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A pessimistic population – a survey on climate change, its consequences, and initiatives/movements in Austria

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Abstract (English)

Anthropogenic climate change is already part of daily life and has therefore also become the center of political debates. It is important that citizens are involved in climate mitigation processes and so, participatory opportunities have evolved. The participation of the population regarding climate change increased. Participatory initiatives such as World Wide Views on Global Warming and the Assembly for Climate Change Actions Austria used information, opportunities for negotiation and space to exchange points of view to include society in political processes. This master's thesis conducted a survey on the knowledge and concern regarding climate change, its consequences, and the perception of participation's impact on political actions. Therefore, 400 people in Austria filled out a questionnaire, online and in person. It was shown that both the level of concern and the knowledge of climate change and its consequences were high and equally distributed across all age groups. The comments on Austrian politics in the survey bear witness to a high level of frustration and therefore a rather pessimistic attitude among Austrian citizens. The probable explanations for these outcomes may be the negative impact of climate change on the population, media reports, the absence of political action, and the absence of including citizen opinions. This outcome can provide yet another reference point for policymakers to include the opinions of citizens in future actions.

Keywords: Climate Change, World Wide Views on Global Warming, Assembly for Climate Change Actions Austria, Participation

Abstract (Deutsch)

Partizipative Verfahren bieten der Bevölkerung die Möglichkeit an Klimaschutzmaßnahmen und Ideen zu deren Umsetzung teilzunehmen. Initiativen, wie World Wide Views on Global Warming und der Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger, wurden zur Beteiligung organisiert und abgehalten. Diese boten Informationen, Aushandlungsmöglichkeiten und einen Raum zum Austausch von Standpunkten rund um die Thematik Klimawandel. Weiters war es den Beteiligten möglich, ihre Empfehlungen Entscheidungsträger:innen zu übermitteln. Im Zuge dieser Masterarbeit wurde eine Umfrage zum aktuellen Wissensstand und zur Besorgnis der Personen in Bezug auf den Klimawandel, seine Konsequenzen und die derzeitige Politik durchgeführt. 400 Personen in Österreich füllten den Fragebogen, online als auch in Person, aus. Der Fisher Exakt Test zeigte, dass die Besorgnis und das subjektive Eigenwissen zum Thema Klimawandel, in allen befragten Altersgruppen, gleichermaßen hoch ausgeprägt ist. Im Zuge des Fragebogens bestand die Möglichkeit anzugeben, was, laut der Meinung der Befragten, einen Einfluss auf die Politik hat. Die Analyse der Ergebnisse zeigte, dass hohe Frustration und ein einhergehender Pessimismus gegenüber politischem Handeln in Bezug auf Klimaschutzmaßnahmen in der befragten österreichischen Bevölkerung vorliegen. Auch die Präsenz von Medienberichten zu der Thematik und ein Verabsäumen der österreichischen Politik Klimaschutzmaßnahmen umzusetzen, frustriert die Bevölkerung. Die durchgeführte Umfrage stellt eine Möglichkeit für die Entscheidungsträger:innen dar, sich über Meinungen der befragten Bürger:innen zu informieren.

Schlagwörter: Klimawandel, World Wide Views on Global Warming, Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger, Partizipation

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Introduction

Climate change is known to be not only a current issue and a serious threat to the world, but it also presents new challenges for civil society and politicians. Civil society is defined as an ensemble of non-governmental parties that are in contact with the government to secure their demands (Keane, 2009). Nature has already seen damage, and this influences many individuals (Lee et al., 2023). Citizens are facing food insecurity, reduced water security and irreversible losses in terrestrial, freshwater, cryospheric, and coastal and open ocean ecosystems (Lee et al., 2023). Worldwide climate-resilient development action is urgent and governmental actions and civil society need to shift towards sustainability (Lee et al., 2023). To integrate society into climate-related processes, participatory initiatives were implemented. In 2009 the participatory climate initiative World Wide Views on Global Warming (WWViews) acted as the world's first citizens' conference, and thirteen years later Austria held its first national climate council (Bechtold et al., 2010; Klimarat, 2022). Participatory movements such as Fridays for Future and The Last Generation have been formed by civil society. Such movements are critical for media coverage to represent the opinions and values of citizens and are thus available for decision-making processes and to exert pressure on politics (Rucht, 1994). Since the UN Conference in 1992, the implementation of citizens' participation and engagement in the decision-making processes concerning climate change has been an explicit goal and is constantly increasing (Hügel & Davis, 2020). Furthermore, the UN Conference in 1992 highlights the importance of providing citizens with understandable information about the topic climate change and climate mitigation (Hügel & Davis, 2020). Reynolds et al. published in 2010 a comparison study of laypeople in the US that showed problematic misconceptions but determined that people in 2009 had better knowledge and understanding regarding climate change causes and processes than in 1992. WWViews (2009) reported that 91% of the worldwide participants in the panel emphasized the importance of climate protection measures (Bechtold et al., 2010). Gudowsky (2010) stated that 72% of the people questioned in Austria did not feel integrated in political decision-making. Citizens do suffer from climate change. So, the Special Eurobarometer 538 (2023) survey with the topic of "climate change" found a positive relationship between temperature growth, water deficiency, ecosystem vitality and climate change risk perception. Echavarren et al. (2019) showed that people with better

ecosystem quality in their country were more concerned than citizens in countries with poorer ecosystem vitality regarding climate change risks. Hickman et al. (2021) surveyed 10,000 children and young adults from the age of 16 to 25 in 10 different countries, of whom 84% were moderately and very worried about climate change (Hickman et al., 2021). The European Parliament published a report (Special Eurobarometer 513 Report) in 2021 using Eurobarometer – a public opinion survey tool – and concluded that 93% of European citizens were concerned about the topic of climate change and 75% thought that their government does not do enough for climate protection. One potential influence on people is the so-called neighborhood effect, which affects decision-making regarding climate adaptation at a household level (Osberghaus & Hünnewaldt, 2023). The neighborhood effect is defined by various conditions which influence the well-being of individuals or multiple group members (Michalos, 2014). Reports, media, and social media communicate information but also stimulate the expression and formation of opinions (Häussler, 2006). Media reporting is a crucial parameter for participative projects and initiatives. The opinions and values of the population can be shown and therefore be considered by politicians (Rucht, 1994). Recent years have seen numerous surveys on climate change. A survey was conducted as part of this work on climate change, its consequences and in particular on initiatives/movements to examine the current status of knowledge and concern in the Austrian population to contribute to future decision-making processes.

1.1. Climate change

Since the 19th century, global warming is defined as the global rise in sea surface and surface air temperatures measured over 30 years. Generally speaking, the temperature rise, on average, from 1850 to 2020 was around 1.07 degrees Celsius, although it has to be mentioned that almost half of the world regions recorded a temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (Masson-Delmotte & IPCC, 2021). Global warming is human caused, which is why it is also referred to as anthropogenic climate change. In order to slow down the temperature rise worldwide, it is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Masson-Delmotte & IPCC, 2021). Science has proven that the current political goals are not sufficient to tackle the climate crisis (Pörtner et al., 2022). Since climate change increasingly triggers extreme situations, the media covers anthropogenic climate change and its consequences (Kleber & Richter-Krautz, 2022). Extreme weather events and changing living

conditions result in significant health and economic consequences for the population (Ebi et al., 2021). Climate change, its consequences and political debates are present in mass media (Häussler, 2006) and the intersection of participation, engagement and climate change adaptation has also increased due to the increased frequency of scientific publications (Hügel & Davies, 2020).

1.2. Participative environmental policy

For over a decade, international politics have made hardly any progress in implementing environmental regulations which is for example a failure of the realization of the Green Climate Fund (Feist & Geden, 2023). A lack of sufficiently effective possibilities for the public to participate can be seen, too (Knes, 2019). Participative politics is an essential part of the participative theory of democracy since citizens are included in political decision-making processes (Fischer-Bollin, 2021; Hoecker, 2006; Kersting, 2008). The participative part can be realized either directly in the form of proposed solutions and discussions or indirectly through the election of decision-makers (Bechtold et al., 2013). Direct participation in democratic systems includes procedures that aim at broadening the information and decision-making basis for politics and potentially influencing the behaviour of the government by providing them with citizens' attitudes, values, and opinions (Lenz & Ruchlak, 2001). In Austria, direct democratic instruments are a referendum, a popular consultation and a petition for a referendum (Rosenberger & Stadlmair, 2014).

1.3. Initiatives and movements

Movements for climate mitigation like Fridays for Future, peaceful demonstrations, were created by citizens, namely by Greta Thunberg (Austria., n.d.; UN-Vollversammlung, 1948). Another movement – The Last Generation – has become increasingly loud in recent months, although this organization has gained attention by breaking the law (Kiesewetter, 2022).

Climate mitigation is not only a subject for politics but also for society. Two citizen participation projects are described for Austria, which each were in timely closeness to major international climate summits (in brackets):

- WWViews on Global Warming, an international citizens' consultation project to involve citizens in political decision-making processes (COP15, the Conference of the Parties in 2009, which led to the initiative WWViews and a master's thesis including a repeated WWViews survey written by Niklas Gudowsky in 2010).
- Assembly for Climate Action Austria ("Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger"), a citizens' participation initiative launched by Austrian politicians through a referendum (COP27, the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations in 2022).

The initiatives, which this work refers to, are:

- The survey to which this work relates, is described by Gudowsky (2010) and further referred to as Street Survey 2009. It compared whether citizens who were informed in a standardized way through the WWViews process have a different opinion on climate change than those who did not participate in this process.

In the following paragraphs, the initiatives WWViews on Global Warming and the Assembly for Climate Action Austria are briefly introduced.

1.3.1. World Wide Views on Global Warming (WWViews, <https://wwviews.org>)

Ahead of COP15 in 2009, the WWViews project was created to allow laypeople to discuss and evaluate the core questions that would be part of COP15 and hence advise decision-makers (Bechtold et al., 2010). COP15 was the reason for the international debate of citizens (WWViews) that took place beforehand and produced recommendations for the participating politicians at this conference to express the wishes and needs of the public (Bechtold et al., 2010). WWViews was the first global citizen survey on global warming, and the discussions were held with the help of moderators in small groups. Around 4400 participants from 38 different countries on six continents joined the one-day event. The goal was to give citizens a voice and offer politicians an insight into the opinions of concerned citizens from all over the world and highlight the urgency of the need for action in relation to climate change (Bechtold et al., 2010). Accordingly, WWViews was an initiative to reduce

the gap between decision-makers or politicians and citizens. For the first time, worldwide participation in climate-related political decisions and discussions was accessible to the public. The elaborated recommendations created by the citizens were available for politicians to consider for future goals and political decisions (Bechtold et al., 2010). WWViews and COP15 led to a comparative survey as part of a master's thesis in Austria by Niklas Gudowsky (2010).

1.3.2. Assembly for Climate Action Austria ("Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger")

The "Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger" is an Assembly for Climate Action in Austria, and it was a national reaction according to a referendum conducted in 2018. The initiative collected around 380000 supporting signatures between 2018 and 2020 and therefore reached the mark of 100000 signatures that are necessary in Austria to qualify for a parliamentary debate to become part of the next national council meeting. In March 2021, the Austrian parliament reacted and passed the Assembly for Climate Action to the Ministry of Climate Mitigation, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology ("Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie"). At the assembly, around 100 citizens debated and developed 93 clear cut recommendations to make Austria climate neutral by 2040. In 2022, these recommendations were handed to the climate cabinet and the Austrian government. The report showed how these recommendations are manageable, sustainable, and socially fair (Klimarat, 2022).

1.4. Research objective

The survey is based on the first international citizen survey – the WWViews project – back in 2009, simultaneously the Conference of the Parties (COP15) took place. Back then the results of the WWViews process provided an insight into the level of knowledge and concern of the questioned people and offered an input for future improvements in knowledge dissemination. To compare these results, the current state of concern and knowledge throughout the population and the correlation among different age groups have been investigated by conducting a similar survey in Austria in 2023. Furthermore, within this survey citizens' perspectives on the impact of participatory initiatives on national politics are examined more closely.

All questions asked in the survey in 2023 are descriptively in the results part presented. On the basis of the participatory initiatives described, the following research questions were formulated:

1. Many young people are involved in public movements (Fridays for Future, a political pressure movement calling on decision-makers at all levels to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement and The Last Generation, a non-violent resistance movement). Are older or younger cohorts more concerned about climate change?
2. Over the past decade, a lot of information on climate-related facts has become available (online). Does the abundance of content from different sources result in different knowledge levels among different age groups? Has the knowledge level in general changed over the past decade?
3. The survey done as part of this work gave citizens the possibility to express what they think influences politics. Science proves that climate protection measurements are necessary, but politics fail to fulfil demands, recommendations, and implementations. How are missing political actions perceived by the questioned persons?

Material and Methods

2.1. 2023 Questionnaire

In 2009, Niklas Gudowsky replicated the questionnaire developed and used in WWViews in the first round, in person in the streets of Vienna (Westbahnhof and Praterstern). The layout of this survey was the foundation for the one in this work, conducted in 2023. Gudowsky (2010) divided the questionnaire into six categories: “Climate change”, “Climate change and its consequences”, “A global climate agreement: Long-term goal and urgency”, “Dealing with greenhouse gas emissions”, “Economic aspects of technologies and adaptation measures” and “Your recommendation”. In 2023 the questionnaire was divided into four categories: “Climate change, prior information, and the consequences of climate change”, “Long-term objective and urgency”, “Economic aspects of technologies and adaptation measures – own recommendation”, “Projects, movements, and media” (survey can be found in the appendix). Starting the questionnaire, participating citizens provided details regarding their age group, sex, form of employment, number of inhabitants at their place of residence and their highest level of education completed. The questionnaire in 2023 was filled by two user groups in German. One online (1) and one in person (2). Respectively it was available in electronic form (MSWord) and as printed copies to be filled within the “in-person” survey either by hand or on tablets. The online survey was realized with the program SoSci-Survey® (version 3.4.09) from the University of Vienna. An open text field, which could be answered voluntarily, on what the citizens think has an influence on politics was given.

- (1) The online survey took place for seven weeks (28.02.-19.04.2023) in Austria and was shared via social media (Instagram®, Facebook®), instant messaging services (WhatsApp®, Signal®) and e-mail by the author and her peer groups. For the distribution, a link was created by the program SoSci-Survey® and sent to potential participants.
- (2) The in-person survey took place over twelve days (in the given period: 04.03.-13.04.2023), and the questionnaire was conducted at public train stations in Vienna (Westbahnhof, Bahnhof Floridsdorf, Hauptbahnhof and Bahnhof Wien-Mitte). Participants were asked to answer the given questions on a tablet or handwritten in a printed format.

2.2. Analysis of the 2023 questionnaire

The data obtained was prepared and analyzed with the statistic program IBM SPSS® Statistics version 28.0. The statements in the first chapter of the survey entitled “Climate change, prior information, and the consequences of climate change” – which could be answered with the help of a scale – were subjected to a factor analysis with a significance level of 5%. This analysis shows whether the statements can be categorized and thus serves to structure the data. For both factors, a reliability analysis is necessary to determine the accuracy and stability of the measured values. To analyze the categories, a one-way ANOVA has been applied in SPSS® using the newly created variables and the sociodemographic data as dependent variables to investigate whether changes have a measurable effect. For the comparison between the sociodemographic data and some questions, a Fisher Exact test has been applied and visually analyzed in a crosstab. The Fisher Exact test has been used since it does not impose any conditions on the sample and if there is a significant result, a correlation or difference can be established. The investigated initiatives in the survey were compared by applying a Chi²-Test in Microsoft Excel® 2023 to check whether the variables are related to each other with high probability. The answers to the voluntary question about the influence on politics were categorized into “optimistic,” “pessimistic” and “neutral” attitudes. The statements were assigned to the respective categories with the help of artificial intelligence “chat.openai.com”.

