

# YOUNG IDEAS FOR EUROPE

## Documentation of results

Developed by students of  
Gulbenes novada valsts ģimnāzija  
March, 2010

An initiative of:

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

## General Information

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### Date, location and topic of the week

- Tuesday, March 16, 2010 until Friday, March 19, 2010
- On the premises of Gulbenes novada valsts ģimnāzija, Gulbene
- Country: Latvia
- Topic of the week: New energy for Europe

### Participants

- 19 students from 10th grade of the Gulbenes novada valsts ģimnāzija, gymnasium
- Under the patronage of: Uģis Rotbergs, director of WWF in Latvia
- Supported by: Reinis Āboltiņš (PROVIDUS energy policy analyst) and Jānis Brizga (WWF in Latvia researcher)
- Accompanied by: Sandra Bukovska, teacher
- Facilitation of project week: Dace Akule, PROVIDUS

### Partner school:

- Wilhelm-Maybach-Schule (Heilbronn, Germany)



# Outcome Integration Officers

## Introducing ourselves

The group has not made a group profile, but the most active contributor was Jurgis Volodins who shared impressions from every day on the forum

## What we found out about our partner country

In addition to basic information about Germany (population, territory, flag, anthem), they found out the national dishes of Germany (meet, beer, thuringia, breadrolls, cakes), most famous sportsmen (Schumacher, Bechenbauer, Becker) and musicians (Rammstein, Dj Tiesto, Modern Talking, Tic Tac Toe, Scooter).

## Exchange via the Online-Community

Every day there were impressions from our work in the form of a blog, photo and some presentations (those that were in English).

## Feedback from participants

Nobody disliked the project – they had said it was the best week in school (although they did complain about the long and intensive working days)!



# Day 1: Developing Ideas

## Analysis of trends around "New Energy for Europe":

- Climate Change, Sustainability, Globalisation, Conflicts over resources (posters, mind map)

## Creativity Workshop – Phase 1: Critique

What do we *not* like in Europe concerning the topic energy?

*Too many cars, too much pollution, too little usage of renewable energy, dependency on Russia, CO2 emissions*

What would we like to change?

*More renewable energy, more trash separation, find alternative sources of energy to Russian gas, limit pollution*

## Creativity Workshop – Phase 2: Utopia

- Students develop their first innovative ideas and concepts for the Europe of tomorrow with regards to the specific topic. Students focused on 4 ideas: reducing pollution, alternative energy sources, use of CO2 emissions, and solutions to dependency on Russian gas.

## Communicating results successfully

- Students learn about and apply presentation, facilitation and communication methods and technologies.



## Day 2: Practical Insights

### Feedback from the Expert

Students receive feedback from experts and practitioners on their first ideas as well as tips and recommendations. From a practical point of view, the experts share their knowledge about the topic and answer the students' questions. The topic is put into the European context.

Students learn about the different aspects of the topic:

- Reducing pollution: introducing new technology for factories costs money, businesses need to be motivated
- Alternative energy sources: wind, solar, biomass is not accessible in all countries (wind energy only possible on the coasts of Latvia)
- Use of CO2 emissions: in medicine, cosmetics, soda drinks?
- Solutions to dependency on Russian gas: find other countries of supply, or other sources of energy replacing gas



## Day 3: Reality-Check

### **The dynamics of different interests – Real-life simulation**

- Three political parties develop their manifestos and compete for citizens' votes
- Election campaign advisors support the parties in communicating their messages and call for participation in the elections
- A critical NGO monitors the developments and tries to bring in its objectives
- The press eagerly reports on what is going on
  
- Within the framework of a role play, students experience the power play in today's political life: different interests meet and compete and only the most convincing ones among them will get their message through.

### **The resulting ideas are presented at „Europe 2020“, the European Election campaign event.**

- Students present their ideas, concepts and the critical assessment thereof and have to face the feedback and comments of a demanding audience.



## Day 4: Putting the results to vote

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### **A Parliamentary Debate on the topic of the future**

- Students present their manifestos and themselves before an audience consisting of representatives and staff of the hosting school, the partnering organisation, invited guests and the press.

