

“Europe On The Next Level: Do We Need Deeper Cultural And Political Integration?”

Results of the 7th round of European HomeParliaments
by Pulse of Europe

**Dear participants,
dear members of the European Parliament and National Parliaments,**

not only politics, but also the dimensions of culture, education, and identity play a key role in shaping Europe’s future. Therefore the latest round of the European HomeParliaments provided citizens with an opportunity to discuss and debate three interesting and exciting questions on the cultural and educational dimension of Europe.

From 5th of October (Körber) and 10th of October (Public) to 31st of December 2022 around 460 people from 14 European countries shared their opinions and wishes on three concrete reform proposals under the guiding question “Europe On The Next Level: Do We Need Deeper Cultural And Political Integration?”.

This report provides an overview of the voting results and arguments that were brought into the discussion. With this report and the European HomeParliaments we want to contribute to the European debate culture and democracy.

Your

European HomeParliament Team by Pulse of Europe

Intro to the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments

Since Russia's war on Ukraine, Europe has been experiencing a turning point - both within and outside the EU. In this context, not only politics, but also factors in the field of **culture, education, and identity significantly determine the direction in which Europe will develop in the future**. What kind of events we honor together in Europe during the national holidays, what narratives and historic facts are taught to young people in school and whether one is part of the EU as a political community or not has an influence on the shape of Europe in the future. The 7th round of European HomeParliaments invited citizens to discuss three questions that can bring Europe closer together, both culturally and politically.



For the first time Pulse of Europe and the European Parliaments teamed up with **Körber Stiftung** and their project and network **EUSTORY**. The European HomeParliaments provided a discussion opportunity for the participants of the EUSTORY digital program named: "Let's ConnAct! Bonding

Across Borders". For a period of four weeks, young participants from all over Europe gathered in three different online workshops, one of them being the European HomeParliaments to exchange perspectives on history and identity and to discuss how to cope with difficult pasts, but also with its legacies in the present.

About EUSTORY

EUSTORY by Körber Stiftung promotes a multi-faceted approach to commemoration and cross-border engagement while strengthening a dialogue about fundamental questions of European history.

EUSTORY connects civil society organizations from over 20 countries in Europe and beyond which conduct national history competitions.

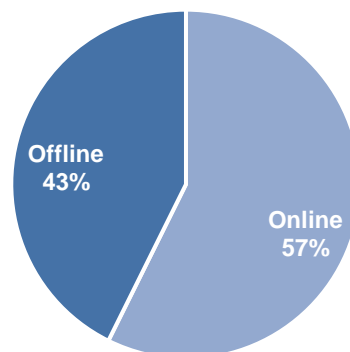
With its activities, EUSTORY promotes a critical approach towards European history while actively involving young Europeans to shape a common commemoration culture.

Learn more here: <https://koerber-stiftung.de/en/projects/eustory/>

Facts and figures on the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments

Overall, **436 citizens** participated in this round of the European HomeParliaments.

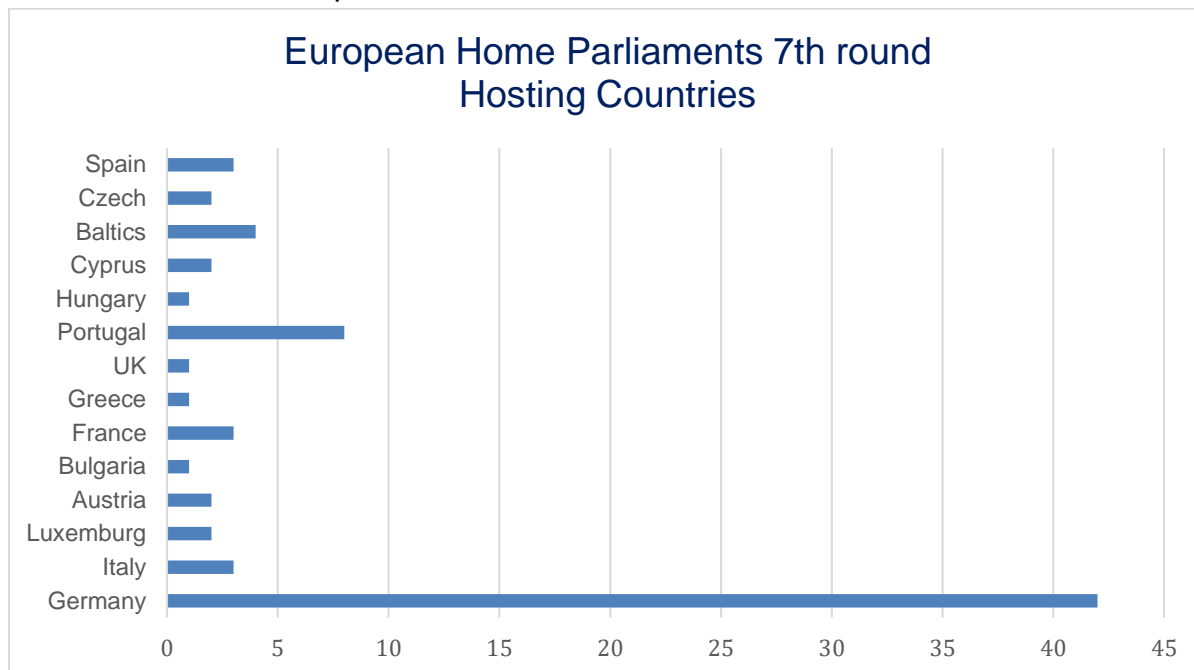
European HomeParliaments 7th round Offline and online ratio



EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS



Participants hosted **75** HomeParliaments, **43** of which took place **offline**, while **32** HomeParliaments took place **online**.



Country	Number of EHP	Country %
Germany	42	56
Italy	3	4
Luxemburg	2	3
Austria	2	3
Bulgaria	1	1
France	3	4
Greece	1	1
UK	1	1
Portugal	8	11
Hungary	1	1
Cyprus	2	3
Baltics	4	5
Czech	2	3
Spain	3	4
	75	100

Citizens from **14 different European countries** participated in this round of the European HomeParliaments. A clear majority (59 percent) of European HomeParliaments was organized in Germany, followed by Portugal (11 percent), the Baltic states (5 percent) and Italy (4 percent), France (4 percent) and Spain (4 percent). On average 5,8 people participated on each parliament (436 / 75).

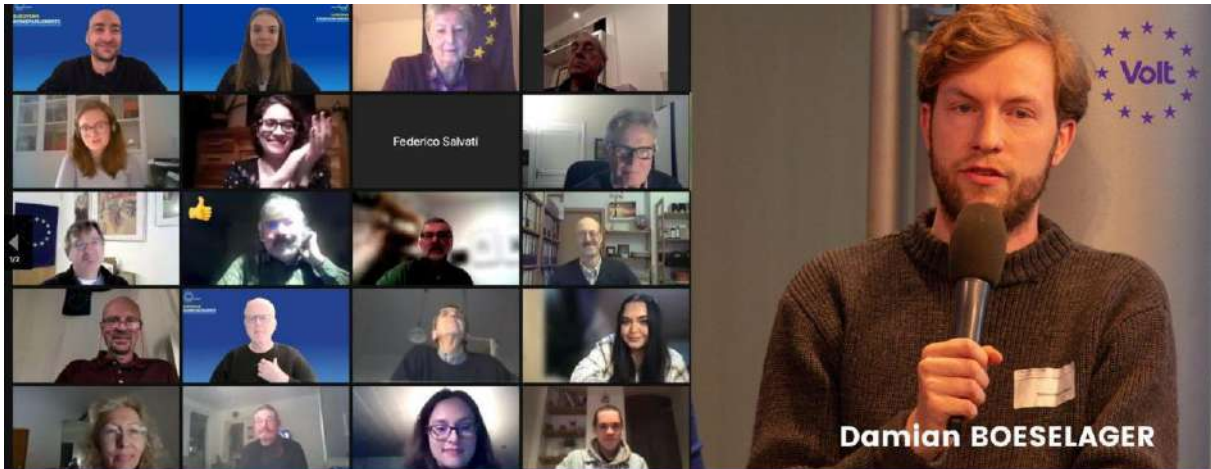
Among these 75 parliaments, six parliaments were hosted and organized by EUSTORY participants from the Körber Stiftung project and network. They organized two European HomeParliaments from Germany, one from Bulgarian, one from Spain, one from France and one from the Czech Republic.

