

# ITALIAN CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE EU REPORT OF A QUALITATIVE STUDY IN ITALY

Periscope

**T**his Synthesis presents the results of a group discussion held in Milan on 16 December 2013 on the subject of citizens' involvement in the European Union. It is part of a wider citizenship project managed by Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute, with the support of national partners of the European Qualitative Network coordinated by OPTEM, on behalf of the European Commission.

## Introduction

This report presents the results of a group discussion held in Milan on 16 December 2013 on the subject of citizens' involvement in the European Union.

It is the Italian section of a pan-European qualitative study involving 18 of the member states.

In each country the study was carried out by the national partner of the European qualitative network coordinated by optem: in Italy by periscope.

This study forms a part of a wider citizenship project managed by Notre Europe - Jacques Delors institute on behalf of the European commission.

### BOX 1 ► Composition of the group of respondents

Gender	Age
Women: 3	20-34 years: 2
Men: 4	35-49 years: 3
	50-60 years: 2

#### Social class

Lower-middle social class: 3 (professions of head of household: office employees, manual workers)

Higher-middle class: 4 (professions of head of household: mid-management, high-level executives, liberal professions small business owners)

#### Political opinion

The respondents were also recruited so that diverse political opinions were represented in the group.

perceived as one of the most relevant **causes** of the economic and financial troubles affecting Italy; the media feed in this sense this attitude of distrust and distress towards Europe. Referring to the European union the main feeling of Italians is rancorous, cynical, discouraged and recriminatory; Italian people ask themselves why did Europe destroyed Italy to such an extent, whereas Italians never ask themselves what could they do for Europe.

At the same time, but just marginally and only by a younger target, a sine-qua-non vision of the European Union emerges as an opportunity for mental and cultural opening.

When thinking to the European Union the **main spontaneous associations** are of criticism

- **Economic crisis caused by the European union:** besides the unresolved Italian economic situation of the past, the following factors caused by the EU's choices contributed to dramatic aggravation of the social inequalities and of the economic situation in Italy
- **Unfavourable lira/Euro exchange:** supporting this theory a comparison with Germany is brought forward whereby the 1:1 exchange rate was extremely favourable in respect to Italy, which had suffered a 1:2.  
*"Before the European union Germany was not so strong. Germany became strong due to bad EU choices. Some countries, such as Germany were given more power than others"*  
*"Euro thwarted the countries with the weakest exchange. The union helps at making up the debt, but this means an increase in taxation"*
- **Excessive taxation:** for the individuals and also - as stated by the entrepreneur target

## 1. Initial thoughts about the European union

The spontaneous evocations about the European Union reveal the bad mood of anxiety, pessimism and concerns about Italy. The EU itself is

- mostly for the enterprises which in respect to the pre-euro situation suffer the impossibility to make investments, to invest on the future, to hire young people

*"Euro and taxes: everything Italy does is controlled by a superior governing entity"*

- **Economic difference among associated countries:** everybody can see the macroscopic difference in welfare, especially Germany vs. Greece and Italy.

*"They did not get a good solution by putting these countries all together, they only emphasized pre-existent differences, there is two-speed Europe, Germany runs at a doped speed and other countries such as Italy go slowly"*

- **Favouritism of the bank system** beyond any reasonable ethics: the choice to rescue banks doomed to failure owing to a bad management implied affection on citizens, generating poverty.
- **Economic benefits for some countries**, which took advantage for the entry in the European Union to the detriment of others: some less important countries compared to Italy are now superior or equipollent to it.

*"Money: they state the subsidies, they lay down the law".*

The economic crisis became pressing and unbearable, for this reason the perception of the European Union with regard to the economic situation worsened over time and Italians feel a sentiment of injustice because Italy is forced to pay twice: both the debt of the entry in the euro system and the one of the current economic crisis. The role of the European parliament is not clear, the union did not pay attention to the citizens' real problems. Italians ask themselves if the rules had been well-tuned on different countries or if there is a precise plan to keep this unfair economic gap among member countries.

