

EU PROJECT: #TalkingEuropa



2 CHALLENGES & GOALS ADDRESSED

The EU has a great opportunity for peace, freedom, equality and justice – and as a Union it has the power to protect it. However, at the moment the status of the public discussion is threatening its achievements. It's time to not stand still but move on from this dangerous half-wisdom and silencing effects, it's time for #TalkingEuropa.

Let's make Europe great again! In the minds and hearts of us Europeans!

For this movement a platform in-between all EU countries is needed, where a debate can happen, coming from an artistic-emotional and a discursive-rational perspective.

Challenges & overall Goal

The challenges and opportunities we see:

- Public discussions are often driven by simple propagandistic, negative statements
- Challenging complexities obscure realities and facts and therefore discourage a positive and constructive discussion and development.
- An open discussion and voicing of challenges and positive attitudes are necessary.
- A playful and emotional approach to Europe can help to arouse it anew.

It is not about finding the ultimate answer. It is about creating both - an emotional and rational discourse within the countries and its people, artists and possibly politicians – as well as an exchange with the other countries: To inspire each other through sharing, understanding and finding the greatness in the European idea.

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3 SOLUTION PROPOSED

3.1 The Idea

We, the initiative #TalkingEuropa, want to create a platform that furthers a strong emotional-rational discourse about Europe and its identity.

The platform consists on the one hand of two containers - the "*Café Europa*" - following the discussive political heritage of cafés, placed in a city of each European country and on the other hand of a website showing all 28 streams at the same time.

The two containers in each country are:

ONE – the space for physical encounters – Europa "On Stage" – where content is collected, staged, created and presented.

And TWO – the space for interactive digital encounters – Europa "On Air" – that streams the discussions and performances. At the same time it shows the streaming of all the other countries – like a window into Europe.



The containers will be placed into all 28 countries of the EU for 4 weeks.

In each country, a curating team finds groups of artists, experts and citizens to work on one common topic per week and present their show/art and findings via streaming to all other 27 countries. This will be followed by a streamed co-country performance or discussion, enabling a cross-European exchange on the topic.

An online platform will show all 28 happenings continuously for four weeks on one page, encouraging inner- and cross-country interaction.

During the entire process of the four weeks, Strassburg - the EU-Parliament, will receive a separate Europa "On Air" container, that invites members of the Parliament to watch and participate in shows and discussions in all EU countries.

Their "*Café Europa*" serves as a direct connection to all the other countries and a direct line from the countries to their Parliament.

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In the end the containers, having collected the individual positions of each country, will altogether travel to Brussels, forming the 28 nations' "*Café Europa*" – a big fair of ideas and statements, where the 28 curators present the performances, discussions and ideas, that got collected and developed within the past 4 weeks. They present one large, complex image of Europe's identity and become a symbol for its opportunities.

After five days and a final celebration, the containers - having evolved and transformed over the whole process into pieces of art themselves - are being auctioned off to carry their message further. The streams will continue, showing the countries on the website and future projects can be encouraged by all the partners.

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3.2 The schedule in detail

The container program will happen over four weeks. Each week has one overlaying topic:

| Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Topic: Identity self-reflection / authenticity / values / ambitions | Topic: Community common values / strenghts & weaknesses / diversity / freedom / borders / security | Topic: Economy stability vs. flexibility / dynamics/ development / growth | Topic: Democracy Responsibility / behaviours / rights / codetermination |
| Week 5 (transfer to Brussels) Week 6 The final 28 nations' "Café Europa" will show all the themes discussed and present one large image of Europes identity | | | |

The themes will be worked upon first by an artistic group, then by a discussion group:

| | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| topic group art | Identity performers dancers (classic, contemporary, street style), actors, performance artists, comedians | Community visual artists painters, sculptors, installation artists, video makers, graffitti sprayers, designers | Economy musicians DJs, composers, Live and street musicians | Democracy word Poetry Slam Rap poets |
| group discussion | scientists philosophers, theologians, linguists, ethnologist, geographer, historian, Psychologist | environmentalists farmers, foresters, architects and city planners, designers, engineers of alternative energy, peace – and conflict researchers | educators & economist Teachers, social workers, Start up founders, managers, heads of cross European associations, companies | public opinionleaders journalists, politicians, blogger |
| Week 5 (transfer to Brussels) Week 6 28 nation's "Café Europa" show all the themes discussed and present one large image of Europe's identity | | | | |

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The curators find artists and members for the discussion groups, diverse in generation, gender, origin, abilities and backgrounds, so that the created art and the discussions have the chance to be multi-faceted, possibly disruptive and interdisciplinary. Each week one general topic is being discussed.

3.3 The program

For four weeks a common schedule will take place in each "Café Europa":

| | Group Art | Group Discussion |
|------------------|---|---|
| Monday | Artistic rehearsals for the local show | |
| Tuesday | Presentation of all 28 shows live & via streaming | |
| Wednesday | Each artistic team decides to team up with another or several other countries to further develop a multi-country artistic piece >> rehearsals with the co-countries via online-streaming /-skype /-chat | Local panel discussions of topic |
| Thursday | Rehearsals with the co-countries via online-streaming /-skype /-chat | Presentation of discussions outcome of all countries live & via streaming |
| Friday | Rehearsals with the co-countries via online-streaming /-skype /-chat | Each discussion group decides for another or several other countries to further discuss the topic >> discussions with other countries |
| Saturday | Presentations of all multi-country performances live & via streaming | Watch and discuss performances |
| | Party at "Café Europa" | |
| Sunday | Transformation of all the "On Stage"-containers >> Every group leaves their input & marks of art, ideas, texts etc. | |