

CIVISTI Citizen Consultation I in Bulgaria

**Organised in Sofia on 20 – 21 June 2009 at the Applied Research
and Communications Fund**



Citizen Panel in Bulgaria

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Acknowledgements

The CIVISTI team of the Applied Research and Communications Fund acknowledge the work of the citizens in the first round of consultations held in June 2009 in Sofia. The work of the citizens is presented in this document.

Citizens Panel

1. Mr. Alexander Marinov
2. Ms Aliona Denyakina
3. Ms Ani Bojilova
4. Mr. Anton Kamburov
5. Mr. Borislav Filipov
6. Mr. Boyan Krivoshiev
7. Mr. Emil Mihaylov
8. Ms Emilia Kolushka
9. Ms Evelina Parapanova
10. Mr. Ivaylo Velinov
11. Mr. Kiril Topalov
12. Ms Madlen Tzekova
13. Mr. Magdena Ivanova
14. Ms Maria Georgieva
15. Ms Marieta Todorova
16. Mr. Martin Ivanov
17. Mr. Metodi Iliev
18. Mr. Miroslav Gerginov
19. Ms Nadejda Staneva
20. Mr. Naiden Naidenov
21. Mr. Rumen Damianov
22. Mr. Todor Shishkov
23. Ms Tzvetana Velinova
24. Ms Vesela Genkova
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Moderators:

- Mr. Divil Kulev
- Ms Stoyana Stoeva

Introduction

In order to achieve the objectives of the CIVISTI project, the following recruitment methodology was applied in Bulgaria:

- 1) An initial telephone screening was made among potential respondents. Upon respondents' agreement for participation, an interviewer visited the citizen at his/ her home to conduct a face-to-face interview.
- 2) Recruitment was held only among permanent Sofia residents in order a cost-effectiveness of the project to be achieved.
- 3) Selection of initial number of 35 respondents was provided (5+2 additional for each of the five groups as per the cookbook), thus allowing for a certain drop-out. Participants were recruited from 5 different age groups: 18-25, 26-35, 36-50, 51-60, and 61-75, with approximately similar number of male and female and distributed equally in the three main educational backgrounds – low, middle and high educational level.
- 4) In order to ensure the necessary number of respondents a receipt of a final agreement of the selected potential participants was provided 10 days before CC1.
- 5) Final selection of group participants was made one week in advance during a meeting (held on 12 June 2009 at the premises of ARC Fund), where the most communicative, creative, articulate and outgoing citizens were invited to take part in CC1. During this meeting the nature of the national citizen panel was explained so as to ensure that respondents are fully aware of what would take place and what was expected from them. The citizens made a one-minute introduction and then a short presentation on the project was made and the work to be carried out during the CC1 itself. This meeting was found very useful as some very practical questions were asked and answered. The citizens were given the information magazine in Bulgarian, as well as a 4-page document on CIVISTI. They were asked to go through the magazine and the information material to facilitate their work during CC1.
- 6) 25 citizens took part in CC1.

Vision No 1:

A Contemporary European City in the Year 2050

Participants:

1. *Boyan Krivoshiev*
2. *Emiliya Kolushka*
3. *Evelina parapanova*

Short description:

The residential building is developed in height in order to save land. There are massifs of skyscrapers, including the required terraces with greenery and flowers. Infrastructural zones with trade, entertainment and cultural functions are provided for in between. Pedestrian areas and oases from the past have not been forgotten.

- New light-weight designs and materials are used. They are created with innovative technologies with the purpose to insulate and preserve homes from the atmospheric conditions in the non-seasonal climate. The old city architectural units are harmoniously united with the new architectural decisions.
- Children's corners are situated close above the ground surface together with the specially provided for green and forest areas. The play facilities and the floorings above and around them are from environmental materials.
- Transport systems are noiseless due to their location in environment insulating transparent canals and going when necessary underground. Fuels for personal vehicles are ecologically harmless and for the public transport electric energy and magnetic field railways are used.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

- Conditions will be created for sustaining and continuing the city lifestyle which is always connected with the concentration of big population groups at one place.
- The climate changes will be respected. They were caused by humanity in the past years and led to lack of seasons.
- An optimal living environment has been provided, alternated with infrastructural zones accompanied by trade, entertainment and cultural outlets. Special attention has been dedicated towards children corners and the necessary requirements for salubrious and ecological living area.
- City public transport has been separated in channels of transparent constructions together with the underground one and they all depend on electric and magnetic energy. Private transport runs on innocuous fuel.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

- Partial problems with waste recycling from a particular region
- Ecological risks
- Technical failures
- Health problems – for the city dwellers, traffic participants and the population as a whole

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

The positively gained experiences from the past and the appropriate urban decisions have to be respected. The ancient architectural sites must be preserved. The architects, designers and constructors' creativity has to be combined with the ecological requirements.