- **Community as aggregation of cultures and peoples too different between one another:** the inspiring concept of Europe is losing the meaning over time. As a matter of fact distances between countries are getting bigger from the cultural point of view as well as the membership aims.
- **There lacks a European identity:** Italian citizens feel little European, little close to the other European citizens and little involved in the European events. The European problems are not known at all or perceived as distant. Negative effects on Italy are the only perceivable experience of belonging to Europe.

- **There lacks the exploitation of the different national cultures within the European community:** Italians feel swallowed up with no national identity, represented without any strength, members in Europe with no identification. Europe is a big container of different entities.

*"I don't see any will to personalize the various countries, we, Italians, are artists and this quality is not enhanced; we have a culture envied by the whole world. I go to France and see Italian pieces of art at best, whereas here in Italy all falls down to pieces. I don't identify myself with Europe at all."*

- **The European law creates disparities** and does not fit with all European citizens, for their historical, cultural and motivational differences; the European law paradoxically enhances gaps among peoples and countries. Frequent quotes of the Greek default opposite to the German success, Frequent quotes of economic gaps between northern and southern countries.

Compared to the enthusiasms of the past, the current perception of Europe is definitely worse for the emotional detachment and for the lack of meaning. Initiatives and campaigns for the "construction of the Europeans" are missing.

*"The European union was a beautiful project carried out in an awful way".*

Regarding the European Union there also emerge - from the younger target - **positive thoughts and associations**

- **Nobility and ethics of the union concept**
    - Equality among individuals as far as respect of rules is concerned
    - Safeguarding of citizens' rights
    - Community of political and economic aims
    - Mutual subsistence
    - Stimulus for disadvantaged countries to grow, thanks to the entry in the EU
  - **Practical utility of the community**
    - Strengthening of **diplomatic relations** with other hyper-powers.
- "EU was created after the Second World War with the goal of keeping the peace among countries, it has a community of political and economic aims"*
- **More bargaining power**, possibility to close high-level businesses at favourable conditions for the member countries

- **Keeping the peace**, absence of internal wars.  
*"The EU's primary function is proved by the fact that we have no longer had wars, without the European community something would probably have taken place"*
- **European projects to favour the integration** among people and to allow young people to open their mental and cultural boundaries, for instance and most of all the Erasmus project
- **Advantage in one currency**: possibility of aided commercial exchanges among member countries, advantages in travels, immediate comprehension of the purchase prices in all the countries of the euro zone.

Despite the thought that the practical utility of the European union is the privilege of a few, namely the big economic powers or few lucky citizens, Italians have the idea that something positive had been to involve the citizens in the sense of belonging to the European union.

At the moment the prevailing image of the European Union for the Italian citizens is negative and little reassuring. There lacks the trust in Europe not only or not much in the capacity of the union to find the solution to future problems, but mostly because Europe itself looks to be the main cause of the current economic trouble.

## 2. Sources of information and knowledge on the EU

Media are the most relevant source of information on the events regarding the EU; there is no awareness about an institutional authority for communication on European matters. Italian citizens are passive about the subject: they do not actively look for information. The European matters are not fully covered by media. Media give great relevance to the bad economic situation, which contributes to the negative perception of Europe. Because of little coverage of Europe in the media, it is therefore not possible to get a clear opinion of it.

- **Official media**
  - **TV**: Television news; TV talks; Reportage
  - **Press, online and offline**: more official: ansa.it; more oriented: Politically: repubblica.it (left) ilgiornale.it (right) corriere.it (centre-left); economically: ilsole24ore.com (paper of confindustria)
  - **Radio**: Rai radio 1 "radio anch'io"

The user of these sources is of a passive kind, he just listens to the incoming news. The media output, though interesting, is considered as non-objective, filtered by politic influences, therefore not very credible, sometimes little clear and understandable.

- **School and university, specialized documents**: international law and institutional essays, guide to the law, institutional essays, code for the workers' net, Italian consultancy

Italian citizens using these sources are at **professional or academic** level, they are people well informed and sensitive to the European events, participative, proactive towards Europe and capable to express positive opinions and thoughts in countertendency.

