

BMW Foundation Global Table, Athens
June 8-10, 2017

Executive Summary



Objective

In view of the widespread polarization of societies and the challenges to democracy throughout the Western world, the 10th BMW Foundation Global Table discussed new approaches of re-engaging the disenchanted and neglected members of society.

Reflect on innovative ways to build a constructive, transparent dialogue.

Promote a more inclusive model of civic participation.

Discussion

There was a shared sense of necessity to find more inclusive ways of civic participation to successfully counter polarization, radicalization and apathy which endanger the very basis of democratic legitimacy. Based on experiences of widening the public sphere in the Arab world, people from diverse backgrounds were approached to share their political vision or focus by answering in a short video bite the question „If I were in power, I would...”

Ideas for Action

1. One of the recommendations was that **politicians should share, at mid-term, which of their political promises were achieved** and provide reasons why other promises failed or have been postponed. View a short clip of the video project [here](#) and read the recommendations [here](#).
2. How can community-based services best **integrate citizen engagement into local political decision-making processes?** Participants shared examples from India, Mexico, Greece and Portugal to encourage more **openness and transparency from local administrations** and to enhance the effectiveness and acceptance of local services (including planning processes, budget allocation and data).
3. To counter violent extremism and its influence on marginalized youth, **knowledge sharing was seen to be vital to draw from the experience of regions** who have fought terrorism successfully in the past decade – such as Algeria or Indonesia.

4. In terms of **prevention, the idea was born to create locally adaptable comic strips** together with ex-combatants to be able to develop early on an effective counter strategy and to de-mystify violence among adolescents.



Participants included leaders from UNDP India, the Portuguese Parliament, Facebook India, Open Society Initiative, the City of Mexico, the City of Athens, the office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, and others.

Keywords:

Dialogue, knowledge sharing, locally adaptable solutions, cooperation

**Inspiring stories from the Global Table on TwentyThirty
presented by BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt**



Social Inclusion: [What solidarity looks like in Athens](#)

Co-Creation: Video Interview with [Amalia Zepou](#)

Participation: Video Interview with [Belabbes Benkredda](#)

Democracy: Video Interview with [Hafsat Abiola Costello](#)