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Germany Citizens' Assembly „Nutrition in Transition“

Between private matters and state
responsibilities

LCS-RNet annual meeting

Presented by Prof. Dr. Melanie Speck

University of Applied Science Osnabrueck

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Agenda

- Overview, background and concept
- Implementation strategies
- Involvement of experts

Background and aim

- On May 10, 2023, the members of parliament decided that the first Citizens' Assembly of the German Bundestag should deal with the topic of "Nutrition in transition: between a private matter and state responsibilities".
- Handing over recommendations to the members of the German Bundestag by the end of February 2024 in the form of a citizens' report

Aim

- The Citizens' Assembly advises the German Bundestag on food policy by drawing up a differentiated statement based on everyday experience and then formulating specific recommendations on key points.
- In addition, the Citizens' Assembly on Nutrition is intended to test the Citizens' Assembly format as an element of citizen participation at federal level. The aim of the Citizens' Report is to achieve a quality of results that is perceived as helpful for opinion-forming in the political process, without the results restricting the freedom of decision of members of parliament.

Basic principles

- Fairness
- Neutrality
- Openness to results
- Transparency
- Appreciation
- Diversity
- Factual and informational basis

Involvement of citizens in the process design

- Openness to involvement by the Citizens' Assembly
- Time buffer
- Starting with the knowledge and interests of the participants
- Prioritization and the courage to leave gaps

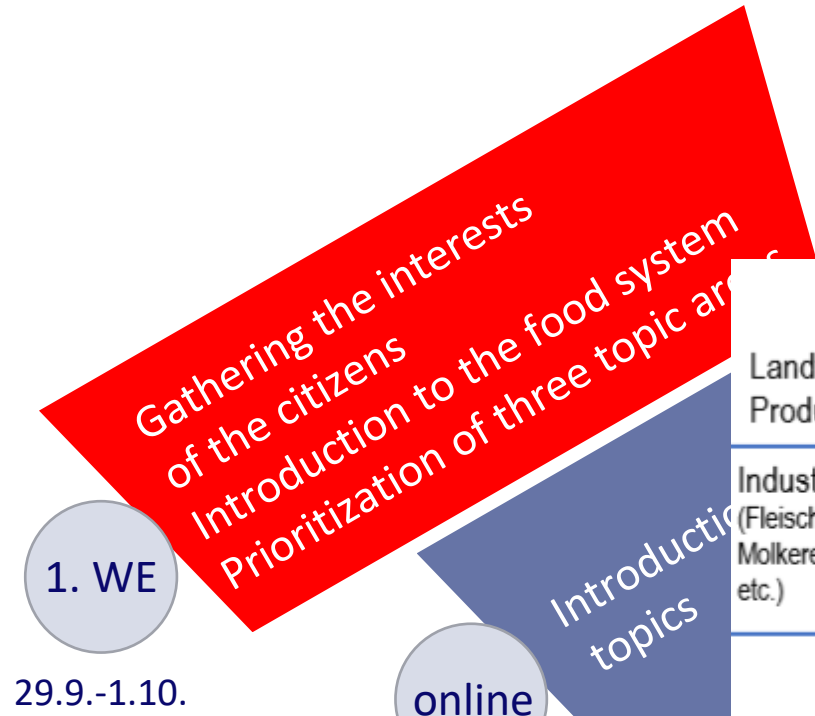
Deliberation

- Safe and structured framework
- Discussion rules, productive and respectful discussion
- A consensus orientation and focus on conflicts
- Various methods and inclusion

