

An Impulse for Active Citizens

Democracy and Freedom: Can this be improved on?

Take part in this contest – tell us your view!

Have you ever thought about how you wish to, and can, perceive your role as a citizen of your country?

The following questions will give you an impulse in relation to your role as a citizen and to reflect on oneself. Your participation can be anonymous but please give us your age and profession. Some of the questions require only a yes or no answer. The results of the questionnaire will provide an insight on how citizens perceive both their state and their parliament and what improvements they wish for. Your opinions on this are most welcome!

1. What do you understand under the term 'civil liberty'?

2. Do you consider your life to be **sufficiently free** in this country?

Yes / if no, then why?.....-----

3. Do you feel that the local political system can be called democratic?

Yes / if not, why?

4. What possibilities as a citizen do you have to influence the process of political decision-making in your country?

a.....

b.....

c.....

5. Do the citizens make sufficient use of their influence your country?

Yes / No

6. How do you judge the so-called 'direct democracy' in which, for example, a people's initiative or referendum can be carried out?

7. Should a direct democracy be established your country?

Yes / No

8. What rights have children got? And in relation to their parents?

9. "Are the rights of minorities protected in your country?"

10. Are human rights also valid for prisoners (e.g. criminals)?

Yes / No : If not, what rights do they have?

11. Are your rights as a citizen and your human rights respected in your country? Yes / No If not:

12. How would you assert your rights? To whom would you go and where would you lodge a complaint?

13. Are you satisfied with the public service offered by the authorities of your country?

Yes / No

If not, what do you expect from the authorities?

14. Are, in a democracy, the personal secrets of the citizens protected as a human right?

15. What are, at least three, principles valid for police legal actions?

16. What in your opinion is the difference between the political system up until 1990 and the present political system?

17. How do you rate the quality of care for invalids, the ill and old people in your country? Good / Average / Bad /

18. How should we behave towards people who are invalid or ill? (Answer with a few key words only). We thank you for your answers and will gladly send you the results and keep you informed of further developments

These questions were worked out by Forum Ost-West, a Swiss non-governmental organisation (www.forumostwest.ch) in cooperation with their partners in the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Hungary. The German text is a translation from the Czech and can be adapted to the situation of the respective countries where it is being used.

Name:, Your age: Your profession: