

Future Workshops for Europe

MEE 2006

Meeting of European Experts

Passau May 2006



Documentation I part I

**Active Citizenship – Involving People
in European Countries**

Imprint



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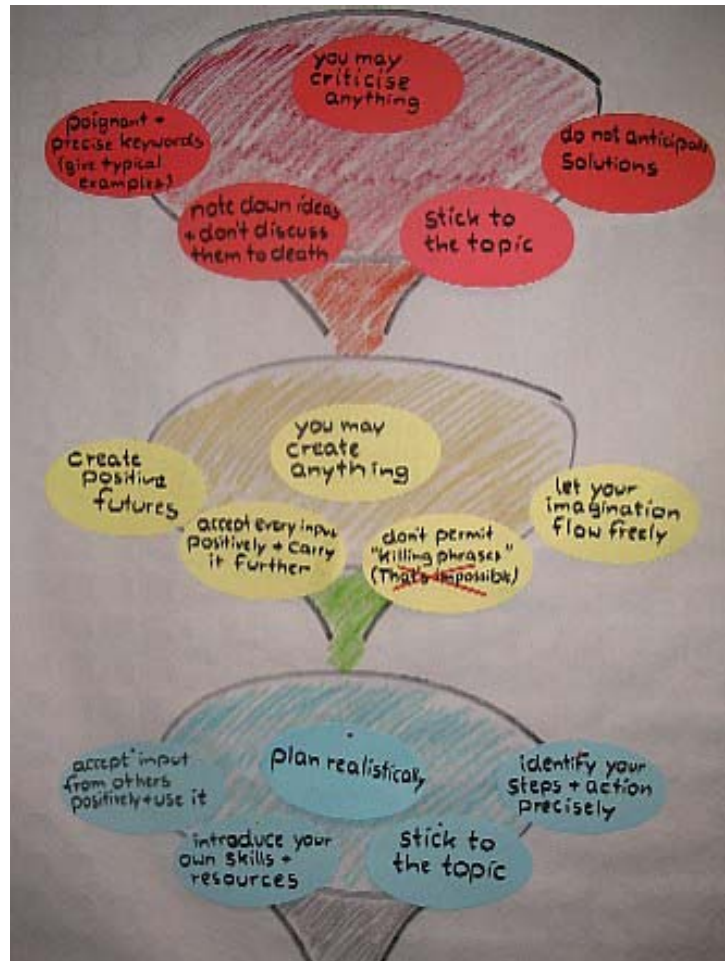


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Future Creating Workshop:

Active Citizenship – Involving People in European Countries

"A Future Workshop does indeed work on the future, but in a metaphorical sense, more verbally, with ideas, than with hands.] The essential point is for people to deal with their yearnings within a group and by freely developing their desires and hopes keyed to the future."

(Robert Jungk & Norbert R. Müllert, 1981,
Translation: Theodore Talbot)

Future Workshops for Europe project is meant to help people learn about Europe and the European integration processes through the Future Creating Workshops methodology. Future Workshops are intended to reach out to disadvantaged groups through multipliers, such as teachers, youth, social workers, and trainers. Moreover, the technique is used when working with educators and other multipliers from rural and local areas in order to train them in the methodology.

The goal is to train self-sufficient teams of trainers who can support each other in implementing the process in their home communities. These teams will use the Future Workshops process with their communities in order to create adult education programs for the purposes of teaching about Europe and European values, and promoting active citizenship.

This international conference introduced to concepts and methods of Future Creating Workshop: Input by professional Future Workshop trainers, discussion on the question of how to use Future Workshops within the context of

- I. Active citizenship – Involving People in European Countries
- II. Worker's Mobility - Towards a European Labour Market
- III. Local Development through Adult Education

and performances of Future Workshops on these 3 topics. This documentation is the result of one of these. Conference language was English, participants from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey and The United Kingdom came to Passau / Bavaria (Germany).

Leader and organisers of the conference: ● Hella Krusche, ● Theresia Nickels (Bavarian Adult Education Association). Introductory Speaker: ● Rainer Kopp (Forum Eltern & Schule). Facilitators / Moderators of Future Workshops: ● Petra Eickhoff, ● Stephan G. Geffers, ● Angelika E. Solle (Team Zukunftswerkstatt Köln). Inviting institution: The Bavarian Adult Education Association (Munich) / Bayerischer Volkshochschulverband (München).

After a short introduction in a typical conference style with a power point presentation, where long desks in rows made it difficult to communicate from one to each other, we changed into the typical future workshop situation: Three rooms for three topics, each with a circle of chairs, 4 tables in the corners and a lot of free space in the middle to meet and communicate in an alternating interplay of plenary work and small working groups phases.