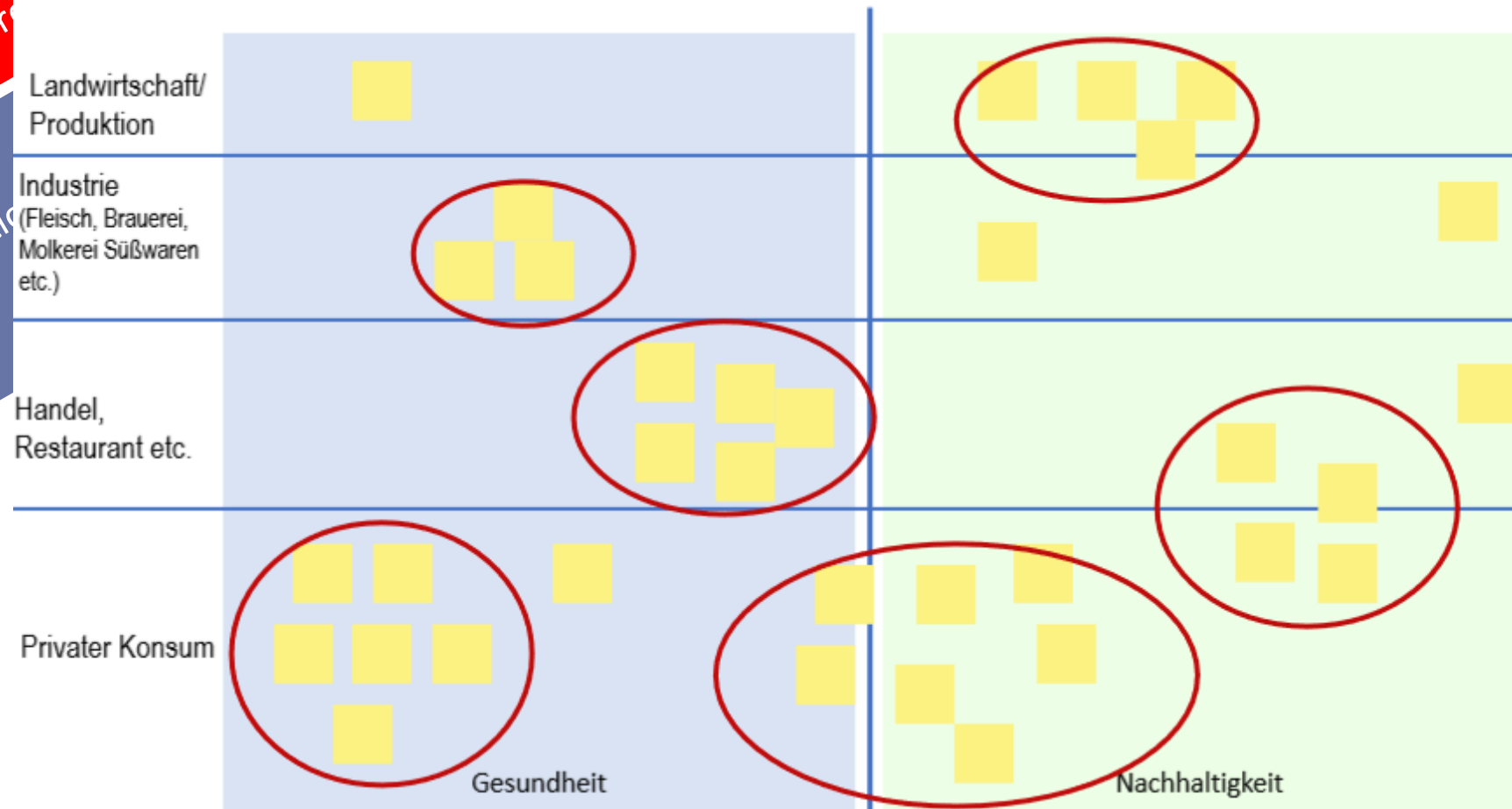
Overview of the concept



