak. Ik vond het leuk om wat meer achtergrond te horen over hoe dit initiatief was ontstaan, wie er aan hadden bijgedragen etc. We raakten in gesprek over hoe ieder het gebruik van de deelauto's ervaarde. En over welke mogelijkheden we nog meer zagen. Zouden we subsidie van de gemeente kunnen vragen? Zouden we dit als cooperatie nog meer zelf kunnen doen (tarieven vaststellen etc)? Hoe mooi zou het zijn als er minder auto's geparkeerd in de straat staan? Hoe kunnen we dat vooral krijgen? Dat soort gesprekken had ik via de app nog nooit gehad. Kortom: door de kennismaking en verbinding ontstaat vrij natuurlijk gesprek en ideeën voor vervolg actie. Smaakt naar meer. Zeker als vanuit de overheid hier ook steun aan wordt gegeven en voldoende ruimte lijft om het als samenleving verder op te bouwen.

Long way

In my neighborhood, there were major issues after a pedestrian zone was opened to cars. Along with noise and nighttime disturbances, there were also drug-related incidents. After we organized as a citizens' initiative, the city has finally decided—after two years of effort—to support us. The street will be closed to cars again and redesigned.

Original title: Long way

Origin and language: Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: community

Europe is like: A rainbow

Democracy is like: Hard look

Who should hear: My Cityhall

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ; Housing and Living Conditions ;

Original text: In my neighborhood, there were major issues after a pedestrian zone was opened to cars. Along with noise and nighttime disturbances, there were also drug-related incidents. After we organized as a citizens' initiative, the city has finally decided—after two years of effort—to support us. The street will be closed to cars again and redesigned.

30 km/h speed limit rejected - why?

In our community, the introduction of a 30 km/h speed limit on local roads has been discussed four times in the last three decades and has always been rejected. The most recent vote was held on September 22, 2024. The measure was rejected by 63% of the vote. We know it was rejected, but we don't know why.

...

Original title: Tempo 30 abgelehnt - warum?

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A giant octopus

Europe is like: A region where we live together peacefully

Democracy is like: Oxygen for a country. Without democracy, it suffocates.

Who should hear: The people

Question: THAT

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: In unserer Gemeinde wurde in den letzten drei Jahrzehnten viermal die Einführung von Tempo 30 auf Gemeindestrassen diskutiert und stets abgelehnt. Das letzte Mal wurde am 22.9.2024 darüber abgestimmt. Mit 63% wurde die Einführung abgelehnt. Wir wissen, dass es abgelehnt wurde, aber nicht warum.

The traffic

The traffic. Cyprus is supposedly a small island thus the destination to A to B should not take a long time. Instead it might take someone a usual 10-minute ride even an hour, especially when it comes to peak-hours.

For example, from Aglantzia to go to Stavrou, around 17:00, it took up to 40 minutes. It's not just the ride itself, or the lack of public transport option, it's also the fact that Cyprus cities are not built for walking either, which is always another good & healthy option to have as an individual.

Original title: The traffic

Origin and language: Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a safety net

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: Most Cypriot citizens

Question: If they genuinely want the best of our country, and if they do, it should be time to show it with complete action-plans

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ;

Original text: The traffic.

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Hell on the highway

There was a car accident on the highway and we had to wait for four hours for the police to come and for the cars involved in the accident to be towed away

Original title: Hell on the highway

Origin and language : Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a distant official

Europe is like: a far away country

Democracy is like: nothing I can relate to

Who should hear: Government bodies

Question: Are you happy with things as they are?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: There was a car accident on the highway and we had to wait for four hours for the police to come and for the cars involved in the accident to be towed away

Bringing quiet to the city

I live in the center of Paris next to a street that was very noisy(rue de Rivoli) Since the pandemic the street has been reconfigured with large bike section and car circulation is restricted. Now you can walk on the street and hear yourself talking. Still some people are upset that they cannot use the car

Original title: Bringing quiet to the city

Origin and language : France ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A common house

Europe is like: Our past and our future

Democracy is like: Taking the future in your own hands

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Nature and climate ;

Original text: I live in the center of Paris next to a street that was very noisy(rue de Rivoli) Since the pandemic the street has been reconfigured with large bike section and car circulation is restricted. Now you can walk on the street and hear yourself talking. Still some people are upset that they cannot use the car

The indispensable car

Where I live (Naples province) there's a major public transportation isolation. It's a densely populated area but lacks any public transportation. A car is essential for getting around. There are no meeting places, nor the possibility of going anywhere on foot, not only because there is nothing but also because it is dangerous to walk without sidewalks. All this despite the fact that the largest NATO base in the Mediterranean is nearby. Politics did nothing, blaming individual citizens who bought houses in those areas. They also say that there is no money even though they received European funds for the development of public transport (certainly badly spent).

Original title: The indispensable car

Origin and language : Italy ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : what keeps Italy from falling into the chaos of crime

Europe is like: The future

Democracy is like: The most important part in the life of a citizen

Who should hear: This problem is present in many areas of Italy and unfortunately they are dismissed as if it were their fault

Question: The isolation of suburban areas is a real problem that causes social isolation and makes life more difficult because one must necessarily have a car and drive for many kilometers on foot.

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ;

Original text: Where I live (Naples province) there's a major public transportation isolation. It's a densely populated area but lacks any public transportation. A car is essential for getting around.

There are no meeting places, nor the possibility of going anywhere on foot, not only because there is nothing but also because it is dangerous to walk without sidewalks. All this despite the fact that the largest NATO base in the Mediterranean is nearby. Politics did nothing, blaming individual citizens who bought houses in those areas. They also say that there is no money even though they received European funds for the development of public transport (certainly badly spent).

The missing track

Where I live has been without a railway for 50 years. It was suspended for reconstruction and then moved elsewhere. In the meantime, the entire area has grown exponentially: the population has doubled, the number of buildings has increased, and no new roads have been built, so its absence has been greatly felt (today we all travel by car, and buses aren't enough). 20 years ago, they thought about building a tram that would lead to the subway: they built the road and raised the funds. Everything was going well until the new Province was elected, the municipalities changed mayors, and the regional representatives began arguing over where to put it. The result was that the funding was lost, and the tram was never built. Even today, you either have a car or walk, because buses aren't enough.

Original title: Il binario che manca

Origin and language : Italy ; it

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A great institution, excellent but needs improvement

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: House to protect

Who should hear: Anyone who has the ability to change things

Question: Can you help us make these areas livable without drowning in smog or ending up stranded?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Fairness and social justice ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Nel posto dove abito manca da 50 anni una ferrovia. Fu sospesa per rifarla e poi fu spostata altrove. Nel frattempo tutta la zona è cresciuta oltremodo, è raddoppiata la popolazione, sono aumentati i palazzi, non sono state fatte nuove strade e quindi la sua mancanza si è fatta sentire molto (oggi ci muoviamo tutti con l'auto e gli autobus non bastano). 20 anni fa pensarono di fare un tram che portasse alla metropolitana: costruirono la strada e reperirono i fondi. Tutto stava andando bene fino a quando non fu eletta la nuova Provincia, i comuni cambiarono i sindaci e i rappresentanti

regionali iniziarono a litigare su dove farla arrivare. Il risultato è che furono persi i fondi e non è stato più fatto il tram. Ancora oggi o hai un'auto o vai a piedi, perché gli autobus non bastano.

Gas station attendants love me

I live on the outskirts of town, in a rural area. The streets near my house are narrow, there are no sidewalks or public transportation, and I'm forced to use a car to leave the house regardless, whether for work or pleasure.

Original title: I benzinai mi vogliono bene

Origin and language : Italy ; it

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : An institution to be reformed and improved

Europe is like: A land of opportunity

Democracy is like: Something invaluable but needs to be strengthened

Who should hear: Those responsible for urban planning in my country

Question: Is there any way you can help me not have to use the car all the time?

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ;

Original text: Io abito in periferia, in una zona di campagna. Le strade vicino casa mia sono strette, non ci sono né marciapiedi né mezzi pubblici, e sono costretto a usare un'automobile per uscire di casa in ogni caso, sia per motivi di lavoro che per motivi di piacere.

#

Fairness and social justice

Tension after change

In the supermarket, a customer approached me angrily because a product hadn't been delivered. The product was a specific spreadable cheese, but there were still five other varieties left. The customer was not open to trying a new type but wanted the spreadable cheese she always had. The question that came to mind was: Why are you angry about something so small and not try a new flavor?

Original title: Spanning na verandering

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: The people have the final say, which can have positive and negative consequences.

Who should hear: Colleagues, friends, acquaintances, if the conversation turns here

Question: Do you really care about the country, or the power you currently hold?

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: In de supermarkt kwam een klant boos naar mij toe, omdat er een product niet geleverd was. Het product was een specifieke smeerkaas, maar er lagen nog 5 andere soorten. De klant stond niet open om een nieuw soort te proberen, maar wilde de smeerkaas die ze altijd had. De vraag die in mij opkwam was: Waarom ben je boos over zoiets kleins en probeer je niet een nieuwe smaak?

Femicide

the rising amount of stories in the Netherlands about femicide and harmful actions taken against girls and women.

Original title: Femicide

Origin and language : Netherlands ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: politician and citizens

Question: when and how are you gonna take action about this problem?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ;

Original text: the rising amount of stories in the Netherlands about femicide and harmful actions taken against girls and women.

Democracy in action

I was at a meeting where more than 1,000 people shared their experiences with local democracy projects and learned from each other. It was buzzing (to put it mildly) with energy and hope. There are initiatives for renewal in a great many municipalities. The government was also present, by the way, both in many projects and in the organization of this meeting; its importance was therefore recognized by a number of politicians and civil servants. But above all, the enthusiasm of the people doing it was infectious.