2.3. Initiatives and movements in comparison

For the comparison of the two participatory initiatives WWViews on Global Warming and the Assembly of Climate Action Austria, a Chi²-Test has been applied. Furthermore, questions were created to determine whether the citizens surveyed were familiar with the initiatives mentioned. In order to ensure that the respondents really knew what WWViews and the Assembly of Climate Action Austria were about, test questions were asked as soon as the citizens stated that they knew the initiative.

Results

3.1. The 2023 sociodemographic results (descriptive)

Altogether, 400 completed questionnaires – 300 online and 100 in person – were collected. The participants’ ages ranged from 18 to over 80 years and 89% were in the range from 18 to 60 years old (figure 1). Regarding sex, 57.25% ticked female, 41.50% male and 1.25% diverse (figure 2).

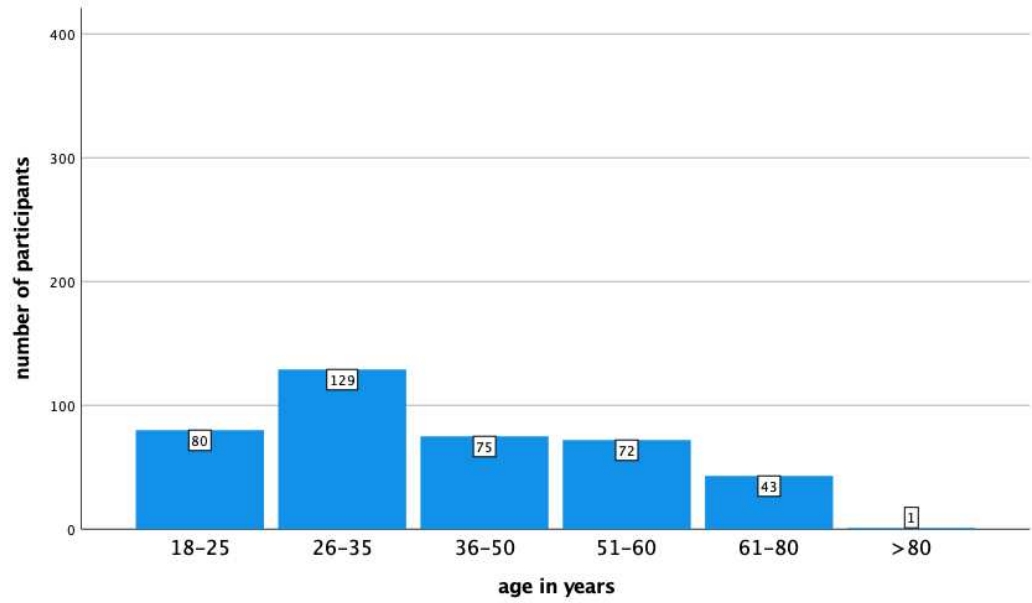


Figure 1: Participants’ age groups.

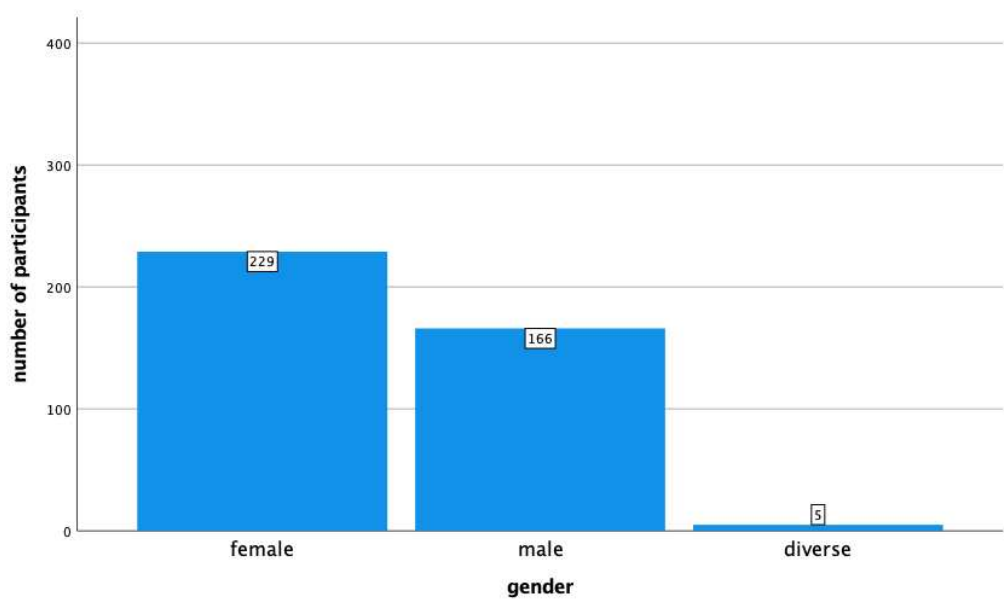


Figure 2: Participants’ gender groups.

For the employment category (figure 3), the five given options were summarized into two categories: employed (employed and self-employed) and unemployed (unemployed, in education and retirement). 82.75% of the participants were employed and 17.25% were unemployed.

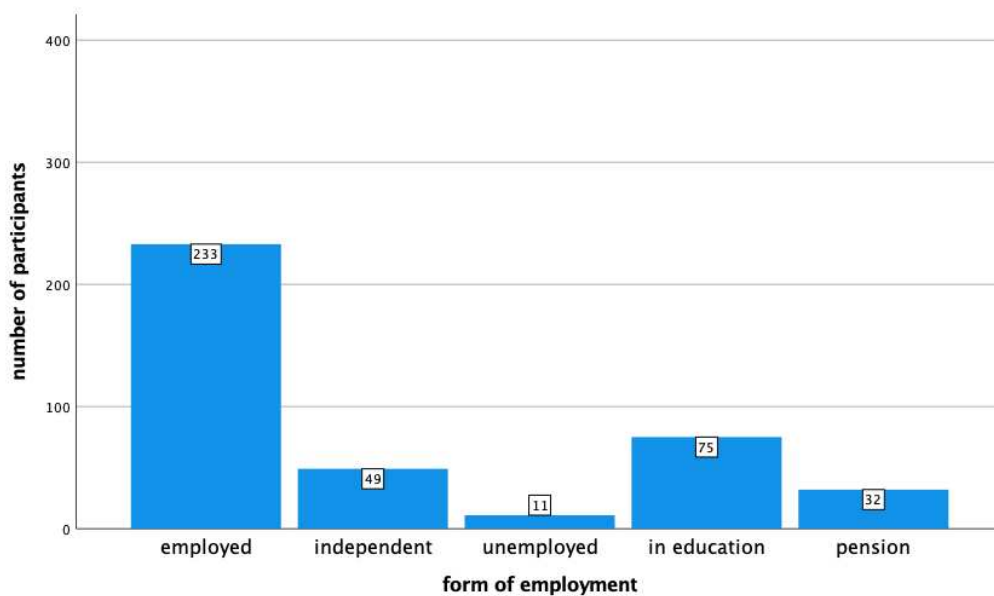


Figure 3: Participants' employment type.

Figure 4 shows the frequency of inhabitants of the participant's place of residence.

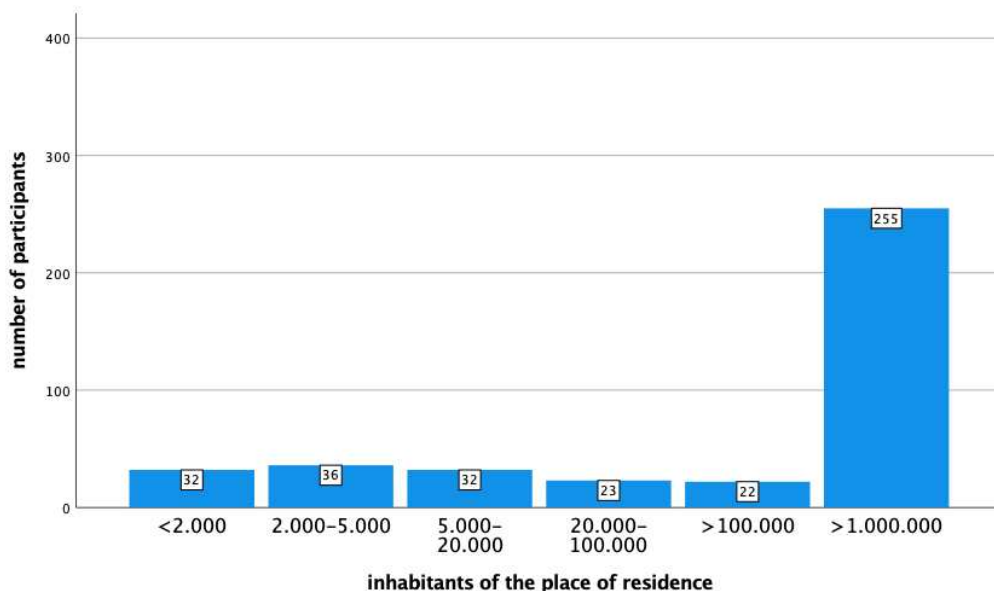


Figure 4: Inhabitants of the participant's place of residence.¹

¹ Regarding the number of inhabitants of the place of residence, an "urban" and "countryside" distinction has been created. According to the United Nations, the limit for the definition of an urban area in Austria is 5,000 inhabitants. Therefore, as shown in figure 4, a place of residence with more than 5,000 inhabitants is defined as "urban," and one with fewer than 5,000 as "countryside" (Yearbook, 2005).

88.50% of the participants had completed A-levels, university, university of applied sciences or had a university-related degree, while 11.50% had finished compulsory or vocational school as their highest completed education (figure 5).

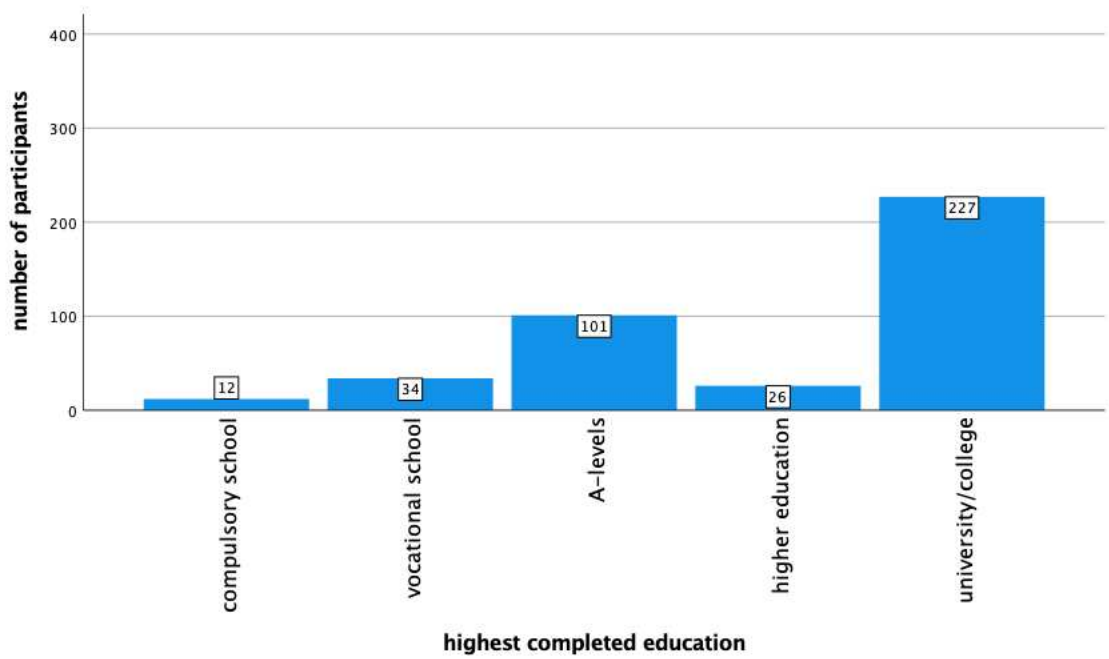


Figure 5: Participants’ highest completed education form.

3.2. Factor analysis of “pessimism” and “optimism”

The application of a factor analysis showed that the questions asked in the first category of the survey (Climate change, prior information, and the consequences of climate change) can be divided into two main components, which are visible in the following screeplot (figure 6). The graph bends at the third factor, so the two categories are defined as “pessimism” and “optimism” when talking about climate change (table 1). The first component explains 29.46% and the second 20.71% of the variance (table 2).

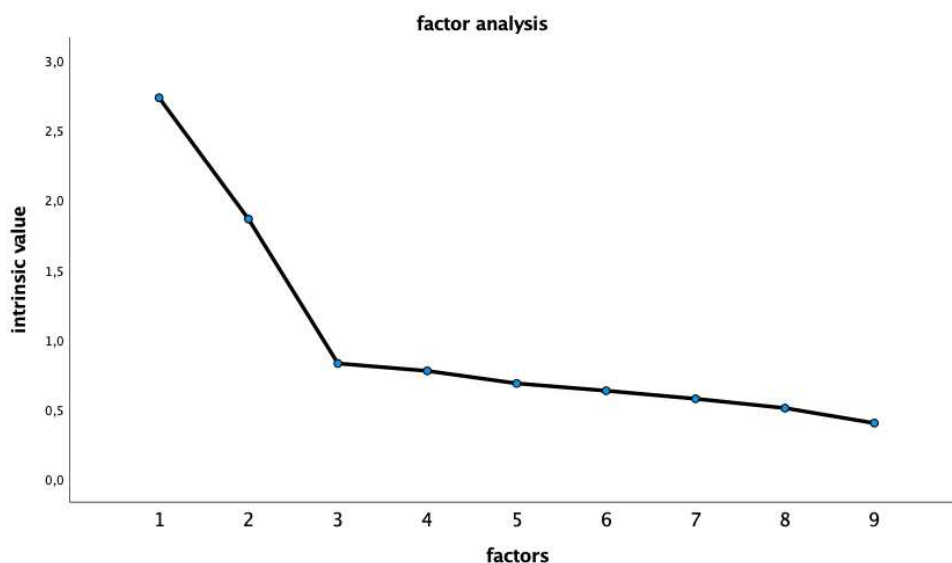


Figure 6: Screeplot of the factor analysis visualizing the two main components.

Table 1: Statements classified into “optimism” and “pessimism”.

Optimism	Pessimism
“New technologies will help us to tackle most climate problems.”	“Climate change is already having a negative impact on my everyday life.”
“Austria is a world leader in energy saving and climate protection.”	“Climate change will worsen the lives of our children.”
“We still have time to get a grip on the climate problems.”	“We must accept significant restrictions on our comfortable lifestyles if we want to prevent serious climate problems.”
“International agreements to reduce CO ₂ emissions will ultimately succeed in withstanding global warming.”	
“The explosive nature of climate change is often exaggerated by environmentalists.”	

Table 2: Explained total variance (n=398) of the principal component analysis.

Statements	Initial eigenvalues			Rotated sums of squared charges		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.652	29.463	29.463	2.394	26.604	26.604
2	1.863	20.705	50.169	2.121	23.564	50.169
3	0.820	9.111	59.279			
4	0.757	8.407	67.686			
5	0.694	7.714	75.400			
6	0.673	7.475	82.875			
7	0.606	6.737	89.611			
8	0.519	5.763	95.374			
9	0.416	4.626	100.000			

The ninth statement “Citizens will provide the decisive impetus to convince national decision-makers to do something about global warming” was found equally in both categories. After the reliability analysis, the author decided to exclude the statement to achieve a higher reliability (so, the remaining eight statements are listed in table 1). Keeping in mind that the reliability after Cronbach’s Alpha for pessimism is acceptable (0.709), and for optimism, it is barely within the acceptable range (0.660), due to the correctness of the content this value was accepted.