Vision No 2:

Bulgaria – the Garden of Europe

Participants:

1. *Magdena Ivaova*
2. *Miroslav Gerginov*

Short description:

Recovered traditions and successful transformation of Bulgaria into a major nutritious ecological and bio resource centre in Europe based on the unique climate and the geographical location of our country as well as on the scientific potential in this field.

It's a nice day in September 2049. It gives one pleasure to walk about the gardens and fields full of fruits and vegetable where work is in full swing. And of course this is the most beneficial and fruitful time of the year. The media has noted that the commercial firms have difficulties managing all export orders. I pass by a group of foreigners, probably Germans, who while eating delicious fruits, could only say: „Ja, ja, das ist gut”. It was recently announced that almost half of the country's gross domestic product comes from this production. It is true happiness that our past dreams have come true now in the middle of the 21st century. In the last years a lot of major changes have taken place in soils, water and air preservation and restoration. They are totally clean now. A recent European Commission Report on agriculture stated that the quality of the agricultural production that is harvested in Bulgaria is at the highest quality level in the EU. And this is because of the natural conditions and the R&D in the field of agriculture.

A lot of EU funds have been invested here and researchers not only from Europe but also from other parts of the world have been involved. It is very important to mention that agriculture has helped to overcome the unemployment that spread all over the country after the massive close down and restructuring of the harmful and polluting sectors of the economy. More and more are the citizens of the EU who wish to work in the Bulgarian agriculture and draw on our experience.

We are proud that Bulgaria has regained its position in the production of fruits and vegetables that it had more than 100 years ago and we are again famous for being the European Garden of Eden.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

Bulgaria once again regains its positions in the field of agriculture. The benefits will be for all European citizens who will consume healthy and delicious food. The Bulgarian fruits and vegetables export share in the world trade is high. Licenses for the production of ecological and healthy food are sold. There are opportunities for the development of other sectors like tourism.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

There is a danger from an excessive agricultural development in Bulgaria that restricts the advance of other sectors.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

Sector targeted governmental policy, scientific research, knowledge and skills are necessary above all. The educational system has to prepare well-read professionals for the industry.

Vision No 3:

Eco-techno Future

Participants:

- 1. Metody Milev*
- 2. Marieta Todorova*

Short description:

In 2050 the materials used for the manufacturing of highly advanced technological products are without residue for the environment and are fully recyclable. For example, the pocket computer is made from an ecological material which when out of fashion is used for the manufacturing of a new one. “Smart” electronic cigarettes which are healthy and assist breathing are manufactured. Paper is out of use in accordance with a global law against forest cutting. Digital paper is a substitute, made from recyclable ecological materials. All cars run on water fuel or electrical engines.

Garbage collection is done in separate “smart litter-bins” that give warning to the controlling body in case of throwing of improper waste. Sanctions are imposed on not careful citizens. Electric bulb is completely out of use and is replaced by super-light panels which are charged by solar batteries integrated into windows

Water for households which has already been used doesn't leak into the foul sewerage but goes through a mini-purifying facility which every household possesses and which allows for multiple uses. Electric centrals on hard fuel do not exist. They are replaced by huge fields of solar panels and wind generators.

Self-governing robots purify the polluted in the past years soil and water which requires certain amount of time.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

There is more fresh air, water and clean soils. The food is uncontaminated and healthier. People benefit from the environmental lifestyle

The consequences from global warming, climate change which cause different calamities are limited.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

Decrease in business profit and an increase in unemployment could occur in the energy and other related economic sectors.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

- Political will of all countries' governments for the establishment of a common normative base which is going to direct policy to more ecological and natural future.
- All companies have to take corporate responsibility for the implementation of such policies in the respective business.
- The environmental responsibility of every single individual should be applied most strongly in children's upbringing and education. Ecology has to become a mandatory subject in school.

Vision No 4:

Free the Information!

Participants:

1. *Anton Kamburov*
2. *Alexander Marinov*
3. *Ivaylo Velinov*

Short description:

This is a vision about a unified system for publishing full information about every large-scale manufactured product. The term “product” is used in the widest sense!

The information that is publicized should be as concrete and encompassing as possible, concerning the major operating parameters, composition and way of production. This system should be uniform and controlled by one “agency”. The agency will oblige the manufacturer to give the information about the product in a form determined by this very agency. The purpose of the established form is to make the information clearer, easy to compare with similar products and ease control.