In a period of only four hours 16 participants of workshop I found out about problems and new ideas within the topic - without any preset input to the content. Even more in this short time the participants came to self-determinate arrangements how to pursue three attractive new projects for Active Citizenship and Involving People. Thank you all for working together in such a effective and - at the same time - cheerful process in the Future creating Workshop. Have a look at the following 22 pages documentation of workshop I results.

Future Creating Workshops (Zukunftswerkstatt)

Motivation: Jointly seeking the future / initiate change / strengthen the ability to act

Workshop form: participatory / focusing on results / participants determine the result / results evolve around the topic + are not preset

Participants: content-oriented / affected by + motivated for the topic / personal + technical skills develop in the group

Phases: criticism + complaint / positive turn-around / fantasy + utopia [imagination + metopia] / realisation + practice [implementation + practice]

Moderation: provide structure + framework / methodical progress / relief of participants





Criticism + Complaint:

Problems and critical points with Active Citizenship, difficulties to involve people:

"Future Workshops originated in the 1960s, when it became clear that knowledge of the possibilities of the future meant power. Consequently industry, government, political parties and the military had experts plan out a future as the former saw fit. Tomorrow was carved up in advance by these special interest groups."

(Norbert R. Müllert, Angelika E. Solle, Stephan G. Geffers 1988, Translation: Theodore Talbot)

5 guidelines for the phase of Criticism + complaint:

1. You may criticise anything
2. Poignant + precise keywords
3. Do not anticipate possible solutions
4. Note down ideas, don't discuss them to death
5. Stick to the topic

Where do you see problems or difficulties in active citizenship + involving people? What worries or upsets you?



No committed politicians ♦ People are very individualistic and on their own ♦ People are fed up ♦ Only complaints and no actions ♦ Passive attitude towards the future ♦ No future for young people ♦ No space for participation ♦ Lack of understanding + opportunity + media + ... ♦ No dynamic way of life ♦ Lack of communication between generations ♦ Uninterested People ♦ Lack of belief in authorities ♦ Lack of suitable models – EU parliament ♦ Lack of interest ♦ Disinterest of young people ♦ Revengeful attitudes ♦ Unwilling ♦ Lack of valuing Active Citizenship personal and social ♦ Lack of sense for common interest ♦ Lack of self esteem ♦ The method of participation was only accepted by

the professionals ♦ No interest in each other ♦ No motivation ♦ General apathy in the society ♦ Scepticism when suggesting a solution to people ♦ Lack of information ♦ Words + promises only ♦ Elections are not enough ♦ Politicians do what they want anyway ♦ Too many distractions ♦ Opportunity ♦ Theory too complex to be generally shared ♦ Generation gap in terms of culture + values – Lack of commune initiatives ♦ Sometimes only 'sound' words

Which are the most pressing problems? Which critical points would you like to change most?



Imagine a miracle had happened over night and turned our problems to the positive. How can we describe the new situation positively?

①

- People do not believe that their voices + opinions are important ●
- People do not see themselves as bringers of change ●
- People do not take responsibility over their lives ●
- People are not motivated without assistance from outside ●●

Mature citizens
Courageous open-minded initiative creative people
Highly self-esteemed
Spirit of enterprising (entrepreneurship)

②

- Not real integration ●
- Lack of real integration ●
- Lack of real support for Active Citizenship ●

Local/regional/global financial support for Active Citizenship + political education
Global understanding
No violence against anyone
No poverty
Equal relationship
Equality
Peaceful

③

- Society is too bureaucratic ●
- Political disillusionment ●●●
- Lack to possibility to influence power structures ●●●
- Lack of trusting politicians ●●

New politicians really listening to people involving themselves
Politics represent the interest
Professional commitment
People believe that voices are important
Participative politician system
New education
Gass root education
Economy is oriented to people, it should profit the people

④

- Lack to interest for other people + cultures ●
- Fear ●
- Lack of respect for each other ●
- Egocentrism ●

Paradise
Parties
Trust and care for each other
Progress
Believe in own future
Sense of community



Fantasy + Utopia:

Utopian research and outrageous forecast to Active Citizenship + Involving People:

"Even we have a considerable and hitherto hardly utilised potential in social fantasy. Especially important seems to be overcoming the 'homelessness' of social innovators"

(Robert Jungk 1988,
Translation: Theodore Talbot)

5 guidelines for the phase of Fantasy + Utopia:

1. You may create anything
2. Let your imagination flow freely (play with daring dreams + exceptional wishes)
3. Accept every input positively + carry it further
4. Don't permit 'killing phrases' ("~~That is impossible~~")
5. Create positive futures (accept the utopian challenge)

Which cluster would go with which picture?



Create ideas like children do – How would children describe + interpret these pictures?