The general linear model (GLM) used for multivariate variables and the testing for variance homogeneity (Levene’s test) for the age groups showed that “pessimism” is not significant, $F(4, 394) = 2.095$, $p > 0.01$, which means that this factor is comparable to the sociodemographic data. The significance values do not feature a correlation between pessimism and different age groups. By contrast, the factor “optimism” is significant, $F(4, 394) = 3.508$, $p < 0.01$, which gives no possibility for comparing the different age groups. Regarding sex, the two factors fulfilled the requirements for a GLM and no correlation could be found between sex and pessimism or optimism. Therefore, regardless of gender, the opinions and attitudes were equally spread between female, male or diverse genders. The Levene’s test for the type of employment for “optimism” was significant, $F(4, 395) = 2.585$, $p > 0.01$, and for “pessimism” was not significant, $F(4, 395) = 1.482$, $p > 0.01$. The detailed analysis marked that citizens who were “employed” or “independent”

differed in the optimism category and were even more optimistic than the other professional groups. The analysis of education and the two factors showed that neither optimism, $F(4, 395) = 1.236, p > 0.01$, nor pessimism, $F(4, 395) = 1.608, p > 0.01$, had a significant Levene's test result.

3.3. Comparison of knowledge, concern, and media with sociodemographic data

3.3.1. Age groups and concern about climate change

The Fisher Exact test showed significant results for the sociodemographic parameters of age, gender, employment, and education in relation to concern. The concern was (very) high across all age groups, while the category aged 61-80 years old was a little less concerned than the others, $\chi^2(15) = 14.198, p > 0.001$. Accordingly, the first research question of this report is disproved, since the concern level was essentially even among all age groups. 88% of the female and 80% of the male participants felt (very) concerned when it comes to climate change, $\chi^2(6) = 1.863, p > 0.001$. The correlation between employment and level of concern showed that 100% of the unemployed participants felt (very) concerned, whereas the retired people were the least concerned in percentage terms, $\chi^2(12) = 3.841, p > 0.001$.

3.3.2. Knowledge level and different age groups

The Fisher Exact test showed significant results for the sociodemographic parameters of gender, employment, and education in relation to feeling informed. 85.15% of the female and 83.13% of the male participants considered themselves to be (very) well informed and the correlation between gender and information was present, but there was no difference detectable, $\chi^2(20) = 24.744, p > 0.001$. Different sexes felt themselves to be equally well informed about climate change and its consequences. Regarding employment, the cross table showed that in every employment group, at least 70% felt to have (very) good information, $\chi^2(16) = 26.188, p > 0.001$. The cross table for education and information offered a hint that citizens who completed compulsory school felt slightly less informed, $\chi^2(16) = 24.176, p > 0.001$. It is visible that there was no difference among different age groups, $\chi^2(20) = 24.744, p > 0.001$.

3.4. Which media do you primarily use to inform yourself about the topic of climate change?

The Chi²-Test showed that there is a significant difference in age and media sources used, $\chi^2(20) = 87.182, p < 0.001$. The crosstab showed that the “social media” media source was mainly used by the age groups 18-25 and 26-35 years. By contrast, print media and broadcasts were the main input for people aged more than 35. Online newspapers were used the most by 26-35-year-old citizens but nevertheless were the one source that every age group used more or less similarly. The least commonly used resource among all age groups was exchange with other people.

3.5. WWViews, Assembly for Climate Action Austria and Fridays for Future

The applied Chi²-Test revealed a p -value of 0.001016234 which is significant and shows that there is a difference in the awareness level of the initiatives WWViews and Assembly for Climate Action Austria among citizens, whereby the Assembly for Climate Action Austria is better known than WWViews. The comparison Fridays for Future to the two already mentioned initiatives demonstrates a significant difference. Indeed, the participants are more familiar with the Fridays for Future movement than they are with WWViews and the Assembly for Climate Action Austria.

3.6. Frequency evaluation of the questionnaire (descriptive)

The following part of this work will lay out the results and the frequency of the questions.

3.6.1. How well informed do you think you are about climate change and its consequences?

Less than 1% of the participants felt uninformed and 15.50% claimed to know little. By contrast, 62.70% and 21.50% stated to know something or a lot about the topic, respectively. In sum, well over three-quarters of the citizens thought they had basic knowledge about climate change and its consequences.

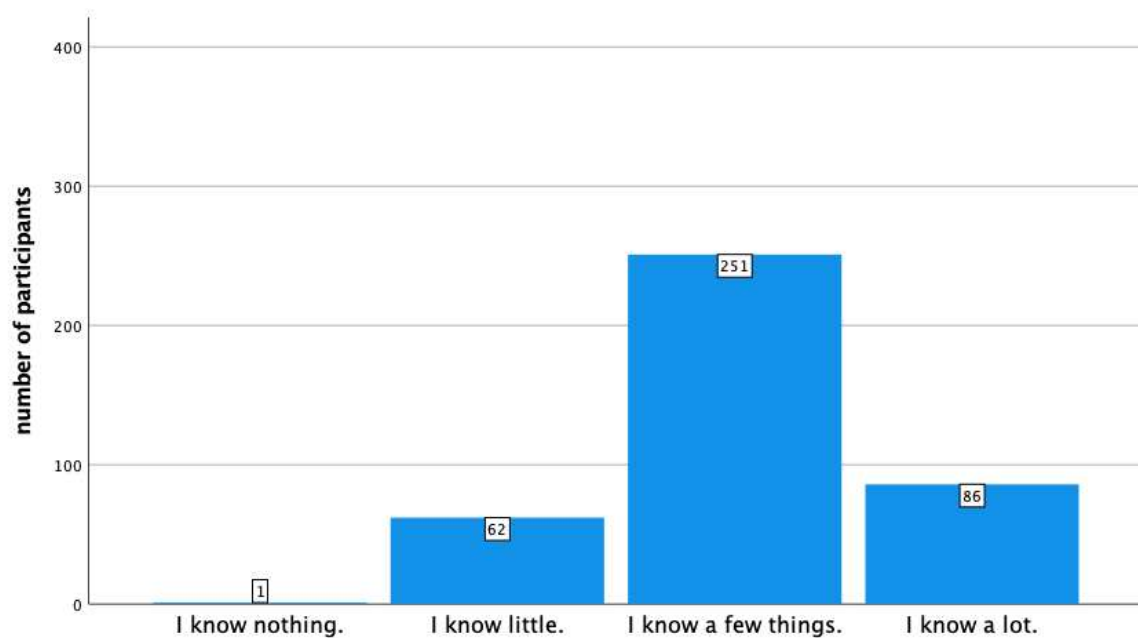


Figure 7: Information level among the survey participants (n=400).

3.6.2. How concerned are you about climate change?

For this question, the sum of the first three answers of the scale (41% “very worried”, 44% “more like worried”, 12% “a little worried”) demonstrates that 97% were at least a little concerned when it comes to climate change, while the remaining 3% were not (2.25%) or did not have an answer (0.75%).

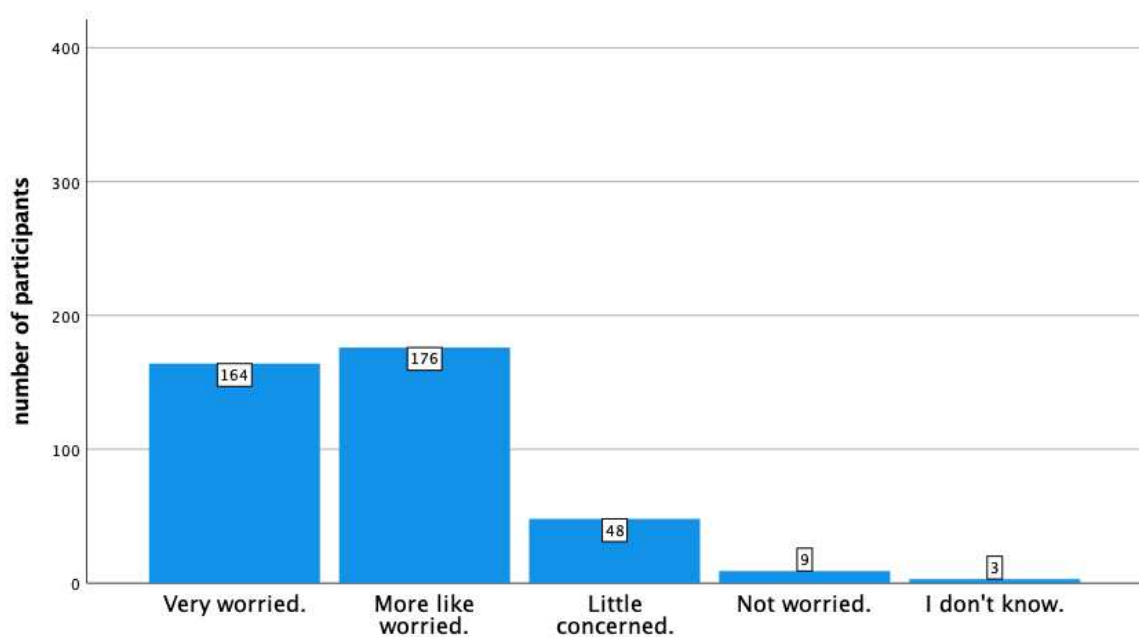


Figure 8: Level of concern among the survey participants (n=400).

3.6.3. How urgent do you think it is to implement the agreements/targets agreed at COP27?

Furthermore, the survey provided an overview of the goals set at the last Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Egypt in 2022. 94.75% (78.75% “it is urgent,” 16% “it is rather urgent”) thought that it is at least rather urgent to implement the agreements. 3.50% of the participants did not care and 1.75% (1% “it is rather not urgent,” 0.75% “it is not urgent”) thought that the implementation is at least not so urgent.

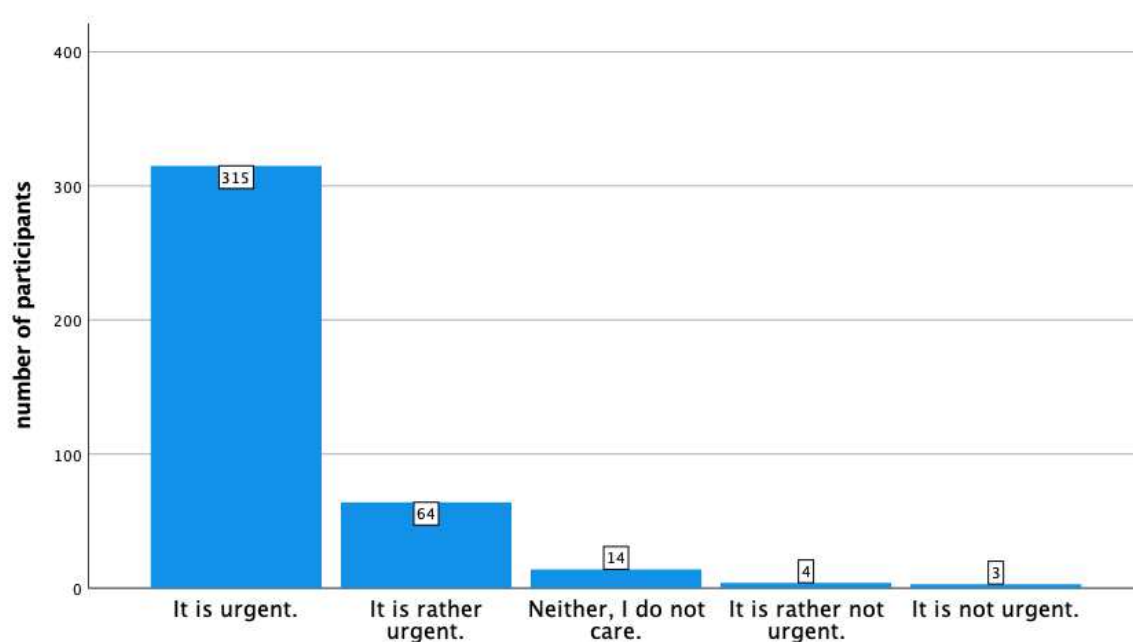


Figure 9: Perceived urgency to implement the agreements at COP27 (n=400).

3.6.4. Should politicians in Austria give high priority to achieving the goals set in the climate agreement?

Specifically for Austria, 91.75% said “yes” that our politicians should prioritize the goals set at the recent climate conference, while 5% selected the answer “no” and 3.25% answered the question with “I do not know.”

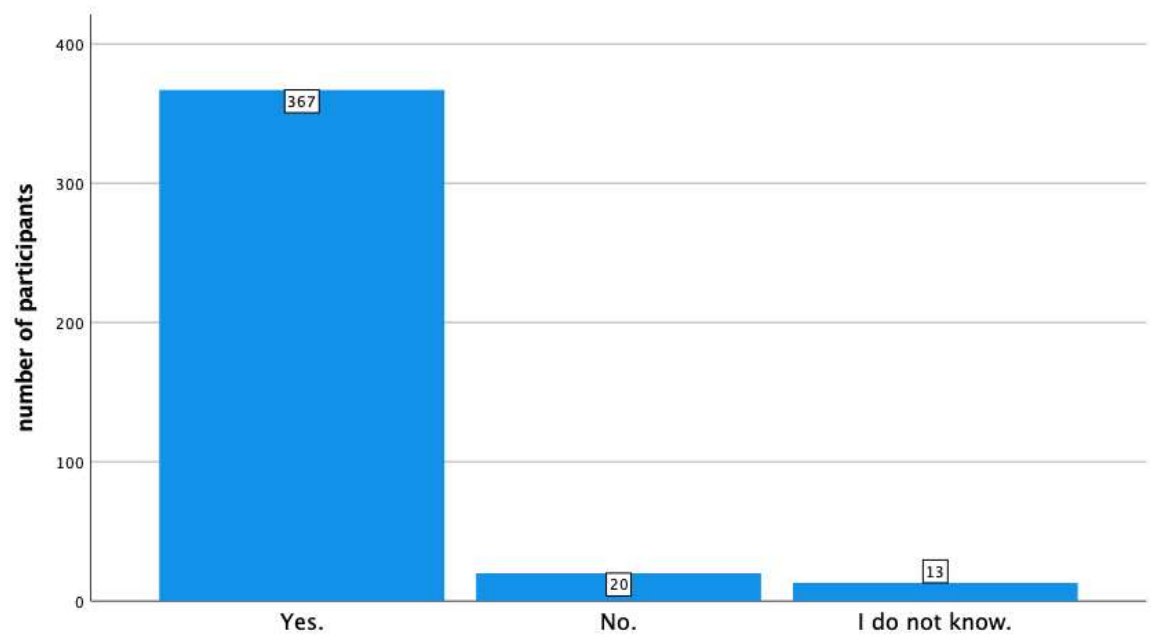


Figure 10: Participants' opinions on priority in achieving the goals set at COP27 (n=400).

3.6.5. What do you think should be the long-term goal for limiting temperature rise?

More than half (60.75%) of the participants thought that limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius is necessary, while 8.25% answered that a target is not necessary, and 1.75% thought that an increase of more than 2 degrees Celsius is acceptable. Out of all participants, 13.50% had the opinion that a return to pre-industrial levels must be achieved, and 15.75% selected the answer “I do not know.”