- **Web sites**: Europa.eu; Curia.europa.eu

The institutional sites of the European community are consulted by the most participative and evolved citizens; they provide practical information and look structured for a merely functional consultation.

On the contrary, it lacks or does not easily handle that part of economic consultation that may result in a practical benefit for oneself or one's business.

*"I was interested by the existing public consultations, it is not difficult to access the info, but it is difficult to translate them into one's own economic reality; we find ourselves forced to suffer the decisions taken"*

- **Authoritative roles**: Professional accountant (entrepreneur target)
- **Non-official sources**:
  - **Internet**, especially for specific questions: free encyclopaedias (Wikipedia), search engines (Google) specific sites and specific searches, specific sites (europa.eu, euronews.it), social network (Facebook)

Any subject regarding the European community is searched by using typical search engines and comparing more online sources; the access to contents of various kinds does not eliminate the problem of credibility of the information. An authoritative and reliable source of reference for the up-to-date news is missing.

- Courses for obtaining European subsidies (Verona)

- Foreign press (el país, le monde, the guardian, bild) which is considered more reliable than the Italian one, little censored and more critical.  
*"The foreign press talks a lot about the European union matters, on the contrary the Italian papers do not deal with them at all".*

The echoes of the European Union's activities do not result in coordinate, continuative, clear and trustworthy information. Even if openly interested, Italians feel badly covered and not sufficiently aware of the European events. All media bring forth confused, marginal, politically oriented and therefore little credible or impartial piece of news.

At the same time, there emerges the problem that the facts are explained just at a **macro-European level** and not in their implications at the **micro-Italian level**. To translate the effects of the information, interpreting them on the Italian reality is not easy and in this sense, the information bodies are shrinking.

*"it is complicated also for the insiders, i tried to understand how do the European subsidies work, on the television they all fill their mouth by talking about European union, but things are quite unclear".*

The Italian hope for a better attention by media on the European matters, that is they expect to be informed proactively and easily. In practice, it should not be the citizen hunting for information, but the Europe bodies who do their best to inform clearly and exhaustively, with reflexions also on large national media.  
*"It should not be up to me to go and inquire, but they themselves should send me the information based on my business sector".*

### 3. Question regarding the future of the EU

As a confirmation of the poor knowledge of the subject and of the roles, the Italian citizens show an only limited understanding of the themes specifically concerning the European Union. In any case the main themes on which they would like to have more information by the EU are the following

- **Economic situation and opportunities for financing**
  - Business financing
  - Economic trends, by and large and for Italy in the common market specifically
  - Expense control at European level

- Opportunity to continue with euro as a single currency
- Understanding if it is worth to be in Europe and reasons supporting this.

The economic situation and the financing of enterprises are the subjects that most worry Italian citizens. The simple observation that the economic situation before the common market was more prosperous and that the future development forecasts are for a further and constant worsening leads the Italians to cling to any possible small opening.

*"We are blocked by the fiscal drain, the firms close down because we have a fiscal drain of 60%, and I would like to understand how EU could help us"*

*"From the political talks i hear that the entry in Europe gave us only disadvantages, i would like to understand what on the contrary represented an advantage to us and in which sense we would do better than 20 years ago"*

*"I would like to hear somebody proving that the aim of this project had not been that of upsetting the economic balances, as it eventually happened"*

- **Rights of the European citizens**
  - Knowledge of the rights
  - Resolution of bureaucratic problems
  - Protection in case of denial of one's rights

As a community regulated by rights and duties, Italian citizens entrust in a natural way the European union with an over-national power and in this sense they ask themselves how the European union might help them defending and applying their rights.

*"I would like to have information on our rights in the European community, i don't know my rights as an Italian, let's imagine what could they be as an European"*

*"I would like to have indications and guidelines on how to grow up as a people, how to take out our Italian blames"*

*"I would like to know better what they offer i illustrate what i sell to people coming into my store"*

- **Management and assignments in the European institutions**
  - Need to clarify the functioning of the "Europe machine"
  - Election modalities (whom, when, criteria used)
  - Job description and responsibility of elected people at personal level

- Management and control of **immigration**
  - Barriers at entry
  - Control and security
  - Identification of the role responsibility and consequent penalties
  - Knowledge of the involvement in the problem of all member states.

