



Democracy Workshop

of the Austrian Parliament

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We Have A Voice!

Democracy - Politics - Parliament

Politics - What is that exactly?

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Politics affects us all in many ways. School, work, taxes, and even a simple drive to the next supermarket – all of these things have to do with politics. It follows you in your dreams as well.

But why are so many young people not interested in politics? Many teenagers think that their voice is not heard by older people, and most of them lost trust in politicians. As a young person, it is always important to you what your surroundings think – speaking your mind freely could also earn you some criticism, which can be difficult to handle. Most of the time, the language used in politics is complicated, with a lot of terminology. Sometimes politicians tiptoe around questions instead of answering them

directly. Those are some reasons for people not trusting as much in politics anymore. But how can we counteract this? We had various ideas: the use of simple language, direct communication, and making voting easier and more accessible. We also think it would help to change the mindset in politics. Politics should be less about power and more about community. There are a lot of ways to be political. The most important one for us would be voting and taking part in elections. Going to demonstrations and being part of clubs is also a possibility to act politically. We also agreed that art is a way to be political. Art was used for propaganda pictures in the past, but it can also be a tool for the oppressed to raise their voices or to find





universal symbols for common problems. Politics influences every part of our lives and helps to shape our decisions. We also had an interview with two members of the Federal Council, Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner. The MPs were talking about getting involved in politics because they wanted to make a difference themselves. They also spoke about making a difference and having to make choices about topics like asylum or vaccination laws, stressing the need to listen to everyone's voice for a better life.

We think that the more people become interested in politics, the more it will change.

It needs a change of mindset and that only works if young people engage in politics.

We are the future and we have the ability to change something.



What does democracy mean to us?

Rui (15), Marwan (17), Werner (17), Jawad (16), Guilherme (16),
Íris (17) and Sebastian (16)



What is democracy?

Democracy is a form of government, voted for by the people, but for us, democracy has a deeper meaning. It is freedom of speech, equality, different ideas, freedom, voting, individuality and so much more. But democracy needs some things to work well. For example: rights, respect, rules, ideas and creativity; politicians who understand the population; no corruption; and no discrimination.

We had the opportunity to interview two politicians: Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner. They are Members of the Federal Council in Austria. We asked them two

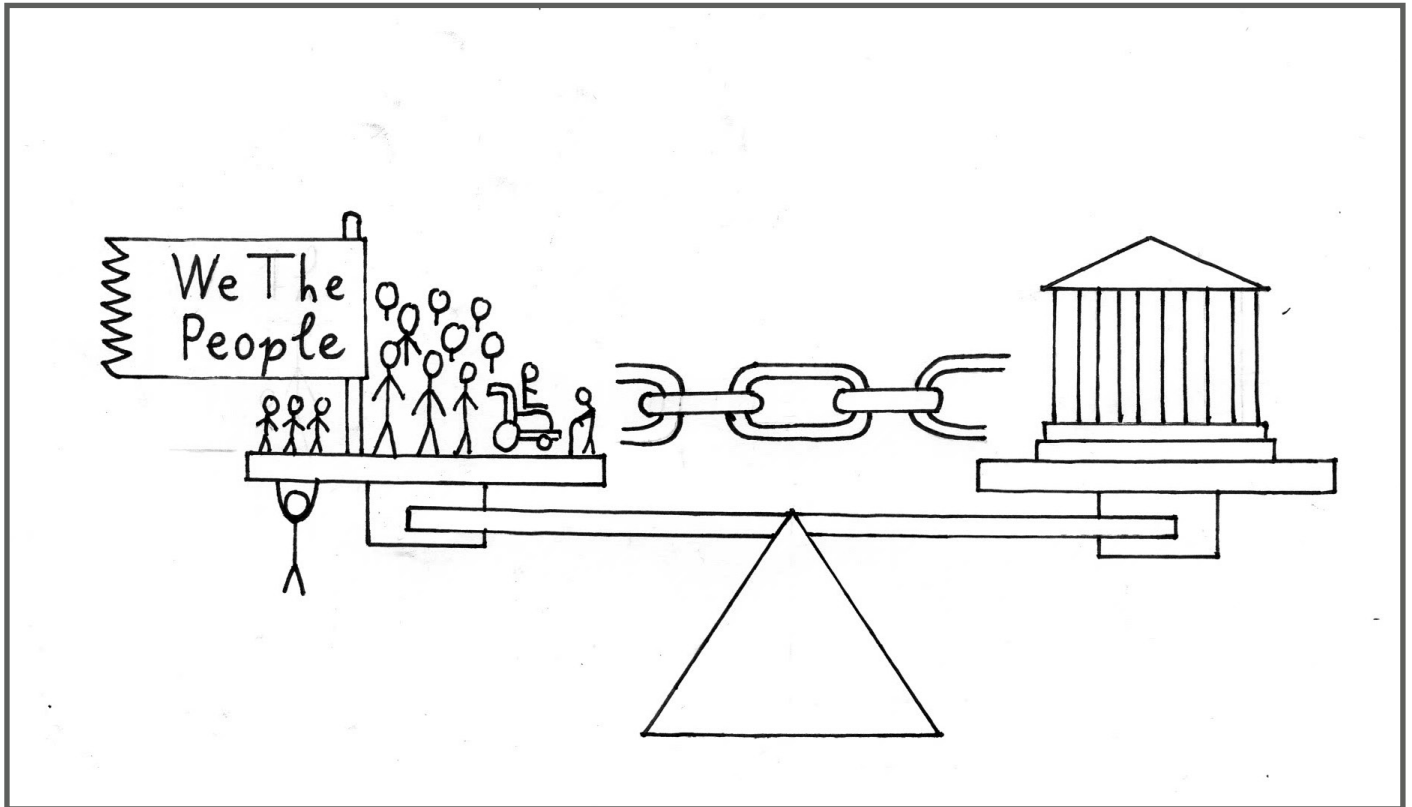
important questions. The first was: "How would you explain democracy?" They said that democracy is about living together and how we make decisions. It is a system of how decisions are made that revolves around people and