Overview of the concept



Introduction and Prioritization



Overview of the concept

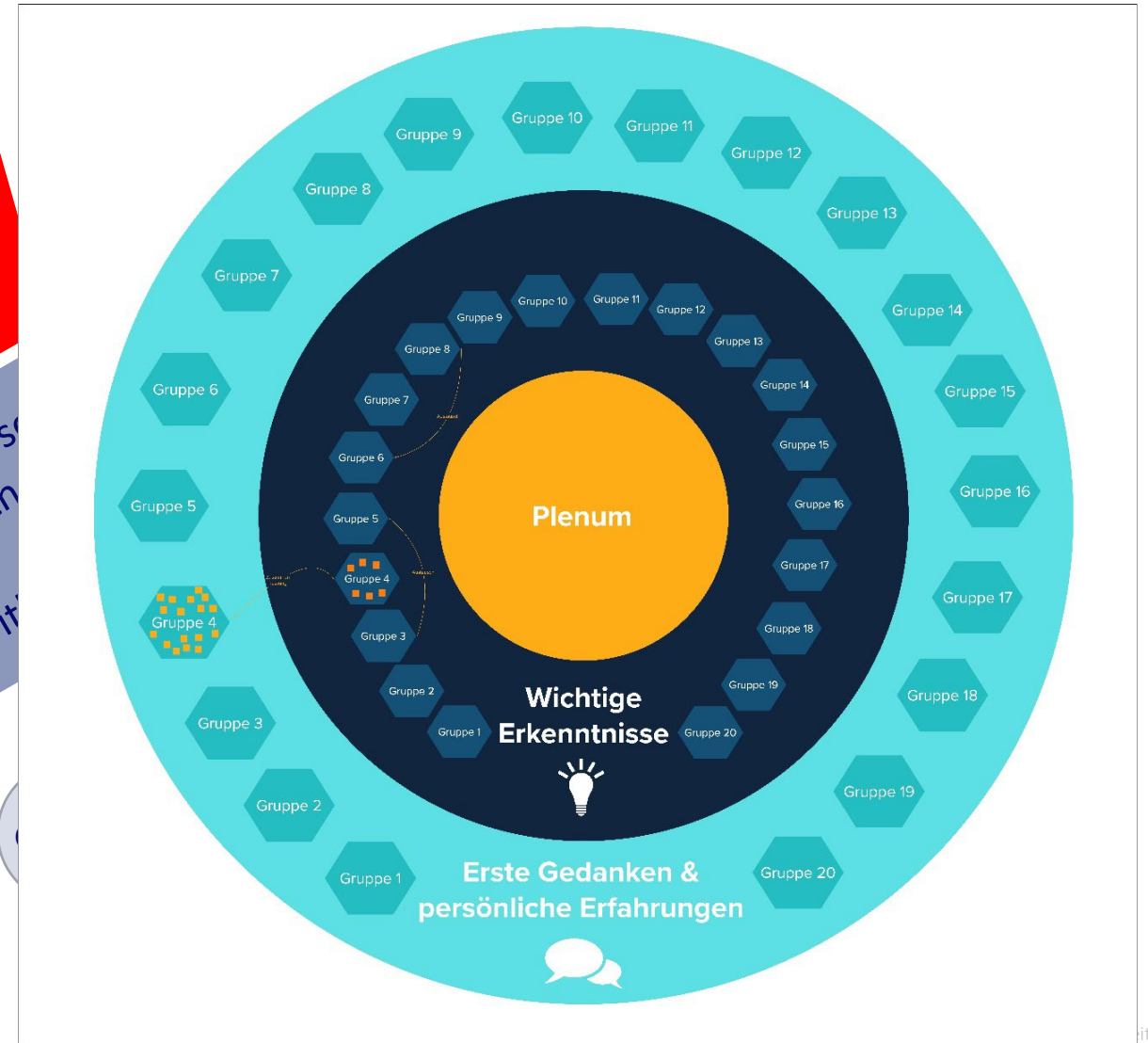
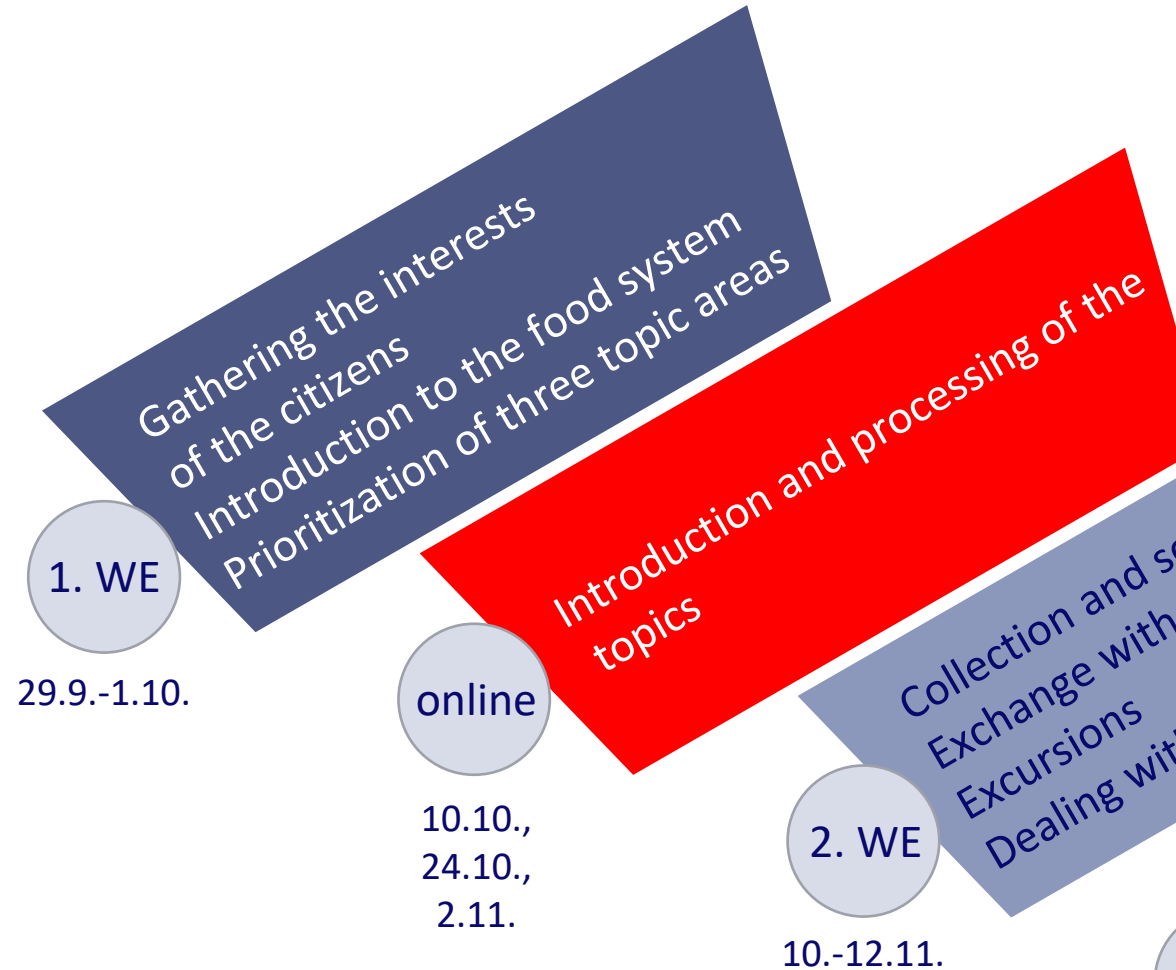


