

Empowering People through...

Introduction:

Welcome to the International Youth Think Tank presentation. It's an honour for us to share with you the final product of the International Youth Conference of November 2020, in which we focused on ways to Empower people in challenging times.

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Supportive governance

Global Governance for Real:

*For society to master the many challenges ahead - like CoVid and climate crisis - we need strong and supportive governance at a global level. That is why we call for the United Nations to **truly** step into the 21st century, and serve the GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR REAL.*

*The UN came to exist after an unspeakable crisis of WW2. Now it needs to push for a similar shift in the global society. The current pandemic has revealed the inequalities and **lack of cooperation** that exists between the UN members. The UN has appeared to be **ineffective** in answering that key issue.*

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That is why we propose the UN 2.0 - a concept of radical reforms to the institution. The steps we recognize as necessary are:

- REAL regional representation, meaning the inclusion of more Asian, African and Latin American countries in the Security Council
- REAL voting power, meaning an end of veto

→ REAL application of the agreements to the member countries, meaning more binding agreements and more **enforcement** of such.

This will ensure that the global crises will see fair global discussions, and effective solutions.

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Media - Global Charter for Truth

In the face of so many challenges, citizens have a right to secure information and media. Because now the status quo is a Truth Crisis - unreliable facts spreading at a grand scale.

To secure a balance of free speech and trustworthy media, we call for the Global Charter for Truth. The UN and other international organizations need to enforce a new set of rules and guidelines to fill the law-free space of new media and digital enterprises.

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The Charter will include:

→ a truth-check on information- making the companies accountable for the content on their platforms.

→ **immunity** for the journalists - providing them with a similar status to the diplomats, in order to combat the political and governmental influence on **independent** media.

→ international **support** for journalists - creating a global support network **of** intergovernmental organizations for journalists and whistleblowers.

→ And lastly: clarification on the data ownership issue - Free apps are not free, you pay with your data. The Charter will push towards more

transparency and de-commodification of users by tech companies.

Citizens need to have **safe access** to true, reliable information through the media.

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2) Education

Building a European Identity through Education

We also want to stress the importance of education and the effect that it has on every democratic aspect of our life. One example of this is presented in the graph, namely that people with a higher education vote in both EP and national elections **to a way higher degree** than people with a lower education degree. We want to acknowledge that it should **not require a college degree** to understand how we as citizens can influence our society. To empower people from all ages to build a European identity, we have formulated some recommendations. (NEXT)

Our suggestion is to **reshape the educational system (NEXT)**, as there are a lot of young people and adults who lack **critical thinking and knowledge on the EU**. We would like to include more **interactive teaching methods** that equip students not only with theoretical knowledge but also develop their **soft skills**, like the 4C's, namely Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication. These methods would be based on discussions, problem based learning, independent research and would also include **political workshops** (especially before relevant political events like national elections, etc.). With this, we hope to equip every citizen with a toolkit that increases their knowledge, awareness and participation in political events and topics and lay the base for a lifelong learning. (NEXT)

Another solution is the **programme EdUcation+** which could be a complement to Erasmus+ and Erasmus Without Paper (**NEXT**) and provides students with the opportunity for an **international exchange in a digital form**. Students from diverse countries would discuss different topics together during a timeslot specifically designated for this. To facilitate the programme, the exchange would take place **at the school premises** and they would be equipped with the necessary technology; also, a **special digital platform would be developed**. The digital exchange could be **complemented by a physical one** which could be **funded by the EU** and would take place after both classes have built a connection over a longer period of time. This initiative would be beneficial for diverse individuals to build a European identity and feel included. (**NEXT**)

Finally, we want to emphasise the relevance of our solutions once more by stating that **“Education is not a privilege, it is a fundamental human right.”**, as defined by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. (**NEXT**)

Improved participation

(12) Connecting to our educational suggestions, we believe that not only bridging the knowledge gap will empower people but also encourage political participation.

We know that there is a lack of empowerment for people from underrepresented groups such as people from different ethnicities, classes, sexual orientations, genders, abilities [NEXT]

(13) “IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO EXIST: THERE HAS TO BE CLEAR INTERVENTIONS IN YOUR FAVOUR”

And because of that, we designed a twofold proposal [NEXT]

(14) On one hand, we have developed a proposition for **training for political participation**. [NEXT]

(15) *Limited knowledge and capacity* can be addressed through a *mentorship programme* that pairs a local politician with a young person from an **under-represented** background. In the long run, we expect that this would improve political representation while having an immediate local impact. [NEXT]

(16) Our second proposition is a **Strategic Programme** that targets highest-ranking and powerful positions within the public sector that aims to:

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- on a symbolic level, combat self-censorship at all level of the recruitment, by showing that, at the very top, people from underrepresented background are leading that institution
- and more pragmatically, this objectively improve the quality of the recruitment since folks from all walks of life undergo less biases through the recruitment process

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Equality

- Equality and by extension inequality are **broad topics** that underpin to issues in our democracy we have discussed so far.