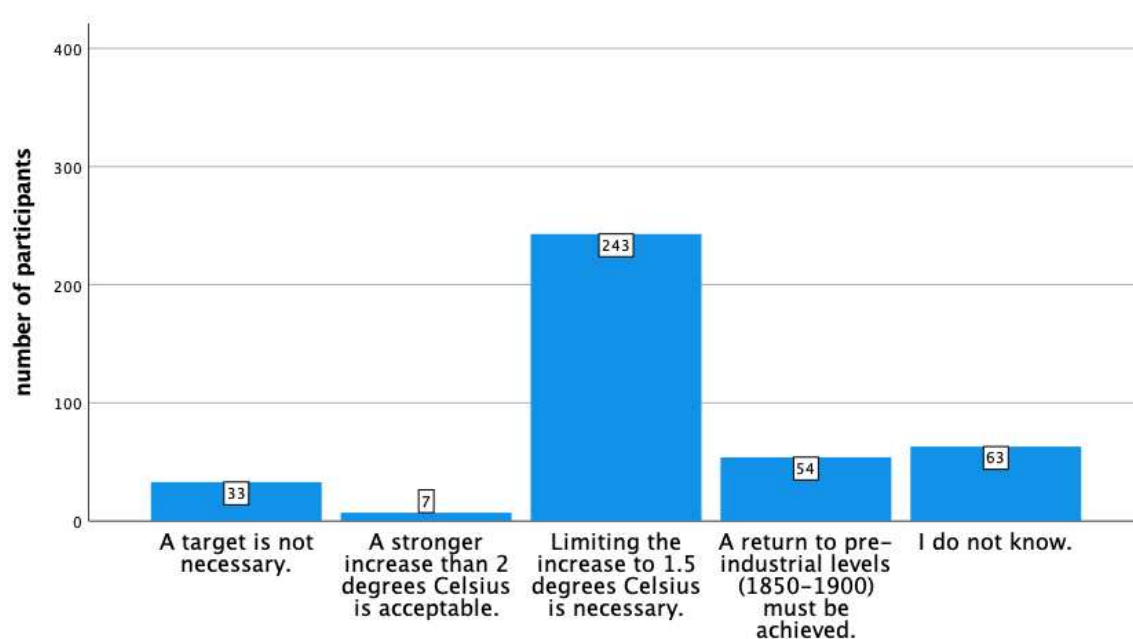


Figure 11: Different statements on the goal of temperature rise (n=400).

3.6.6. Should countries that do not fulfil their commitments under a new climate agreement be penalized?

More than half (61.50%) of the citizens had the opinion that countries who do not fulfil their commitments should be penalized in such a way that there is no advantage in not complying the obligations. 22.25% thought that there should be a considerable penalty and 6.50% were also in favor of punishment but believe that it should be mainly symbolic. 5.75% of the survey participants had the opinion that there should not be a punishment regulation, and the remaining 4% did not answer to this question.

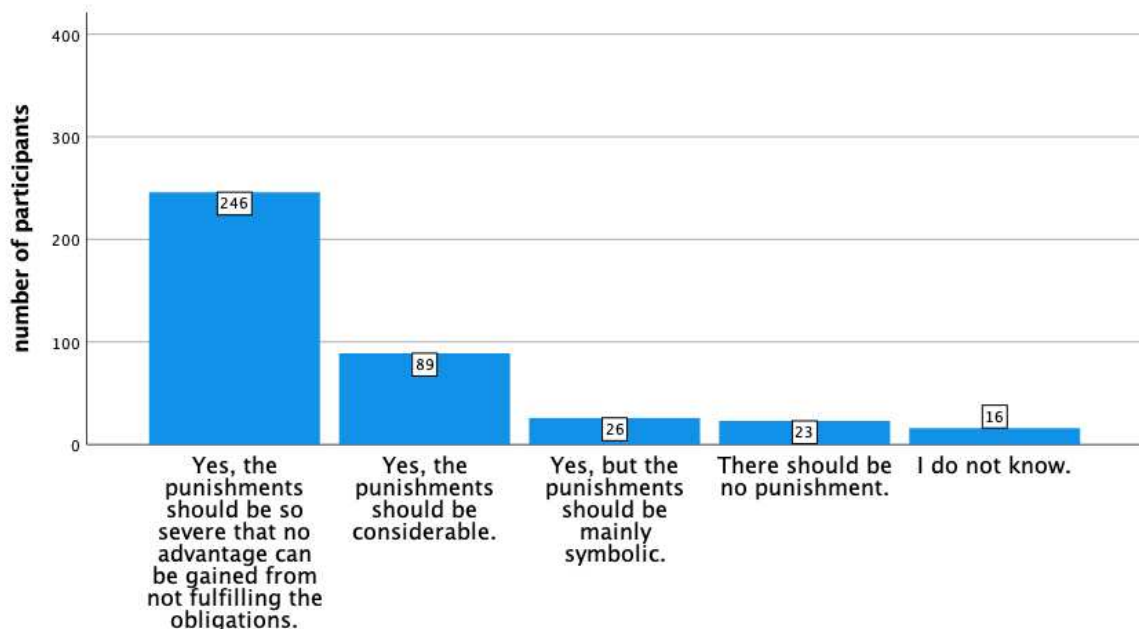


Figure 12: Punishment regulations (n=400).

3.6.7. Should fossil fuel prices (oil, coal, natural gas) be increased?

Added up, 70.75% of the people thought the prices for fossil fuel should be increased. 30.50% of total participants had the opinion that this should be the case for every country whereas 34.25% thought this should only be valid for industrialized countries and countries with a high per capita income and/or high emissions. The remaining 6% were only in favor of this measure for industrialized countries. 23% answered that there should not be an increase in prices and 6.25% selected “I do not know.”

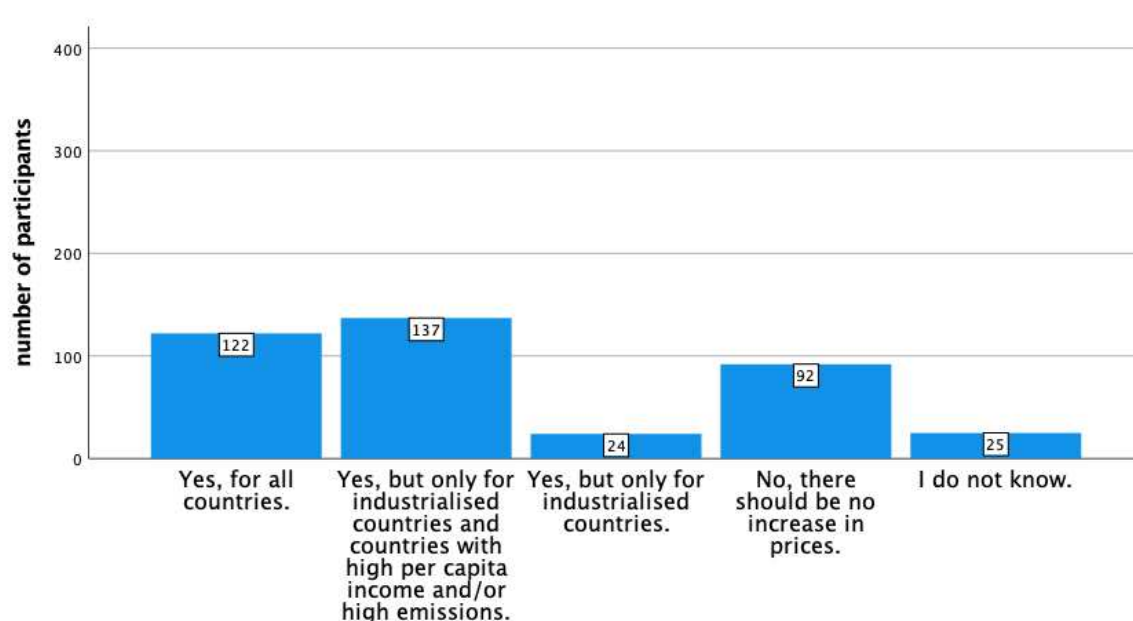


Figure 13: Whether fossil fuel prices should be increased (n=400).

3.6.8. If you ticked "No, there should be no increase in prices" in the previous question, please tick one reason!

In terms of the reasons for selecting "No", 13% answered "My income is too low", 3.30% "I prefer to spend my money on something else", 42.40% chose "I think there are better solutions to reduce the burden on the environment", and 22.80% ticked "I feel that the price increase is an economic disadvantage", and 18.50% had other reasons.

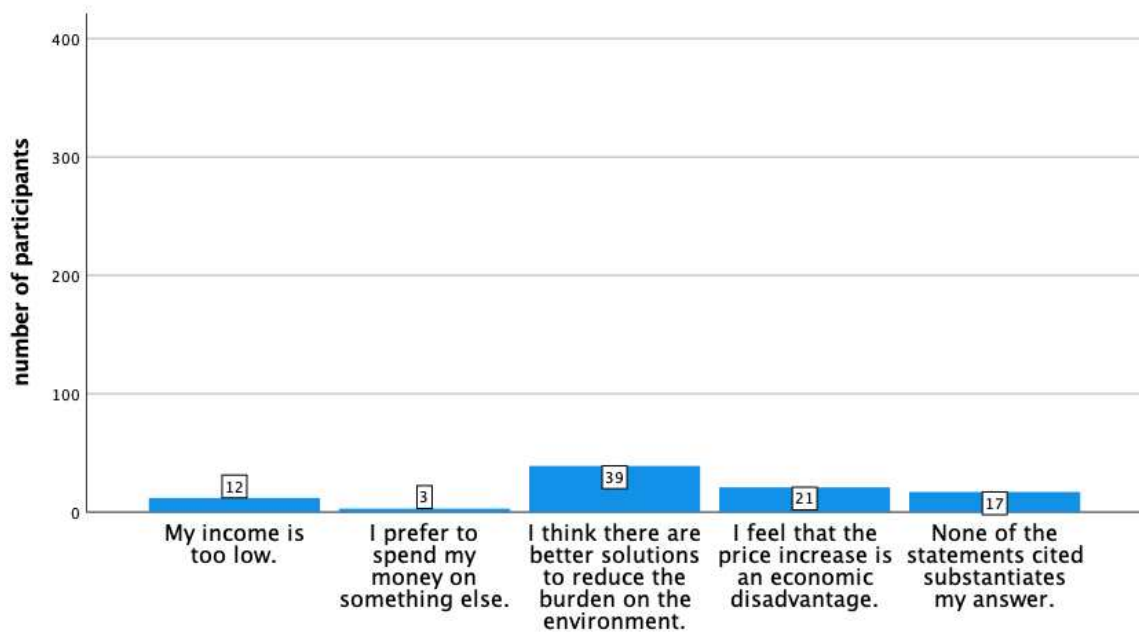


Figure 14: Reasoning of participants who think that there should not be an increase in fossil prices (n=92).

3.6.9. *Should a global system be created to provide financial resources to fund mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?*

81% of the participants said "Yes" and 10.50% "No" when asked if there should be a funding system for "developing countries", while 8.50% had no statement.

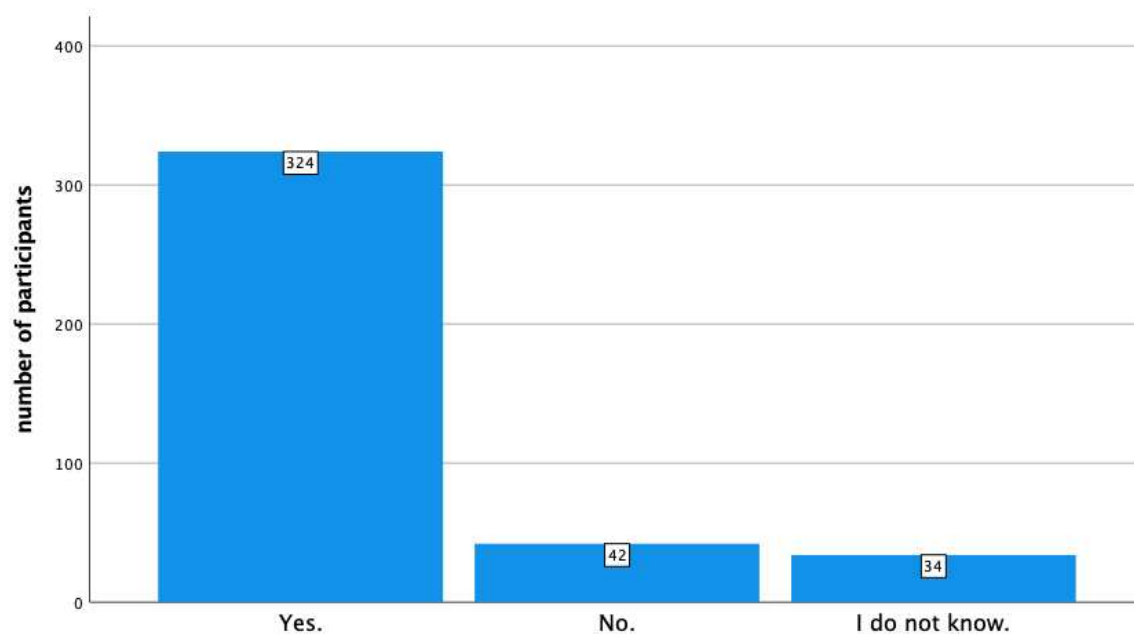


Figure 15: Global providence of financial resources (n=400).

3.6.10. Which countries should be obliged by a new climate agreement to pay for mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?

23.06% of the participants thought that all countries should pay and 29.32% had the opinion that all countries except the least developed ones should be obliged to pay. 31.08% answered the question with "industrial countries" and 8.27% did not think that there should be an obligatory payment set. The remaining 8.27% did not have a statement.

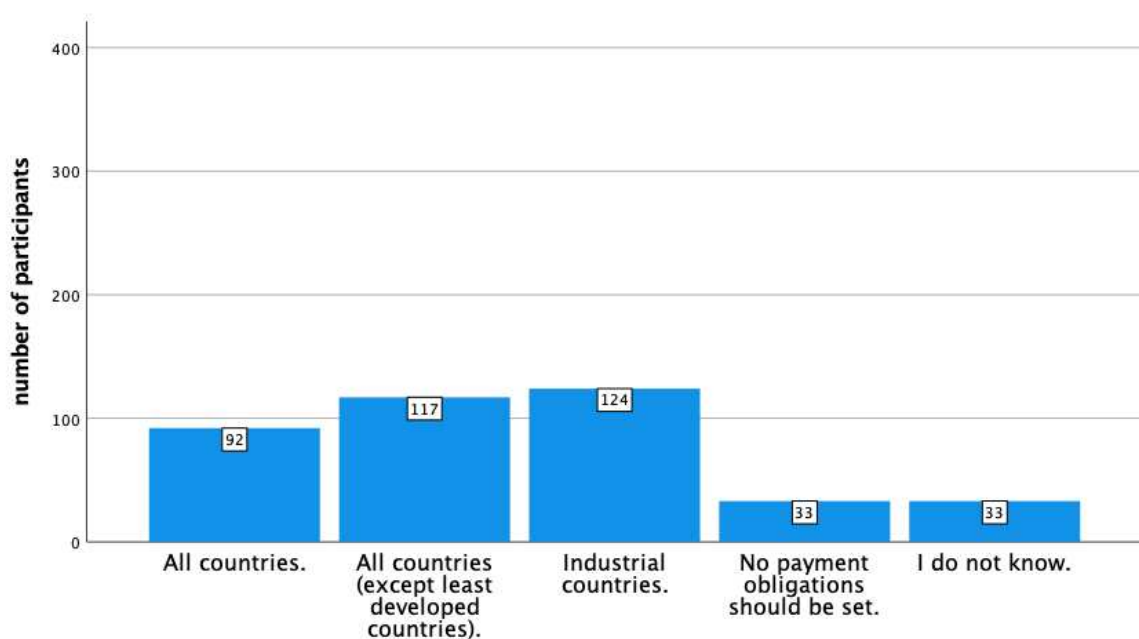


Figure 16: Which countries should pay for a global financing system for climate mitigation (n=399).

3.6.11. Think back to 2009, when COP15 was held in autumn. Did you notice anything about the World Wide Views on Global Warming project?

Out of the participants, 10% had heard of the project, 75.25% had not heard of it and 14.75% were uncertain.