Create a suitable name for your Utopian Research group. Formulate a fictitious 3 minute 'weather' forecast on the basis of this 'satellite' picture.

Present the forecast on our Future TV from 4D-7S-1000F-Studio (4 dimensions, 7 senses, 1000 futures)

Which totally new ideas are hidden in the presentation? 3 of the most extreme, innovative + crazy ideas. 1. There are no wrong interpretations, 2. You may go beyond what has been presented

①

Flames melting snow * Mess * Honey on the table cloth * Splash * Autumn * Colour * Wood * Yellow * Flowers * Trees in autumn * Autumn * Rabbit in the snow



The Butterflyish



Totally new ideas:

Butterflies always do co-operate ●

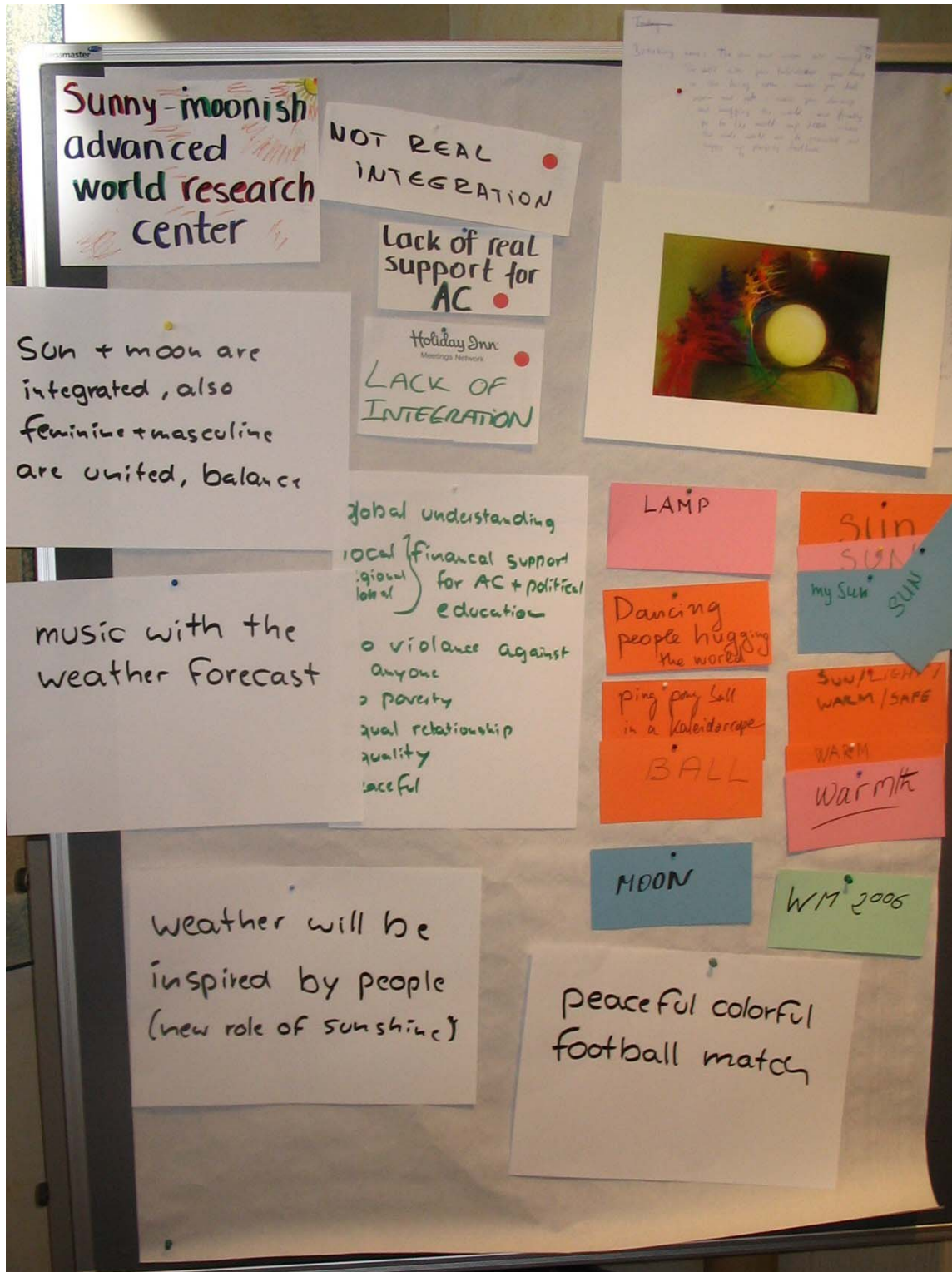
To talk openly about the catastrophe, volcano eruptions + disaster