#### 4. Current means of expression of citizens' views

**Regarding the possibility to express one's own opinion as citizens about future decisions and projects that the union is going to implement, the Italian citizens feel astonished and completely unprepared.** Considering that **one's own voice is not taken into consideration at a level of national politics** by a government system which is deaf to the needs of the middle-low classes, **even more so** it looks **paradoxical** to make one's voice heard at European level. Since the Italian members of the European parliament do not include high level statesmen, on the contrary the European parliament looks like the parking lot for the less prepared or less clever politicians, it looks evident that the representatives of Italians in Europe do not look capable to safeguard their people, claim the space that the country deserves, and let themselves be overcome by other newly-entered states. In the light of this structural weakness, one cannot understand why and how a normal individual-citizen should be taken into consideration.

From an operative standpoint **one would not even know where to start from**, which rights could be claimed, what one could talk about, up to which point one could make his efforts, what type of medium one could use, where to find the information upon which to build one's application, and so on. In practice, one knows nothing: how, where, what, why, when, who, to whom, with which rights and duties.

Then the group questions the possibility that one's own opinions be actually taken in consideration and discussed. If as it looks Europe does not communicate with Italians and represents a reason for the worsening of the Italian economic crisis, one cannot understand why the executioner should show attention or be interested to the needs of the victim.

To the sum of the over mentioned factors one should add **a good measure of Italian laziness** basically

conveyed by a general lack of interest for all matters which are not directly about one's own backyard and by the sound cynicism of those who do not want to lose their time in hopeless matters. To defend the Italian rights in Europe and to make them aware of the action carried out, eventually asking for a citizens' plenary interpellation, should be a task of the purposely-elected politicians. Italian citizens acknowledge their fault, they realize they neither commit themselves to collect information nor to take part to the decision process and in the light of this passivity they recognize that other countries – possibly stimulated and motivated in a different way – are less superficial and therefore able to obtain more favourable decisions.

At the same time it should be reported – by the most evolved targets – **a marginal awareness regarding.**

- **The systems of public consultations**, by which it is possible to send through the web any type of suggestion (student respondent).
- **Possibility of exchanging information with the EU through the offices of companies** (respondent working for multinational companies).

**The subjects on which citizens would like to express their opinions are of economic, political and social nature.**

- **Immigration.**
  - Emergence
  - Management
  - Possible exploitation of the immigration
- **Management of the social security and retirement pension system**
  - Possibility that the insurance policies be managed by the EU: people are getting older and the Italian retirement system is seriously compromised. The respondents are sensitive to the issue and would like to be questioned for future measures

When directly questioned about the possibility to be taken into consideration by the EU on future decisions, the Italian citizens state their availability to be responsive provided they be given **a practical, simple, accessible and secure means to express their opinion.**



## 5. Perception of new ways for citizens to get their voice heard

The means for learning about the information and for expressing opinions, concerns and doubts about the EU decisions are

- **Website dedicated to the reception of opinions and news from the Italian citizens**
  - Efficient channel: continuous exchange
  - Easily usable: accessible, intuitive, easy, friendly
  - Not only giving a feedback on the citizens' messages, but also providing their collection, organisation and forwarding to the European parliament
- **Public offices: counters at the communes' or provinces' offices**
  - Consultants prepared to hear not only the opinions, but also the problems and to inform in case of information gaps.
  - Personalization of the relationship in a structure offering more security and credibility about the problem's comprehension, as well as confidence, in particular for the most mature and less internet-oriented target which feels the need to communicate with the "European offices"
- **Meet EU politicians**
  - Possibility to meet the EU politicians and not their delegates, that is somebody who have a say and an effective power to change things

*"I would like to have some Merkel or the alike come and get in contact with the people and their problems"*

In front of the enthusiasm generated by the possibility for the citizen to express his opinion with the assurance to be listened, there emerge the disenchantment on the fact that as it happens in Italy other more influent and convincing powers such as the lobbies may actually block developments of popular interest.