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Overview of the concept

Gathering the interests
citizens
to the food system
three topic areas

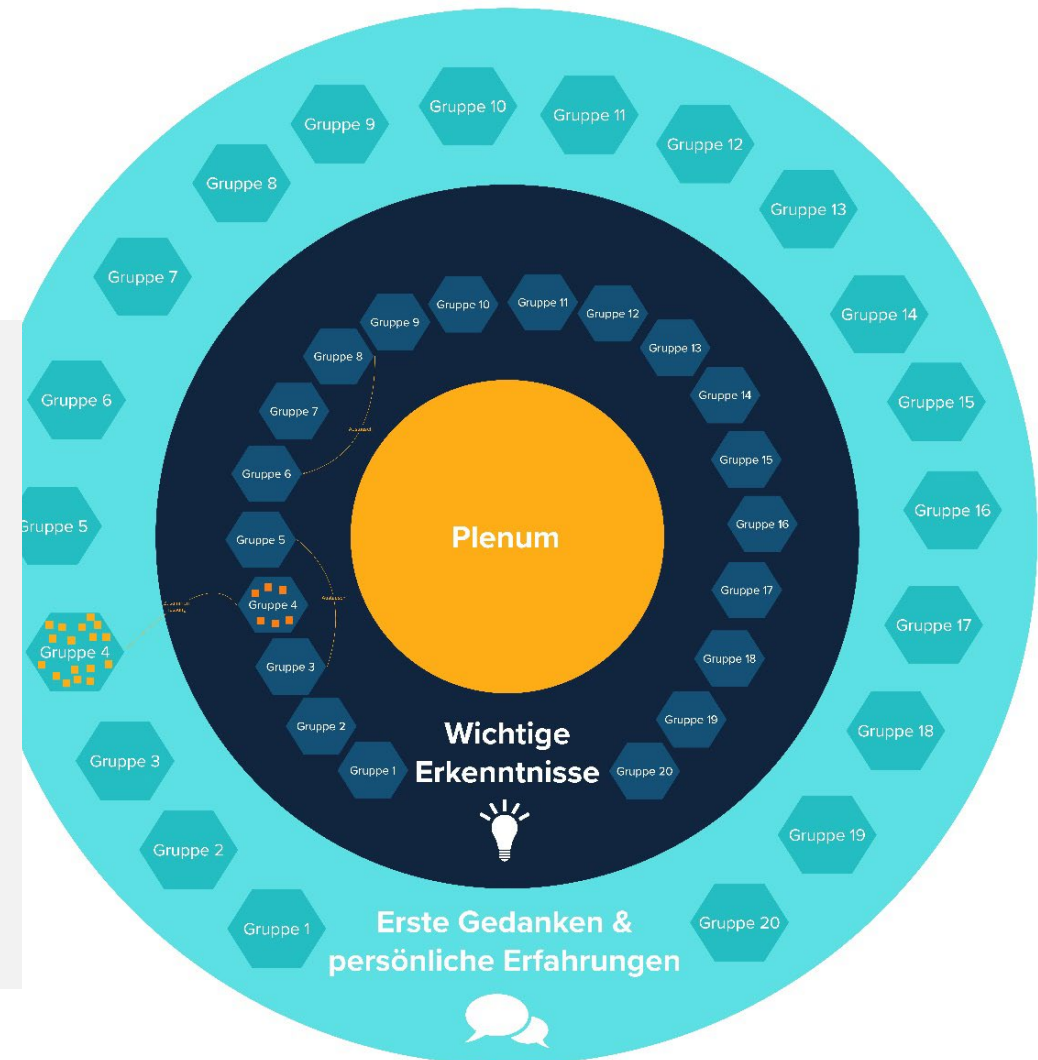
processing of the

• Each session deals with one of the prioritized topics

• Agenda for each session:

- First exchange in small groups on the topic
- Input from two experts
- Discussion on the topic in small groups: Questions, thoughts, ideas
- Comparison with main ideas from another small group
- Evaluation and sharing of thoughts and ideas in plenary

Afterwards, evaluation of the collected questions, thoughts and ideas by a citizens' editorial group



Overview of the concept



Quality of results: The recommendations



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- The Citizens' Assembly draws up a small number of central recommendations (max. 9). The smaller the number of recommendations, the more precisely they must be formulated, giving the citizens time to resolve (target) conflicts.
- To increase compatibility, all recommendations are given the following structure:
 - Title
 - Strategic goal
 - Description of the measure: "*We recommend that...*"
 - Justification

Random selection



Selection of municipalities

- All federal states
- Three size categories
- Chances are weighted according to size

Random sample

- Equal number in the size class
- Proportional to the number of inhabitants of the federal states

Invitation and return flow

- BT President B. Bas invites
- Information sheet, invitation card
- Feedback by Telephone, e-mail, platform

Citizens' lottery July 21

- 1000 samples, 1 will be drawn
- All registered participants are represented in at least 20 samples