Original title: Dmocratie in actie

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A prelude to global citizenship

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: Taking responsibility for our society together

Who should hear: People who want to commit themselves to democratic renewal

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ik was op een bijeenkomst waar meer dan 1000 mensen hun ervaringen met lokale democratieprojecten deelden en van elkaar leerden. Het bruisde (zacht uitgedrukt) van energie en hoop. In heel veel gemeenten zijn er aanzetten tot vernieuwing. De overheid was trouwens ook aanwezig, zowel in veel projecten als bij de organisatie van deze bijeenkomst, het belang ervan werd dus door een aantal politici en ambtenaren ingezien. Maar vooral het enthousiasme van de mensen die het deden was aanstekelijk.

Archaic Teaching Methods

I was in school and realized along with other students that the teaching doesn't allow for innovative discussions.

Original title: Archaic Teaching Methods

Origin and language: Other ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Education and Schools ;

Original text: I was in school and realized along with other students that the teaching doesn't allow for innovative discussions.

Privileged white European

My experience is most of all positive, I feel lucky and I feel like I have privileges. what I don't like is that I see injustice in some situations where people are not very privileged because of their race or gender.

Original title: Privileged white European

Origin and language: Italy ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: helping but could do better

Europe is like: helping but could do better

Democracy is like: something that we should achieve

Who should hear: Politicians and everyone

Question: What are your priorities, because I dont see it

The experience was: Positive and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Health and Wellbeing ; Migration and Refugees ;

Original text: My experience is most of all positive, I feel lucky and I feel like I have privileges. what I don't like is that I see injustice in some situations where people are not very privileged because of their race or gender.

recycling ?

Returning home, I was once again struck by the filth: for the past few years, garbage containers (yellow bins or otherwise) have been brought out of the basements onto the access road behind the buildings, waiting for the trucks to come. Roma people come and rummage through their contents, taking various items. But everything that falls from the containers isn't collected and is blown away by the wind, littering the fences, the base and branches of some trees, the path, and the gutter. This dispersal is deteriorating the entire area and transforming the green spaces into...a dirty neighborhood?

Original title: recyclage ?

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A Jaggernaut tank that's a bit slow to maneuver

Europe is like: my country

Democracy is like: something fragile right now

Who should hear: The Director General of Services or the City's road maintenance department (but the City doesn't care about this area)

Question: Isn't it time to listen to your people?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Health and Wellbeing ;

Original text: En rentrant chez moi, j'ai encore une fois été frappée par la saleté : depuis quelques années, les containers des poubelles (poubelles jaunes ou non) sont sortis des sous-sols sur la voie de passage derrière les immeubles pour attendre le passage des camions. Des roms viennent et en fouillent le contenu, récupérant diverses choses. Mais tout ce qui tombe des containers n'est pas ramassé et est emporté par le vent, garnissant alors les grillages, le pied et les branches de certains

arbres, le chemin, le caniveau. C'est une dissémination qui détériore tout le secteur et transforme les espaces verts en...quartier sale ?

Mediocrity and injustice

It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones. Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

Original title: Mediocrity and injustice

Origin and language: Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: Home

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: Only choice

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text:It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones. Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

The threat to our free society

The power that should reside with the sovereign in our society is increasingly drifting away from them, towards a few economic powers. People are increasingly exploited, their personal development is diminishing, and their fundamental rights are being jeopardized.

Original title: Die Gefährdung unserer freien Gesellschaft

Origin and language: Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: Last hope

Europe is like: Last hope

Democracy is like: an extremely delicate asset that must be constantly cared for

Who should hear: Politicians across Europe and the Western world Lawyers across Europe and the Western world People who want to protect democracy and human rights All people in Europe and the Western world

Question: Why are you not acting in the interest of the greater good (the protection of democracy and human rights), which absolutely must be protected, but instead thinking only of your own career?

And do you then consider it justified that you hold this political position?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ;

Original text: Die Macht, die in unserer Gesellschaft beim Souverän liegen sollte, driftet immer mehr von ihm weg, hin zu einigen wenigen Wirtschaftsmächten. Man wird immer mehr ausgebeutet, man kann sich immer weniger persönlich entfalten, Grundrechte werden gefährdet.

It's not worth talking about

I don't know what to say. When it comes to experiences, I feel it's very irritating to be bombarded with messages fueled by extreme negative emotions and more engaged and extremely arrogant hateful shouters who authoritatively dictate what others should think through their form. People who speak in a balanced and more honest manner don't have the same impact, or they're not engaging enough. Fortunately, they exist at all.

Original title: Szkoda gadać

Origin and language: Poland ; pl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: An institution that provides a framework for a stronger unification of Europe and is embedded in a network of certain universal principles.

Europe is like: part of a broader layer of identity

Democracy is like: more than just elections, but the whole process of participation and engagement

Who should hear: Everyone hears stories like this all the time and nothing changes.

Question: ?

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Other, please specify ; Przekaz medialno społeczny ;

Original text: Nie wiem co opowiedzieć, jeśli chodzi o doświadczenia mam wrażenie że mocno irytującą rzeczą jest przebijanie przekazu nakręcanego o skrajne negatywne emocje i bardziej zaangażowanych i skrajnie aroganckich nienawistnych krzykaczy, narzucających autorytatywnie przez swą formę co inni powinni myśleć. Zaś ludzie opowiadający w sposób wyważony i bardziej rzetelny nie mają takiej siły przebicia, bądź też niewystarczająco się angażują. Na szczęście w ogóle występują

Tipping point

I live in a large EU city and have a dog. When I meet with other dog owners, and we always talk about restaurants or weather, keeping the conversation light and superficial, to be polite, to not delve into religious, political or moral controversy, while our dogs run around. No one really pays attention to how people are being treated in my country, only how my country interacts on the world stage and if it affects EU politics, but I felt that it was important to raise that people are being persecuted, that human rights and federal laws are being challenged, as ultimately, in a democracy (any democracy, including those in EU) it is the people that are going to need to speak up for change.

After this, the next times we met, I saw that people in the group were more aware and concerned about my country and me and perhaps more conscious of the impact a local slide of human rights in one country could have on them, as well, in their country. I felt a non-partisan, non political shift towards more concern, more unity, more desire to be a player in protecting all of our rights in this little local community group.

Original title: Tipping point

Origin and language: France ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A plural union, with the sum of the different parts its strength, and sometimes its weakness

Europe is like: An ongoing experiment, and at risk even if quite innovative and strong

Democracy is like: An entitled child who thinks it is a given and is too complacent - we need to use our democratic voices more

Who should hear: everyone.

Question: Justify to me how you are a civil servant, serving your constituents. Give me specific examples.

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ;

Original text: I live in a large EU city and have a dog. When I meet with other dog owners, and we always talk about restaurants or weather, keeping the conversation light and superficial, to be polite, to not delve into religious, political or moral controversy, while our dogs run around. No one really pays attention to how people are being treated in my country, only how my country interacts on the world stage and if it affects EU politics, but I felt that it was important to raise that people are being persecuted, that human rights and federal laws are being challenged, as ultimately, in a democracy (any democracy, including those in EU) it is the people that are going to need to speak up for change.

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The missing track

Where I live has been without a railway for 50 years. It was suspended for reconstruction and then moved elsewhere. In the meantime, the entire area has grown exponentially: the population has doubled, the number of buildings has increased, and no new roads have been built, so its absence has been greatly felt (today we all travel by car, and buses aren't enough). 20 years ago, they thought about building a tram that would lead to the subway: they built the road and raised the funds. Everything was going well until the new Province was elected, the municipalities changed mayors, and the regional representatives began arguing over where to put it. The result was that the funding was lost, and the tram was never built. Even today, you either have a car or walk, because buses aren't enough.

Original title: Il binario che manca

Origin and language: Italy ; it

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A great institution, excellent but needs improvement

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: House to protect

Who should hear: Anyone who has the ability to change things

Question: Can you help us make these areas livable without drowning in smog or ending up stranded?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Fairness and social justice ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Nel posto dove abito manca da 50 anni una ferrovia. Fu sospesa per rifarla e poi fu spostata altrove. Nel frattempo tutta la zona è cresciuta oltremodo, è raddoppiata la popolazione, sono aumentati i palazzi, non sono state fatte nuove strade e quindi la sua mancanza si è fatta sentire molto (oggi ci muoviamo tutti con l'auto e gli autobus non bastano). 20 anni fa pensarono di fare un tram che portasse alla metropolitana: costruirono la strada e reperirono i fondi. Tutto stava andando bene fino a quando non fu eletta la nuova Provincia, i comuni cambiarono i sindaci e i rappresentanti regionali iniziarono a litigare su dove farla arrivare. Il risultato è che furono persi i fondi e non è stato più fatto il tram. Ancora oggi o hai un'auto o vai a piedi, perché gli autobus non bastano.

#

Nature and climate

Car sharing as a stepping stone to local democracy

Last Saturday, I attended a get-together hosted by a citizens' initiative within my municipality that offers the shared use of electric cars. My wife and I have been participants/'customers' of this car-sharing service for two years now. This means you can reserve, unlock, use, and pay for a car via an app. This gathering was the first time I met and spoke with other participants. I enjoyed hearing a bit more background on how this initiative originated, who had contributed to it, etc. We got into a conversation about how everyone experienced using the shared cars and what other possibilities we saw. Could we apply for a subsidy from the municipality? Could we, as a cooperative, handle this even more ourselves (setting rates, etc.)? How great would it be if there were fewer cars parked on the street? How can we achieve that, in particular? I had never had conversations like that via the app. In short: the introduction and connection naturally led to conversation and ideas for follow-up action. It leaves me wanting more. Especially if the government also provides support for this and leaves sufficient room to develop it further as a society.