## 6. Assessment of several propositions for improved citizens' involvement

- A. An information service on the functioning of Europe and of the European policies, including an information office open to the public, located in the most important towns, a web site and a service of quick answering to any question arriving over the phone or online.**

It is regarded as **a good starting point**, a good way to start and get information with various possibilities of consultation, well-articulated in the possibility of web and face-to-face contacts and in harmony with what had been formulated at an imaginative level.

Given the merits of the initiative, the service should be created from scratch, with the risk of crashing against the typical Italian inefficiencies.

*"The problem is: who would make it go? The idea is good, but it would clash with the Italian problems, at the counters there would be inefficient people, as in all public offices"*

*"A cry in the desert, it serves no purpose"*

- B. Debates organized in the most important media between citizens and experts on European issues and directives.**

The word **debate** sets off **imageries of inefficiencies and approximations**, leading to a no-facts situation, namely only words

Certainly the discussion is necessary because it allows the construction of a critical and knowledgeable idea, thanks to different contributions, but:

- It is to be accompanied by practical services, thus it does not leave by itself
  - It is to be finely adjusted from all viewpoints: subject, location, presenter, relevant roles, debate communication, people admitted to it
  - It is to be prepared in its contents because it presupposes a cultured public
- "The problem is that most Italians would not know what they are talking about, they should first be exposed to the basics"*

- C. Opinions and thoughts on the European elections, regularly organized in all of Europe, which would allow the citizens to become aware of what Italians and other countries' citizens think about the matter.**

**The idea immediately sounds as abstract, tortuous:** exactly because Italians think of drawing from the European Union and not of giving to it, they do not understand in which way the citizens of another country could possibly favour the Italians, on the contrary they think it would create some kind of hindrance. The Italian citizens are not interested in knowing what the other European citizens may think, they feel stranger about facts regarding the other countries; therefore, no confrontation would

interest them. The other European citizens look more protected, hence less needy.

The idea does not bring evident benefits, on the contrary it sounds as a loss of time and energies

*"Why we as Italian citizens should be interested in what the other European citizens think, and why should we take an interest in the problems of the others, we are not even interested in our Italian neighbour, let's imagine people from other countries"*

**D. The possibility to meet, several times in a year, the Italian European parliament members or other politicians of the European union or of the neighbour countries.**

At spontaneous level the prefigured idea proves to be **quite positive** for:

- The possibility to rise one's voice and to present one's ideas to the most qualified and relevant European parliament members
- A scheduled program allowing the citizen to build an idea and elaborate it in the course of the time  
*"They could do the week of meeting with the parliament member, question time style"*
- The involvement of neighbour countries which share similar situations from a cultural or geopolitical standpoint

The proposition needs a wide media support, especially regarding the outcome of the citizens' consultations, as a litmus paper of the efficacy of the tool and as a flywheel of attention for others citizens.

*"There should be a TV talk, to give authoritativeness. Doing it behind closed doors would be nonsense"*

**E. Consultation on internet organized by the European commission and open to all citizens every time the European commission takes important decisions.**

**A positive idea to communicate with the European Union** (for some respondents it already exists) to be further promoted:

- Necessary to increase the service's awareness and potential
- Opportunity of promotion on other media, with no delays such as technical times for translations  
*"It already exists, though for particular situations and limited to some sectors. They should make more advertising"*  
*"The official language is French, then the communications are being translated into English, to have*

*the directives in other languages one has to wait for a very long time"*

**F. Similar consultations organized by our national government.**

The idea is perceived **in a negative way** due to the strong existing mistrust towards the national politics, therefore an organization coordinated by the European Union looks more solid, credible, feasible and genuine.

*"In this way i would not have a direct access to the European Union, but i would be filtered by our government"*

**G. An online interactive service through the main social networks, allowing a constant collection of the viewpoints, wishes and criticisms of the European citizens.**

**The interactivity is much appreciated**, because it is a direct and fast tool allowing an immediate access to the information and, with no censure in one's feedback, it would allow making petitions and collections of digital signatures, granting an official character to one's own opinion.