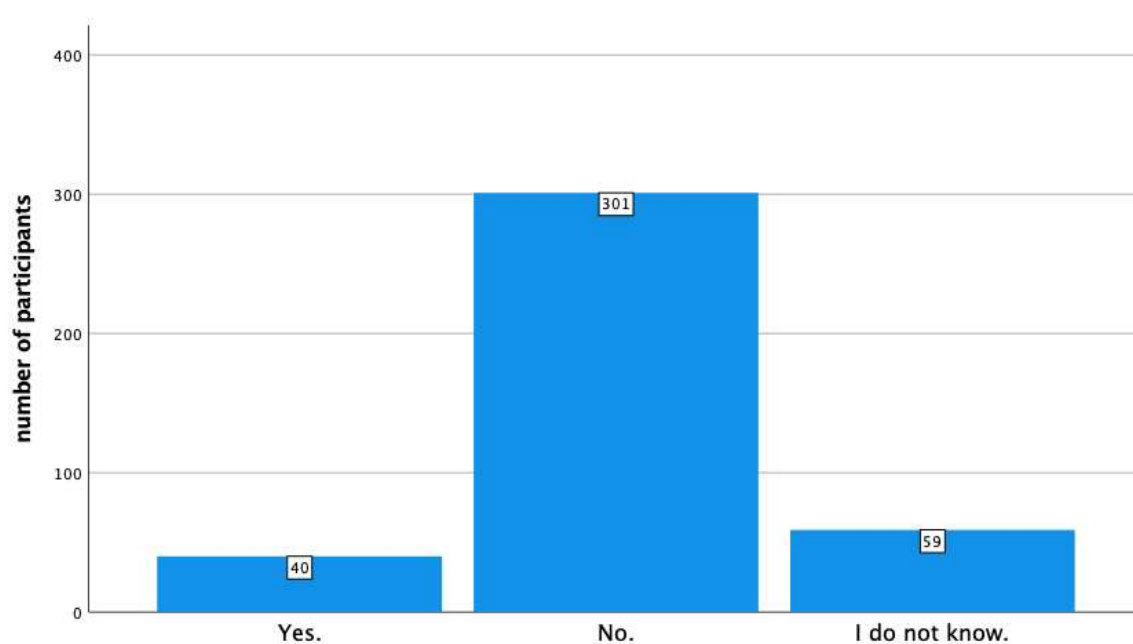


Figure 17: Knowledge of the WWViews project (n=400).

3.6.12. If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies:
The project World Wide Views on Global Warming is...

The follow-up question served as a control and showed that out of the 10% (40 people) who claimed to know the project, 29 people selected the correct definition, which leads to an actual percentage of 7.25% out of the total participants who knew the project correctly.

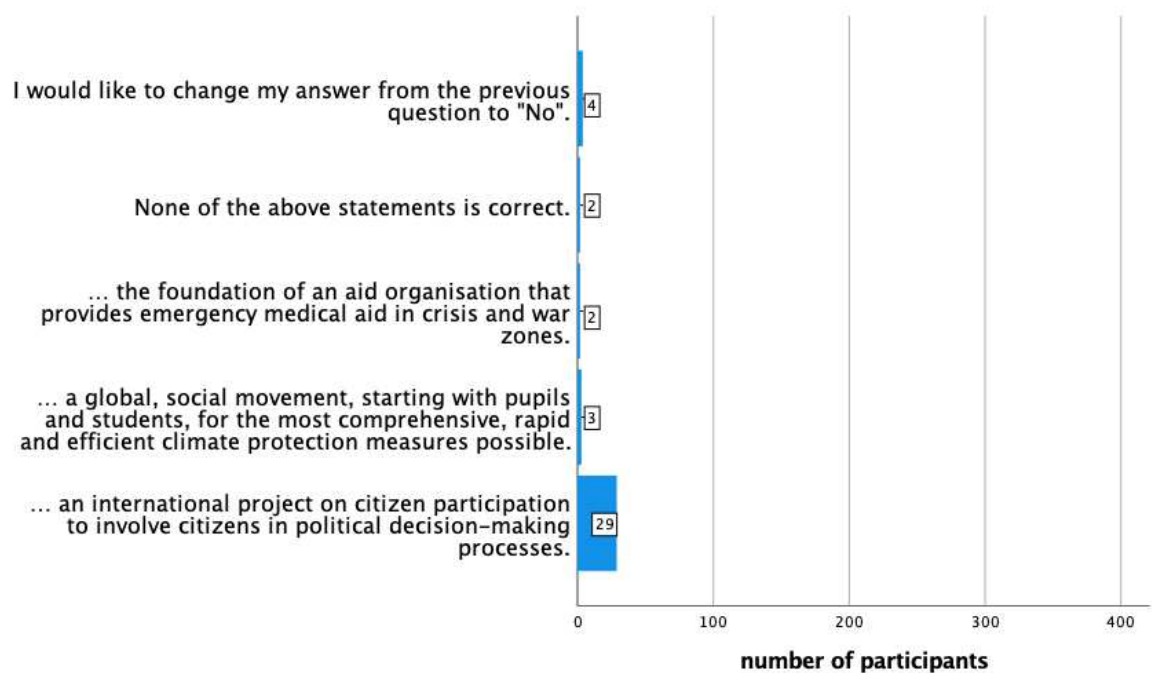


Figure 18: Correct definition of the World Wide Views in Global Warming project (n=40).

3.6.13. Have you ever heard of the Assembly for Climate Action Austria (“Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger”)?

28% of the citizens said “Yes” regarding whether they had heard of the “Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger”, 62.25% said “No” and 9.75% did not know.

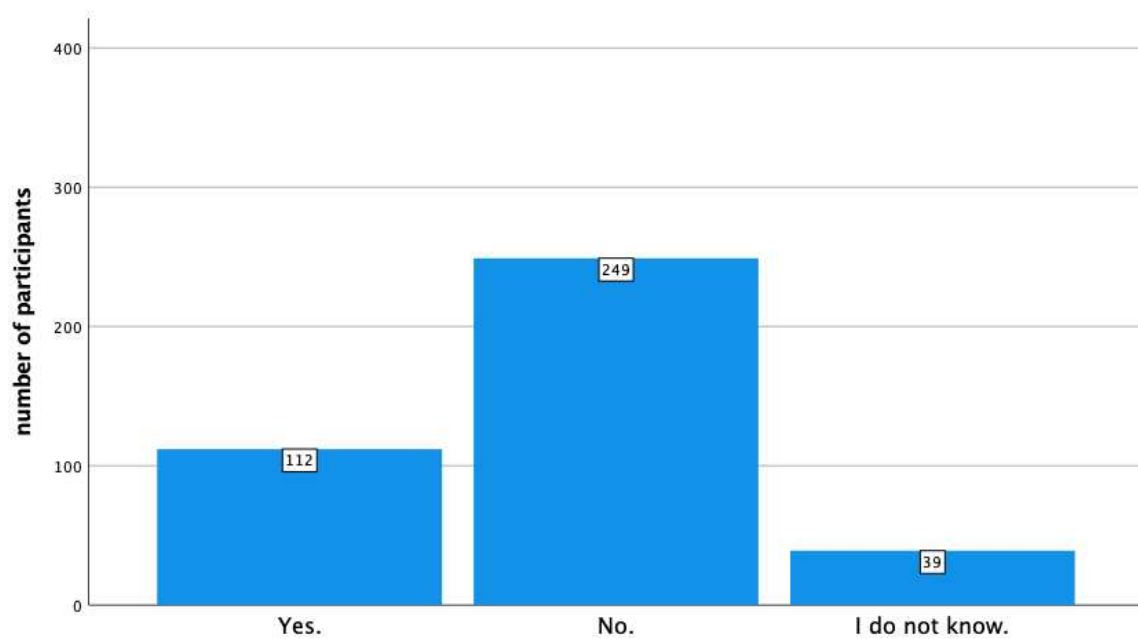


Figure 19: Knowledge of the “Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger” project (n=400).

3.6.14. If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies:
The citizens' climate council is...

Yet, only 53.60% were able to name the correct description for the assembly, which leads to a percentage of 15% out of the total participants who actually knew what it is about.

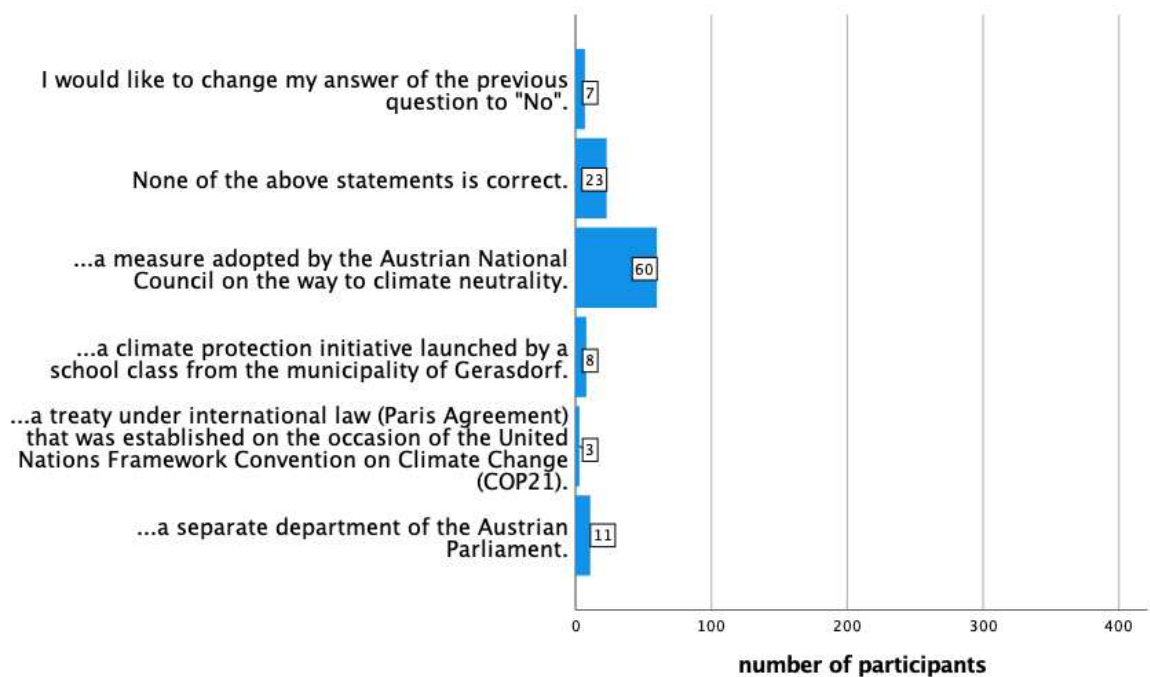


Figure 20: The descriptions selected for "Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger" project (n=112).

3.6.15. In your opinion, do movements like Fridays for Future have an influence on politics and its ways of acting?

59% said that movements like Fridays for Future have an influence. 29% selected the answer “No” and 9.50% said that they do not know. Among the participants of the survey, 2.50% did not know the movement.

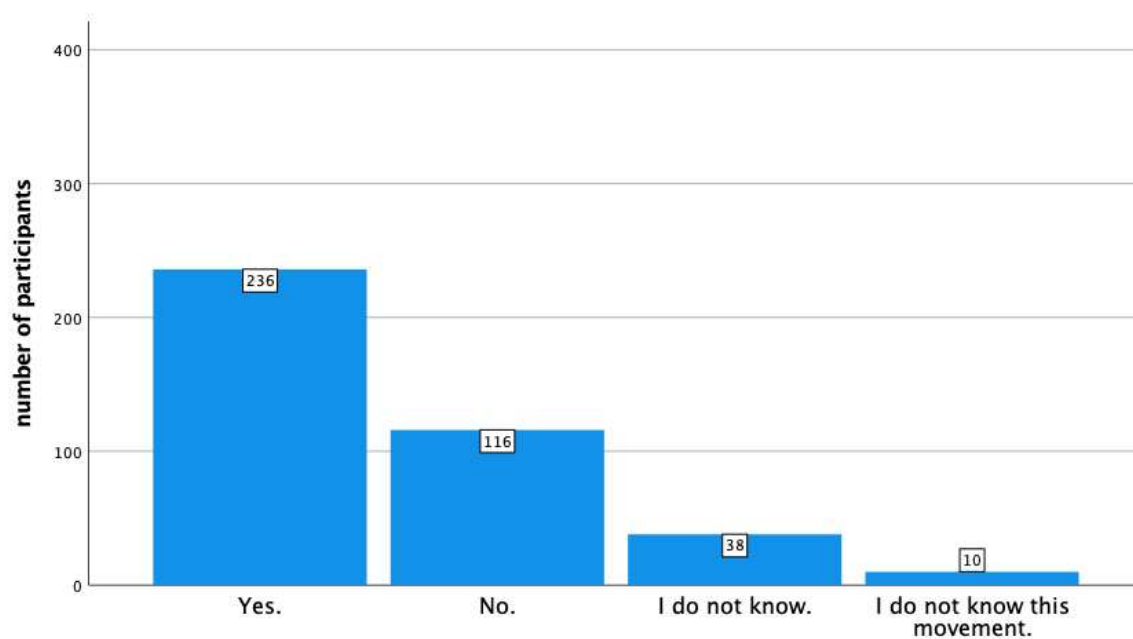


Figure 21: Whether Fridays for Future influences politics and their acting (n=400).

3.6.16. In your opinion, do movements like *The Last Generation* have an influence on politics and the way they act?

45.75% said that movements like *The Last Generation* influence politics. 32.25% did not think that they play an influential role and 13% had no opinion. Among the participants of the survey, 9% did not know the movement itself.

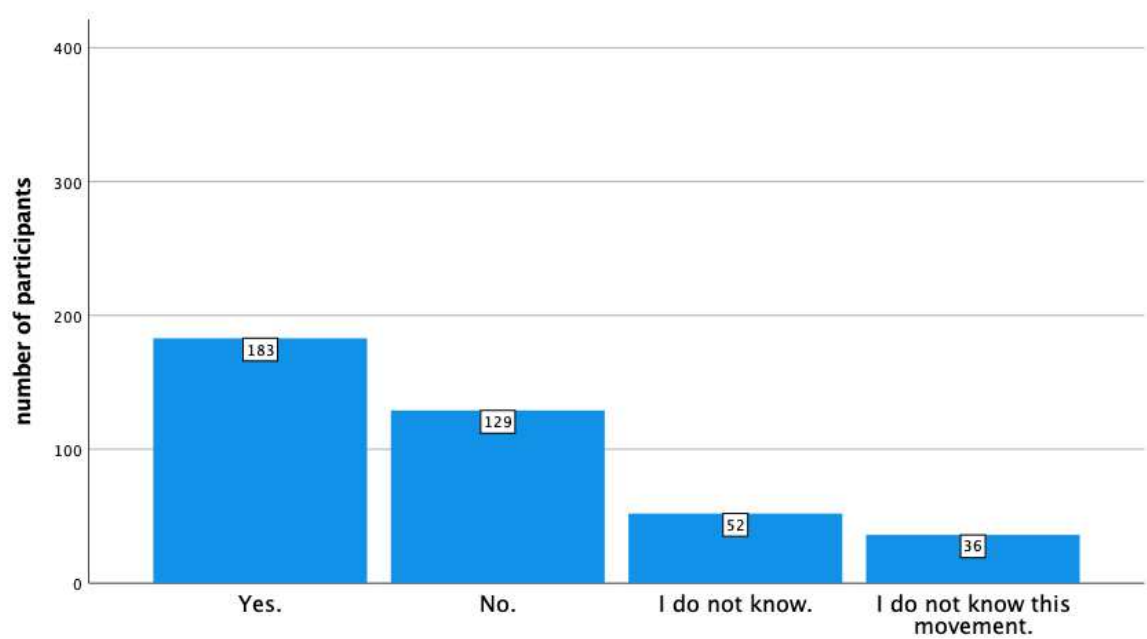


Figure 22: The Last Generation and its influence on politics and their acting (n=400).