84/82

Municipalities

19.327

Data sets

1969

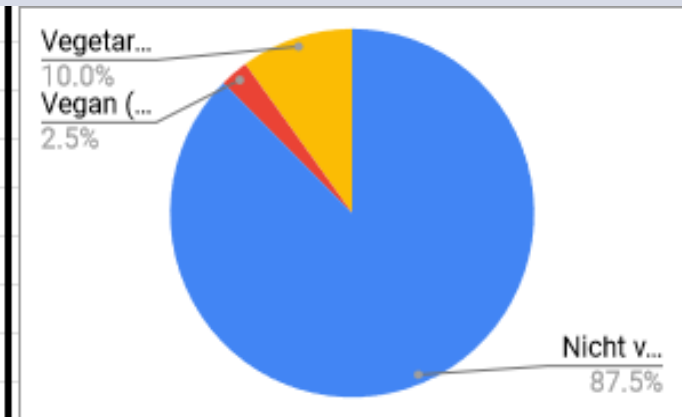
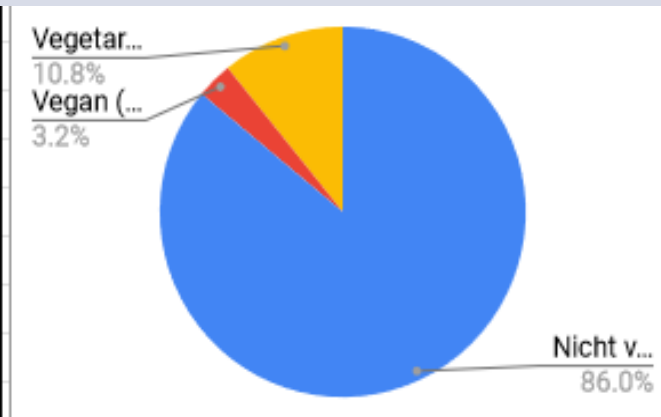
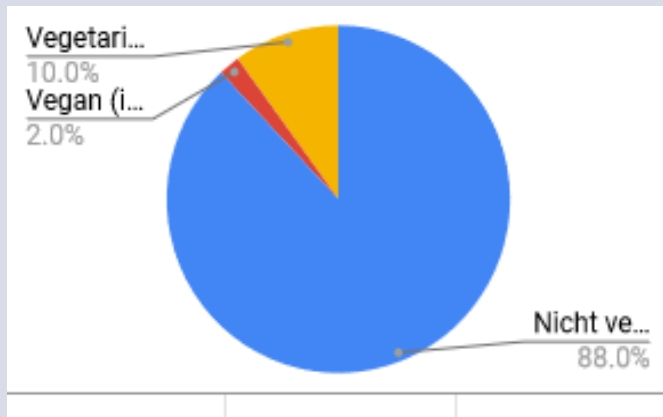
Registrations

160

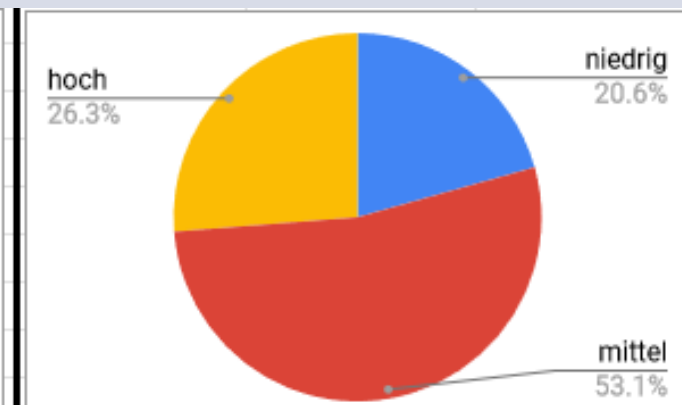
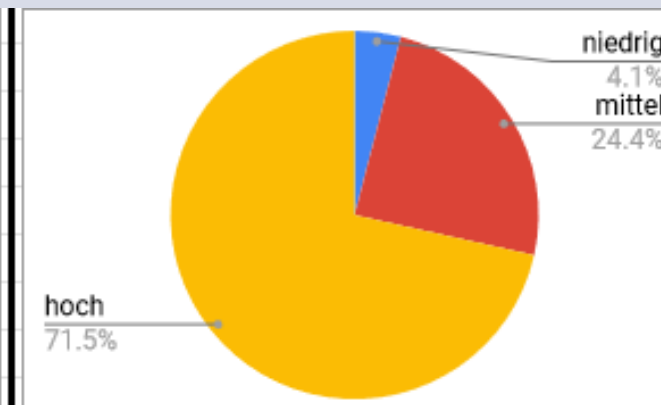
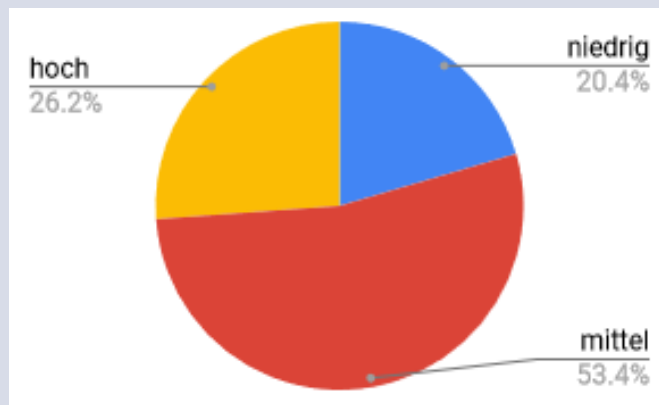
Participants