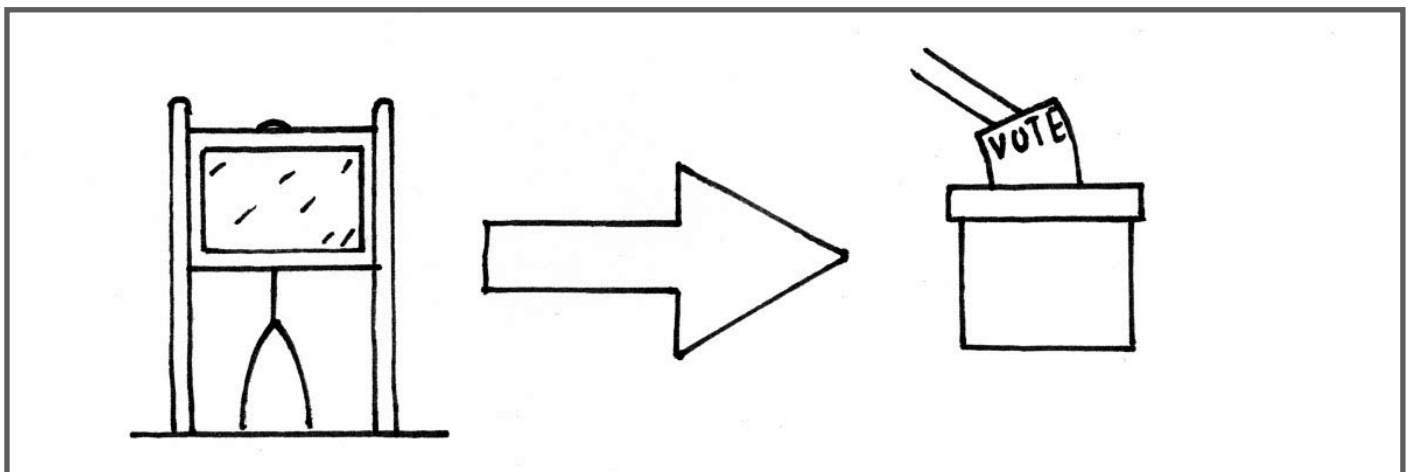
involves almost everyone. The second question we asked was: "How does it feel to work with people who have different opinions?" For both of them, it is sometimes frustrating when they don't have the same opinion. In the beginning, it is hard to accept that not everyone has the

same opinion. People need to accept each other in order to do a good job.

Democracy is developing all over the world. For us, it is the best way to rule a country because it gives everyone freedom and a voice.