### **The audience gives feedback ... and votes**

- Discussion of the final results
- Voting for the most convincing party (Yes for Energetic Business)

### **How was it?**

- Students give their feedback on the project week



## Results – Manifesto 1, the winning manifesto

### Yes for Energetic Business

#### Let's live for ourselves!

- To develop economy which is characterized by energy-saving and low CO2 emissions,
- To promote renewable resources,
- To support specially the EU enterprises which pay attention to energy-saving,
- To support schools and universities in order to have professional and appropriate employees in the future,
- To support co-operation between schools and enterprises in the field on energy and climate,
- To promote research in the field of developing energo-effective products,
- To promote production of qualitative products,
- To create balance between imports and exports, which would not be harmful for the businessmen,
- To develop industry, develop technology and create new factories in order to increase a number of working places,
- To create a sustainable economy which would provide an opportunity to develop also for the next generation.



## Results – Manifesto 2

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### **United Workers Union (ASS)**

#### **Unity over everything**

- » Equality,
- » Support for the low-income group,
- » Defend rights of children and families,
- » Support for pensioners,
- » Support for the working class,
- » Support for the protection of environment (support for environmentally friendly state factories; promotion of cars that utilize electricity; recycling of waste batteries, sorting of waste; fines for polluting and increased fines to wealthy polluters; eradicating of illegal fishing and hunting),
- » Energy saving (state created wind farms and support to the usage of solar batteries).



## Results – Manifesto 3

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### Party of Psychedelic Breakfasts (BPB)

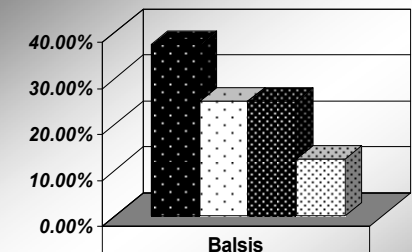
- » To break the existing stereotypes,
- » To promote the desire to change,
- » To prevent the negative climate changes,
- » To develop mankind as personalities,
- » To prevent the development of society as a mass of consumers,
- » To promote interest to grow food in household plots,
- » To promote ecology as a equalizer of economy and politics.



## Results – Election campaign advisors

### Election campaign advisors

- » Analysed the promises of all political parties,
- » Compared promises, weaknesses and strengths of each party, as well as noted the common and similar aspects of all parties
- » Did a short “vote for Europe” campaign, including a powerpoint presentation naming reasons for voting (every vote counts, etc)
- » Presented the results of election poll, predicting that party ASS would win, although advisors thought that the best solutions came from party BPB because they were most persuasive



Balsis	
■ ASS	37.50%
□ PBP	25%
▣ Jā enerģ(ēt)iskam biznesam	25%
▤ Nebalsoja	12.50%

## Results – Input from NGO

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### **NGO working in the interests of European citizens (abbreviation in Latvian EIIO)**

EIIO priority was sustainable development and intra-generational solidarity. From this perspective EIIO evaluated the solutions proposed by the political parties, naming positive and negative aspects of their promises.

Having analysed the offer of all three parties, EIIO advocated in support for party “Yes for Energetic Business”.



# Press article by Gmarny (Gmārnija)



**GMARNY POLITICS FOR YOU** No.1 March 16, 2020

## Tensions before the elections

Text: Gmarny (Mārtiņš, Gundars, Anuša, Arvīds)  
Photo: Gmarny

Already tomorrow the big European Union elections are going to take place. Do you already know whom to vote for? It is not a secret to anyone who is ruling in the EU countries. It is important to find people who could provide better living conditions for the people, to fight the current disorder, pollution and inequality among people. A question arises - what do our statesmen, politicians think, what are their proposals? At the moment there are three main parties. The first one "Yes for Energetic Business", second - "United Workers Union", and third "Party of Psychedelic Breakfasts". As there is a complicated situation in the EU, nobody really knows what will happen; we will try to address in detail the intents and aims of the parties.



