



# OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

## Highlights

### Lab for Interparliamentary Dialogue

16 December 2022

The Open European Dialogue is committed to strengthening dialogue between policymakers across Europe by providing a neutral, informal, and accessible space for conversation.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, as an end-of-year conclusion, the OED hosted its first Lab for Interparliamentary Dialogue.

Our call was joined by ten parliamentarians from Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, and Ukraine.

#### THE ACTIVITY IN A NUTSHELL

##### **PLEDGES FOR CHANGE**

Participants took a moment to reflect as a group on the outcomes of the 7th Open European Dialogue in Lisbon. They looked back at their colleagues' pledges about future policy ideas and continued the conversation setting impulses for additional initiatives.

##### **POLICY LAB**

Participants worked together on policy issues of their choice, making concrete suggestions about how to tackle common challenges and learning from best practices from across Europe.

# RETROSPECTIVES FROM THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIALOGUE

## What did we take away from the dialogue in Lisbon?

### The value of dialogue formats



"[...] I found a space where I can test ideas that I have. [...] Here I'm free to discuss ideas and debate ideas I could previously only share with my friends" – Member of the Polish Parliament

"[...] this is one of the only spaces where we can come and truly connect [...]" – Member of the German Parliament



### Insights from Ukrainian MPs

"For a moment I forgot what is going on in Ukraine and it gave me the mental space necessary to go back home and do my job." – Member of the Ukrainian Parliament



"In Ukraine we are fixated on one topic. We think only of the way and of future victory. It was important for me to return to the European discourse and look at the problem of war more broadly. **War is a test, and an opportunity**" – Member of the Ukrainian Parliament

### A long-term outlook: strategic planning and political imagination

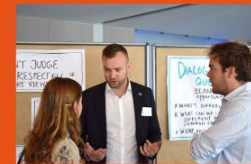
"[...] more thinking about the long-term future, more creativity, more imagination" – Anon



"We need spaces like these to re-ignite political imagination" – Member of the Latvian Parliament

### Practicing radical empathy

"Sometimes we don't have the answers, but we can already do a lot if we learn to simply listen as we are doing during this event" – Member of the Georgian Parliament



"I am taking away the need to combine radical compassion and a positive action plan" – Member of the Latvian Parliament

## PLEDGES



1  
Keep the debate on the Ukrainian war going in EU parliaments



2  
Improve Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation through better dialogue culture



3  
Political Communication for Crisis



4  
Future-Proof & Inspired Policymaking

5  
Cyber-security



6  
Evaluating policy impact



7  
Changing how we measure economic well-being



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAB FOR INTERPARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE

## **Keep the Debate on the Ukrainian War Going in EU Parliaments**

The impact on Europe and the world of the Russia-Ukraine war is already profound. European parliaments can have a central role in keeping up the debate, providing a space to deepen dialogue and help European citizens to understand the complexities of a conflict so close to their countries.

*“The lesson learnt from Ukraine is that **we cannot have double standards** and we have to **stand up for human rights and our values everywhere**”*

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Invest funds for resources and equipment to help Ukrainians get through the winter*
- *Make sure the Ukrainian refugee community has a way to contribute to rebuilding Ukraine and helping with the situation on the ground*
- *Develop our legal thinking and processes to effectively deal with the war crimes involved in this war*

## **Improve Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Through a Better Dialogue Culture**

There is a growing need for a political culture rooted in listening, understanding, and learning across political and ideological divides, and even more so, in times of crisis and difficult decisions. A better dialogue culture is necessary to promote synergies and shared initiatives to tackle common challenges.

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Breakdown general talks about interparliamentary cooperation into relevant conversations about specific issues in a way that makes it more concrete, relevant, actionable, and promoting of a deeper sense of cooperation*
- *Support better listening across political divisions*
- *Create spaces for best practice sharing and discussion in small groups*

## **Political Communication for Crises**

*“In times of crisis, decision-making is about taking a stand and communicating it”*

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Communicate in a way that is honest, clear, to the point, and transmits the urgency of what we are discussing*
- *Create an ethical code for communication, especially for mainstream parties*
- *Find common ground on ethical questions*



## **Future-Proof & Inspired Policymaking**

Across the political spectrum, there is an appetite from both policymakers and citizens to devote more time and space to political imagination and creative solutions to shared challenges.

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Keep pushing for transnational insight-sharing to help better sense-making and tackle future questions*
- *Promote future policy units in parliaments and encourage the results from this work to be shared*
- *Connect like-minded countries outside Europe when it comes to policies in the future*
- *Open direct communications with citizens on a common future vision and actions we are ready to take now*



## **Towards Stronger Cyber-Security Policies and Resilience**

Effective and future-oriented cyber-policies are key to promoting the resilience and security of our societies.

*“Cybersecurity is an ongoing threat and will become a tool in the future for war”*

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Make sure that cyber-policy becomes an integrated element and pillar of our defense system*
- *Promote discussions about cyber-hygiene and cyber-security in the public sphere to educate citizens on best practices and the impacts of their actions online*
- *Design policies that strike a balance between freedom of speech and limiting harmful actions online (e.g., hate speech)*



## **Changing How We Measure Economic Well-Being**

For well-being measures to make a real difference and inform policymaking, they must start bridging the gap between traditional statistical measures and indicators that give a better insight into people's life.

### **>> POLICYMAKERS' INITIATIVES**

- *Create a holistic and universal approach to what makes people happy*
- *Make sure the importance of equality is tackled when answering questions related to well-being and its measuring*

## RESOURCES

### **[Generators of Hope](#) – Sharing is Caring. Helping Ukrainians Get Through the Winter**

The European Parliament has launched a campaign calling on European cities to donate power generators and transformers to help Ukrainians get electricity supplies and get through the cold winter.

### **[The European Political Community \(EPC\)](#) – A New Anchoring to the European Union**

The Jacques Delors Institute offers insight and reflection on the recent proposal to launch a European Political Community establishing a European political space beyond the European Union as a first step, or alternative, to EU membership.

### **Challenges of Tomorrow – [Discovering the Center for Security and Digitization \(CVD\)](#)**

The CVD is a collaboration between the University of Twente, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Police Academy, and several companies. The research aims at solving issues related to digitization and security and studies how knowledge institutions, companies, and government can join forces to tackle these questions.

### **[The Futures Tool](#) – Top Ten Toolkits for Futures**

A curated catalog from Nesta, the UK's innovation agency, listing some of the most useful resources to build futures methods.

### **[The Ministry of Possibilities](#) – The NextGen of Government Operations in the United Arab Emirates**

The Government of the United Arab Emirates launched a Ministry of Possibilities as a next-generation experiment of governmental practices. The ministry intends to tackle impossible challenges through new and innovative methods to improve people's quality of life.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

The Open European Dialogue is a network driven by MPs. We look forward to hearing from

you and helping you as best we can to connect and work with your colleagues from across Europe in these challenging times.

Keep in contact with your colleagues! Please know that you can always find the contact details of all OED members in the [members-only area of the website](#). Should you have issues logging in, you can contact Jo Coenen at [JCoenen@gmfus.org](mailto:JCoenen@gmfus.org)

---

COOPERATIVELY RUN BY THINK TANKS AND FOUNDATIONS ACROSS EUROPE

STIFTUNG  
MERCATOR

King Baudouin  
Foundation  
*Working together for a better society*

Robert Bosch  
Stiftung

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

ia Istituto Affari  
Internazionali

CIDOB  
CENTRE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DIplomacy

ELIAMEP

APR@POS