Such a system, of course, includes the adoption of a uniform legislation framework which is going to guarantee the existence and authenticity of the information.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

The benefits will be for every single consumer of large-scale (serial) product and the technologies used in its production. The same goes for the manufacturers which use other products and technologies for the production of their own product.

This will increase utilization of the used products and technologies while at the same time decrease expenses.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

- Disloyal manufacturers will face the respective consequences.
- A weakness of such a system is that it cannot encompass the fast changing retail services and products (i.e. custom made). As a result the confidence in companies providing such services and products could fall off.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

- The implementation mainly depends on the adoption of a unified legislative framework which will determine the functions of the information agency as well as protect manufacturers' right on the products and the authors' rights on their intellectual property.
- The adoption of such a legislative framework depends on the political good-will at European level.

Vision No 5:

Holistic Education

Participants:

1. *Alyona Deniyakina*
2. *Zlatomir Kovachev*
3. *Mariya Georgieva*

Short description:

Education contributes for the development of complete, realized, physically and psychologically healthy personalities. It gives opportunity for the most favorable development of personal talents.

The one who finished 9th grade is a broad-minded personality with clear vision of the world, open to innovation, ready to work in a team, to cooperate and take responsibility for one's decisions. Education encourages creativity in all aspects of art, sports and science. It is oriented towards the development of thinking personalities and their ability to build up their own projects for the present and for the future and then stand up for them. It develops the feeling, understanding and taste for different cultures and ability to work in partnership with different people. This can be achieved with interactive training in foreign languages and meeting with children and young people from other countries. Many study visits and joint projects are organized.

- Children have the opportunity to acquaint with and practice different arts and sports which creates conditions for revealing of individual talents and opportunity for a more successful direction for their development. At a later stage this creates conditions for realization of an informed choice. This type of education is oriented towards the establishment of balance between theory and practice in all subjects studied. It develops desire for a healthy lifestyle.
- Another important aspect is that nature is part of the educational process and not an abstract concept. Thus children develop an understanding for the way processes flow in it and begin to love it and feel responsible.
- While primary education lays wide foundations and gives general knowledge, the senior courses give opportunity for narrower specialization. This is achieved through a variety of elective courses so that everyone develops in the areas one finds interesting and has talent.

Education after 9th grade is specialized and directed towards the choice for higher education. It emphasizes on the science development while at the same time students have the chance to participate in real projects with experts.

The ossified doctrines in the higher education died out because people realized that the personality keeps national culture and not vice versa that nation keeps personality culture.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

The benefits will be for the whole society because versatile personalities will be built up and they will be responsible to themselves and to the world. They have realized their role in the world development and have an active position towards society enhancement.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

The educational system should be entirely reformed which will include full re-qualification of the human resources and change of the necessary equipment.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

New skills from professors (different type of qualification) and full change of the necessary equipment and infrastructure of the educational institutions.

Vision No 6:

Link Among the Generations, Space and Time

Participants:

1. *Nadejda Staneva*
2. *Vessela Genkova*

Short description:

The vision presents the happy life of a middle-sized European family in 2049.

The summer of 2049. I'm 91 years old. I am buoyant, energetic and happy. I find myself in the summer residence in Sinemorets, south seaside of Bulgaria. I meditate. I hear a signal from the big LCD screen. I join a conference call. My grandson Ivan, who studies space technology in Novosibirsk, tells me he is arriving with the high-speed helicopter in two hours with his colleagues (John who is 17 and come from New York, Tolbod who is 45 and comes from Yakutia and Sheherezada who is 69 and is from Anatolia). They are going to observe the solar eclipse in Sinemorets. A lot of Europeans are also going to come for the event. In the afternoon they are going to relax in the Veleka reserve.

Tomorrow is Saturday and we are flying to Altay for the weekend to pick blueberries and jenshen and visit the native healer. I quickly book online tickets for the one-hour flight. My children are also going there – Andrey who lives in Los Angelis and Katherine who lives in Paris. My son owns a dance school chain in Europe and my daughter is a professional make-up woman and works for the French national television.

I switch on the home robot – steward Roro to put in order the house for the arriving guests and to prepare a delicious dinner consisting of typical Bulgarian dishes. At the same time I take part in the European online referendum for the new generation of solar power-plants, take my longevity pill (developed by the research laboratory in Osaka), learn twenty new words in the language of the Basques and go to the beach for the traditional series of yoga exercises. While exercising, I contemplate the crystal clear waters of the Black Sea in which school of fish swim and corals grow. I have also a sea friend – the dolphin Chocho that comes everyday and greets me with joyful leaps in the water.

