



Democracy Workshop

of the Austrian Parliament

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Democracy is colorful

All voices have impact!

Everyday politics

Valentina (17), Erika (17), Renata (18), Angel (18), Olympia (17), Alex (18), Alexander (18), Emiliano A. (18), Eduardo (18) and Jared (18).



In this article, we will talk about the different aspects that are involved in politics and are affecting our daily lives.

Politics can be defined as „human action that aims to create binding regulations in communities“ (source: Politik-Lexikon für junge Leute). For us, politics is not only for experts. You can find politics in even small things and actions, like in the relationships you have, in managing your money, in education, in the entertainment industry, in the social norms we follow in the community, in sports and other activities, and even in making small decisions in our day-to-day life.



Some ways we can get involved in politics are as simple as voting when there are elections, as well as inviting others to vote. Other actions

are getting involved in organizations like the U.N. or even smaller ones in local areas like debating clubs, groups, etc. Being informed about the current political situations also plays an important role.



The eagle is the heraldic animal of Austria

The first step to get involved is to get informed. So you'll get enough knowledge about the topic of interest through research. Then use that knowledge to elaborate your own point of view, to afterward make actions related to the topic, whether by defending it or solving a problem. Today we had the honor to interview two



members of the Austrian Parliament, a member of the National Council, Ernst Gödl and a member of the Federal Council of Austria,

Elisabeth Kittl. We talked about different topics such as the relationship between Austria and Mexico, their opinion democracy-wise, how did they get into politics, and the difference between developed and sub-developed countries. Firstly, we talked about the Mexico-Austria relationship, and they told us about how these two countries focus on having a good relationship with each other, caused by the previous common events in history they've faced, including the Penacho issue, which is an ongoing debate between the countries. Also, Ernst Gödl told us a pretty fascinating fact about Mexico: Mexico was the only country in Latin America that protested against the seizure of power of the National Socialist Party in the 1930s. Last but not least, he gave a statement that gave us a lot to think about. He said, in other words, that it is not about the location of the country but the system of that one and about the quality of democracy.



A look under the surface of politics

Abril (17), Jessica P. (18), Renata (17), Beatriz (18), Nathalie (17), Miguel G. (17), Jennifer (17), Andrea (17), Jessica G. (18) and Miguel C. (17).

Politicians make different promises to the public in order to achieve a higher place.

Democracy affects our daily life, although sometimes we are not completely aware of it. It is the power of people, their voices and actions regarding politics and social manners.

We have been taught that democracy should be credible, respectful, transparent, strong, and for everyone. Despite it, is democracy truly transparent?

We have all heard promising proposals from different people expecting an amazing result; however, in the end the outcome may be not in line with our expectations. Indeed, democracy is precisely very important so these political or social problems can progress in a way that everybody can be satisfied with.

Sometimes politicians may use promises as a resource to give hope to people, giving them something to expect and rely on.

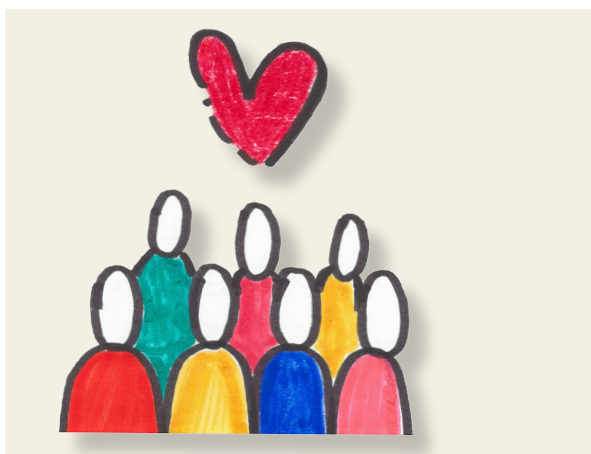
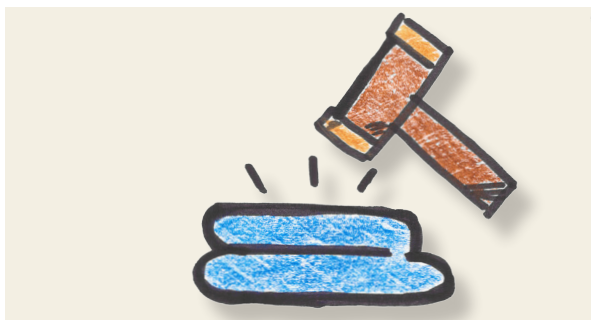
Transparency and honesty are very important

aspects of democracy. Therefore, we wish our politicians would make realistic promises and reachable goals. If we elect politicians, we give them power. We want to know how this power is used, as it is our future. We wish from our representatives to use their power for the people, not for their personal gain.



