

Press Release

Four proposals towards a more inclusive European Union

(Zurich, 24.04.2019) – The European Union (EU) is currently lacking legitimacy in the eyes of many EU citizens. Timely to the upcoming European elections, the authors of the newest foraus-White Paper present their ideas on how to re-energise the European integration project to EU decision makers. Core of the White Paper are several practicable solutions to reduce the democratic deficit without having to change any treaty and which could be easily implemented.

By combining their experience and different perspectives as European citizens, the authors Darius Farman, Alexander Mäkelä, Federico Cecchetti, Moritz Neubert and Pauline Westerbarkey elaborated proposals concerning the democratic deficit of the EU. They provide us with practicable solutions that would not require any treaty change and allow a straightforward implementation. In addition, Fanny Randanne focused on the subject of EU defence to expand the project of European integration. Adopting once again a pragmatic point of view, the author reflects upon the constitution of a EU defence industry, an almost inevitable prerequisite for an European army.

Darius Farman, *foraus*-author, emphasises: «The EU citizens' awareness of top EU leaders is a crucial point for the development of trust into EU institutions, which is needed for the exercise of a legitimate and efficient political power.» He proposes to improve media coverage of the President of the European Commission on a European and national level to mitigate EU's democratic deficit. Another promising proposal recommends involving stakeholders who are often overlooked in long-term planning and those with greater knowledge of the local challenges for the next 10-year strategy of the EU. Alexander Mäkelä explains: «If communities and small- and medium-sized enterprises are more involved in the creation of the next EU strategy, the EU is poised better at creating and implementing an impactful strategy for the upcoming decade.»

The project «Denkwerkstatt» aims to teach authors from *foraus* and young people from universities in a four-day workshop how to develop ideas for concrete policy recommendations and how to transfer those ideas into a consistent policy brief. In 2017, *foraus* conducted a «Denkwerkstatt» on the topic of Europe.

Please find the publication here: <http://bit.ly/2UCUHaa>

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About *foraus* – Swiss forum on foreign policy

The Swiss think tank on foreign policy generates independent, high quality recommendations for Swiss foreign policy decision makers and the public, thereby bridging the gap between academia and politics. *foraus* is a grassroots organization founded in 2009. Its non-partisan approach aims to promote an open dialogue and informed decision-making on all aspects of Swiss foreign policy.