*"Internet cannot be controlled or filtered by anyone, therefore it can be considered as definitely positive to give voice to one's own convictions without being controlled"*

The service needs to be recorded, organized and analysed, in a way that the intervention of the citizens turn into concrete actions, to be followed-up in terms of communication.

**H. Development of information campaigns in a more active ways in respect to previous years, aimed at encouraging citizens to be involved in debates and to take part to the elections of the European parliament members in the next spring.**

The information campaigns prove to be of **basic importance**, to the extent of representing a sinequa-non in building the European identity. Only through an action of sensitization, it is possible to budge the consciences of the Italian citizens and involve them actively in the sentiment of belonging and in the journey to the achievement of responsibility towards Europe.

The sensitization process goes through the acknowledgement of the responsibilities and advantages in being European and the feeling of staying in a community

*"It is fundamental to come closer to the citizens and to create the European conscience"*

Among the concepts under consideration h and d in combination are those which better develop the wish to feel actively involved at European level

**Concept h** first, because it offers the possibility to be informed on the basic news as well as on the more complex ones, and because it allows to involve the citizens in a concrete way.

**Concept d** because it fulfils the need for confrontation, allowing citizens to directly meet those who will eventually take the decisions, giving rise to a constructive dialogue, with direct questions and concrete answers.

Other ideas worth of consideration are also

**Concept a** because it allows to have reactions on a daily basis, thanks to the web site and to its practicality and flexibility

**Concept b** for the fact that the debates allow the citizen to form one's own personal idea.

Europe as an institution must directly meet the citizens, explaining them with clarity rights, duties, and norms and functioning of the "Europe machine". Actually, the citizen in the need of information finds himself in front of a wall made up by the incapacity for the research, language problems and bad organization of the information material. The possibility of actively intervening by raising one's own voice is simply unimaginable.

## APPENDIX - DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Qualitative study on citizens' involvement in the European Union

#### Guida di discussione

Spiegare che è una ricerca esplorativa, cerchiamo di costruire idee.

Ciascuno si presenta: nome, età, professione.

#### Argomento 1.

**Siamo qui per parlare dell'unione europea.**

**Potete gentilmente dirmi quale è la prima cosa che vi viene in mente quando pensate all'unione europea ?**

- reazioni spontanee
- indagare su:
  - La natura e la tipologia delle risposte spontanee riguardo alla ue
  - Aspetti positive e negative relativamente alla eu
  - Grado di interesse iniziale e coinvolgimento dei rispondenti relativamente all'argomento.

(10 minuti)

#### Argomento 2.

**Ora relativamente a cosa sapete e a cosa pensate sull'ue: da dove nascono queste conoscenze/convinzioni?**

**Da quali fonti ottenete informazioni o venite a conoscenza di opinioni e pareri sull'ue e sugli eventi inerenti alla ue – considerando 'fonti' nel senso ampio del termine, quali sono quelle ufficiali e quelli non ufficiali (es. Conversazioni con amici o altre persone) a cui fate riferimento?**

- reazioni spontanee
- esplorare:
  - Grado di diversità delle fonti menzionate
  - La natura dell'informazione e la provenienza
  - Interesse e credibilità di ciascuna.

(10 minuti)

#### Argomento 3.

**Parliamo adesso più specificatamente sul futuro dell'eu e sulle domande che vi ponete in relazione a tema.**

**Ci sono certamente degli aspetti che ritenete importanti in relazione ai quali voi vorreste avere maggiori informazioni e comprendere in maniera più adeguata,**



aspetti che riguardano il funzionamento dell'eu – facendo riferimento alle fonti citate precedentemente.

**Su quali aspetti vorresti avere maggiori informazioni e conoscenze?**

- reazioni spontanee
- indagare:
  - Impressioni generali sul livello/grado di conoscenza/comprendimento di questi temi.
  - Percezione sulle principali sfide e problematiche che affronterà l'eu nei prossimi anni.
  - Espressioni dei partecipanti sul bisogno di avere maggiori conoscenze – su quali temi in particolare? Attualmente in cosa le informazioni disponibili (su argomento di interesse) non sono soddisfacenti?