With a joyful heart and light steps I return home and wave my hand to the astronauts from nearby flying craft. In the past 20 years the technological cooperation between Mars and the Earth developed in full force; for example, Mars spacecrafts use on bio fuel, especially developed for them by the European scientists.

I express my warm gratitude to God for the beautiful and harmonious world we live in and for the love with which we are surrounded. No obstacles, neither in space, nor in time, exist anymore that can separate me from my beloved ones.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

- **For the individual** – health, longevity, harmony with one’s self and the surrounding world
- **For the family** – family values have been kept; because of the new transport technologies family ties are kept no matter in which part of the world family members are
- **For the society** – there is no social unrest, there is high standard and quality lifestyle, good social integration for everyone, excellent opportunities for professional realization without limits, harmonious multicultural milieu, high mobility, high dynamics in life without stress

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

- Weapon and drug manufacturers around the world will go bankrupt

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

- High extent of technological development for the benefit of the society:
 - space technologies
 - transportation
 - information and communication technologies
 - new materials
 - safety
 - medical technology and emphasis on prevention
 - new type of fuels
- The ordinary citizen is actively engaged in formulating the different policies
- Harmonious ties among people, contemporary times, traditions, nature and technologies
- New type of knowledge and skills – recognition of the available world resources (depositories of knowledge) and skills to actively look for the necessary information and adapt to dynamically changing environment.

Vision No 7:

**One Bulgaria,
One Europe,
One World – one whole!**



Participants:

1. Madlen Tzekova
2. Martin Ivanov
3. Ani Bojilova

Short description:

Bulgaria has gone through a lot of changes in the past 50 years and achieved its ideal not simply as a united nation, not just as part of Europe and the world but as a whole.

We live in a world obsessed with technology. Automobiles run on electric engines. Physical movement from one place to another happens very fast, with less traffic because public transport consists of air and underground subways. The fight with AIDS and cancer has finished successfully. Technological development towards taking care of the environment and human health allows time for relaxation, joy, and stress reduction. When I'm on vacation, at the seaside, I stay in submarine hotels which show the beauty and majesty of the marine flora and fauna.

Seen from the side Bulgaria is peace of Heaven, a pure and enchanting part of Europe which attracts and fascinates tourists every day with the greatness of its nature, the cultural-historic heritage and most of all with its benevolent people. The last results in from lack of racism. We all look at ourselves as a community, as a family. We are all brothers and sisters no matter in which part of the world we are. We are the people, all equal and the same, who live in harmony and change the world together.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

The benefit is to the humankind as a whole. We live in a united world in which Bulgaria perfectly fits, in a world built upon the idea of cooperation and equality.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

In a world of good intentions and unity there is no place for negative notions and actions.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

High level of education, change in family values, equal in rights dialogue and a common political and social system in Europe are necessary.



Vision No 8:

Sofia – the Green Capital

Participants

1. *Borislav Filipov*
2. *Nayden Naydenov*
3. *Roumen Damiyanov*

Short description:

