

PANEL AND FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

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Volunteering and Civic Engagement

Results from the Thematic Tables
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We discussed voluntary work and civic participation. Our two guiding questions were: What motivates people to become involved, and what obstacles prevent them from doing so?

People need role models. Above all, they need to experience that their actions can make a difference. The opposite feeling – that one has no influence and cannot achieve anything – prevents many people from becoming involved.

We had a good example at our table. Ksenia is the president of the student council at her school in Odesa. She tried to change something and succeeded. When people act, they can discover that they do have an impact.

It is also important to leave one's own bubble and connect with others who are interested. This creates not only the feeling but the certainty that people can be effective together. Finally, municipalities and political institutions must establish structures that enable and encourage participation. We need political leaders who listen to people.

Editorial note: This contribution was corrected and edited on the basis of an automatically generated transcript. Obvious recognition errors, technical interruptions, repetitions and purely organisational remarks were removed. The substance of the contribution has been preserved.