Everything was butterflyish, keeping going on in spite of everything

Playing the role of butterflies to find solutions to problems ●●●●●●●●●●

②

Dancing people hugging the world * Lamp * Ping pong ball in a kaleidoscope * Ball * Sun
 * Sun * Sun * My sun * Sun / light / warm / safe * Warmth * WM2006 * Moon * Warm



The Sunny-Moonish Advanced World Research Center

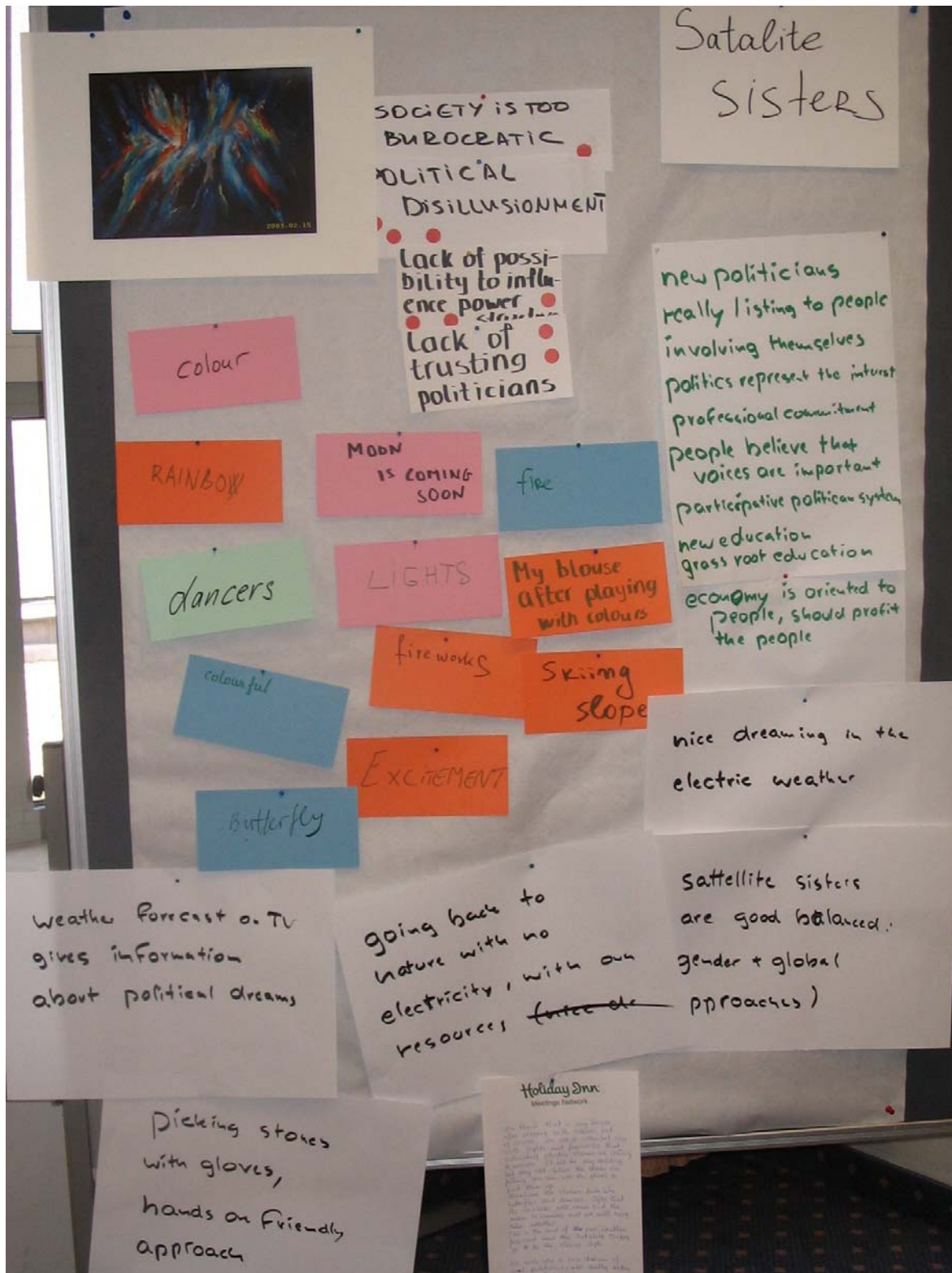


Totally new ideas:

- Sun + moon are integrated, also feminine + masculine are united, in balance
- Peaceful colourful football match
- Weather will be inspired by people (new role of sunshine) ●●●●●
- Music within the weather forecast ●●●●●●●●●●

③

Colour * Colourful * Firework * Rainbow * Dancers * Moon is coming soon * Fire *
My blouse after playing with colours * Skiing slopes * Excitement * Lights * Butterfly



cont. part 2 of documentation