

PANEL AND FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

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Trust in Politics

Results from the Thematic Tables
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We discussed what creates trust in politics, which conditions promote trust and what should be avoided. As First Mayor of Ulm and the person responsible for municipal finances, I was pleased to hear that trust does not primarily depend on money.

Of course, politics must deliver results and respond to people's needs. Even more important, however, is explaining political processes and decisions: How are decisions reached? Why can certain wishes be fulfilled while others cannot? There are major shortcomings in this communication. Politics no longer reaches many people, objective and reliable information is often lacking, and disinformation is increasing. Traditional media are used less, especially by younger people, which means political communication must also be present on social media.

Participation and proximity are equally important. Politics must leave town halls and government offices and enter neighbourhoods, museums, libraries and other places of everyday life. Communication must take place on an equal footing. Trust is easier to build when people can meet political representatives personally and speak with them directly.

Formats such as this meeting are therefore valuable. We should experiment with new, youth-friendly forms of participation, be creative and avoid merely repeating approaches that have not worked.

People need to experience that they can be effective. Even at school, redesigning a classroom together can show pupils and teachers that they are able to change their own environment. Politics is not only something that happens in Brussels, Berlin or Stuttgart. It must be present in neighbourhoods and in everyday life. Every member of society can help initiate political processes and improve our shared lives.

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.