Let's get to know the first party "Yes for Energetic Business". Its members: Mārtiņš Indāns, Arvīds Mičulis, Jānis Bošs known as well as Bošins. The slogan of this party is "Let's live for ourselves!" Their aims are to provide well paid jobs to everybody, to develop fabrics which would be safe for the environment. They will provide finances to competitive enterprises that will be beneficial for them, and develop industry in the fields that are necessary for the EU. They promise that already in 10 years there will be remarkable advancements. They also promise to provide a lot of working places. When they will be elected, they will provide remuneration for schools for concrete subjects, because they want to see a new clever generation growing up. *They are not trying to influence anybody, but to provide the necessary means to everybody.* Their energy policy is based on the usage of

the renewable resources. They will support EU enterprises that think about energy resources. They support a change to an environment friendly economy, which is characterized by energy-saving and low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. They will introduce new technologies for factories that limit emissions and divide CO<sub>2</sub>, extracting Carbon Monoxide to be used for producing fuel and plastic. They will create technologies which will be able to convert plants into fuel and plastic. If they will be elected, the environment will be well kept, there will be new technologies, and youth will have better education opportunities. They will get finances from the taxes, not increasing them. The politics will be based on not repeating past mistakes. The factories will get filters which will help to clean the air. The member of the party Arvīds Mičulis said: "The United Workers Union will fail. Party of Psychedelic Breakfasts is buying votes. We will make both parties to refrain from taking part in the elections!" But in reality you should know that Arvīds Mičulis is himself initially the voters (see photo). You should also know that a member of this party Jānis Bošs was initially a member of the Party of Psychedelic Breakfasts, but then left that party! Is this person a serious politician if he does not know what he stands for?



**GMARNY POLITICS FOR YOU** No.1 March 16, 2020

Let's get know the party No.2 „United Workers Union“. Its members: Dagnis Slogis, Jānis Salenieks, Kristaps Kubulīns. Its symbol is a rising sun with a shovel dug inside it. As they claim: "The shovel symbolizes work and the sun symbolizes warmth and unity", and according to them good work is possible only with joint efforts. Their slogan is „Unity over everything“. Their energy policy is based on electricity. For the people who will not have enough finances to equip their cars with electricity, they will provide financial assistance. But the wealthy people, who will decline buying such cars, will be highly taxed. According to the party, their policy is based on support for the poor. Quoting Dagnis Slogis: "The rich are not going to vote for us". After hearing what he said, one can see that for the rich class it will not be gainful to vote for this party. One of the ideas that they promote, is to give work for homeless persons. For the people with low salaries they want to give basic education for free, they will achieve this by cutting the salaries of the rich. An additional idea is to introduce a 75% discount for all the prescribed medicine. As a reason why they are better than the other parties, they mention that in their party they have strong personalities as Jānis Salenieks. When asked what they would do better, *Jānis Salenieks expressed a negative opinion about women and a desire to use them sexually.* Is this a serious candidate? Is this a serious attitude, are these people going to be able to be responsible for other people? This has to be decided by voters. They gave us a lot of ideas such as that in 2 years on March 16 there will be no violence in the streets: "We will promote Rollton (dry soups) in the country." But are these promises not going to be empty? Where is the guarantee that they will act?



The third party - Party of Psychedelic Breakfasts. Their members - Paula Gāgane, Jurgis Volodins. Their symbol is broccoli. Their energy policy is based on electricity. Everything will work with the help of electricity which will be provided for free. The main idea of this party is to change radically the thinking of people. But are we not living in a country with the right to think freely? Is this party not trying to use totalitarian features? The vision that they disclosed for the future was to convert people to developing of natural farms. For this they have developed a five step strategy. But they did not want to disclose this strategy to the press. As a reason they mentioned the unwillingness to disclose this plan to other parties, but what is really behind it - fears that as a result these people will be sitting in the European Parliament deciding many important things. Or maybe they have something to hide from the society? The only thing that we could get from them was they would work on a new tax policy. They will definitely dismantle the tax on property in order for the people to buy and sustain their farms so that they can realize their idea about creating of natural households. Party member Paula Gāgane said: "We will change people in happy idiots!" What could that mean?





## Voices

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### Statements/feedback from

- » Gundars Āboliņš, student: “This event is very useful as it helps to develop the skills to work. Energy and climate change are very topical issues, and everybody has to know about them. Project helped to understand these issues in depth.”
- » Uģis Rotbergs, patron: “Youth is involved in projects like this as they are free of stereotypes, responsibilities towards partners, they can look at the things from outside, think about the common good and motivate others.”
- » Sandra Bukovska, teacher: “The projects gives young people the opportunity to understand the global processes and their role in the life of every student.”
- » Dace Akule, partner organization: “The fact that pupils said this was their best week in school tells me that schools need to think of introducing more interactive methods of teaching because I believe pupils learnt a lot in an interesting fashion.”