3.6.17. Which media do you primarily use to inform yourself about the topic of climate change?

Table 3 shows the media use among the citizens:

Table 3: Media use among citizens in per cent (n=400).

Media	%
Print media (newspapers, magazines, books, etc.)	20.20
Broadcasting (radio, podcasts, TV, etc.)	22.20
Online newspapers	29.30
Social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.)	20.50
Exchange with people around me	7.80

3.6.18. Opinions on the influence on politics

The questionnaire conducted in 2023 provided the participants with the possibility to voluntarily express their opinions on what they think has an influence on politicians. 120 citizens took the chance to open up. Table 4 shows the summarized categorization into “optimistic,” “pessimistic” and “neutral” settings regarding on the statements and how citizens depicted the impact of their opinion on politics, created with the help of artificial intelligence “chat.openai.com”.

Table 4: Citizens’ opinions on “What do you think has an influence on politics? (voluntary)” categorized into the three groups of “optimistic,” “pessimistic” and “neutral” (n=116).²

Optimistic	Pessimistic	Neutral
Discourse & exchange.	Populist agendas. Self-service mentality to secure re-election.	Economy.
All citizens.	Austria alone cannot make a difference. Not through actions like the climate stickers. Politicians can be reached through meaningful discussions.	Economy.
Many people on demos, old and young.	The entire policy is too weak to achieve great results.	The economic aspect.
Many people for the same goal.	Public attention and pressure.	Economy.
Measurable targets for politicians' performance for the respective legislative period.	Money and business.	

² The opinion poll was translated into English, and the original can be found in the appendix.

Optimistic	Pessimistic	Neutral
Consumption behaviour of citizens, voter behaviour, direct and immediate impact of climate change.	Money - Power (Preservation) - Particular interests of Business & Industry. These movements certainly have a certain effect. In my opinion, these movements raise awareness in society - but whether these movements can induce a political rethink is the question. Besides economic growth, climate protection should also be a primary political goal.	
Role model effect and research of alternative.	Demonstrations.	
Opinion-forming and awareness-raising (Awareness).	I think that many people imagine a change far too easily. It is not a problem that we have only in Austria, but a global problem. In my opinion, it will be difficult to find a global solution. That's why I believe that we in the West will have a hard time influencing it. There are enough industrialized countries that first must work for the prosperity we have in Austria. Therefore, it is difficult to find a solution.	
Neighbor countries.	Elections, financial opportunities/penalties.	
Discuss.	Loss and gain of votes.	
Creative citizen participation, which is also largely supported by the population itself.	Economic pressure.	
Technical papers, scientific discussion.	Provocative statements that are talked about more.	
Economy and elections / referendum.	In Austria, apparently only money...	
Consider international trends and agreements financial situation.	Little! The above-mentioned initiatives, however, probably do a little due to the media coverage.	
Public opinion.	Strikes.	
Popular vote.	Money.	
Media impact.	Impending loss of electoral votes - when such an electoral loss looms, politics tends to come into action.	
Opinion polls and the next election date.	Demonstrations, petitions, NGOs (e.g., Greenpeace).	
Voting behaviour of the population.	Nothing, they do what they want anyway.	
All.	Pressure from the civilian population. Elections.	
Media attention.	Money.	
International target agreements with potential penalties (unfortunately monetaristic incentives...).	Money & power & corruption. Unfortunately.	
Clarification.	Dealing with important issues is accelerated, more pressure to really change things and not just to find Austrian compromise solutions.	
Citizens' movements supported by experts with constructive proposals.		

I deny anything unless the effects are also felt personally by the people in power. But then it will be too late. Nevertheless, I find the above-mentioned movements and actions important, which is why I still ticked yes, even though I ticked no to the question regarding influence.

Unfortunately, something must happen first, by which time it is usually too late.

Unfortunately, only the preservation of power and money.

Measures for which politicians would have to be accountable if they failed to comply... would have to be decisions with personal liability for the politicians.

The voting behaviour of voters. But for whom is climate policy the decisive motive for voting?

Money.

Protests with scientific support.

The pressure on society. Climate stickers, for example, are very polarizing. Politicians are forced to take a stand. Society is talking about the issue. It cannot be ignored. Media presence is important.

Corruption.

Politicians would work harder and do better if they could also be held personally accountable.

In fact, I believe that major (climate change-induced environmental) disasters are necessary for policymakers to be forced to act.

Money, how expensive something is. Lobbies.

That we do not stand idly by and watch how politicians treat the environment and people.

Restrictions and penalties.

The movement of the mass...

Higher interests, e.g. corporations, elites.

Due to Austrian party democracy – non.

Attention, pressure, own change of lifestyle.

The constant repetition of climate policy demands and the pointing out of possible consequences for the climate in the coming decades. The more we talk about it, the more the politicians feel obliged to take appropriate steps.

Perhaps the "yes" ticked above is also wishful thinking, because money and prestige have an influence on politics. At least that is how it seems.

Increase pressure for action, explain the financial benefits of changing economies and lifestyles, go to the polls, understand how politics works and use these mechanisms.

Business and money.

Strengthen Green Parties. More UN involvement in climate issues.

Unite the population and make politicians responsible at last! Get out of self-responsibility.

Money (their salaries sometimes) and big players/corporations and fines.

Money rules the world. We live in a capitalist system. As long as money and the economy lead the way, nothing will change.

A completely new, young government that has grown up with these issues and lives them.

Money and power.

Public pressure and international punitive measures for failed climate policies.

Change in the legislature.

Money from big industrialists.

Only frustration because the last generation are criminals.

Corporations.

Lobby and pressure from the EU.

Top-down and bottom-up initiatives - both are needed. Involvement of all citizens is necessary, at the moment the business class in Austria decides on issues that do not concern them. The Greens are not able to negotiate well in the coalition. Both parties are paralyzing each other. There is a need for initiatives that include diverse opinions and perspectives in the political decision-making process (young - old, less - more income, woman - man - diverse, disabled - without, etc.).

On the one hand the population, on the other hand mainly the private sector.

Constructive meetings but mainly economic pressure.

Money.

Lobbying and corruption.

Organizing.

I'm seemingly nothing at the moment.

Money.

I'm afraid very little, apart from power and the promise of economic growth.

Money.

Permanence.

Optimistic	Pessimistic	Neutral
	Economic factors.	
	Industry/lobbyists.	
	Attract attention as much as possible. Facts facts facts.	
	Large corporations and powerful individuals.	
	Unfortunately, only votes.	
	it only works in a radical way. A peaceful solution has no effect.	
	Unfortunately, the companies that have the money have priority.	
	All actions that attract attention but "take" the citizens. Last Generation is unfortunately counterproductive.	
	Donors, companies, voter numbers.	
	Money/lobbyists, opinion polls, economy.	
	Any form where citizens join together and make demands - also demos.	
	Involvement in political movements/parties and professional lobbying.	
	Money.	
	Lobbyists, large corporations.	
	Unfortunately, scientists who are not allowed to say anything.	
	Only the pressure of money and the fear of losing an election and thus power.	
	On the one hand, there is bottom-up pressure; on the other hand, politics is also the "servant" of the economy (jobs, international competitiveness, location security, etc.) The challenge lies in finding the right balance.	
	Capital, lobby, media, pressure "from the street"	
	Fear of losing power.	
	Penalties.	
	Consequences for not implementing targets.	
	Weather disaster.	
	Citizens must declare themselves the lobby of the "world" and then behave and vote accordingly.	

Overall, 24 statements were optimistic, 92 were pessimistic and four neutral. All statements are given in table 4. The third hypothesis of this report concerning the level of frustration and therefore pessimistic attitude among citizens is confirmed.

Discussion

The survey in 2023 showed that over 80% of the citizens who participated felt informed about climate change. More than 97% felt at least a little concerned and at the same time the missing political actions resulted in pessimism for the questioned participants, which has been supported by the open opinion poll. In 2009, the street survey by Gudowsky (2010) showed that 95% of the participants felt at least a little concerned when it comes to climate change. Therefore, the already high percentage of concern has increased since 2009.

4.1. Many young people are involved in public movements (Fridays for Future, a political pressure movement calling on decision-makers at all levels to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement and The Last Generation, a non-violent resistance movement). Are older or younger cohorts more concerned about climate change?

The analysis of the survey data showed no significant differences among age groups. Hickman et al. (2021) examined a survey of 10,000 children and young adults from the ages 16 to 25 from 10 different countries and showed that 84% were at least moderately worried. Keeping in mind that Hickman et al. (2021) had no comparison to other age groups. The younger age group should be more concerned since the caring for their own, partly unborn descendants should be higher. The results of the survey in 2023 did not show an age difference, which is suspected to be due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic influenced a whole generation and therefore their point of view on important topics and the topics to focus on (Power et al., 2020). Among young adults, mental health problems have emerged and remain present (Power et al., 2020). Social media and the confrontation with the effects of climate change cause climate anxiety (Ogunbode et al., 2022). This negative effect on well-being could potentially have a positive effect in terms of increased participation in actions for climate protection in the future, which Ogunbode et al. (2022) already identified as an antidote to climate change. Knowing that all age groups are equally concerned might show what new circumstances the society, especially the younger generation, must face. It seems that all age groups feel the topic of climate change is urgent. One could almost assume that the whole population feels affected by the present effects of climate change which has been confirmed by the Special Eurobarometer 538 (2023). It has been shown that people living in countries with better ecosystem quality were more concerned than citizens with poorer ecosystem vitality regarding climate change risks

(Echavarren, 2019). Austria is ranked as one of the top ten greenest countries in the world (Wolf et al., 2022), which supports the result of the high level of concern among the citizens of the survey in 2023. This implies that Austrians should be very concerned which they are according to the results of Special Eurobarometer 538 (2023). Osberghaus and Hünnewaldt (2023) explained the so-called neighborhood effect, whereby in large cities many people live close to and influence one another, and this effect can even influence the population of a city when it comes to concerns regarding climate change. Concluding, the not significant concern difference among age groups in the survey in 2023 could be a result of the variety of problems the Austrian citizens face at the moment. The Covid-19 pandemic and the looming economic crisis are potential influence factors for the population, even though climate mitigation is urgent.

4.2. Over the past decade, a lot of information on climate-related facts has become available (online). Does the abundance of content from different sources result in different knowledge levels among different age groups? Has the knowledge level in general changed over the past decade?

A comparison study of laypeople in the US found an improvement in the knowledge and understanding regarding climate change causes and processes among citizens from 1992 to 2009 (Reynolds et al., 2010). In 2009 WWViews reported that 91% of the participants in the panel highlighted the importance of climate protection measures (Bechtold et al., 2010). Gudowsky (2010) surveyed 105 people in Vienna and stated that less than 80% (76%) felt informed. In 2023, a slight improvement was noticeable. Compared to Gudowsky in 2023 84.20% felt informed. The reason for this result may be the abundance of accessible information. Gudowsky (2010) investigated whether there is a difference between the “uninformed” general public and the “informed” participants of the World Wide Views on Global Warming project when it comes to climate change knowledge and opinions on global warming. Concern was present among the informed as well as the uninformed citizens. The information process of WWViews resulted in a change of mind but this only lasted short-term since 50% of the participants changed their opinion in the follow-up survey compared to the main survey. As a reason, Gudowsky (2010) assumed that people perceive climate change as something that remains far in the future. The surveys from 2009 and 2023 differ in sample size (2009: n=105; 2023: n=400), filling forms and some questions have been

added and cancelled in 2023 (table 4, see appendix). However, the knowledge among the Austrian citizens did not increase and this suggests that the level of knowledge was already high, but the nature of the debate may have changed which was not investigated. The questions in the survey in 2023 on the awareness of WWViews and “Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger” and the associated follow-up questions show that the assessment of the population regarding knowledge is high. It is known that overconfident populations are evolutionary stable which could explain why participants overestimated their knowledge in the mentioned follow-up questions (Johnson & Fowler, 2011).

4.3. The survey done as part of this work gave citizens the possibility to express what they think influences politics. Science proves that climate protection measurements are necessary, but politics fail to fulfil demands, recommendations, and implementations. How are missing political actions perceived by the questioned persons?

The 2023 survey offered participants the possibility to voluntarily share their opinions on what influences politics. The results were predominantly pessimistic. Already in 2009, COP15 brought overall disappointment (Groen & Niemann, 2013). Neither the targets previously set under the Kyoto Protocol, nor the Paris Agreement were achieved by 2009, nor was the in-advance announced halving of CO₂ emissions recorded in the final report (Ehrenfeld, 2010). Gudowsky (2010) stated that 72% of his survey (2009) in Austria did feel integrated in political decision-making. The international debate of citizens (WWViews) took place beforehand and produced citizen recommendations for the participating politicians at this conference (Bechtold et al., 2010). Similarly in 2022, at the COP27 numerous issues were discussed during the conference, although none of the important points were included in the final declarations (Dodds & Spence, 2022). One result was the implementation of financing models – so-called climate funds – for financially weak countries. It was not specified which countries can or may use these funds though (*COP27 Reaches Breakthrough Agreement on New “Loss and Damage” Fund for Vulnerable Countries.*, 2022). Similarly, as WWViews took place before COP15, the Assembly of Climate Action Austria took place ahead of COP27. Even though, COP27 is not essentially correlated to the conference the similar constellation is noteworthy. The recommendations which were developed during the Assembly of Climate Action Austria were accessible to policymakers before COP27. Among

them of course those persons of the political realm, who actively participated at COP27. There has been no implementation of the citizens' opinions and demands at the climate conference, which diminishes trust in politics. Thoma and Hacker (2022) showed that the participation of the population concerning political decisions leads to more acceptance among society in relation to the implementation of climate mitigation projects. It is known that media presence plays an important role to inform and attract the attention of the population. Vice versa the number of participants in climate mitigation-related events/movements influences the number of media reports (Rucht, 2016). In conclusion, it can be said that large movements such as Fridays for Future are more effective than smaller initiatives (Hafner & Raimondi, 2020). The resulting higher media presence therefore leads to greater reach and therefore more opportunities to attract attention. More attention might influence politicians to take action. This topic requires further investigation. On one hand to give society rights of co-determination and on the other hand to investigate how to implement a tool for politicians to involve citizens. The results of the survey done in 2023 give a glimpse into the status quo of an Austrian sample on the topic of climate change. It shows that interest and knowledge in the population are high. Since 1920, citizens and their participation in politics have been part of democracy (Parlament Republik Österreich, 2023). Direct participation in democratic systems includes procedures that aim at broadening the information and decision-making basis for politics and potentially influencing the behaviour of the government by providing them with citizens' attitudes, values, and opinions. (Lenz & Ruchlak, 2001). Citizens' councils are initiatives that provide voluntary participation (Fischer-Bollin, 2021). The survey conducted in 2023 shows that among a sample size of 400 people, only a few knew about the initiatives WWViews and Assembly of Climate Change Austria carried out by the state. WWViews has been reported in three articles in the time period of one year, the Assembly of Climate Change Austria was the topic of 53 articles for a little over a year. Even though the media presence has increased over the past fourteen years, the most recent citizens' initiative is not known significantly better (Ennser in press, 2024). Such participatory processes are still important to open up discussions (Bechtold et al., 2013). It is clear that citizens' initiatives are part of democracy and essential for society, but the question remains why such state-supported initiatives fail to be recognized by citizens. The survey showed that non-state-funded movements (e.g., Fridays for Future) are better known. There is evidence that information and its provision play an important role in raising