Politicians invited to provide feedback on the results of the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments

For the 7th time, the pro-European citizens' movement **Pulse of Europe** organized this successful dialogue format and offered citizens an opportunity to discuss ideas and share their perspectives on the future of Europe. Each European HomeParliament round is followed by an opportunity for citizens to get in touch with politicians and hear more about their work and ideas or read or listen to the statements of the politicians on the European HomeParliaments results.

In this round a wide range of European politicians like Damian Boeselager from Volt / European Parliament have contributed in discussion with citizens, will receive the results and are invited to bring in their feedback and react on the voting results:

EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS



Digitale Diskussion 28. November 18:00 Uhr

EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS



This HomeParliament is aimed at:



Manfred Weber
EVP



Katarina Barley
S&D



Sergey Lagodinsky
GRÜNE/EFA



Nicola Beer
RE



Othmar Karas
EVP



Hildegard Bentele
EVP



Gabriele Bischoff
S&D



Fabienne Keller
RE



Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield
GRÜNE/EFA



Lukasz Kohut
S&D



Moritz Körner
RE



Hannah Neumann
GRÜNE/EFA



Jan-Christoph Oetjen
RE



Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
GRÜNE/EFA

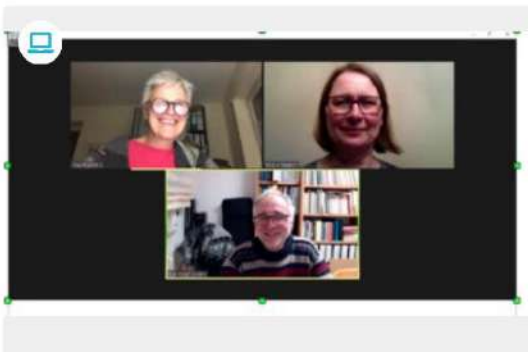
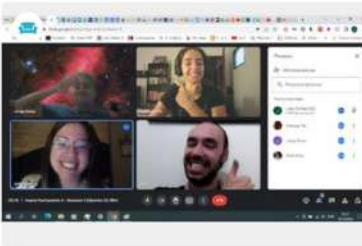