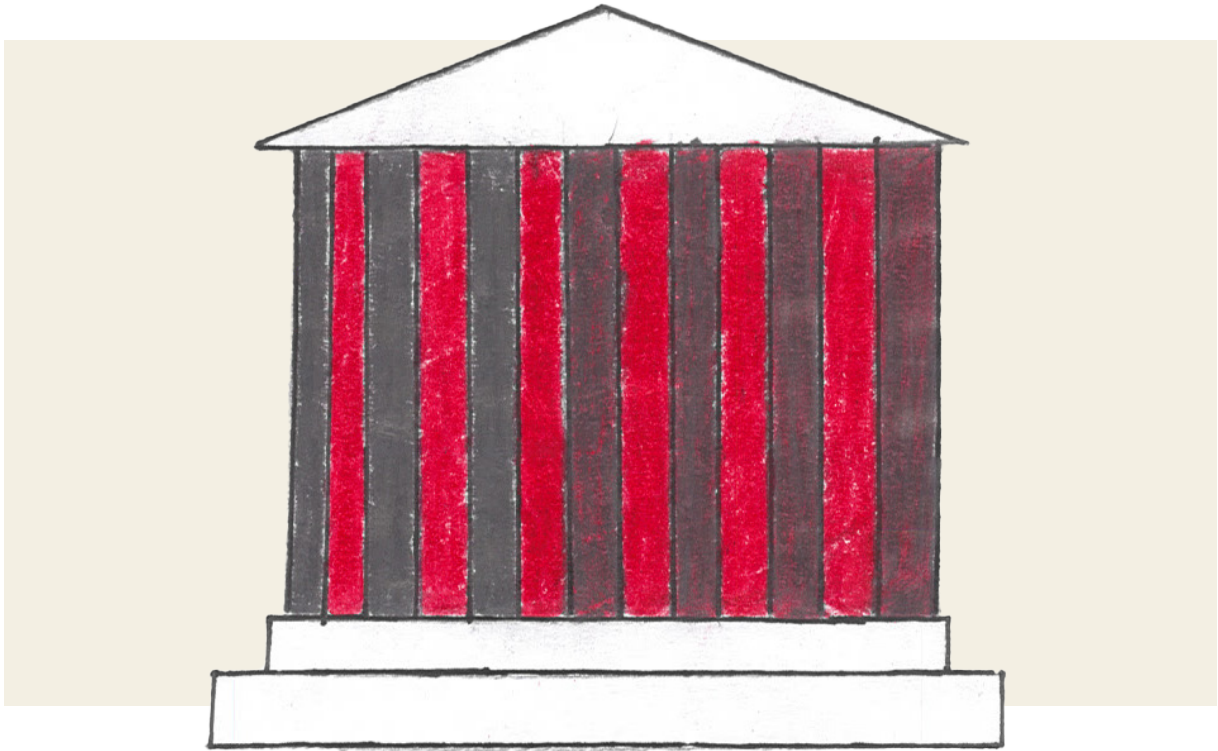
Democracy involves a delicate balance between the people and parliament.



An important right is the right to vote.

The Parliament

Linea (16), Julia (16), Nico (16), David (16), Francisco (18) and Yasmin (17)



In this article you will learn more about parliament and why it is important in a democracy.

Definition of Parliament:

Parliament is a place where people can come together and make political decisions. Parliament embodies the idea of democracy, because every citizen should have the right to participate and the opportunity to express their own opinions. Most political decisions aren't made by the citizens themselves, but by the politicians who represent them.



A photo of us in the Austrian Parliament.

Today we also had the opportunity to interview the politicians Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner. Both are Members of the Austrian Parliament. Here are some impressions:

Point of view of Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner

One important thing for them is that they make laws and rules for everyone / all citizens. According to both Members of the Federal Council, it is a privilege to live in a democracy where there is no dictatorship. In a democracy, many people decide on different issues that they want to implement, also because the people in parliament have differing opinions.

Questions answered by Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner:



What is it like to be a politician?

Simone Jagl: In general it is fun, but it also has its ups and downs. It's not easy when you can't agree about an important topic.

Daniela Gruber-Pruner: It takes a lot of patience and change takes time. You also have to accept that there are different ideas in parliament. It is difficult to find a solution that everyone is happy with.



Do you see yourself as an important part of democracy?

Simone Jagl: Yes, an important part of parliament. "If one piece is missing, the whole puzzle is incomplete."

Daniela Gruber-Pruner: A part of something big, but you can't change anything alone. You're a small part of a big system.

How does it feel to make decisions for a whole country?

Simone Jagl: It's a big struggle and it's rare to find an answer that's good for everyone.

It's a challenge and many factors play a role. It is rare to find an answer that suits everyone.

Both: Mostly we change existing laws and don't make new ones.

It was a very interesting interview! We learned new things about parliament today.





Imprint

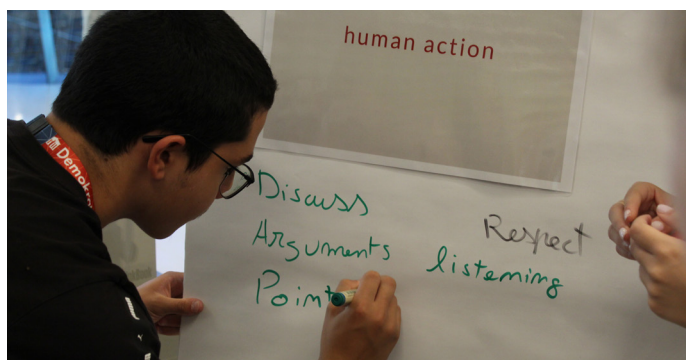
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Workshop Politicians

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