Original title: Autodelen als opstap naar lokale democratie

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Where political power in Europe is concentrated

Europe is like: A very large group of people who can strengthen each other

Democracy is like: organizing our society, from local to European and beyond

Who should hear: Dutch Democracy Theme Group

Question: How do you experience having power? What do you consider important in the shaping of democracy?

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Afgelopen zaterdag was ik bij een borrel van een burgerinitiatief binnen mijn gemeente dat het samen delen van elektrische auto's aanbiedt. Ik ben samen met mijn vrouw al twee jaar deelnemer / 'klant' van dat autodelen. Dus via een app kan je auto reserveren, ontgrendelen gebruiken en afrekenen. Deze borrel was voor het eerst dat ik andere deelnemers trof en sprak. Ik vond het leuk om wat meer achtergrond te horen over hoe dit initiatief was ontstaan, wie er aan hadden bijgedragen etc. We raakten in gesprek over hoe ieder het gebruik van de deelauto's ervaarde. En over welke mogelijkheden we nog meer zagen. Zouden we subsidie van de gemeente kunnen vragen? Zouden we dit als cooperatie nog meer zelf kunnen doen (tarieven vaststellen etc)? Hoe mooi zou het zijn als er minder auto's geparkeerd in de straat staan? Hoe kunnen we dat vooral krijgen? Dat soort gesprekken had ik via de app nog nooit gehad. Kortom: door de kennismaking en verbinding ontstaat vrij natuurlijk gesprek en ideeën voor vervolg actie. Smaakt naar meer. Zeker als vanuit de overheid hier ook steun aan wordt gegeven en voldoende ruimte lijft om het als samenleving verder op te bouwen.

recycling ?

Returning home, I was once again struck by the filth: for the past few years, garbage containers (yellow bins or otherwise) have been brought out of the basements onto the access road behind the buildings, waiting for the trucks to come. Roma people come and rummage through their contents, taking various items. But everything that falls from the containers isn't collected and is blown away by the wind, littering the fences, the base and branches of some trees, the path, and the gutter. This dispersal is deteriorating the entire area and transforming the green spaces into...a dirty neighborhood?

Original title: recyclage ?

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A Jaggernaut tank that's a bit slow to maneuver

Europe is like: my country

Democracy is like: something fragile right now

Who should hear: The Director General of Services or the City's road maintenance department (but the City doesn't care about this area)

Question: Isn't it time to listen to your people?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Health and Wellbeing ;

Original text: En rentrant chez moi, j'ai encore une fois été frappée par la saleté : depuis quelques années, les containers des poubelles (poubelles jaunes ou non) sont sortis des sous-sols sur la voie de passage derrière les immeubles pour attendre le passage des camions. Des roms viennent et en fouillent le contenu, récupérant diverses choses. Mais tout ce qui tombe des containers n'est pas ramassé et est emporté par le vent, garnissant alors les grillages, le pied et les branches de certains arbres, le chemin, le caniveau. C'est une dissémination qui détériore tout le secteur et transforme les espaces verts en...quartier sale ?

Networking of neighbors

I met a neighbor and talked to him about his heating system upgrade. He explained why he installed his specific solution. Recently, another neighbor asked me if I could help her with replacing her heating system. Ideally, I was able to connect the two of them. The neighbor showed the other neighbor his solution, and she's now considering something similar. Although they live quite close to each other, they were unaware of each other's work.

Original title: Vernetzen von Nachbarn

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text:Ich habe einen Nachbarn getroffen und mit ihm über seine Erneuerung der Heizung gesprochen. Er erklärte mir wieso er seine Spezifische Lösung installiert hat. Kürzlich fragte mich eine andere Nachbarin ob ich ihr beim Heizungsersatz behilflich sein könnte. Idealerweise konnte ich die beiden vernetzen. Der Nachbar zeigte der Nachbarin seine Lösung und sie überlegt sich nun eine ähnliche. Obwohl die beiden näher zusammen wohnen wussten sie nichts vom anderen.

Mediocrity and injustice

It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones. Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

Original title: Mediocrity and injustice

Origin and language : Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Home

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: Only choice

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text:It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones.

Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

Bringing quiet to the city

I live in the center of Paris next to a street that was very noisy(rue de Rivoli) Since the pandemic the street has been reconfigured with large bike section and car circulation is restricted. Now you can walk on the street and hear yourself talking. Still some people are upset that they cannot use the car

Original title: Bringing quiet to the city

Origin and language: France ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A common house

Europe is like: Our past and our future

Democracy is like: Taking the future in your own hands

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Nature and climate ;

Original text: I live in the center of Paris next to a street that was very noisy(rue de Rivoli) Since the pandemic the street has been reconfigured with large bike section and car circulation is restricted. Now you can walk on the street and hear yourself talking. Still some people are upset that they cannot use the car

Preaching for your parish

I attended Guillaume Merry's lecture at the "L'odyssée de l'eau" exhibition and was struck by a quote he made about where to start to address the planet's current issues. He is particularly sensitive to the extermination of living beings by humans. I empathize with his passion, but I'm skeptical of the idea that we need to start creating real marine reserves, because the impact is immediately visible, while other actions, like reducing plastic use, take much longer. He's aware that these statements might suggest he's busy with other actions, but he stands by his own opinion. I'm surprised he'd prioritize one idea over another.

Original title: Predicare per la propria parrocchia

Origin and language : France ; it

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : An important actor

Europe is like: Exploration terrain

Democracy is like: The voice of all

Who should hear: All the heroes of changeNOW

Question: What do we want to do?

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Nature and climate ;

Original text: Sone andata lalla conferenza di Guillaume Merry alleposizione L'odyssée de l'eau e sono rimasta colpita da una frase che ha detto riguardo a dove cominciare per agire sulle problematiche attuali del pianeta. Lui é particolarmente sensibile allo sterminio degli esseri viventi da parte degli umani. Sento empatia per lla sua passione ma sono dubbiosa riguardo all 'idea che bisogna cominciare a fare delle vere riserve marine prché l'impatto é visibile subito mentre altre azioni come ridurre l'uso della plastiche prendono molto piu tempo. Lui é cosciente che queste affermazioni poossinoclpire che é impegnato iltre azioni, ma mantiene la propria idea. Sono sorpresa dal fatto di voler dare piu priorità a un'idea piuttosto che un'altra.

Beautification the modern way

I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

Original title: Beautification the modern way

Origin and language : Slovakia ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A living environment.

Europe is like: A bioregion.

Democracy is like: A set of tools and ideas.

Who should hear: nan

Question: How do they imagine the future? Do they even imagine it?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

#

Health and Wellbeing

Freedom of movement blocked

When I go for a walk in the evening, I am not free to walk wherever I like due to a militarised division of my suburb in my city. I can only skim the barrier and head back the way I came from. This is breaching my freedom of movement.

Original title: Freedom of movement blocked

Origin and language: Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A family of necessity

Europe is like: An old man looking to be rejuvenated

Democracy is like: A failed experiment that needs innovation boosts

Who should hear: Politicians and leaders across Europe

Question: When are you going to act and negotiate developments in everyone's favour finally?

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: When I go for a walk in the evening, I am not free to walk wherever I like due to a militarised division of my suburb in my city. I can only skim the barrier and head back the way I came from. This is breaching my freedom of movement.

Privileged white European

My experience is most of all positive, I feel lucky and I feel like I have privileges. what I don't like is that I see injustice in some situations where people are not very privileged because of their race or gender.

Original title: Privileged white European

Origin and language: Italy ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: helping but could do better

Europe is like: helping but could do better

Democracy is like: something that we should achieve

Who should hear: Politicians and everyone

Question: What are your priorities, because I don't see it

The experience was: Positive and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Health and Wellbeing ; Migration and Refugees ;

Original text: My experience is most of all positive, I feel lucky and I feel like I have privileges. what I don't like is that I see injustice in some situations where people are not very privileged because of their race or gender.

Pathogenesis in the General Health System.

A retired friend had to undergo surgery. The doctor tried to perform unnecessary treatment. Finally, after much investigation, a second doctor operated on him with excellent results. The General Health System (GHS) in Cyprus must be protected, among other things, by systematic and strict controls.

Original title: Παθογένεια στο ΓεΣΥ.

Origin and language: Cyprus ; el

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : My house.

Europe is like: Culture

Democracy is like: The air we breathe.

Who should hear: The president, the health minister and the members of parliament.

Question: What do you intend to do to stop such phenomena?

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ; Work and Occupation ;

Original text: Συνταξιούχος φίλος έπρεπε να υποβληθεί σε χειρουργική επέμβαση. Ο γιατρός προσπάθησε να διενεργήσει αχρείαστη θεραπεία. Τελικά, μετά από αρκετή διερεύνηση, δεύτερος γιατρός τον χειρούργησε με άριστα αποτελέσματα. Το ΓεΣΥ (Γενικό Σύστημα Υγείας στην Κύπρο) επιβάλλεται να προστατευθεί, εκτός των άλλων, και με συστηματικούς αυστηρούς ελέγχους.

recycling ?

Returning home, I was once again struck by the filth: for the past few years, garbage containers (yellow bins or otherwise) have been brought out of the basements onto the access road behind the buildings, waiting for the trucks to come. Roma people come and rummage through their contents, taking various items. But everything that falls from the containers isn't collected and is blown away by the wind, littering the fences, the base and branches of some trees, the path, and the gutter. This dispersal is deteriorating the entire area and transforming the green spaces into...a dirty neighborhood?