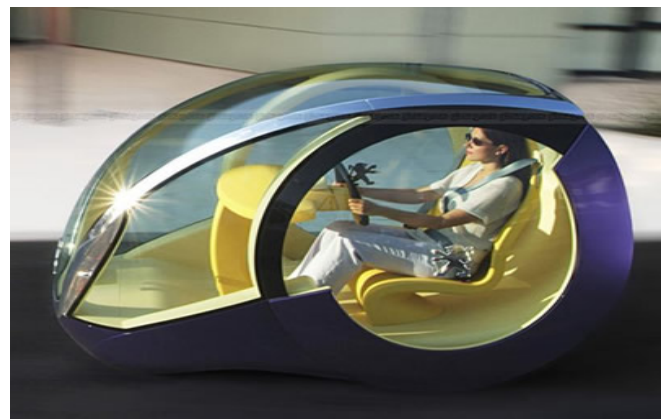


Hello,

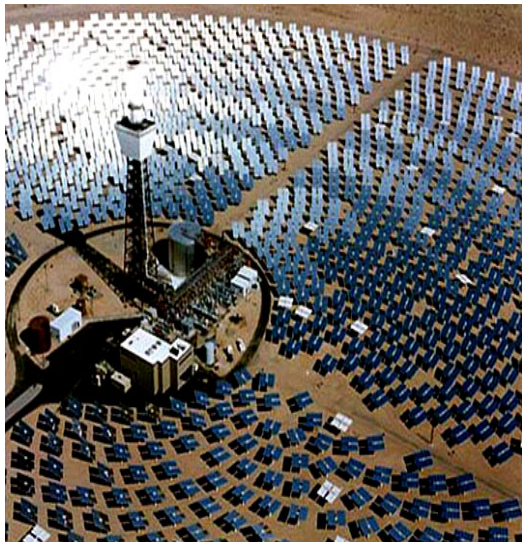
The year is 2040. We are in the skirts of Vitosha Mountain, in the South Park. During the day we attended the opening of the new botanic garden and zoo in Sofia where the animals and the plants inhabit a natural environment. Each one of us arrived by electric cars and bicycles that do not pollute the air.

Having a beer in the newly-built arbor made from recycled materials, we remembered what has happened to our capital in the past 30 years.

There are no thermo-electric and atom-electric power-plants. Instead there are solar towers which transform solar energy into electricity. Trees grow across all Sofia boulevards and have painted in fresh green our city. In that way our capital set Europe an example how a **contemporary green** European city should develop.



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What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

The benefits will be for citizens who are going to live in clean environment. Cancer diseases will disappear. Respiratory diseases will decline. Hence, citizens of Sofia will live calmly in their old age

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

There will be negative repercussions for the big construction entrepreneurs who wanted to overbuild our capital without abiding by the ecological standards.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

Everyone should necessarily adhere to the ecological standards in the EU. Sofia municipality should have the budget capacity to support the ecological balance in Sofia.

Vision No 9:

Human Values

Participants:

Please, write your names

Todor Shishkov

Emil Mihailov

Short description:

The vision for “human values” defines those rules and principles based on human ethics, which can be used as fundamental criteria for lawmaking and socio-political relationships. Approximately 80% of the means of production are distributed in the form of shares among people who “manufacture” and about 20% remain in favor of the state which acts as a guarantee for all “market” players. The “market” will be divided with the help of proportional and logical quotas. Human values will have financial protection through surplus product deductions. Resources will be exhausted for strictly concrete directions related to: right for an equal start in life, right for education, right for self-determination, cultural and religious values, right to work, right for social protection due to disability and old age and a decent life in the different co-society groups. Belonging on the basis of skin color, ethnical origin sex, etc. will be disregarded. Creating and guaranteeing existence-minimum and maximum, building legislation, using the formula “the family – basic unit of the society” with clearly-defined rules and prerogatives based on human morality.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

Reducing (lack of) poverty, wise economical use of planet's resources (respectively space) will be a financial guarantee for the existence and development of the different society sectors: education, science, technology, healthcare, etc. This will benefit societies which have acquired and utilized human values in practice and their everyday life.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

The drawbacks will be for those who have lost in time 90% of their human values and moral

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

A common socially-oriented policy is necessary that guarantees economic progress. Obligatory (but not compulsory) education until the age of majority. Prohibition against over-production, demand for and materialization of new technologies borrowed from nature. Restoration of the "good old forgotten technologies" and borrowing of "good practices" from other societies.

Vision No 10:

The human being in 2050 – harmoniously-built personality

Participants:

- 1. Tsvetana Velinova*
- 2. Kiril Topalov*

Short description:

Doctors, parents and teachers join efforts to create and form the individual as a harmonious personality. Medicine can give parents information for the physical state and talent of the child during pregnancy which can help for his or her development after birth. Future parents get advice from doctors for the right approach for the primary upbringing depending on the child's peculiarities like character, physical state, talent, etc. This information is processed by a computer programme which stores child's data during his or her development.

The child starts his/her social contacts already in the kindergarten and then one's development and direction as a personality continue at school. Keeping the personal contact among the children is very important for their harmonious development and that is why they are taught at school and not individually or via computer. With the help of the database that the individual has from one's birth, the tests at school can be stored and analyzed for one's further direction and specialization opportunities. As a result of this upbringing and education attitude from the family and from the teachers the so-built personality finds one's place in society and thus contributes to its well-being.

What is the vision:

What are the benefits associated with it? For whom?

The harmoniously developed personality will be beneficial to the whole society since it will be able to avoid conflicts in the workplace and in the family.

What are the negative repercussions of this future? For whom?

The goals of some organizations could influence the individual. Discrimination could occur.

What is necessary for this future (knowledge, policies, resources, skills)?

The member states and the European Union should direct the necessary resources and efforts towards the creation of harmoniously developed personalities. Knowledge is required in medicine, sociology, psychology and information technologies