

Report of local dialogue
organised by CoR Member **Mieczysław Struk** (Poland, EPP)

Europe in Kościerzyna – Kościerzyna in Europe



Organised by	“Pomorskie in the European Union” Association
Partners	Starostwo Powiatowe in Kościerzyna
Date and time of the event	7/06/2023, 12:00
Event type	Onsite
Location(s) of event	Kościerzyna, Pomorskie, Poland
Total number of participants	154
Type of participants	Students from 3 secondary schools from Kościerski District
Theme(s) covered during the event	Climate change and the environment Health A stronger economy, social justice and jobs EU in the world Values and rights, rule of law, security European democracy Migration Education, culture, youth and sport Other ideas – see below:
Other ideas	Local development, transportation, professional and personal development, entrepreneurship.
Recommendations / conclusions from the debate	Activities of the Youth Assembly of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, which represents the interests of the youth of all districts in the region
	To continue the debates for youth in the region with regional politicians

Other relevant messages expressed by citizens or speakers during the event

Mr. Mieczysław Struk, The Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship spoke about the role of a self-government in making decisions regarding regional and local development. He stressed that dialogue with young people who already have electoral rights is important in the European Union. It is important to know their needs and expectations. He said that the policies of the European Union are important for local development. The fact that Poland is a member of the European Union is seen everywhere around. He recalled that 20 years ago a referendum on joining the European Union was held in Poland. Most citizens supported the accession, but many people did not vote at all. In this context, the Marshal encouraged young people to be active and participate in upcoming elections. He stressed that the freedoms provided by the European Union are important. He also spoke about the European Committee of the Regions and its role in the decision-making process in the European Union as the voice of citizens of EU cities and regions.

Mr. Marshal spoke about the European Green Deal and the CoR's initiative "Green Deal Going Local" as a response to the climate crisis. He gave examples of threats and actions taken. He reminded young people that the European Union is not only the money! As an example of EU activities for young people, he mentioned the Erasmus+ Program and encouraged them to participate in it. He mentioned the Youth Assembly of the Pomorskie Voivodeship as a case of young people's activity and announced the creation of similar bodies at the local level.

Mr. Struk asked the students about two issues:

- whether they consider their future with living in Kościerski District?

- what are their life priorities, expectations, goals, aspirations?

Participants were asked to answer the first question and list the three issues most important to them. A summary of the votes shows that 62.2% of students would not want to live in Kościerski District; 34.1% see their future life there, and 3.7% haven't decided yet.

The young people put a **good, satisfying job** first, **family** second, **education** third, **good earnings/money** fourth, both **travelling/seeing the world** and **developing their passions and interests** equally fifth.

Participants had an opportunity also to ask questions to Mr. Marshal. They asked about the local government's ability to support the District's economic development.

Dr. Aleksandra Borowicz of the University of Gdansk, a member of Team Europe, explained the current priorities of the European Union and the main activities of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the context of current local and global challenges. She presented EU programmes and actions for young people. She presented the European Green Deal and focused on the challenges of the EU's competitiveness in the global market.

Mrs. Alicja Żurawska, the Governor of Kościerski District spoke about local development and the use of EU funds for education, health and infrastructure. She presented examples of local projects financed from EU funds in various areas which are important for the development of the district and the quality of life of its inhabitants.

Hyperlinks to web / press / social media coverage

[POMORSKIE Regional EU Office](https://pomorskieregion.eu/aktualnosci/debata-europejskie-dla-mlodziezy-w-kartuzach-i-koscierzynie/)

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