Original title: recyclage ?

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A Jaggernaut tank that's a bit slow to maneuver

Europe is like: my country

Democracy is like: something fragile right now

Who should hear: The Director General of Services or the City's road maintenance department (but the City doesn't care about this area)

Question: Isn't it time to listen to your people?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Health and Wellbeing ;

Original text: En rentrant chez moi, j'ai encore une fois été frappée par la saleté : depuis quelques années, les containers des poubelles (poubelles jaunes ou non) sont sortis des sous-sols sur la voie de passage derrière les immeubles pour attendre le passage des camions. Des roms viennent et en fouillent le contenu, récupérant diverses choses. Mais tout ce qui tombe des containers n'est pas ramassé et est emporté par le vent, garnissant alors les grillages, le pied et les branches de certains arbres, le chemin, le caniveau. C'est une dissémination qui détériore tout le secteur et transforme les espaces verts en...quartier sale ?

Climate shelter - missed opportunity

I live in a quiet street with lots of trees in a busy area of Barcelona with two traffic heavy roads around me. My street has two small pavements, two lanes occupied by car parking spaces, and two lanes for traffic (there is barely any traffic, just destination traffic). The street was approved to be peatonalised in 2024 however no budget has been allocated since so the works have not started. There is a lot of talk in Barcelona about to have more "climate shelters" and my street is exactly that. Because of the trees it is notably cooler in summer but the street cannot be utilised for that purpose at the moment as the pavements are narrow and there are no benches to sit down on. It would be an ideal place for people to sit down, rest, walk. I recently tried to get more information from the city council about a status update on when the works will start but that was not easy at all. I received standard responses that were frankly not very helpful for a somebody not familiar with the ins and outs of the town council's working. I am frustrated by the fact budget has not been allocated and that there is such a disconnect between a project being approved and budget allocated. I don't know how to get this project moving as it seems stuck in some bureaucratic loop I don't fully understand.

Original title: Climate shelter - missed opportunity

Origin and language: Spain ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: work in progress

Europe is like: a wonderful collection of countries with different cultures and languages

Democracy is like: something to be treasured

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ;

Original text: I live in a quiet street with lots of trees in a busy area of Barcelona with two traffic heavy roads around me. My street has two small pavements, two lanes occupied by car parking spaces, and two lanes for traffic (there is barely any traffic, just destination traffic). The street was approved to be peatonalised in 2024 however no budget has been allocated since so the works have not started. There is a lot of talk in Barcelona about to have more "climate shelters" and my street is exactly that. Because of the trees it is notably cooler in summer but the street cannot be utilised for that purpose at the moment as the pavements are narrow and there are no benches to sit down on. It would be an ideal place for people to sit down, rest, walk. I recently tried to get more information from the city council about a status update on when the works will start but that was not easy at all. I received standard responses that were frankly not very helpful for a somebody not familiar with the ins and outs of the town council's working. I am frustrated by the fact budget has not been allocated and that there is such a disconnect between a project being approved and budget allocated. I don't know how to get this project moving as it seems stuck in some bureaucratic loop I don't fully understand.

#

Migration and Refugees

Xenophobia without reason

People are spreading hate against foreigners. These are the same people who have the least to do with people from other countries.

Original title: Fremdenhass ohne Grund

Origin and language: Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a promise to the future and the present

Europe is like: a large home

Democracy is like: the root of the conditions of life

Who should hear: nan

Question: How can we give people hope that is not shaped by National Socialism?

The experience was: Very negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Migration and Refugees ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Leute hetzen gegen Ausländer. Die gleichen Leute sind die die am wenigsten mit Menschen aus anderen Ländern zu tun haben.

Privileged white European

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Original title: Privileged white European

Origin and language : Italy ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : helping but could do better

Europe is like: helping but could do better

Democracy is like: something that we should achieve

Who should hear: Politicians and everyone

Question: What are your priorities, because I dont see it

The experience was: Positive and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Health and Wellbeing ; Migration and Refugees ;

Original text: My experience is most of all positive, I feel lucky and I feel like I have privileges. what I don't like is that I see injustice in some situations where people are not very privileged because of their race or gender.

A week in Paris

I was called a “dirty white” in Paris

Original title: Eine Woche Paris

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Gessler

Europe is like: A civilization

Democracy is like: Something old people do when they want to compromise.

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Migration and Refugees ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: On m'a traité de: "sale blanc" à Paris

#

Work and Occupation

Pathogenesis in the General Health System.

A retired friend had to undergo surgery. The doctor tried to perform unnecessary treatment. Finally, after much investigation, a second doctor operated on him with excellent results. The General Health System (GHS) in Cyprus must be protected, among other things, by systematic and strict controls.

Original title: Παθογένεια στο ΓεΣΥ.

Origin and language : Cyprus ; el

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : My house.

Europe is like: Culture

Democracy is like: The air we breathe.

Who should hear: The president, the health minister and the members of parliament.

Question: What do you intend to do to stop such phenomena?

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ; Work and Occupation ;

Original text: Συνταξιούχος φίλος έπρεπε να υποβληθεί σε χειρουργική επέμβαση. Ο γιατρός προσπάθησε να διενεργήσει αχρείαστη θεραπεία. Τελικά, μετά από αρκετή διερεύνηση, δεύτερος γιατρός τον χειρούργησε με άριστα αποτελέσματα. Το ΓεΣΥ (Γενικό Σύστημα Υγείας στην Κύπρο) επιβάλλεται να προστατευθεί, εκτός των άλλων, και με συστηματικούς αυστηρούς ελέγχους.

#

Housing and Living Conditions

Cursory inspection by city hall official

A restaurant in our building is creating many nuisances kitchen odour in the staircase, noise at night, and more. We complained with city hall and they sent an inspector, but he arrived in the afternoon while most of the odour nuisance is in the morning, and concluded there was no problem. So now we need to engage additional resources to have the issues sorted.

Original title: Cursory inspection by city hall official

Origin and language : France ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A common house

Europe is like: A safe haven

Democracy is like: A communal table

Who should hear: City hall

Question: Do you listen to people?

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ;

Original text: A restaurant in our building is creating many nuisances kitchen odour in the staircase, noise at night, and more. We complained with city hall and they sent an inspector, but he arrived in the afternoon while most of the odour nuisance is in the morning, and concluded there was no problem. So now we need to engage additional resources to have the issues sorted.

Long way

In my neighborhood, there were major issues after a pedestrian zone was opened to cars. Along with noise and nighttime disturbances, there were also drug-related incidents. After we organized as

a citizens' initiative, the city has finally decided—after two years of effort—to support us. The street will be closed to cars again and redesigned.

Original title: Long way

Origin and language : Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : community

Europe is like: A rainbow

Democracy is like: Hard look

Who should hear: My Cityhall

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ; Housing and Living Conditions ;

Original text: In my neighborhood, there were major issues after a pedestrian zone was opened to cars. Along with noise and nighttime disturbances, there were also drug-related incidents. After we organized as a citizens' initiative, the city has finally decided—after two years of effort—to support us. The street will be closed to cars again and redesigned.

Internet and storms !

In our home town, in the event of a storm, there may be a power outage, and therefore a loss of telephone access via the internet box. This was not the case with old telephone lines. As a result, some elderly people prefer not to switch to the internet.

Original title: Internet and storms !

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:In our home town, in the event of a storm, there may be a power outage, and therefore a loss of telephone access via the internet box. This was not the case with old telephone lines. As a result, some elderly people prefer not to switch to the internet.

Networking of neighbors

I met a neighbor and talked to him about his heating system upgrade. He explained why he installed his specific solution. Recently, another neighbor asked me if I could help her with replacing her heating system. Ideally, I was able to connect the two of them. The neighbor showed the other neighbor his solution, and she's now considering something similar. Although they live quite close to each other, they were unaware of each other's work.

Original title: Vernetzen von Nachbarn

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text:Ich habe einen Nachbarn getroffen und mit ihm über seine Erneuerung der Heizung gesprochen. Er erklärte mir wieso er seine Spezifische Lösung installiert hat. Kürzlich fragte mich eine andere Nachbarin ob ich ihr beim Heizungsersatz behilflich sein könnte. Idealerweise konnte ich die beiden vernetzen. Der Nachbar zeigte der Nachbarin seine Lösung und sie überlegt sich nun eine ähnliche. Obwohl die beiden näher zusammen wohnen wussten sie nichts vom anderen.

Compliance with regulations

The park's closing times are not always respected, so sometimes people get locked in (when this happens before the scheduled time).

Original title: Respect de règlements

Origin and language: France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ;

Original text: Horaires de fermeture du parc n'est pas forcément respecté du coup parfois il y a des gens qui se font enfermés (quand cela se fait avant l'heure prévue)

Housing crisis

I am 29, have a bachelor and a master degree and have been working for 5 years but I still live in a flat that is falling apart and has only one bathroom and a small fridge together with 3 friends. I don't know if I will ever be able to afford to have a proper apartment on my own.

Original title: Housing crisis

Origin and language: Spain ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: the art of what is possible

Europe is like: a home

Democracy is like: A jigsaw

Who should hear: Politicians, employers, flat owners, housing companies

Question: What are you specifically doing to address this problem?

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ;

Original text: I am 29, have a bachelor and a master degree and have been working for 5 years but I still live in a flat that is falling apart and has only one bathroom and a small fridge together with 3 friends. I don't know if I will ever be able to afford to have a proper apartment on my own.