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- **We believe we NEED TO ADDRESS THE UNEQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES- THROUGH LEGAL AND SOCIAL MEANS.**
 - Whilst the notion of legal equality is not new, we are re-iterating the importance of the enforcement of a fundamental global minimum standard, we are all global citizens.
 - Cultural change must be hastened through the use of social and economic incentives with the reasons for this and the next steps outlined in our final report.
 - We can use economic incentives such as pension contributions or alternatives such as educational loan credits to hasten cultural change and normalise behaviours such as non-female parents from taking parental leave.
 - By increasing representation and access for minority groups we will build towards establishing a stakeholder society in which marginalised communities are empowered to voice their opinions.

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- It is also important to support **LEFT BEHIND COMMUNITIES, OFTEN EXISTING AS A RESULT OF INTERGENERATIONAL INEQUALITY** (WHETHER THAT IS DUE TO STRUCTURAL DEPENDENCY FROM COLONISATION OR OTHER FORMS OF LONG-WITHSTANDING PRIVILEGED). It is important they can see that democratic institutions are looking out for people like them who may be losing their faith in democratic institutions looking out for people like them

Next

- We suggest 3 proposals
 - In the age of climate crisis We believe it is essential use new measures of economic success. It is far past the time for GDP growth to be replaced with an array of indicators that focus on optimising human wellbeing and the environment as integral part of our economy.
 - We propose a **Universal Base Income to ensure everyone (nationally or preferably globally) have a minimum standard of living, ideally funded by a wealth tax. Therefore making it re-distributional in design. (if they ask to mention the potential use ofGDP (ppp)). This will help those in left behind communities gain new freedoms, expanding autonomy within their own lives.**
 - - **The empowerment of workers via introducing more democratic practices within corporate structures. By providing ordinary workers more power and influence they will be able to play a more significant role in corporate decision making, having a greater influence over their own circumstances and that of working class communities.**

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- We believe this could lead to
 - **A holistic economic policy that highlights shortfalls.**
 - **Increased economic freedom and a fair redistribution of wealth and power (potentially through an existing or new international organisation) in favour of the less advantaged.**
 - **Giving the forgotten communities, including the future generation**

NEXT: Final words for photo slide

Whilst some of our proposals in this presentation and the preliminary report may be viewed as idealistic, we believe it is rather optimistic realism: expanding the ideas and structures of today with a factual basis as well as having greater ambition for what is possible. If you would like any additional details on the proposals from this presentation, please feel free to read our final report.

Final Report

Expected Questions:

UN 2.0

Who should initiate these reforms?

It can be done in a grassroot way, by young people involved in the so-far UN projects, with the gradual support of the citizens, organizations and governments around the world.]

Enhancing Economic Freedoms

- **If there is a question about scale, not everything has to be global but it can be in an ambitious world.**

Is this Achievable?

- We are aiming for 'optimisitic realist' - expanding current structures and knowledge
 - As certain provisions are in place e.g. GDP (ppp), International Organisations etc.- it is not completely unrealistic/idealistic.

How is this different from the UN Sustainable Development goals?

- We believe that the UN SD goals do not go far enough, slightly vague and it is situated within the UN and therefore is limited in enforcement. They are only a consideration within policies.
- The new measures of success we are suggesting is to replace GDP growth as the guiding light in economic decision making within each country's governments.
 - Progress in New Zealand and the 'well being budget'

How is "enhanced worker power" different from unions?

- Unions are structures external to companies that have a negotiating role but that are also able to be excluded.
 - Their power has often been diminished by government legislation since the 1980s.
- Our proposals are discussing structural business change.
 - Co-ops, shared profits and rewards
 - Internal voices within the supply chain.

Is UBI just "giving poor people money"?

- It is more than 'just giving people money', it is offering freedom and choice in everyday life as well as making them feel part of something bigger (going back to the idea of a stakeholder society)
- Additionally this will be a subtle redistribution as our plan that this should be funded via a wealth tax will benefit most those who have suffered from intergenerational inequalities.

Could you explain Intergenerational Inequality further?

- Wealth e.g. colonisation- ruling classes, inherited wealth
- Knowledge/Opportunities- Connections, experience etc.
 - e.g. two children, one has parents who attended University, one hasn't