awareness and in knowledge acquisition (Douglas et al., 1998). State-supported initiatives have the resources to implement this. The 2023 survey therefore shows how the media presence was neglected and that an essential part of democracy is not visible for most of the participants, which results in frustration and pessimism within society. Nevertheless, the survey only had a relatively small sample of the Austrian population as a whole and it is unclear if the pessimism towards Austrian climate policy results from a generally negative attitude towards Austrian politics. However, not only did politics fail, but Coeln (in press, 2024) describes the different recommendations of the citizens who took part in WWViews Austria in 2009 and the Assembly of Climate Actions in 2022. One statement to highlight is the handling of fossil fuels. In 2009, citizens already came up with the need for a climate funding system and CO₂ pricing. The exact same recommendation was brought up in 2022 in the final report as number 64 from the Assembly of Climate Actions. The survey conducted in 2023 supports the demand for fossil pricing in society. The pricing is not globally set, and the main reason still remains to be economic, plus population adjustment (Kojima, 2016). The fact that people cannot deal with an overly fast and excessively high price increase of fossil fuels plays an important role. Therefore, the well-informed population knows the reason – climate change – for necessary measures to not further accelerate climate change but the willingness to accept personal economic losses is lacking. Further research should look deeper into the possibilities of how to deal with financial responsibility on the one side and which regulations can or must play a role on the other side.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this master's thesis provides information about the level of knowledge, concern, and pessimism among the survey participants in Austria in 2023. The survey – conducted online and in person – dealt with climate change, its consequences and its impact on political decisions. The research objective was to obtain the current state of concern and knowledge throughout the population and the correlation among different age groups has been investigated to gain a descriptive evaluation for decision-makers. The results showed that the level of concern was equally high among all age groups and no difference in knowledge about climate change and its consequences among age groups. Finally, it also documents a high level of frustration and therefore resulting pessimism in the population towards political actions which indicates that Austrian politics need improvement when it comes to citizen participation and the implementation of its results in actual decision-making processes. The objectives of this work have been realized, and it provides a reference point for policymakers to include the opinions of the participants in decisions in the future. There are possibilities – as part of democracy – to join, discuss and debate current situations such as climate mitigation. It remains unclear why politicians fail to implement the demands of citizens but rather seem to ignore the level of concern in the population. For future research, it is recommended not only to present the citizens' side but also to include politicians in the process, so that an insight into the actual work and possible scope of politics can also be presented. It will be essential to improve the communication between decision-makers and citizens as well as to raise the media presence of such activities to reach the entire population. As a result, the gap between society and politics can be narrowed and trust and optimism can be created. The citizens in the sample of this study claim to be informed and concerned regarding climate change, but they are pessimistic that politics will take the necessary steps in order to curb climate change. Once again, this report demonstrates how urgent the implementation of climate protection measures is and presents further food for thought for decision-makers and politicians to take action!

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Appendix

The survey on climate change in 2023 (German)



Eine Umfrage zum Klimawandel

Dieser Fragebogen wird für das Verfassen von drei Masterarbeiten am Department für Evolutionäre Anthropologie der Universität Wien verwendet. Alle Angaben sind anonym und werden von allen Beteiligten vertraulich behandelt.

Angaben zu Ihrer Person:

Bitte kreuzen Sie die für Sie zutreffende Altersgruppe an!

18 – 25 Jahre	☐
26 – 35 Jahre	☐
36 – 50 Jahre	☐
51 – 60 Jahre	☐
61 – 80 Jahre	☐
> 80 Jahre	☐

Bitte kreuzen Sie das für Sie zutreffende Geschlecht an!

Weiblich	☐
Männlich	☐
Divers	☐

Bitte kreuzen Sie die zutreffende Form Ihrer Erwerbstätigkeit an!

Angestellt	☐
Selbstständig	☐
Arbeitslos	☐
In Ausbildung (Schule, Lehre, Universität, Fachhochschule etc.)	☐
Pension	☐

Wie viele Einwohner:innen hat Ihr Wohnort?

Unter 2.000	
2.000 – 5.000	
5.000 – 20.000	
20.000 – 100.000	
Über 100.000	
Über 1.000.000	

Was ist Ihre höchste abgeschlossene Schulausbildung?

Pflichtschule (Volks-, Haupt-, Mittelschule, Polytechnikum)	
Berufsschule (Lehre), Fach-/Handelsschule (ohne Matura)	
Matura (AHS/BHS) / Hochschulreife	
Hochschulverwandte Ausbildung (Akademie, College etc.)	
Fachhochschul-/Uniabschluss, Hochschule	

1. Klimawandel, Vorinformation und die Folgen des Klimawandels

1.1. Bitte bewerten Sie die folgenden Aussagen zum Klimawandel!

	trifft völlig zu → trifft nicht zu						
Der Klimawandel hat schon jetzt negative Auswirkungen auf meinen Alltag.							
Der Klimawandel wird das Leben unserer Kinder bestimmt verschlechtern.							
Neue Technologien werden uns helfen, die meisten Klimaprobleme in den Griff zu bekommen.							
Wir müssen deutliche Einschränkungen unseres komfortablen Lebensstils hinnehmen, wenn wir ernsthafte Klimaprobleme verhindern wollen.							
Österreich ist in punkto Energiesparen und Klimaschutz weltweit führend.							
Wir haben immer noch Zeit die Klimaprobleme in den Griff zu bekommen.							
Mit internationalen Vereinbarungen zur Reduktion des CO ₂ -Ausstoßes wird es letztlich gelingen, die globale Erwärmung auszuhalten.							
Die Brisanz des Klimawandels wird häufig von Umweltschützer:innen übertrieben.							
Bürger:innen werden die entscheidenden Impulse geben, die nationalen Entscheidungsträger:innen zu überzeugen, etwas gegen die globale Erwärmung zu tun.							

1.2. Wie gut sind Sie Ihrer Ansicht nach über den Klimawandel und dessen Folgen informiert?

Ich weiß nichts.	
Ich weiß wenig.	
Ich weiß einiges.	
Ich weiß viel.	

1.3. Wie besorgt sind Sie wegen des Klimawandels?

Sehr besorgt.	
Eher besorgt.	
Wenig besorgt.	
Nicht besorgt.	
Weiß nicht.	

2. Langfristige Zielsetzung und Dringlichkeit

Vom 06. bis 18. November 2022 fand der Klimagipfel der Vereinten Nationen (COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh) statt. Folgende Abkommen und Ziele in Bezug auf den Klimawandel wurden beschlossen:

- Mehr erneuerbare Energien
- Herunterfahren der Kohle
- Bis 2030 max. 1,5 Grad Anstieg der Erderwärmung
- Verlängerung des Arbeitsprogramms der CO₂-Minderung bis 2030

2.1. Wie dringend denken Sie ist die Umsetzung der beschlossenen Abkommen/Ziele von COP27?

Es ist dringend.	
Es ist eher dringend.	
Weder noch, mir egal.	
Es ist eher nicht dringend.	
Es ist nicht dringend.	

2.2. Sollten die Politiker:innen in Österreich dem Erreichen der im Klimaabkommen gesetzten Ziele einen hohen Stellenwert zuordnen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

2.3. Was sollte Ihrer Meinung nach das langfristige Ziel für die Begrenzung des Temperaturanstieges sein?

Eine Zielvorgabe ist nicht notwendig.	
Ein stärkerer Anstieg als 2 Grad Celsius ist akzeptabel.	
Eine Begrenzung des Anstieges auf 1,5 Grad Celsius ist notwendig.	
Eine Rückkehr zum vorindustriellen Niveau (1850-1900) muss erreicht werden.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

2.4. Sollten Länder, die ihre Verpflichtungen im Rahmen des Klimaabkommens nicht erfüllen, bestraft werden?

Ja, die Bestrafungen sollten so streng sein, dass kein Vorteil aus der Nichterfüllung der Verpflichtungen entstehen kann.	
Ja, die Bestrafungen sollten beträchtlich sein.	
Ja, aber die Bestrafungen sollten hauptsächlich symbolischen Charakter haben.	
Es sollten keine Bestrafungen erfolgen.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

3. Wirtschaftliche Aspekte von Technologien und Anpassungsmaßnahmen – eigene Empfehlung

3.1. Sollten die Preise für fossile Brennstoffe (Öl, Kohle, Erdgas) erhöht werden?

Ja, für alle Länder.	
Ja, aber nur für Industrieländer und Länder mit hohem Pro-Kopf-Einkommen und/oder hohen Emissionen.	
Ja, aber nur für Industrieländer.	
Nein, es sollte keine Erhöhung der Preise geben.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

3.2. Wenn Sie bei der vorherigen Frage „Nein, es sollte keine Erhöhung der Preise geben.“ angekreuzt haben, kreuzen Sie bitte einen Grund an!

Mein Einkommen ist zu gering.	
Ich gebe mein Geld lieber für etwas anderes aus.	
Ich glaube es gibt bessere Lösungen, um die Umwelt zu entlasten.	
Ich empfinde die Preiserhöhung als einen wirtschaftlichen Nachteil.	
Keine der angeführten Aussagen begründet meine Antwort. Mein Grund: _____	

- 3.3. Sollte ein weltweites Finanzierungsmodell für „Entwicklungsländer“ geschaffen werden, dass ärmeren Ländern Zuschüsse für Maßnahmen zur Bewältigung des Klimawandels bereitstellt?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

- 3.4. Welche Länder sollten durch ein neues Klimaabkommen zur Zahlung der Vermeidungs- und Anpassungsmaßnahmen in „Entwicklungsländern“ verpflichtet werden?

Alle Länder.	
Alle Länder (außer die am wenigsten entwickelten Länder).	
Industrieländer.	
Es sollten keine Zahlungsverpflichtungen festgelegt werden.	
Weiß nicht./Keine Ahnung.	

4. Projekte, Bewegungen und Medien

- 4.1. Denken Sie zurück an das Jahr 2009, im Herbst wurde die COP15 abgehalten, haben Sie damals etwas von dem Projekt *World Wide Views on Global Warming* mitbekommen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	

- 4.2. Wenn Sie bei der vorherigen Frage „Ja.“ angekreuzt haben, wählen Sie bitte die zutreffende Aussage:

Das Projekt *World Wide Views on Global Warming* ist...

...ein internationales Projekt zur Bürger:innenbeteiligung, um die Bürger:innen in politische Entscheidungsprozesse einzubeziehen.	
...eine globale, soziale Bewegung ausgehend von Schüler:innen und Studierenden für möglichst umfassende, schnelle und effiziente Klimaschutz-Maßnahmen.	
...die Gründung einer Hilfsorganisation, welche medizinische Nothilfe in Krisen- und Kriegsgebieten leistet.	
Keine der oben genannten Aussagen ist korrekt.	
Ich möchte meine Antwort von der vorherigen Frage auf „Nein“ ändern.	

4.3. Haben Sie schon einmal etwas vom Klimarat der Bürger:innen gehört?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	

4.4. Wenn Sie bei der vorherigen Frage „Ja.“ angekreuzt haben, wählen Sie bitte die zutreffende Aussage aus:

Der Klimarat der Bürger:innen ist...

...eine eigene Abteilung des Österreichischen Parlaments.	
...ein völkerrechtlicher Vertrag (Übereinkommen von Paris), der anlässlich der Klimarahmenkonvention der Vereinten Nationen (COP21) aufgesetzt wurde.	
...eine Initiative zum Klimaschutz, ins Leben gerufen von einer Schulklasse aus der Stadtgemeinde Gerasdorf.	
...eine vom österreichischen Nationalrat beschlossene Maßnahme auf dem Weg zur Klimaneutralität.	
Keine der oben genannten Aussagen ist korrekt.	
Ich möchte meine Antwort der vorherigen Frage auf „Nein“ ändern.	

4.5. Haben Ihrer Meinung nach Bewegungen wie *Fridays for Future* einen Einfluss auf die Politik und deren Handlungsweisen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	
Ich kenne diese Bewegung nicht.	

4.6. Wenn Sie bei vorheriger Frage „Ja“ angekreuzt haben: Glauben Sie, dass Bewegungen wie *Fridays for Future* wichtig sind, um die Politik zu erreichen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	

4.7. Haben Ihrer Meinung nach Bewegungen wie *The Last Generation* einen Einfluss auf die Politik und deren Handlungsweisen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	
Ich kenne diese Bewegung nicht.	

4.8. Wenn Sie bei vorheriger Frage „Ja“ angekreuzt haben: Glauben Sie, dass Bewegungen wie *The Last Generation* wichtig sind, um die Politik zu erreichen?

Ja.	
Nein.	
Weiß nicht.	

4.9. Was hat Ihrer Meinung nach Einfluss auf die Politik? (freiwillig)

4.10. Welche Medien nutzen Sie primär, um sich zur Thematik rund um den Klimawandel zu informieren? Bitte wählen Sie max. 1 Antwort.

Printmedien (Zeitungen, Zeitschriften, Bücher etc.)	
Rundfunk (Radio, Podcasts, Fernseher etc.)	
Online-Zeitungen	
Soziale Medien (Instagram, Facebook, ...)	
Austausch mit Personen in meinem Umfeld	

Vielen Dank für Ihre Zeit!

The survey on climate change in 2023 (English)



A survey on climate change

This questionnaire is used for writing three master theses at the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology at the University of Vienna. All information is anonymous and will be treated confidentially by all participants.

Information about yourself:

Please tick the age group that applies to you!

18 – 25 years	☐
26 – 35 years	☐
36 – 50 years	☐
51 – 60 years	☐
61 – 80 years	☐
> 80 years	☐

Please tick the gender that applies to you!

Female	☐
Male	☐
Diverse	☐

Please tick the applicable form of your gainful employment!

Employed	☐
Independent	☐
Unemployed	☐
In education (school, apprenticeship, university, technical college, etc.)	☐
Pension	☐

How many inhabitants live in your town?

Under 2,000	
2,000 – 5,000	
5,000 – 20,000	
20,000 – 100,000	
Over 100,000	
Over 1,000,000	

What is your highest completed school education?

Compulsory school (primary school, secondary school, polytechnic)	
Vocational school (apprenticeship), technical/commercial school (without Matura)	
A-levels (AHS/BHS) / university entrance qualification	
Higher education (academy, college, etc.)	
University of applied sciences/university degree, college	

2. Climate change, prior information and the consequences of climate change

2.1. Please rate the following statements on climate change!

	trifft völlig zu → trifft nicht zu						
Climate change is already having a negative impact on my everyday life.							
Climate change will worsen the lives of our children.							
New technologies will help us to tackle most climate problems.							
We must accept significant restrictions on our comfortable lifestyles if we want to prevent serious climate problems.							
Austria is a world leader in energy saving and climate protection.							
We still have time to get a grip on the climate problems.							
International agreements to reduce CO ₂ -emissions will ultimately succeed in withstanding global warming.							
The explosive nature of climate change is often exaggerated by environmentalists.							
Citizens will provide the decisive impetus to convince national decision-makers to do something about global warming.							

2.2. How well informed do you think you are about climate change and its consequences?

I know nothing.	
I know little.	
I know a few things.	
I know a lot.	

2.3. How concerned are you about climate change?

Very worried.	
More like worried.	
Little concerned.	
Not worried.	
I don't know.	

2. Long-term objective and urgency

The United Nations Climate Summit (COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh) took place from 06 to 18 November 2022. The following agreements and goals regarding climate change were agreed upon:

- More renewable energies
- Shutting down coal
- Max. 1.5 degrees increase in global warming by 2030
- Extension of the CO₂ reduction work programme until 2030

4.11. How urgent do you think it is to implement the agreements/targets agreed at COP27?

It is urgent.	
It is rather urgent.	
Neither, I do not care.	
It is rather not urgent.	
It is not urgent.	