Sample

Thematic question: Ernährungsreport 2021(BMEL)



Educational qualification: International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)



Involvement of experts

All inputs and knowledge transfer in the Citizens' Assembly are based on the following principles:

- 1) **Relevance to the Citizens' Assembly:** What do the citizens need to know in order to develop fact-based recommendations?
- 2) **Balance:** What perspectives and arguments should citizens be aware of in order to be able to make informed decisions?
- 3) **Comprehensibility:** Which experts speak as simply and comprehensibly as possible so that all participants can follow along easily?
- 4) **Diversity:** Which mix of experts reflects society well (gender, age, science and practice, people affected, etc.)?

Role of the Scientific Advisory Board



- Advising on the content and thematic design of the deliberative process
- Monitoring the balance of the proposed pool of experts, making suggestions for additional inputs
- Advising the implementation team
- Providing feedback from a scientific perspective on the Citizens' Assembly's draft recommendations before the third weekend
- Roles as multipliers for the process

Scientific Advisory Board

Sachverständige



Biesalski, Prof. Dr. Hans-Konr.



Ellrott, PD Dr. med.



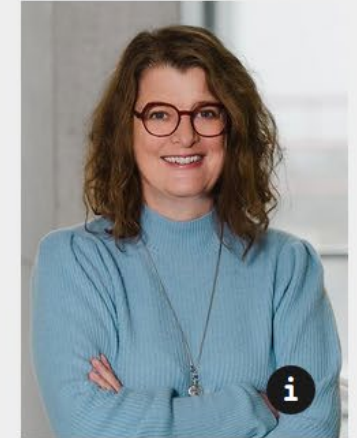
Erdmann, Johannes



Hagenmeyer, Prof. Dr.



Lotze-Campen, Prof. Dr.