Losing local shops and people living worse

Lots of shops have been transformed into houses

Original title: Losing local shops and people living worse

Origin and language : Spain ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a promise to improve

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: The best worst political system

Who should hear: Consumers International trade

Question: nan

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: very common

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Lots of shops have been transformed into houses

Beautification the modern way

I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

Original title: Beautification the modern way

Origin and language : Slovakia ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A living environment.

Europe is like: A bioregion.

Democracy is like: A set of tools and ideas.

Who should hear: nan

Question: How do they imagine the future? Do they even imagine it?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

#

Democracy and Governance

Democracy in action

I was at a meeting where more than 1,000 people shared their experiences with local democracy projects and learned from each other. It was buzzing (to put it mildly) with energy and hope. There are initiatives for renewal in a great many municipalities. The government was also present, by the way, both in many projects and in the organization of this meeting; its importance was therefore recognized by a number of politicians and civil servants. But above all, the enthusiasm of the people doing it was infectious.

Original title: Dmocratie in axtie

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A prelude to global citizenship

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: Taking responsibility for our society together

Who should hear: People who want to commit themselves to democratic renewal

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ik was op een bijeenkomst waar meer dan 1000 mensen hun ervaringen met lokale democratieprojecten deelden en van elkaar leerden. Het bruisde (zacht uitgedrukt) van energie en hoop. In heel veel gemeenten zijn er aanzetten tot vernieuwing. De overheid was trouwens ook aanwezig, zowel in veel projecten als bij de organisatie van deze bijeenkomst, het belang ervan werd dus door een aantal politici en ambtenaren ingezien. Maar vooral het enthousiasme van de mensen die het deden was aanstekelijk.

Do not enter into a conversation

I was at a meeting with Volters where we discussed the large number of people who vote populist. Several Volters called out that we, as Volt, need to better explain why voting populistically is wrong. I countered that those people do not listen to us (otherwise they would have already done so) and that we should listen to them to understand why they vote the way they do. From there, we can arrive at joint solutions that they also feel a sense of ownership over. They did not respond to my line of thought and maintained that we need to better explain our vision.

Original title: Niet in gesprek gaan

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Regulate matters in broad outlines and allow ample room for local implementation

Europe is like: The super-circle of a large number of (autonomous) sub-circles

Democracy is like: Continuously developing living together

Who should hear: First and foremost, Volters. Additionally, everyone who is concerned about increasing polarization.

Question: Have you ever asked ordinary people for advice? The cleaner, the receptionist, the casual passerby in the city center.

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ik was op een bijeenkomst met Volters waar we spraken over het grote aantal mensen dat populistisch stemt. Diverse Volters riepen dat we als Volt beter moeten uitleggen waarom dat populistisch stemmen fout is. Ik bracht daar tegenin dat die mensen niet naar ons luisteren (anders hadden ze dat al gedaan) en dat we beter naar hen kunnen luisteren om te begrijpen waarom ze stemmen zoals ze doen. Om van daaruit tot gezamenlijke oplossingen te komen, waar zij zich ook eigenaar van voelen. Men ging niet in op mijn gedachtegang en bleef erbij dat we beter onze visie moeten uitleggen.

Car sharing as a stepping stone to local democracy

Last Saturday, I attended a get-together hosted by a citizens' initiative within my municipality that offers the shared use of electric cars. My wife and I have been participants/'customers' of this car-sharing service for two years now. This means you can reserve, unlock, use, and pay for a car via an app. This gathering was the first time I met and spoke with other participants. I enjoyed hearing a bit more background on how this initiative originated, who had contributed to it, etc. We got into a conversation about how everyone experienced using the shared cars and what other possibilities we saw. Could we apply for a subsidy from the municipality? Could we, as a cooperative, handle this even more ourselves (setting rates, etc.)? How great would it be if there were fewer cars parked on the street? How can we achieve that, in particular? I had never had conversations like that via the app. In short: the introduction and connection naturally led to conversation and ideas for follow-up action. It leaves me wanting more. Especially if the government also provides support for this and leaves sufficient room to develop it further as a society.

Original title: Autodelen als opstap naar lokale democratie

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Where political power in Europe is concentrated

Europe is like: A very large group of people who can strengthen each other

Democracy is like: organizing our society, from local to European and beyond

Who should hear: Dutch Democracy Theme Group

Question: How do you experience having power? What do you consider important in the shaping of democracy?

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Afgelopen zaterdag was ik bij een borrel van een burgerinitiatief binnen mijn gemeente dat het samen delen van elektrische auto's aanbiedt. Ik ben samen met mijn vrouw al twee jaar deelnemer / 'klant' van dat autodelen. Dus via een app kan je auto reserveren, ontgrendelen gebruiken en afrekenen. Deze borrel was voor het eerst dat ik andere deelnemers trof en sprak. Ik vond het leuk om wat meer achtergrond te horen over hoe dit initiatief was ontstaan, wie er aan hadden bijgedragen etc. We raakten in gesprek over hoe ieder het gebruik van de deelauto's ervaarde. En over welke mogelijkheden we nog meer zagen. Zouden we subsidie van de gemeente kunnen vragen? Zouden we dit als cooperatie nog meer zelf kunnen doen (tarieven vaststellen etc)? Hoe mooi zou het zijn als er minder auto's geparkeerd in de straat staan? Hoe kunnen we dat vooral krijgen? Dat soort gesprekken had ik via de app nog nooit gehad. Kortom: door de kennismaking en verbinding ontstaat vrij natuurlijk gesprek en ideeën voor vervolg actie. Smaakt naar meer. Zeker als vanuit de overheid hier ook steun aan wordt gegeven en voldoende ruimte lijft om het als samenleving verder op te bouwen.

Private discussions in public spaces disturb others

At a concert, I was discussing politics. A couple very aggressively told us to stop, saying it didn't belong at a concert and that it was an apolitical space. This sparked a heated discussion that quickly escalated, and we couldn't hear each other.

Original title: private Diskussion im öffentlichen Raum stört andere

Origin and language : Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Bei einem Konzert habe ich mich über Politik unterhalten. Ein Paar hat uns sehr aggressiv aufgefordert, damit aufzuhören, weil das nicht auf ein Konzert gehören und hier ein unpolitischer Raum sein würde. Daraus entstand eine hitzige Diskussion, die sich schnell hochgeschaukelt hat und bei der wir uns nicht an hirn konnten.

Violation of civic duty

I forgot to vote last weekend, even though I think it's very important to form an opinion and actively participate in the political process.

Original title: Verletzung der Bürgerinnenpflicht

Origin and language: Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: an organization with many limitations

Europe is like: a country with many regions

Democracy is like: a means by which the people can participate in politics

Who should hear: nan

Question: Do you really want to change something or are you just greedy?

The experience was: Negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Ich habe vergangenes Wochenende vergessen abzustimmen, obwohl ich es sehr wichtig finde, sich eine Meinung zu bilden und aktiv am politischen Prozess mitzuwirken.

Mediocrity and injustice

It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones. Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

Original title: Mediocrity and injustice

Origin and language: Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: Home

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: Only choice

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Nature and climate ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: It irritates me how we pay for expensive health and electricity, how porous is internal security ineffective police. How justice is selective and catches the weak link rather than the big fish masterminds; how law abiding citizens are considered stupid and the cheats are the smart ones. Example those cars who pollute but still move around whereas we law abiding must pay for MOT etc..

Losing local shops and people living worse

Lots of shops have been transformed into houses

Original title: Losing local shops and people living worse

Origin and language : Spain ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a promise to improv

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: The best worst political system

Who should hear: Consumers Interantional trade

Question: nan

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: very common

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ; Democracy and Governance ;

Original text: Lots of shops have been transformed into houses

#

Economy and Markets

Living together and Community

Tension after change

In the supermarket, a customer approached me angrily because a product hadn't been delivered. The product was a specific spreadable cheese, but there were still five other varieties left. The customer was not open to trying a new type but wanted the spreadable cheese she always had. The question that came to mind was: Why are you angry about something so small and not try a new flavor?

Original title: Spanning na verandering

Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: The people have the final say, which can have positive and negative consequences.

Who should hear: Colleagues, friends, acquaintances, if the conversation turns here

Question: Do you really care about the country, or the power you currently hold?

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: In de supermarkt kwam een klant boos naar mij toe, omdat er een product niet geleverd was. Het product was een specifieke smeerkaas, maar er lagen nog 5 andere soorten. De klant stond niet open om een nieuw soort te proberen, maar wilde de smeerkaas die ze altijd had. De vraag die in mij opkwam was: Waarom ben je boos over zoiets kleins en probeer je niet een nieuwe smaak?

Enjoying life together

I was at a festival last weekend. There was so much sharing of fun and experience in such an egalitarian way. People of all races dancing and being together. Wouldn't it be wonderful if society were just a little bit / a lot like the atmosphere here.

Original title: Enjoying life together

Origin and language : Netherlands ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : not sure...

Europe is like: a potential community respecting and being inspired by each others differences that also have a lot in common

Democracy is like: Respecting each other on all levels, learning from each other, being able to disagree in a non violent way, being heard at any age and any context, building a harmonious and resilient society together

Who should hear: EVERYONE!

Question: Regarding this situation: who has been to a festival or a venue where creativity is central? And if so, what elements of this experience could we integrate into policy and life

The experience was: Very positive and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ;

Original text: I was at a festival last weekend. There was so much sharing of fun and experience in such an egalitarian way. People of all races dancing and being together. Wouldn't it be wonderful if society were just a little bit / a lot like the atmosphere here.

Regular night on the street

I was on holiday in germany with a good friend. We walked down the street. On our way to the bar there were men catcalling us and staring at us. This made us feel unsafe.