4.12. Should politicians in Austria give high priority to achieving the goals set in the climate agreement?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

4.13. What do you think should be the long-term goal for limiting temperature rise?

A target is not necessary.	
A stronger increase than 2 degrees Celsius is acceptable.	
Limiting the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius is necessary.	
A return to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900) must be achieved.	
I do not know.	

4.14. Should countries that do not fulfill their commitments under a new climate agreement be penalized?

Yes, the punishments should be so severe that no advantage can be gained from not fulfilling the obligations.	
Yes, the punishments should be considerable.	
Yes, but the punishments should be mainly symbolic.	
There should be no punishment.	
I do not know.	

5. Economic aspects of technologies and adaptation measures - own recommendation

5.1. Should fossil fuel prices (oil, coal, natural gas) be increased?

Yes, for all countries.	
Yes, but only for industrialized countries and countries with high per capita income and/or high emissions.	
Yes, but only for industrialized countries.	
No, there should be no increase in prices.	
I do not know.	

5.2. If you ticked "No, there should be no increase in prices" in the previous question, please tick one reason!

My income is too low.	
I prefer to spend my money on something else.	
I think there are better solutions to reduce the burden on the environment.	
I feel that the price increase is an economic disadvantage.	
None of the statements cited substantiates my answer. My reason: _____	

5.3. Should a global system be created to provide financial resources to fund mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

5.4. Which countries should be obliged by a new climate agreement to pay for mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?

All countries.	
All countries (except least developed countries).	
Industrial countries.	
No payment obligations should be set.	
I do not know.	

6. Projects, movements and media

6.1. Think back to 2009, when COP15 was held in autumn. Did you notice anything about the World Wide Views on Global Warming project?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

6.2. If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies:

The project *World Wide Views on Global Warming* is...

... an international project on citizen participation to involve citizens in political decision-making processes.	
... a global, social movement, starting with pupils and students, for the most comprehensive, rapid and efficient climate protection measures possible.	
... the foundation of an aid organization that provides emergency medical aid in crisis and war zones.	
None of the above statements is correct.	
I would like to change my answer from the previous question to "No."	

6.3. Have you ever heard of the Assembly for Climate Action Austria ("Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger")?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

6.4. If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies:

The citizens' climate council is...

...a separate department of the Austrian Parliament.	
...a treaty under international law (Paris Agreement) that was established on the occasion of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).	
...a climate protection initiative launched by a school class from the municipality of Gerasdorf.	
...a measure adopted by the Austrian National Council on the way to climate neutrality.	
None of the above statements is correct.	
I would like to change my answer of the previous question to "No."	

6.5. In your opinion, do movements like Fridays for Future have an influence on politics and its ways of acting?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	
I do not know this movement.	

6.6. If you ticked "Yes" in the previous question: Do you think movements like Fridays for Future are important in reaching out to policy-makers?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

6.7. In your opinion, do movements like The Last Generation have an influence on politics and the way they act?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	
I do not know this movement.	

6.8. If you ticked "Yes" in the previous question: Do you think movements like The Last Generation are important in reaching out to policy-makers?

Yes.	
No.	
I do not know.	

6.9. What do you think has an influence on politics? (voluntary)

6.10. Which media do you primarily use to inform yourself about the topic of climate change?

Print media (newspapers, magazines, books etc.)	
Broadcasting (radio, podcasts, TV, etc.)	
Online newspapers	
Social media (Instagram, Facebook, ...)	
Exchange with people around me	

Thank you for your time!

What do you think has an influence on politics? (voluntary)³

Wirtschaft

Diskurs & austausch

Populist agendas. Self serving attitudes to insure re-election

Österreich alleine kann nichts bewirken. Nicht durch Aktionen wie die Klimakleber. Durch sinnvolle Diskussionen kann man Politiker erreichen.

Die gesamte Politik ist zu schwach um tolle erfolge zu erzielen

Alle Bürger/innen

Öffentliche Aufmerksamkeit und Druck

Die Bürger / Industrie

Geld und Unternehmen

Geld - Macht(-erhalt) - Partikulärinteressen der Wirtschaft & Industrie

Viele Leute auf Demos, alt und jung

Wirtschaft

Diese Bewegungen haben sicherlich eine gewisse Wirkung. Durch diese Bewegungen kommt es meiner Meinung nach zu einer Sensibilisierung der Gesellschaft - ob diese Bewegungen jedoch ein politisches Umdenken induzieren können ist die Frage. Neben wirtschaftliches Wachstum sollte auch der Klimaschutz ein primäre politische Ziel sein.

Viele Menschen für das selbe Ziel

Demonstrationen

Ich glaube, dass viele sich eine Änderung viel zu leicht vorstellen. Es ist kein Problem was wir nur in Österreich haben, sondern ein globales. Meiner Meinung wird es schwer hier eine weltweite Lösung finden. Daher glaube ich, dass wir im westlichen Raum, schwer darauf Einfluss nehmen können. Es gibt genug Industrieländer, die sich erst den Wohlstand den wir in Österreich haben, erarbeiten müssen. Daher schwierig eine Lösung zu finden

Wahlen, finanzielle Möglichkeiten/Strafen

Verlust und Gewinn an Wählerstimmen

Wirtschaftlicher Druck

Provokante statements dass mehr drüber gesprochen wird

messbare Ziele für die Leistungen der Politiker für die jeweilige Legislaturperiode

Konsumverhalten von BürgerInnen, WählerInnenverhalten, Direkte und unmittelbare Betroffenheit durch Klimawandel

In Österreich anscheinend nur Geld...

Wenig! Oben genannte Initiativen aber aufgrund der medialen Berichterstattung aber wahrscheinlich doch ein wenig.

Streiks

Wirtschaft

Vorbildwirkung und Forschung von alternativen

Geld

Meinungsbildung und Bewusstseinsschaffung (Awareness)

Drohender Verlust von Wahlstimmen - wenn sich ein solcher Wahlverlust abzeichnet, kommt die Politik tendenziell ins Handeln.

Nachbarländer

Demonstrationen, Petitionen, NGOs (zB Greenpeace)

Nichts, die machen eh was Sie wollen

³ The original, grammatically, and spelling-wise not corrected, opinion poll answers in German.

Druck aus der Zivilbevölkerung. Wahlen.

Geld

Geld & Macht & Korruption. Leider.

Behandlung wichtiger Themen wird beschleunigt, mehr Druck auch wirklich was zu Verändern und nicht nur österreichische Kompromisslösungen zu finden

Ich denje gar nichts, außer wenn die Auswirkungen auch für die machthabenden Personen persönlich spürbar sind. Dann wird es aber zu spät sein. Trotzdem finde ich die oben genannten Bewegungen und Aktionen wichtig, deswegen habe ich trotzdem ja angekreuzt, obwohl ich die Frage bzgl. des Einflusses nein angekreuzt habe

Leider muss erst was passieren, da ist es dann meistens zu spät.

leider nur MÄchterhalt und Geld

Maßnahmen, bei deren Nichteinhaltung sich die Politik verantworten muss... müssten Entscheidungen mit persönlicher Haftung für die Politiker sein.

Diskutieren

Das Wahlverhalten der Wähler:innen. Nur für wen ist Klimapolitik das entscheidende Wahlmotiv?

Geld

Proteste mit wissenschaftlicher Unterstützung

Der Druck auf die Gesellschaft. Klimakleber bspw polarisieren sehr stark. Die Politik wird gezwungen Stellung zu beziehen. Die Gesellschaft spricht über das Thema. Man kann es nicht ignorieren. Medienpräsenz ist wichtig.

Korruption

Politiker würden sich mehr einsetzen und besser arbeiten, wenn sie auch persönlich zur Verantwortung gezogen werden können

Tatsächlich glaube ich, dass große (Klimawandel-induzierte Umwelt-)Katastrophen notwendig sind, damit die Politik gezwungen ist zu handeln.

Geld, wie teuer etwas ist. Lobbies.

Kreative Bürgerbeteiligungen, die auch von der Bevölkerung selbst großteils unterstützt werden

Dass nicht tatenlos zugeesehen wird, wie die Politiker mit Umwelt und Menschen umgehen.

Einschränkungen und Strafen

Der wirtschaftliche Aspekt

Fachbeiträge, wissenschaftliche Diskussion

Die Bewegung der Masse...

Höhere Interessen wie z.B. Konzerne, Eliten

Aufgrund der österreichischen Parteien Demokratie - keine

Aufmerksamkeit, Druck, eigenes umstellen der Lebensweise

Das ständige wiederholen von klimapolitischen Forderungen und das aufzeigen möglicher Folgen auf das Klima in den nächsten Jahrzehnten. Je mehr darüber gesprochen wurde, desto eher sie sich auch die Politik in der Verpflichtung entsprechende Schritte zu setzen.

Vielleicht ist das oben angekreuzte "ja" auch Wunschdenken, denn Geld und Prestige haben Einfluss auf die Politik. So scheint es zumindest.

Druck zum Handeln erhöhen, finanzielle Vorteile veränderter Wirtschafts- und Lebensweisen darlegen, Wählen gehen, verstehen wie Politik funktioniert und diese Mechanismen nutzen

Wirtschaft und Wahlen / Volksbegehren

Unternehmen und Geld

Grüne Parteien stärken. Mehr Engagement der UNO für Klimafragen

Zusammenschlüsse der Bevölkerung und die Politiker endlich verantwortlich machen! Raus aus der Selbstverantwortung

Geld (deren Gehalt mitunter) und Big Players / Unternehmen und Strafzahlungen

Geld regiert die Welt. Wir leben in einem kapitalistischen System. Solange Geld und Wirtschaft die Richtung angeben, wird sich nichts ändern.

Eine komplett neue, junge Regierung die mit diesen Themen aufgewachsen ist und sie lebt.

Geld und Macht

Der Druck der Öffentlichkeit und internationale Strafmaßnahmen bei verfehlter Klimapolitik

Internationalen Trends und Abkommen in Betracht zu Finanzielle Situation

Bewirkt Änderung der Legislative

Geld von Großindustriellen

Nur Frust weil die Last Generation Verbrecher sind

Konzerne

Lobby und Druck der EU

Top-down und bottom-up Initiativen - es benötigt beides. Einbezug aller Bürger:innen ist notwendig, momentan entscheidet die Unternehmerschicht in Österreich über Themen, die sie nicht betreffen. Bzw schaffen es die Grünen nicht in der Koalition gut zu verhandeln. Beide Parteien legen sich gegenseitig lahm. Es braucht Initiativen die im politischen Entscheidungsprozess diverse Meinungsbilder und Perspektiven (jung - alt, weniger - mehr Einkommen, Frau - Mann - Divers, Behinderung - ohne, etc.)

Einerseits die Bevölkerung, ansonsten vor allem die Privatwirtschaft

Konstruktive meetings aber v. A. Wirtschaftlicher Druck

Geld

Die öffentliche Meinung.

Lobbyarbeit und korruption :)

Volksabstimmung

Sich zu organisieren

I'm Moment scheinbar nichts

Geld

Ich fürchte leider sehr wenig, abgesehen von macht und wirtschaftlichem Wachstumsversprechen

Geld.

Permanenz

Ökonomische Faktoren

Industrie/Lobbyisten

Aufmerksamkeit erregen so viel wie möglich. Fakten fakten fakten

Große Konzerne und mächtige Personen

Medienwirksamkeit

Leider nur Wählerstimmen

Leider vorrangig die Unternehmen welche das Geld haben.

Alle Aktionen, die auffallen, aber die Bürger:innen "mitnehmen". Last Generation ist leider kontraproduktiv

Meinungsumfragen und der nächste Wahltermin

Geldgeber, Unternehmen, Wählerzahlen

Geld/Lobbyisten, Meinungsumfragen, Wirtschaft

Jede Form wo sich Bürgerinnen und Bürger zusammenschließen und gemeinsam Forderungen stellen - auch Demos

Wahlverhalten der Einwohner

Alle

Engagement in politischen Bewegungen/Parteien und professionelles Lobbying

Geld.

Lobbyisten, große Konzerne

Leider Wissenschaftler, die nichts sagen dürfen

Nur der Druck des Geldes und die Angst, eine Wahl und damit Macht zu verlieren.

Einerseits bottom up "Druck" andererseits ist die Politik auch der "knecht" der Wirtschaft (Arbeitsplätze, international kompetitiv, standortsicherheit etc) die Herausforderung liegt im finden der Balance

Mediale Aufmerksamkeit

Kapital, Lobby, Medien, Druck "von der Straße"

Internationale Zielvereinbarungen mit potenziellen Strafzahlungen (leider monetaristische Anreize..)

Die Angst um einen Machtverlust.

Geld, Strafen

Konsequenzen für das Nicht umsetzen von Vorgaben

Aufklärung

Wetter Katastrophe

Die Bürger müssen sich zur Lobby der "Welt" erklären und dann entsprechend verhalten und wählen.

Von Experten unterstützte Bürgerbewegungen mit konstruktiven Vorschlägen.

Similarities and differences between the questions in 2009 & 2023

Questionnaire 2009

Questionnaire 2023

1. Climate change

1. Climate change, prior information, and the consequences of climate change

Climate change is already having a negative impact on my everyday life.

Climate change will worsen the lives of our children.

New technologies will help us to tackle most climate problems.

We must accept significant restrictions on our comfortable lifestyles if we want to prevent serious climate problems.

Austria is a world leader in energy saving and climate protection.

We still have time to get a grip on the climate problems.

International agreements to reduce CO₂-emissions will ultimately succeed in withstanding global warming.

The explosive nature of climate change is often exaggerated by environmentalists.

Citizens will provide the decisive impetus to convince national decision-makers to do something about global warming.

2. Climate change and its consequences

How well informed do you think you are about climate change and its consequences?

How concerned are you about climate change?

3. A global climate agreement: Long-term goal and urgency

2. Long-term objective and urgency

How urgent do you think it is to adopt a global climate agreement?

How urgent do you think it is to implement the agreements/targets agreed at COP27?

If a new climate agreement is adopted at COP15, should politicians in Austria give high priority to accession?

Should politicians in Austria give high priority to achieving the goals set in the climate agreement?

What do you think should be the long-term goal for limiting temperature rise?

Should countries that do not fulfill their commitments under a new climate agreement be penalized?

4. Dealing with greenhouse gas emissions

What do you think the reduction target should be by 2020 for industrialized countries?

What do you think the reduction target should be by 2020 for emerging economies?

What do you think the 2020 reduction target should be for so-called developing countries with low per capita income?

5. Economic aspects of technologies and adaptation measures

3. Economic aspects of technologies and adaptation measures - own recommendation

Should fossil fuel prices (oil, coal, natural gas) be increased?

If you ticked "No, there should be no increase in prices" in the previous question, please tick one reason!

Should a global system be created to provide financial resources to fund mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?

Which countries should be obliged by a new climate agreement to pay for mitigation and adaptation measures in "developing countries"?

4. Projects, movements and media

Think back to 2009, when COP15 was held in autumn. Did you notice anything about the World Wide Views on Global Warming project?

If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies:
The World Wide Views on Global Warming project is...

Have you ever heard of the Assembly for Climate Action Austria ("Klimarat der Bürgerinnen und Bürger")?

If you ticked "Yes." in the previous question, please select the statement that applies: The citizens' climate council is...

In your opinion, do movements like Fridays for Future have an influence on politics and its ways of acting?

If you ticked "Yes" in the previous question: Do you think movements like Fridays for Future are important in reaching out to policy-makers?

In your opinion, do movements like The Last Generation have an influence on politics and the way they act?

If you ticked "Yes" in the previous question: Do you think movements like The Last Generation are important in reaching out to policy-makers?

6. Your recommendation

If you had the opportunity to make a recommendation to the political decision-makers at the climate summit in Copenhagen, what would it be? What do you think is the most important thing?

What do you think has an influence on politics? (voluntary)

Which media do you primarily use to inform yourself about the topic of climate change?