We got to interview two different politicians that helped us throughout the process of getting to know more about democracy. Mr. Gödl had a really interesting point of view, which stated that democracy is the best system to compensate different interests of society. On the other hand, Mrs. Kittl expressed that democracy is the basis for everyone's freedom, and inside a democracy it is important to share power.. They both agreed that the most important tool for a democratic politician to

succeed is to gain credibility. Some people and parties try to destroy it because it is easier to destroy than to create it. Mr. Gödl is a really strong believer in young people because he thinks they see things from a different point of view, and he encourages young people to contribute by having critical thoughts, expressing them, and taking action in order to improve the world we live in.



What even is a Parliament?

Enrique (17), Angel (18), Emiliano (17), Tristan (17), Emilio (17), Alan (18), Santiago G. (17), Santiago J. (19), Diego (17) and Santiago F. (18)



What is the function of Parliament?

The public needs a place where people can come together and discuss; this has been like this since the beginning of human society, and so Parliament was set up.

Parliament can be defined as a group of people that discuss the issues that may threaten the well-being of a community. Furthermore, it regulates the problems that appear while maintaining the well-being of a functioning society by taking actions that are essential for everyone.

Now, why is Parliament important for all of us? Here, a lot of regulations, laws, and topics are discussed, leading to a better community while making sure that human rights and dignity are respected. It serves as a space where different opinions, ideas, and perspectives can be expressed and discussed, allowing society to come up with decisions that can and will reflect

on society in every aspect.

In order to maintain order and efficiency, most nations, if not all of them, choose to establish a building for Parliament. This is mainly for aesthetic purposes and to send a message to the public to understand where the decisions are being made. But also to gather the members of the council in a designated space for the correct functioning of the discussions.



The public needs a place where people can together and discuss important things.

Ernst Gödl's main interest is to make young people interested in politics.

About: He lived in Mexico from the age of 17 to 18 years old as an exchange student. After coming back to Austria, he decided to make a change in his community. He began by forming a group with nine other people that took matters into their own hands and began helping their community. He began this process without being a member of a political party and subsequently became the youngest mayor in Austria at the age of 23 with the help of the links he had formed. He became a member of Styria's regional parliament in 2013 and in 2017 a member of the Austrian National Council. He became a member of the ÖVP because of his need for a political party, although not only because of that; the values that the party represents are the ones he is aligned with. He bases his values upon family, effort, performance, and security; this led to him being the head of security and migration in his party. He believes that the ÖVP is the political party that most effectively works with all sectors of society, whose objective is to equalize them.

He believes that the Austrian youth has lost interest in politics and he hopes to restore it. He is conscious of the fact that over the last 5 years the image of politicians has been heavily damaged due to the constant movement of the geosphere.

Elisabeth Kittl's main interest is talking to the new generations, understanding their thoughts, and encouraging them to participate more in politics.

About: She comes from a background in which politics were not mentioned or important, something that did not sit right with her. Before she dived into the world of politics, she founded a company in real estate and studied. During her studies and after completing them, she realized she wanted to make a change and realized the world was much more expanded and connected and that people are more united than she thought. Due to her background and ideas, the Green Party, a climate change- and environment-oriented political party, was the one that convinced her, in view of the fact that the issues treated by the party are of utmost importance. She believes that if the environment is well and correctly functioning, the human society follows. She hopes for a more sustainable lifestyle for everyone and firmly stands with the fact that „every step counts.“ Unfortunately, she has realized that over the last 5 years the importance and exposure of the ideas presented by the party are being ignored or placed aside. Moreover, she stands by the idea that „The Greens“ have become the „scapegoat“ of the Austrian political environment, facing bigger backlash and even social repercussions without fair reason. She believes in the Austrian and foreign youngsters and in their capabilities for a better future for all.



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