(15 minuti)

#### Argomento 4.

**In quanto cittadini dell'eu, voi dovreste esprimere la vostra opinione e far sentire il vostro parere in relazione alle future decisioni dell'eu – sia che riguardi approvazioni o disapprovazioni su determinate decisioni o progetti che l'eu intende intraprendere. Come potete fare questo oggi?**

- reazioni spontanee
- indagare:
  - Percezione sulla facilità/difficoltà sulla possibilità di esprimersi e di far sentire la propria opinione relativamente ai problema e questioni sull'eu – cosa si intende ?
  - Percezione sul perché sia difficile
  - Specifiche materie e questioni sui quali i partecipanti hanno particolare interesse nell'esprimere le loro opinioni ed interesse ad essere ascoltati.

(15 minuti)

#### Argomento 5.

**Parliamo ora dei vari modi attraverso i quali un cittadino europeo potrebbe esprimere la propria opinione e far sentire la sua voce. A provate ad immaginare a come potrebbe essere possibile, usate la vostra immaginazione senza scartare nessuna idea anche se sembra improbabile e non avete idea di come potrebbe essere realizzata.**

**A cosa pensate, cosa vi viene in mente?**

- Reazioni spontanee
- Stimolare la creatività del gruppo incoraggiando i rispondenti a saltare da un'idea ad un'altra e ad usare la loro immaginazione.

(15 minuti)

#### Argomento 6.

**Adesso sottoporro alla vostra attenzione alcune idee e modi su come voi cittadini europei potreste esprimere le vostre opinioni in relazione ad questioni relative l'eu.**

**Vi chiederò di raccontarmi cosa ne pensate di ciascuna idea.**

- Lasciare che ciascun intervistato esprima la propria opinione a turno, chiedendo il grado di interesse su ognuna delle seguenti affermazioni.
- Un servizio informazioni sul funzionamento dell'europa e delle politiche europee, includendo un ufficio informazioni aperto al pubblico situato nelle principali città, un sito web, ed un servizio di risposta rapida a qualunque domanda sia telefonica che on-line.
- Dibattiti organizzati nei principali media tra i cittadini ed esperti su questioni e direttive europee.
- Opinioni e pareri sulle elezioni europee organizzate regolarmente in tutta europa, che permetta ai cittadini di sapere cosa ne pensano i loro concittadini e i cittadini degli altri paesi europei.
- La possibilità di incontrare, più volte all'anno, i membri del parlamento europeo italiani o altri politici eu o dei paesi vicini all'italia.
- Consultazioni in internet organizzate dalla commissione europea e aperte a tutti i cittadini ogni volta che la commissione europea prende delle decisioni importanti.
- Consultazioni simili organizzate dal nostro governo nazionale.
- Un servizio interattivo online e attraverso i principali social networks che consente di raccogliere in modo costante il punto di vista, i desideri e le criticità da parte dei cittadini europei.
- Sviluppo di campagne informative in modo più attivo rispetto agli anni passati, finalizzate a incoraggiare i cittadini ad essere coinvolti in dibattiti e a prendere parte alle future elezioni dei membri del parlamento europeo la prossima primavera.

(25 minuti)

Grazie ancora per aver partecipato alla discussione.

Nel caso dovreste avere ulteriori idee o opinioni al riguardo non esitate a contattarci.

(lasciare un indirizzo email ai partecipanti al quale possono inviare eventuali idee ed opinioni).

WHAT DO CITIZENS THINK THE FUTURE CHALLENGES OF THE EU ARE?

Virginie Timmerman, *Synthesis*, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, December 2014

HOW WOULD CITIZENS LIKE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Virginie Timmerman and Daniel Debomy, *Synthesis*, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, December 2014

HOW DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMUNICATE WITH CITIZENS?

Virginie Timmerman and Daniel Debomy, *Synthesis*, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, November 2014

HOW DO CITIZENS SEE THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Virginie Timmerman, *Synthesis*, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, November 2014

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