Original title: Regular night on the street

Origin and language : Germany ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: Everyone must be represented and heard.

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: I was on holiday in germany with a good friend. We walked down the street. On our way to the bar there were men catcalling us and staring at us. This made us feel unsafe.

Democracy in action

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Origin and language : Netherlands ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A prelude to global citizenship

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: Taking responsibility for our society together

Who should hear: People who want to commit themselves to democratic renewal

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Democracy and Goverance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ik was op een bijeenkomst waar meer dan 1000 mensen hun ervaringen met lokale democratieprojecten deelden en van elkaar leerden. Het bruiste (zacht uitgedrukt) van energie en hoop. In heel veel gemeenten zijn er aanzetten tot vernieuwing. De overheid was trouwens ook

aanwezig, zowel in veel projecten als bij de organisatie van deze bijeenkomst, het belang ervan werd dus door een aantal politici en ambtenaren ingezien. Maar vooral het enthousiasme van de mensen die het deden was aanstekelijk.

Do not enter into a conversation

I was at a meeting with Volters where we discussed the large number of people who vote populist. Several Volters called out that we, as Volt, need to better explain why voting populistically is wrong. I countered that those people do not listen to us (otherwise they would have already done so) and that we should listen to them to understand why they vote the way they do. From there, we can arrive at joint solutions that they also feel a sense of ownership over. They did not respond to my line of thought and maintained that we need to better explain our vision.

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Europe is like: The super-circle of a large number of (autonomous) sub-circles

Democracy is like: Continuously developing living together

Who should hear: First and foremost, Volters. Additionally, everyone who is concerned about increasing polarization.

Question: Have you ever asked ordinary people for advice? The cleaner, the receptionist, the casual passerby in the city center.

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ik was op een bijeenkomst met Volters waar we spraken over het grote aantal mensen dat populistisch stemt. Diverse Volters riepen dat we als Volt beter moeten uitleggen waarom dat populistisch stemmen fout is. Ik bracht daar tegenin dat die mensen niet naar ons luisteren (anders hadden ze dat al gedaan) en dat we beter naar hen kunnen luisteren om te begrijpen waarom ze stemmen zoals ze doen. Om van daaruit tot gezamenlijke oplossingen te komen, waar zij zich ook eigenaar van voelen. Men ging niet in op mijn gedachtegang en bleef erbij dat we beter onze visie moeten uitleggen.

Freedom of movement blocked

When I go for a walk in the evening, I am not free to walk wherever I like due to a militarised division of my suburb in my city. I can only skim the barrier and head back the way I came from. This is breaching my freedom of movement.

Original title: Freedom of movement blocked

Origin and language : Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A family of necessity

Europe is like: An old man looking to be rejuvenated

Democracy is like: A failed experiment that needs innovation boosts

Who should hear: Politicians and leaders across Europe

Question: When are you going to act and negotiate developments in everyone's favour finally?

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

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Original title: private Diskussion im öffentlichen Raum stört andere

Origin and language : Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Democracy and Governance ; Living together and Community ;

Original text:Bei einem Konzert habe ich mich über Politik unterhalten. Ein Paar hat uns sehr aggressiv aufgefordert, damit aufzuhören, weil das nicht auf ein Konzert gehören und hier ein unpolitischer Raum sein würde. Daraus entstand eine hitzige Diskussion, die sich schnell hochgeschaukelt hat und bei der wir uns nicht an hirn konnten.

Explosion in the south of Rotterdam

There was an explosion in our neighbourhood in the south of Rotterdam. My boyfriend had heard it but I do not believe I did (as there are a lot of fireworks in the area so sometimes I do not pay attention to those kind of sounds). A few days later we received a letter (from what I've gathered every house in the neighbourhood received one) to inform us about the explosion, what happened and the fact that the police is now doing an investigation to find out who is behind this and why they targeted a specific house in the neighbourhood. Any witnesses were asked to call a specific number to give information about the incident. Even if the explosion startled us, receiving that letter was reassuring and it, at least, made me feel a sense of security in a world that feels less and less safe.

Original title: Explosion in the south of Rotterdam

Origin and language : Netherlands ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Hope

Europe is like: Identity

Democracy is like: Necessity

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Neutral and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: There was an explosion in our neighbourhood in the south of Rotterdam. My boyfriend had heard it but I do not believe I did (as there are a lot of fireworks in the area so sometimes I do not pay attention to those kind of sounds). A few days later we received a letter (from what I've gathered every house in the neighbourhood received one) to inform us about the explosion, what happened and the fact that the police is now doing an investigation to find out who is behind this and why they targeted a specific house in the neighbourhood. Any witnesses were asked to call a specific number to give information about the incident. Even if the explosion startled us, receiving that letter was reassuring and it, at least, made me feel a sense of security in a world that feels less and less safe.

Xenophobia without reason

People are spreading hate against foreigners. These are the same people who have the least to do with people from other countries.

Original title: Fremdenhass ohne Grund

Origin and language: Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a promise to the future and the present

Europe is like: a large home

Democracy is like: the root of the conditions of life

Who should hear: nan

Question: How can we give people hope that is not shaped by National Socialism?

The experience was: Very negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Migration and Refugees ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Leute hetzen gegen Ausländer. Die gleichen Leute sind die die am wenigsten mit Menschen aus anderen Ländern zu tun haben.

A surprise first thing in the morning

One day, I left home to go to school. When I arrived, the national police were in front of the school gates and they checked the contents of my backpack, just like they did for the other students. When I went into the classroom, I asked a student why the national police were there. He told me

that the day before, two groups of young people (one of whom was about to leave school) had gotten into a fight with weapons in front of the school.

Original title: Une surprise dès le matin

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a home, where you feel safe.

Europe is like: a group of countries.

Democracy is like: a value in human beings.

Who should hear: My friends, my parents, high school colleagues, and other acquaintances.

Question: Why don't you help countries in difficulty more?

The experience was: Neutral and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Education and Schools ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: Un jour, je suis partie de chez moi pour aller au lycée. Quand je suis arrivée là-bas, la police nationale était devant les grilles du lycée et ils ont vérifié le contenu de mon sac-à-dos comme ceux des autres élèves. Quand je suis entrée dans la salle de classe, j'ai demandé à un élève pourquoi la police nationale était ici. Il m'a dit que le jour d'avant, deux groupes de jeunes (dont un qui devait sortir du lycée) se sont battus avec des armes devant le lycée.

30 km/h speed limit rejected - why?

In our community, the introduction of a 30 km/h speed limit on local roads has been discussed four times in the last three decades and has always been rejected. The most recent vote was held on September 22, 2024. The measure was rejected by 63% of the vote.

We know it was rejected, but we don't know why.

...

Original title: Tempo 30 abgelehnt - warum?

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A giant octopus

Europe is like: A region where we live together peacefully

Democracy is like: Oxygen for a country. Without democracy, it suffocates.

Who should hear: The people

Question: THAT

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:In unserer Gemeinde wurde in den letzten drei Jahrzenten viermal die Einführung von Tempo 30 auf Gemeindestrassen diskutiert und stets abgelehnt. Das letzte Mal wurde am 22.9.2024 darüber abgestimmt. Mit 63% wurde die Einführung abgelehnt. Wir wissen, dass es abgelehnt wurde, aber nicht warum.

A week in Paris

I was called a “dirty white” in Paris

Original title: Eine Woche Paris

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Gessler

Europe is like: A civilization

Democracy is like: Something old people do when they want to compromise.

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Migration and Refugees ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:On m’a traité de:“sale blanc” à Paris

Networking of neighbors

I met a neighbor and talked to him about his heating system upgrade. He explained why he installed his specific solution. Recently, another neighbor asked me if I could help her with replacing her heating system. Ideally, I was able to connect the two of them. The neighbor showed the other neighbor his solution, and she's now considering something similar. Although they live quite close to each other, they were unaware of each other's work.

Original title: Vernetzen von Nachbarn

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Ich habe einen Nachbarn getroffen und mit ihm über seine Erneuerung der Heizung gesprochen. Er erklärte mir wieso er seine Spezifische Lösung installiert hat. Kürzlich fragte mich eine andere Nachbarin ob ich ihr beim Heizungersatz behilflich sein könnte. Idealerweise konnte ich die beiden vernetzen. Der Nachbar zeigte der Nachbarin seine Lösung und sie überlegt sich nun eine ähnliche. Obwohl die beiden näher zusammen wohnen wussten sie nichts vom anderen.

Desertification

I went to the post office, just five minutes from my house, to mail a letter, only to find it was closed. So, I had to travel two kilometers round trip to mail it. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for elderly people or those with mobility issues, and that's not even mentioning rural areas where people sometimes have to travel over 20 kilometers. It's a shame there isn't an intermediate solution (like an ATM, for example, for simple needs such as sending a letter).

Original title: Désertification

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a family

Europe is like: A hope that lives on

Democracy is like: a mix of fragility and strength

Who should hear: region, state, the Post Office, all

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Other, please specify ; désertification ;

Original text: Parti pour poster un courrier au bureau de poste à 5 minutes du domicile, je me suis aperçu qu'il avait été fermé. Du coup 2 kilomètres A/R à faire pour aller poster mon courrier. J'imagine ce que ce doit être pour des personnes âgées ou ayant des difficultés à se déplacer et on ne parle pas en région où l'on doit faire parfois plus de 20 kilomètres. Dommage qu'il n'y ait pas de solution intermédiaire (guichet automatique par exemple, pour des besoins simples, comme l'envoi d'une simple lettre).

