

## **Youth demand better conditions for social and political engagement**

Too often, political decision making seems to be too far away from young people's reality. More transparent and accessible forms of citizen participation would be desirable. Europe as well as nation states should provide easier access to decision-making processes especially for young people.

The discussion at the conference's cluster about the question "united or divided – is there a way between individualism and collectivism?" led to the conclusion that only strong individuals can build strong communities. Therefore, the participants of the conference call for more European-wide political education, focusing on possibilities to participate in political and social decision-making processes.

Apart from that, the participants of the conference found that investments in the digital infrastructure should be one of the most important tasks for Europe. The Corona pandemic showed clearly how important this is and how many countries are not able to provide it to the large parts of young people, including schools and the questions of home schooling.

The formation of a community, including young and old, is particularly important in order to develop common strengths. Our panelist Jürgen Steiner from *Schott AG* told us, based on the example of the Carl Zeiss foundation, how successful this kind of unity can be.

How open sources by using digital channels such as Instagram, Google or Facebook can widely spread information among the younger generation, was recommended by our second panelist Susan Ranchber from *right.based on science* with her presentation about the XDC model that can be used to measure the climate impact of a company.

There are many issues Europe has to face especially in context with the separation and unity within our community with strong focus on the future that includes the younger generation. The conference of the German-Baltic youth forum has opened up those issues and calls for actions.