Rasmus Andresen
GRÜNE/EFA

EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS

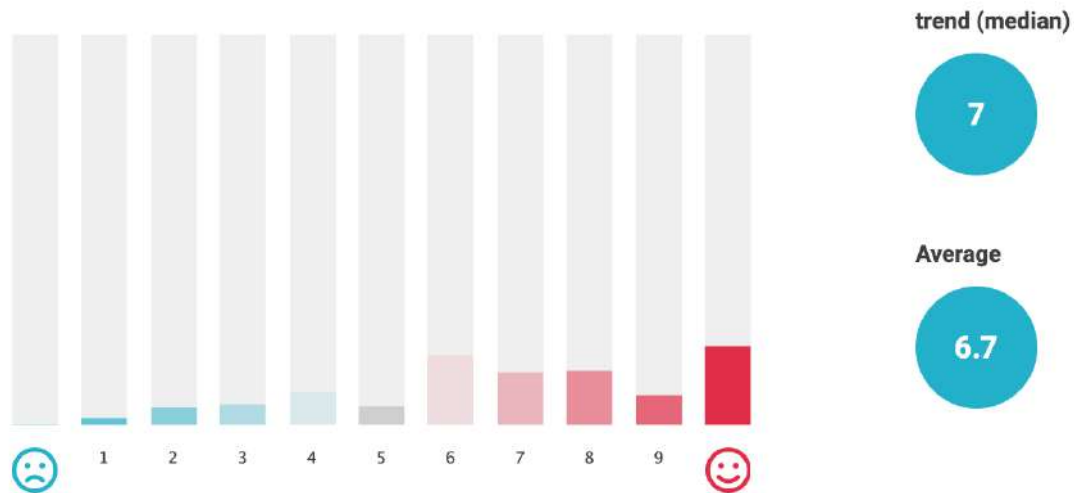


Impressions of the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments



Results of the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments

1. Question – Should there be a joint European Public Holiday to commemorate Europe’s shared history and values?



A clear majority of participants supports the idea of a joint European Public Holiday. On a scale from 0 (no way) to 10 (yes, absolutely), the participants chose an average score of **6.7**. The highest score of 10 was given most often.

According to the participants, the most important pro argument was the **regularity and commitment** a joint public holiday could give, the most voted contra argument was the **difficulty to find an occasion or historic event** that unites all European states. The participants also provided a wide range of further arguments and thoughts:

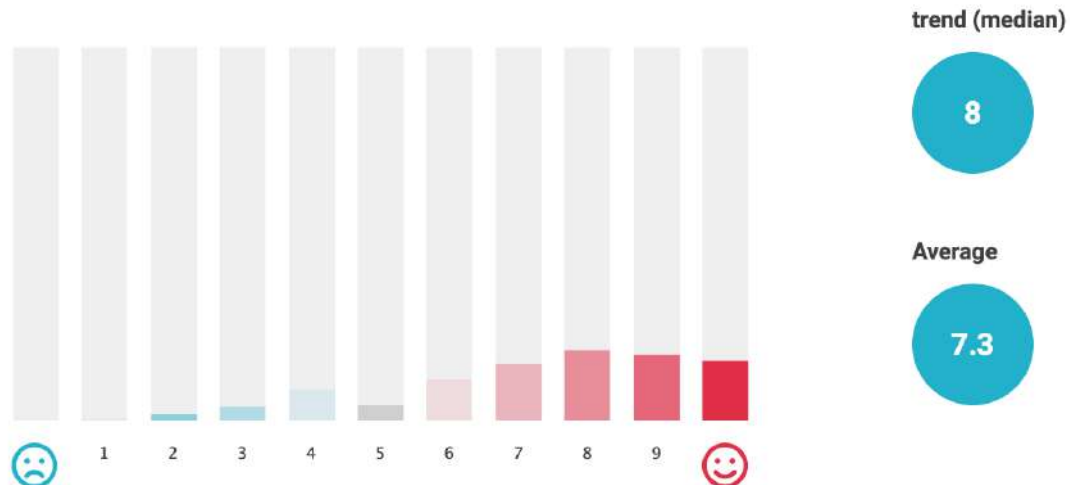
Pro Arguments

- "Public holidays give structure and reliability to the culture of remembrance."
- "An occasion to honor the European peace project would be the day of the end of the war in Ukraine."
- "A holiday in conjunction with a free rail ticket or specifically on European Election Day (every 5 years)."
- "It is good opportunity to reflect on European identity, as it is a reminder to some nations, that Europe is a reality."

Contra Arguments

- "It might be difficult to find a common day and occasion."
- "One day might be useless, some people might not take the time to understand it."
- "Today, public holidays often have no identity-forming effect. Why should it work at the European level?"
- "An additional public holiday causes costs, compensation by cancelling existing public holidays would not be enforceable at the European level."

2. Question: Should history education in Europe's schools provide more common European content and go beyond national narratives?



There is a broad base of support for the idea of more common European content in history teaching in schools across Europe. The average score of **7.3** shows a big majority of participants favoring this proposal with votings 8 and 9 being mentioned most often.

The argument of **national history always being part of European history** and therefore the need of teaching it together, was the most favored pro argument from the participants. The most voted contra argument was the critical point that shared **narratives need to emerge organically and should not be artificially constructed**.

Pro Arguments

"School is a very formative time. More European content would do a lot of good."

"The focus should be less on teaching history and more on (experiencing) the common present."