Hell on the highway

There was a car accident on the highway and we had to wait for four hours for the police to come and for the cars involved in the accident to be towed away

Original title: Hell on the highway

Origin and language : Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a distant official

Europe is like: a far away country

Democracy is like: nothing I can relate to

Who should hear: Government bodies

Question: Are you happy with things as they are?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: There was a car accident on the highway and we had to wait for four hours for the police to come and for the cars involved in the accident to be towed away

Neighbor friends

I would like to tell my friends about the neighborhood i live in. I moved here 2 years ago, and because for me it is important to socialize and know my neighbours, so I invited them to our “new home” party or I got to know them presenting myself. It turns out that we have all become friends now and we also help each other out. I really love it.

Original title: Neighbor friends

Origin and language: Belgium ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A big diverse community

Europe is like: A big diverse region

Democracy is like: Feeling good and valued

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very positive and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ;

Original text: I would like to tell my friends about the neighborhood i live in. I moved here 2 years ago, and because for me it is important to socialize and know my neighbours, so I invited them to our “new home” party or I got to know them presenting myself. It turns out that we have all become friends now and we also help each other out. I really love it.

We let ourselves be

Last Easter, I went to a Turkish bakery in the neighborhood that's always open. There was an old man there who was having a lot of trouble with his foot and was moving at an extremely slow pace. Someone offered to help him, but he refused, saying, "I don't want your germs! You've got a bad cold. You're not dressed warmly enough!"

We—all of us in line—let him hobble out of the shop in slow motion. Some of us waited patiently behind him, as he was blocking the entrance with his slowness.

Original title: Wir lassen uns sein

Origin and language : Germany ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a fortress

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Neutral and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ;

Original text:Am letzten Osterfeiertag ging ich in eine türkische Bäckerei in der Nachbarschaft, die immer geöffnet ist. Dort war ein alter Mann, der große Probleme mit seinem Fuß hatte und sich nur in extremem Zeitlupentempo fortbewegt hat. Jemand bot ihm Hilfe an, aber er wollte nicht und sagte "ich will ihre Viren nicht! Sie sind ganz erkältet. Sie sind nicht warum genug angezogen!" Wir - alle in der Schlange - ließen ihn in Zeitlupe aus dem Laden humpeln, einige warteten geduldig hinter ihm, da er den Eingang zu der Bäckerei mit seiner Langsamkeit blockierte.

village life

I live in a very small village, there are pros and cons to this. It's nice to know almost all the neighbors around you, you feel comfortable and safe. On the other hand, it can also be challenging if you are not originally from the village, if you are a foreigner, as myself, it can be quite hard to really fit in and feel integrated.

Original title: village life

Origin and language : Austria ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ;

Original text:I live in a very small village, there are pros and cons to this. It's nice to know almost all the neighbors around you, you feel comfortable and safe. On the other hand, it can also be challenging if you are not originally from the village, if you are a foreigner, as myself, it can be quite hard to really fit in and feel integrated.

Beautification the modern way

I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

Original title: Beautification the modern way

Origin and language : Slovakia ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A living environment.

Europe is like: A bioregion.

Democracy is like: A set of tools and ideas.

Who should hear: nan

Question: How do they imagine the future? Do they even imagine it?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Nature and climate ; Housing and Living Conditions ; Living together and Community ;

Original text:I walked down the street to a bus stop. The bus stop stands in front of a new construction site and it used to be partly shaded by a tree. Somebody from the construction site decided that after they've already built the building, it's time to beautify the surrounding area by, among other things, cutting down the tree that was next to the bus stop.

Social networks are valuable - don't get discouraged when building them!

I quite recently moved from the city into a village. I try do do as much small talk with the locals so that I can integrate with the local community. Every other day I visit a grocery store and the lady there almost never responds to me. I thought she doesn't like me for some reason. One day, I was the only one there and she actually told me she likes me a lot because I always smile at me when I enter. The reason she never responds is that she has a hearing disability and cannot hear me. Now I pay attention to speak to her in a way she can see my lips and we are on great terms.

Original title: Social networks are valuable - don't get discouraged when building them!

Origin and language: Poland ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A very ambiguous project that's reached a sort of a plateau and needs to gather strength to a jump foreward

Europe is like: The best place to live in terms of standards of living, our rights being protected and our values keep reinventing

Democracy is like: Chaos, often messy and disorganized, but best solution fou us to progress as society

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Living together and Community ;

Original text: I quite recently moved from the city into a village. I try do do as much small talk with the locals so that I can integrate with the local community. Every other day I visit a grocery store and the lady there almost never responds to me. I thought she doesn't like me for some reason. One day, I was the only one there and she actually told me she likes me a lot because I always smile at me when I enter. The reason she never responds is that she has a hearing disability and cannot hear me. Now I pay attention to speak to her in a way she can see my lips and we are on great terms.

The missing track

Where I live has been without a railway for 50 years. It was suspended for reconstruction and then moved elsewhere. In the meantime, the entire area has grown exponentially: the population

has doubled, the number of buildings has increased, and no new roads have been built, so its absence has been greatly felt (today we all travel by car, and buses aren't enough). 20 years ago, they thought about building a tram that would lead to the subway: they built the road and raised the funds. Everything was going well until the new Province was elected, the municipalities changed mayors, and the regional representatives began arguing over where to put it. The result was that the funding was lost, and the tram was never built. Even today, you either have a car or walk, because buses aren't enough.

Original title: Il binario che manca

Origin and language : Italy ; it

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A great institution, excellent but needs improvement

Europe is like: Home

Democracy is like: House to protect

Who should hear: Anyone who has the ability to change things

Question: Can you help us make these areas livable without drowning in smog or ending up stranded?

The experience was: Very negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Mobility and transport ; Fairness and social justice ; Living together and Community ;

Original text: Nel posto dove abito manca da 50 anni una ferrovia. Fu sospesa per rifarla e poi fu spostata altrove. Nel frattempo tutta la zona è cresciuta oltremodo, è raddoppiata la popolazione, sono aumentati i palazzi, non sono state fatte nuove strade e quindi la sua mancanza si è fatta sentire molto (oggi ci muoviamo tutti con l'auto e gli autobus non bastano). 20 anni fa pensarono di fare un tram che portasse alla metropolitana: costruirono la strada e reperirono i fondi. Tutto stava andando bene fino a quando non fu eletta la nuova Provincia, i comuni cambiarono i sindaci e i rappresentanti regionali iniziarono a litigare su dove farla arrivare. Il risultato è che furono persi i fondi e non è stato più fatto il tram. Ancora oggi o hai un'auto o vai a piedi, perché gli autobus non bastano.

I have fun with little

Thanks to online communities and suitable shared spaces like gaming bars, I've had the opportunity to meet new people and share my hobbies, such as role-playing games, freely, without social pressure or feeling uncomfortable. Online gaming communities, combined with good financial and logistical accessibility, have allowed me to forge new friendships and form a small group of acquaintances who see each other regularly or chat online.

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Origin and language : Italy ; it

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EU is like : A Discord server where admins pretend to care about the community

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Democracy is like: It's like sugar, whoever should collect it doesn't eat it and it only ends up in the coffee shop of those who live in the luxury penthouse.

Who should hear: People who believe the internet is a tool for exclusion, when in reality it can open up many opportunities in real life as well.

Question: Why isn't the love of a parent or child enough for you?

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Other, please specify ; Networking ;

Original text:Grazie alle community online e ad opportuni spazi comuni come bar ludici ho avuto l'opportunità di conoscere nuove persone per condividere i miei hobby, come per esempio il gioco di ruolo in maniera libera senza subire pressioni sociali e senza sentirmi a disagio. Le community ludiche online coadiuvate ad una buona accessibilità sia economica e sia logistica mi ha permesso di forgiare nuove amicizie e formare un piccolo gruppo di conoscenti che si vedono assiduamente o si parlano online

#

Education and Schools

Archaic Teaching Methods

I was in school and realized along with other students that the teaching doesn't allow for innovative discussions.

Original title: Archaic Teaching Methods

Origin and language : Other ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Education and Schools ;

Original text: I was in school and realized along with other students that the teaching doesn't allow for innovative discussions.

A surprise first thing in the morning

One day, I left home to go to school. When I arrived, the national police were in front of the school gates and they checked the contents of my backpack, just like they did for the other students. When I went into the classroom, I asked a student why the national police were there. He told me that the day before, two groups of young people (one of whom was about to leave school) had gotten into a fight with weapons in front of the school.

Original title: Une surprise dès le matin

Origin and language: France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a home, where you feel safe.

Europe is like: a group of countries.

Democracy is like: a value in human beings.

Who should hear: My friends, my parents, high school colleagues, and other acquaintances.

Question: Why don't you help countries in difficulty more?

The experience was: Neutral and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Education and Schools ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: Un jour, je suis partie de chez moi pour aller au lycée. Quand je suis arrivée là-bas, la police nationale était devant les grilles du lycée et ils ont vérifié le contenu de mon sac-à-dos comme ceux des autres élèves. Quand je suis entrée dans la salle de classe, j'ai demandé à un élève pourquoi

la police nationale était ici. Il m'a dit que le jour d'avant, deux groupes de jeunes (dont un qui devait sortir du lycée) se sont battus avec des armes devant le lycée.

