

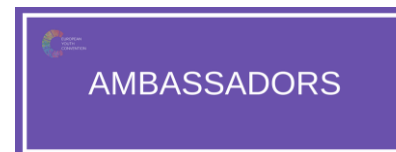
Electoral rules for elections to the European Parliament

By Martin Maska, EYC Ambassador



Rationale

- How to bring the EU closer to its citizens?
- How to bring people to poll rooms to cast their vote?



Discussion

- Who is involved in the discussion? Usually it's people who are voting.
- It's important to involve those, who are not voting / interested in the EU affairs.



Why are people not voting?

- There are no suitable candidates.

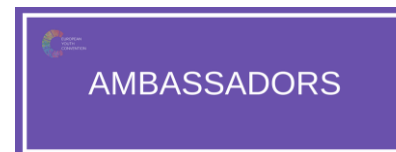
- No alternative/marginalised voices, no suitable policy/programme, not enough campaigning, lack of information, apathy in general, no interest in the EU.



Transnationality

... is a principle of carrying out an action across national borders, so as to have effects at a more general level.

- 1) Transnational voting
- 2) Country lists + transnational list
- 2) Transnational lists



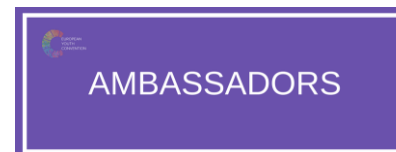
Transnational voting

- Citizens of the European Union should be able to vote in whichever country, disregarding their place of residence, for European elections.
- Resident of country A votes for candidate from country B.



Transnational voting - Q&A

- What if MEP's from our country are elected by residents of other countries?
- **Threshold:** candidate needs to obtain at least 51 (- 60)% of votes of local residents.



Country lists + transnational list

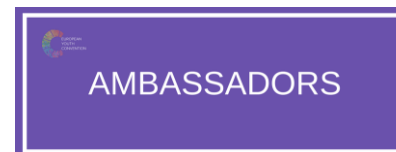
„The electoral law to be applied is a mixed system: half of the Members of the European Parliament seated at the European Parliament are elected on a constituency basis, and the other half are elected on transnational lists.“



Country lists + transnational list - Q&A

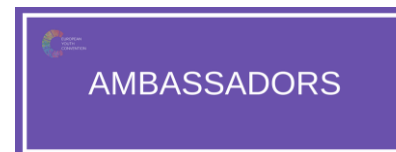
- How many votes shall one person have?
 - Question of preferential voting.

- 1) **Two votes:** residents of country A vote in their country + they can select candidates from TL
- 2) **One vote:** residents of country A vote in their country or select candidates from TL only
- 3) **Two votes:** residents of country A can vote in whichever country + they can select candidates from TL



Country lists + transnational list

- Current proposal by Italy on how to reallocate the 73 seats that British MEPs hold in the European Parliament = **additional pan-European list.**
- Idea recently endorsed by Gianni Pittella, the president of the Socialist bloc in the EP.
- The proposal is also supported by centrist Emmanuel Macron.



Transnational lists

„Transnational lists should replace the existing national lists and a threshold should be introduced and determined by the European Parliament.“

- Existence of European PP's is a prerequisite (*„European political parties should have a legal status“*).



Transnational lists

- Each European political party presents one list composed of candidates from all MS's.
- Question of preferential voting – within one list or across lists.



Transnational lists - Q&A

- What if any of our local political parties is not a member of any European PP?
 - There should be **independent list**.
- What if some European PP is not represented in our country by local branch? Would number of our MEP's decrease?
 - **No, it would be fixed.** And you can vote for candidates of certain political party from other MS.



Transnational lists – Regional lists

- Citizens would be able to vote within certain region where they reside (e.g. BENELUX, Visegrad, Alpen-Adria, CEI).
- Possibility to vote accross regions, but then transnational lists are better.
- How to define regions, problem of gerrymandering.





Accountability

- Related to both transnational voting and lists.

- Whom are MEP's accountable to?

1) **Geographically:** to residents/citizens of certain MS?

2) **Thematically:** to their programme and all Europeans who elected them?

2) To all European citizens?



Other proposals

- Age limit: 18 or 16?

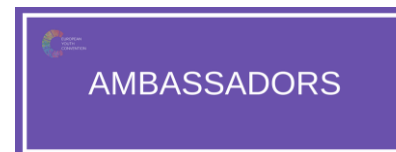
(different effects: Austria x Slovakia; current discussion in Belgium).

- Threshold to get to the EP: 3 – 5% of all votes.
- Ethical committee (remove MEP's from their office).
- Campaigns (who would finance them?).
- Creation of European media?



Questions for public

- Would transnational/regional lists rise elections turnout?
- In your local context, why are people not participating in European or other elections?
- Shall be other forms or civic participation enshrined in the Treaties / Citizen's constitution?



Thank you for your attention!

Bedankt voor uw aandacht!