"History is always written and constructed. That's why it's good to take an active role."

"There is a (European) core history that is the same for everyone, even if individual events are weighted differently nationally."

"Historically, many negative experiences have been made with this kind of deliberate instrumentalization of history"

"It must remain permissible to have different views of European history."

"A stronger emphasis on the European perspective must not promote a new restriction of the world view (Eurocentrism)!"

Contra Arguments

"Education policy is the responsibility of European nation states and should not be influenced or controlled from the European level."

3. Question: Should EU enlargement be accelerated for countries with candidate status?



The most controversially debated question was the one on EU enlargement. On average, the participants chose a value **4.6**, which shows most participants being against an acceleration for countries with candidate status. It is interesting to see how widely spread and diverse the voting results are. While many citizens voted numbers from 0 to 3 and are expressing opposition to the idea, many people are also in favor of it but stay close to the neutral position (5) by voting 6 and 7.

Two pro arguments were mostly mentioned and voted, the one on the **protection of European democracy** by enlarging the EU and the one on **economic opportunities**. On the contra side, the argument on not softening the membership criteria and requirements was mentioned most often.

Pro Arguments

"EU membership opens up new economic and cultural opportunities for new and existing member states alike."

"It can also push the existing states to increase their social policies and increase economical transparency."

"The situation in the Western Balkans shows why it is important to integrate neighboring regions more strongly."

"It would prevent these countries from becoming dependent on others (China, Russia) and thus worsening the EU's future prospects."

"As long as the Union does not manage to abolish the unanimity principle, the Union would become even more incapable of acting."

"There should be a light membership rather than full membership so quickly"

"Candidate status as leverage: The longer a country remains in candidate status, the longer it remains democratic in order not to lose this status."

Contra Arguments

"The threat of Russia should not be our way to accept countries, sacrificing the values and requirements that member states should share."

EUSTORY by Körber Stiftung

For the first time, a round of the European HouseParliament was held in close cooperation with a partner, Körber foundation . The topic and questions for the round were developed and selected in close cooperation with the **EUSTORY team** at Körber Stiftung. The focus on the cultural dimension of Europe was also a new thematic focus for the Pulse of Europe team and has broadened and enriched the horizon of the European HouseParliament project in general.



The participants of EUSTORY project were supported and accompanied in their work by the European HomeParliaments Project Manager Martin Speer. For this purpose, there was also separate discussion area for the European

HomeParliaments on the EUSTROY History campus online platform, where participants could ask questions at any time and share common experiences. On October 5, Martin presented the project at the kick-off event of the EUSTORY project and offered over the course of 4 weeks three workshops for the participants to learn about the European HomeParliaments and share their progress and experiences. On November 3, Pulse of Europe participated in the closing event of the EUSTORY project and participants presented their experiences and results of the European HomeParliaments.

We would like to take this opportunity **to thank the Körber Stiftung team you for the good cooperation.**

Organised by



Workshop 1 organised with



Workshop 2 organised with



Workshop 3 organised with



**Network
meeting in
Prague**

EUROPEAN HOME PARLIAMENTS



From September 23-25, the 7th Pulse of Europe network meeting took place in the Czech Republic. For the first time Pulse of Europe staff and activists were guests in Prague and had three exciting days with inspiring speeches, networking opportunities, creative sessions – and European HomeParliaments. On Sunday, September 25, before the start of the 7th round of the European HomeParliaments, **six parliaments** took place at the location of the network meeting and around 40 participants were part of these great European Live-HomeParliaments.

It was a good opportunity for the Pulse of Europe network members to learn more about the format and experience the European HomeParliaments themselves.



Cooperation with JEF Baltic, Hungary, and Portugal

Also in Round 7, the European HouseParliaments continued its cooperation with the Young European Federalists from the Baltic States, Hungary, and Portugal. The cooperation partners organized and carried out a total of **13 parliaments** for round 7.



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS
ESTONIA



JUVENTUDE
EUROPEIA
FEDERALISTA
PORTUGAL



FIATAL
EURÓPAI
FÖDERALISTÁK