Renner, Prof. Dr. Britta



Risius, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Antje



Somoza, Prof. Dr. Veronika



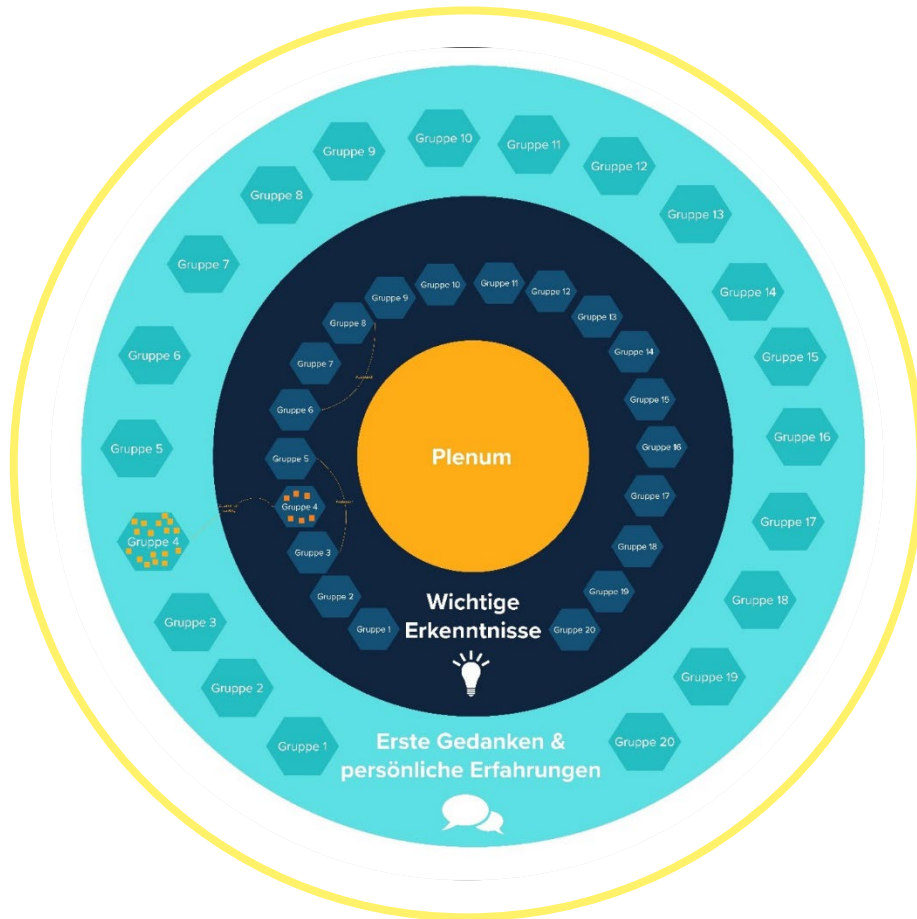
Speck, Prof. Dr. Melanie Eva Maria



Spiller, Prof. Dr. Achim



Windisch, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm



- * Right now eight recommendations are elaborated - they form a broad spectrum (from information and nutritional labelling to reduction of taxes)
- * The strengths and weaknesses of the process cannot yet be definitively identified in the context of the current process.
- * However, it is clear that the citizens are currently developing very differentiated recommendations.
- * One weakness, of course, is the tight time frame until Feb 2024

My thanks go to my colleagues at
IFOK, who provided me with
some of the presentation slides

Thank you very much!

Prof. Dr. Melanie Speck
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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/melanie-speck-7b0142273/>



Foto: M. Pollert

Back up

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2nd weekend: Sorting and detailed discourse



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Friday, November 10

- Collection of the results of the three online sessions
- Group sorting: What fits together, where are there conflicts? Etc.

Saturday, November 11

- Exchange with members of the German Bundestag
- * Excursions, e.g. to farms, stores, supermarkets or restaurants, clinics, production facilities etc. (in and around Berlin)

Sunday, November 12

- Conflict Mapping
- Dealing with conflicts in plenary sessions

4th-6th online sessions: Instruments

- Each session deals with one instrument and picks up on the topics and approaches that were assigned to the respective instrument as a solution on the second weekend.:
 - Information, transparency, labeling
 - Standards and other regulations (e.g. animal welfare, environment, sustainability, advertising bans)
 - Pricing (e.g. taxes, subsidies, grants)
- Knowledge and education are considered as cross-sectional topics in all three online sessions.
- Agenda for each session:
 - Input from two experts
 - Work in small groups:
 - What do we want to recommend (measure), why (justification), and for what purpose (goal)?
 - Groups that develop very similar recommendations are asked to look at the results of the other group(s)
 - Presentation of individual recommendation ideas in plenary

3rd weekend: Recommendations

Preparation:

- Summary of the proposed recommendations and identification of contradictions by the citizens' editorial group
- Feedback on the factual basis of the proposed recommendations by the Scientific Advisory Board

Aims and results:

- Dealing with the feedback from the experts
- In-depth discussion of own results, dealing with concerns
- Reaching a consensus: Clearing up reasons that stand in the way of approval
- Final formulation
- Reconciliation and prioritization of the results