

PANEL AND FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

Anne Marie Kruse**Democracy and Education**

Results from the Thematic Tables
10th International Partnership Meeting of the Danube Networkers
10 July 2026 · Edwin Scharff House, Neu-Ulm

Our table had a very intensive discussion involving young people from Slovakia and Ukraine, as well as participants from Serbia and Hungary. We did not remain narrowly focused on the original topic, which was a positive sign because there was so much experience around the table.

We spoke at length about Hungary and about how positive political change can give hope to young people in other countries, such as Serbia or Slovakia, where many experience apathy, wish to leave their country or believe they cannot change anything in an increasingly authoritarian system.

As an external foundation from Baden-Württemberg, we asked how we might enable more exchanges between young people. Young Hungarians could share their experiences and demonstrate that change is possible. We also discussed how civil-society organisations in Hungary managed to continue their work, resist and survive despite political pressure over many years. Other countries can learn important lessons from this.

These experiences are also relevant to Germany as right-wing populist forces gain influence. Some regions may soon face similar challenges. This made our international exchange especially valuable.

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.