#

Peace and Security

Acting against a polarizing poster

this week a poster appeared on the wall of some academic buildings at my university. On the poster, there were drawings of men who were represented as Hamas terrorists killing with dead people in their hands and texts like Allahu Akbar and the caption "coming soon: at your home and in the whole ridiculous world! the best comedy move. A group of teachers supporting Palestinians wrote a message to the management team to ask to condemn such poster and try to find out who made it and hung it up at our faculty

Original title: Acting against a polarizing poster

Origin and language: Netherlands ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a connecting entity that sometimes decided differently from what I would like

Europe is like: a geographical entity

Democracy is like: when you have agency to make your choices and have your voice hear

Who should hear: the student community to have a dialogue about how to deal with polarizing messages

Question: nan

The experience was: Positive and: very common

This story also appears in Peace and Security ;

Original text:this week a poster appeared on the wall of some academic buildings at my university. On the poster, there were drawings of men who were represented as Hamas terrorists killing with dead people in their hands and texts like Allahu Akbar and the caption "coming soon: at your home and in the whole ridiculous world! the best comedy move. A group of teachers supporting Palestinians wrote a message to the management team to ask to condemn such poster and try to find out who made it and hung it up at our faculty

Regular night on the street

I was on holiday in germany with a good friend. We walked down the street. On our way to the bar there were men catcalling us and staring at us. This made us feel unsafe.

Original title: Regular night on the street

Origin and language: Germany ; nl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: Everyone must be represented and heard.

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: I was on holiday in germany with a good friend. We walked down the street. On our way to the bar there were men catcalling us and staring at us. This made us feel unsafe.

Freedom of movement blocked

When I go for a walk in the evening, I am not free to walk wherever I like due to a militarised division of my suburb in my city. I can only skim the barrier and head back the way I came from. This is breaching my freedom of movement.

Original title: Freedom of movement blocked

Origin and language: Cyprus ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: A family of necessity

Europe is like: An old man looking to be rejuvenated

Democracy is like: A failed experiment that needs innovation boosts

Who should hear: Politicians and leaders across Europe

Question: When are you going to act and negotiate developments in everyone's favour finally?

The experience was: Very negative and: very common

This story also appears in Health and Wellbeing ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:When I go for a walk in the evening, I am not free to walk wherever I like due to a militarised division of my suburb in my city. I can only skim the barrier and head back the way I came from. This is breaching my freedom of movement.

Internet and storms !

In our home town, in the event of a storm, there may be a power outage, and therefore a loss of telephone access via the internet box. This was not the case with old telephone lines. As a result, some elderly people prefer not to switch to the internet.

Original title: Internet and storms !

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : nan

Europe is like: nan

Democracy is like: nan

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Housing and Living Conditions ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:In our home town, in the event of a storm, there may be a power outage, and therefore a loss of telephone access via the internet box. This was not the case with old telephone lines. As a result, some elderly people prefer not to switch to the internet.

Explosion in the south of Rotterdam

There was an explosion in our neighbourhood in the south of Rotterdam. My boyfriend had heard it but I do not believe I did (as there are a lot of fireworks in the area so sometimes I do not pay

attention to those kind of sounds). A few days later we received a letter (from what I've gathered every house in the neighbourhood received one) to inform us about the explosion, what happened and the fact that the police is now doing an investigation to find out who is behind this and why they targeted a specific house in the neighbourhood. Any witnesses were asked to call a specific number to give information about the incident. Even if the explosion startled us, receiving that letter was reassuring and it, at least, made me feel a sense of security in a world that feels less and less safe.

Original title: Explosion in the south of Rotterdam

Origin and language : Netherlands ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Hope

Europe is like: Identity

Democracy is like: Necessity

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Neutral and: a one time occurrence

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text: There was an explosion in our neighbourhood in the south of Rotterdam. My boyfriend had heard it but I do not believe I did (as there are a lot of fireworks in the area so sometimes I do not pay attention to those kind of sounds). A few days later we received a letter (from what I've gathered every house in the neighbourhood received one) to inform us about the explosion, what happened and the fact that the police is now doing an investigation to find out who is behind this and why they targeted a specific house in the neighbourhood. Any witnesses were asked to call a specific number to give information about the incident. Even if the explosion startled us, receiving that letter was reassuring and it, at least, made me feel a sense of security in a world that feels less and less safe.

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30 km/h speed limit rejected - why?

In our community, the introduction of a 30 km/h speed limit on local roads has been discussed four times in the last three decades and has always been rejected. The most recent vote was held on September 22, 2024. The measure was rejected by 63% of the vote.

We know it was rejected, but we don't know why.

...

Original title: Tempo 30 abgelehnt - warum?

Origin and language : Switzerland ; de

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : A giant octopus

Europe is like: A region where we live together peacefully

Democracy is like: Oxygen for a country. Without democracy, it suffocates.

Who should hear: The people

Question: THAT

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Mobilty and transport ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:In unserer Gemeinde wurde in den letzten drei Jahrzehnten viermal die Einführung von Tempo 30 auf Gemeindestrassen diskutiert und stets abgelehnt. Das letzte Mal wurde am 22.9.2024 darüber abgestimmt. Mit 63% wurde die Einführung abgelehnt. Wir wissen, dass es abgelehnt wurde, aber nicht warum.

A week in Paris

I was called a "dirty white" in Paris

Original title: Eine Woche Paris

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : Gessler

Europe is like: A civilization

Democracy is like: Something old people do when they want to compromise.

Who should hear: nan

Question: nan

The experience was: Very negative and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Migration and Refugees ; Living together and Community ; Peace and Security ;

Original text:On m'a traité de:"sale blanc" à Paris

#

Other, please specify

Desertification

I went to the post office, just five minutes from my house, to mail a letter, only to find it was closed. So, I had to travel two kilometers round trip to mail it. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for elderly people or those with mobility issues, and that's not even mentioning rural areas where people sometimes have to travel over 20 kilometers. It's a shame there isn't an intermediate solution (like an ATM, for example, for simple needs such as sending a letter).

Original title: Désertification

Origin and language : France ; fr

Unique identifier: training

EU is like : a family

Europe is like: A hope that lives on

Democracy is like: a mix of fragility and strength

Who should hear: region, state, the Post Office, all

Question: nan

The experience was: Negative and: somewhat common

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Other, please specify ; désertification ;

Original text: Parti pour poster un courrier au bureau de poste à 5 minutes du domicile, je me suis aperçu qu'il avait été fermé. Du coup 2 kilomètres A/R à faire pour aller poster mon courrier. J'imagine ce que ce doit être pour des personnes âgées ou ayant des difficultés à se déplacer et on ne parle pas en région où l'on doit faire parfois plus de 20 kilomètres. Dommage qu'il n'y ait pas de solution intermédiaire (guichet automatique par exemple, pour des besoins simples, comme l'envoi d'une simple lettre).

The invisible takes place

I have found recently women's health is disregarded unless it's a reproductive issue.

Original title: The invisible takes place

Origin and language : Spain ; en

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: a huge impenetrable structure

Europe is like: home

Democracy is like: a system to be protected and improved

Who should hear: Health organisations and Public health institutions

Question: When can women be taken care of when they need?

The experience was: Negative and: very common

This story also appears in Other, please specify ; Health and Wellbeing ;

Original text: I have found recently women's health is disregarded unless it's a reproductive issue.

It's not worth talking about

I don't know what to say. When it comes to experiences, I feel it's very irritating to be bombarded with messages fueled by extreme negative emotions and more engaged and extremely arrogant hateful shouters who authoritatively dictate what others should think through their form. People who speak in a balanced and more honest manner don't have the same impact, or they're not engaging enough. Fortunately, they exist at all.

Original title: Szkoda gadać

Origin and language: Poland ; pl

Unique identifier: training

EU is like: An institution that provides a framework for a stronger unification of Europe and is embedded in a network of certain universal principles.

Europe is like: part of a broader layer of identity

Democracy is like: more than just elections, but the whole process of participation and engagement

Who should hear: Everyone hears stories like this all the time and nothing changes.

Question: ?

The experience was: I don't know / Not sure and: very common

This story also appears in Fairness and social justice ; Other, please specify ; Przekaz medialno społeczny ;

Original text: Nie wiem co opowiedzieć, jeśli chodzi o doświadczenia mam wrażenie że mocno irytującą rzeczą jest przebijanie przekazu nakręcanego o skrajne negatywne emocje i bardziej zaangażowanych i skrajnie aroganckich nienawistnych krzykaczy, narzucających autorytatywnie przez swą formę co inni powinni myśleć. Zaś ludzie opowiadający w sposób wyważony i bardziej rzetelny nie mają takiej siły przebiccia, bądź też niewystarczająco się angażują. Na szczęście w ogóle występują

I have fun with little

Thanks to online communities and suitable shared spaces like gaming bars, I've had the opportunity to meet new people and share my hobbies, such as role-playing games, freely, without social pressure or feeling uncomfortable. Online gaming communities, combined with good financial and logistical accessibility, have allowed me to forge new friendships and form a small group of acquaintances who see each other regularly or chat online.

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Who should hear: People who believe the internet is a tool for exclusion, when in reality it can open up many opportunities in real life as well.

Question: Why isn't the love of a parent or child enough for you?

The experience was: Positive and: rare but it happens from time to time

This story also appears in Living together and Community ; Other, please specify ; Networking ;

Original text: Grazie alle community online e ad opportuni spazi comuni come bar ludici ho avuto l'opportunità di conoscere nuove persone per condividere i miei hobby, come per esempio il gioco di ruolo in maniera libera senza subire pressioni sociali e senza sentirmi a disagio. Le community ludiche online coadiuvate ad una buona accessibilità sia economica e sia logistica mi ha permesso di forgiare nuove amicizie e formare un piccolo gruppo di conoscenti che si vedono assiduamente o si parlano online

Changelog

2026.04.28

Used standard article template

Correted confusing formatting error (`##` md formatting not captured as level 2 heading

2026.04.13

First version