Pressemitteilung Cluster B

Cluster B of the conference in Vilnius 2020 – For a few or all? How can we ensure active participation in a digital society?

The cluster started on Friday with a short introduction to the topic from the moderator Kristjan Tedremaa and the rapporteur Lara Löser. On Saturday, they were followed by an informative and comprehensive lecture by the two panelists Anja Türkan and Malte Engelmann. The two in politics active speakers gave an overview of filter-bubbles and their impact on our society, especially on radicalization. These are topics we get in contact with almost every day in the digital sphere, whether consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, there was a lot to be discussed in the later on Q&A-section. Tackled topics, for example, were the role of YouTuber-Influencers, the tyranny of the majority in forums, and fake news. In the end, we had around eight topics from which we chose five to be discussed further for our policy paper. The questions and problems that were chosen: Who should have control over the platforms so that the well-being of the users is going to be assured, how to face undemocratic influences in a digital environment, the red line – where do digital freedom end and responsibility begin, how to limit the spread of fake news and how to identify minorities in the digital sphere?

Quickly we began to understand that the digital sphere is something overly dynamic and recent. Therefore, the search for clear answers or solutions turned out to be tremendously difficult. Nevertheless, we still managed to come up with intriguing and creative approaches that were even for the panelist's new points of view, like the idea to consider bubbles for a change as something positive and protection offering for minorities. A bit longer was the question of responsibility on digital platforms discussed: Who is to blame? As turned out, a lot is the individual´s responsibility. That is also the reason why one of our main solutional approaches is connected to a better educational system. For example, with good education about technologies as well as the dangers and risks of social media, the vulnerability to fake news is minimized.

Another approach that kept repeating itself throughout our discussion is the need for unity in the European Union. The downsides of the digital process will only be efficiently tackled if there is a single European response to them.

If you would like to gain further information about our ideas and solutions, then read up on everything accomplished in the policy paper of cluster B.