

PANEL AND FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

Niombo Lomba

Generations in Dialogue

Results from the Thematic Tables
 10th International Partnership Meeting of the Danube Networkers
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Our group was, in the best sense, a dialogue between generations. The young participants stressed that we need more conversations between younger and older people – not only about democracy and politics, but also about hobbies, music and dance.

We need places and events for this purpose: courses, groups, concerts and other opportunities where people can exchange experiences and learn from one another. The group mentioned existing examples, including the ViMA platform and a project that matched younger and older people according to shared interests. They exchanged phone numbers and email addresses and began speaking to one another.

One unresolved question was how to reach the people who could benefit from such conversations. In addition to social media, we should continue to use newspapers, leaflets, neighbourhood magazines and other local channels of communication.

We also spoke not only about dialogue but about intergenerational living. Students might, for example, stay with older residents for several months. Multi-generational housing projects are another possibility. Municipalities and political leaders should support such models through planning and funding.

The important topics were primarily values: respect, tolerance and mutual understanding. In Serbia, young people are taking to the streets in support of democracy, but are not always understood by older generations. In Hungary, too, there are generational differences in how democracy, freedom and Europe are understood. Culture, concerts, making music together and literature can create spaces in which these values are discussed.

In summary, we need to explain the difference between populism and democracy and foster an intergenerational dialogue based on respect.

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.