
Allianz Summer Academy 2015

Small Solutions for Great Challenges: Some Policy Recommendations

A1 To create an independent media centre funded by the EU that will serve as a pan-European cultural forum, guaranteeing the expression of national and minority cultures, including television, radio podcasts and broadcasting of historical documentaries, European films and travel videos, cross-country political debates, as well as annual events in different languages and with different subtitles.

A2 To adopt an original platform within the Digital Agenda as a part of the Europe 2020 initiative, this is, a new online search engine providing information about volunteering and civil engagement in the EU, as well as information regarding EU organizations, work and values.

A3 To enhance the visibility of EU achievements (e.g. projects like the European Capital of Culture and Europe Day) through offline communication and more funding, that encourages more participation of local actors (NGOs, artists, etc.) in these initiatives and bolsters the visibility of local projects founded with EU resources (eg. infrastructures, events, entrepreneurial opportunities that generate employment).

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B1 To create an EU-wide high school course on European integration, taught in all high schools throughout EU member states in the same way, which would include study materials offered by the EU and an opportunity for an excursion/internship in EU-related institutions.

B2 To create a mandatory cultural exchange at a secondary school level, based on a European network of educational institutions, with the goal of immersing young people into another culture, funded by a multi-tiered scholarship program, with costs being kept down by assigning host families to students and other similar measures.

B3 To create a civic service program designed to foster solidarity within and between EU member states as a component of the Youth Guarantee scheme that targets young people under the age of 25, is co-funded by the European Union and member states and includes assisting vulnerable populations, including the elderly or the economically disenfranchised, as well as cultural programs for children and young people.

B4 To introduce European literacy as a key objective for the European Social Fund, that enables funding for civic and political education initiatives which allow citizens to critically engage with „populist and Eurosceptic“ arguments.

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C1 To invest in fostering EU-wide civil society, by improving the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), granting legislative initiation power to the European Parliament and legally securing direct election of the

President of the European Commission, as well as encouraging transnational media cooperation, for instance, through the exchange of media contents between Member States.

C2 To establish a platform for EU voting online, informing EU citizens on the diversity and alternatives of candidate campaigns and amend the current Digital Signatures Directive into a legally binding regulation that facilitates online voting.

C3 To encourage harmonization of national voting procedures with regard to European issues, and to more generally encourage civic participation through measures such as better pre-voting and absentee ballot procedures, weekend or national holiday voting.

C4 To encourage major national parties and European actors to confront the incoherence and contradictions within the programmes of the „populist Eurosceptic“ parties, rather than ignoring or excluding dialogue, that would demystify and deconstruct the Eurosceptic argument, in order to inform the citizens of the balance of costs and benefits associated with the EU.

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D1 To introduce an EU tax (e.g. on financial transactions), which is collected at the national level but conferred and managed at the EU level and contributes to building up a fiscal capacity for the EU. This additional income could be used for creating EU-wide unemployment benefits and, in the long term, enhancing social standards. The responsibility for the allocation and management of the funds would be given to a separate committee of the European Parliament, whose chairman would be a visible leader accountable to the EU electorate.

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E1 To mitigate regional neighbor conflicts by accelerating the creation of a common EU Military Rapid Reaction Force and developing an EU-wide intelligence sharing organization to combat and prevent terrorism while fostering a common basis for coordinated reactions to security threats.

E2 To coordinate consultative services and improving asylum-seeking procedures by allowing refugees to seek asylum in their countries of origin and other countries, and facilitating the equal distribution of asylum seekers and refugees via a cap and trade system between Member States.

E3 To enhance regional stability through cultural diplomacy, as well as extending access to the Erasmus+ programs to third country nationals, particularly those in unstable neighboring countries; expanding the Radio Free Europe Model and promoting arts exchange programs and the funding of local arts projects in neighborhood regions.