

Citizens' participation on the 'Debating Europe' platform

In order to determine the degree of citizens' involvement on the DE platform, we distributed a questionnaire to the most active citizens on the DE platform. The most active citizens were determined using the NodeXL Pro software. We selected all the debates on all seven channels of the 'Debating Europe' platform (2011 - 2016), which had the number of comments above the average for each channel. The overall metrics provided through NodeXL Pro showed that the number of vertices (in our case, e-debaters) was 4543. Out of these 4543 vertices, we selected all the influencers (most active vertices) who ranked above 0.000 by Betweenness Centrality. Thus the number of influencers (most active e-debaters) was 568. Thus, the questionnaire was distributed to 568 e-citizens. We got 115 responses to our questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 34 questions (29 closed questions, and 5 open questions). The questions were structured on the following issues¹:

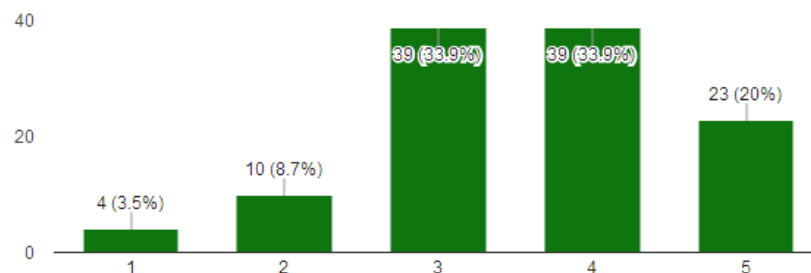
- Orientation and navigation
- Ability to preserve e-debaters
- Relationship building
- Likelihood of return visits

Below there are the findings for some of the closed questions.

ORIENTATION AND NAVIGATION

On a scale from 1 (very confusing) to 5 (very clear), how would you rate the organization of the Debating Europe platform?

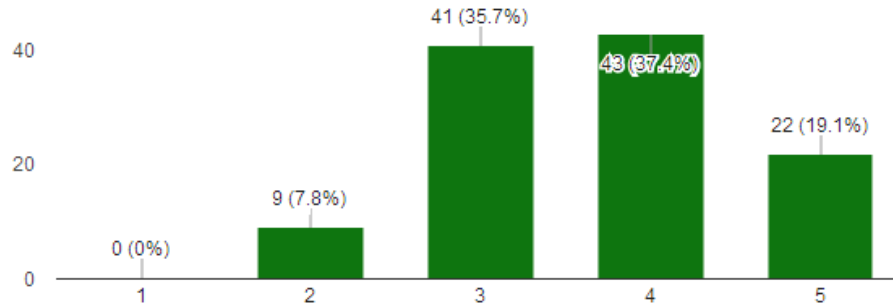
115 responses



¹ We adapted Mihaela Vorvoreanu's framework of the PR website experience to the 'Debating Europe' platform. (Vorvoreanu, M., 2008. *Web site Public Relations: How Corporations Build and Maintain Relationships Online*. Cambria Press)

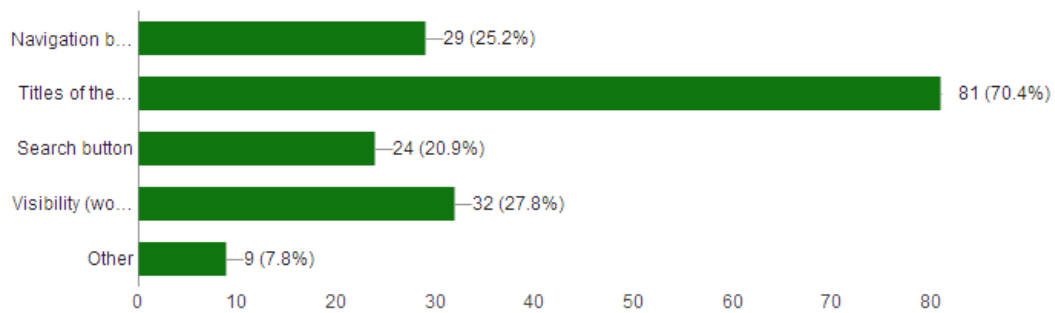
On a scale from 1 (very frustrating) to 5 (very easy), how would you rate the navigation menu on the Debating Europe platform?

115 responses



Which of the following aspects help you find your way round on the DE platform?

115 responses

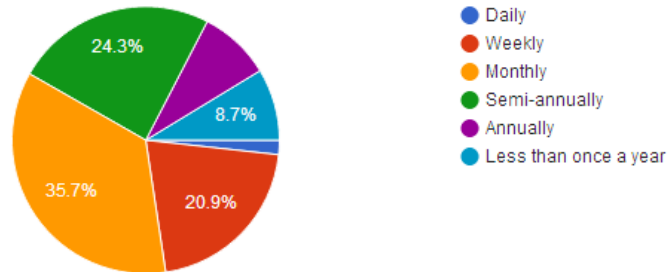


Navigation bars, Titles of the debates, Search button, Visibility (words in bold), Other aspects

ABILITY TO PRESERVE E-DEBATERS

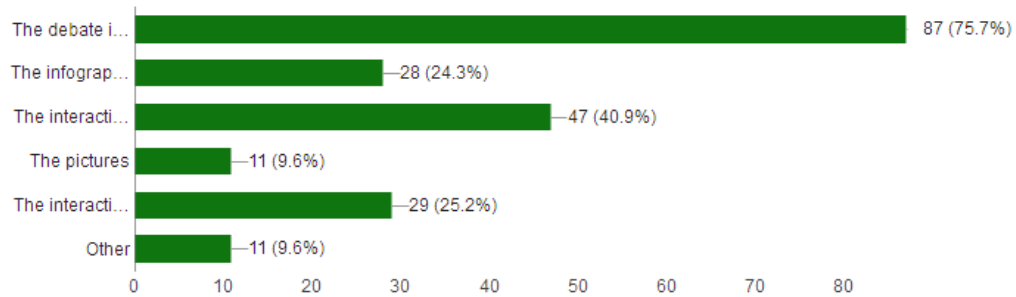
How frequently do you post your comments on the Debating Europe platform?

115 responses



What on the Debating Europe platform has maintained your interest so far?

115 responses

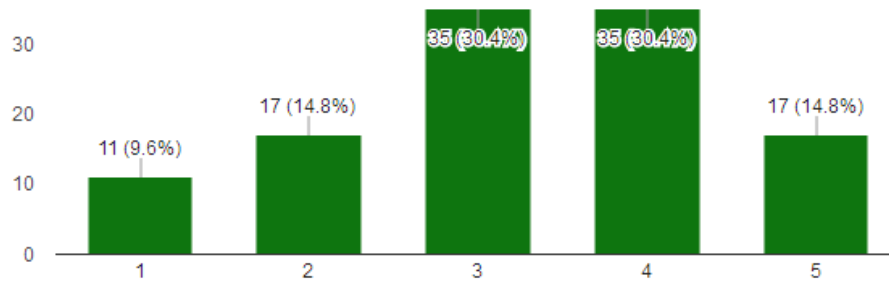


the
debate issues; the infographics; pictures; the interaction with other persons across Europe; the interaction with policy-makers and experts; Others

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

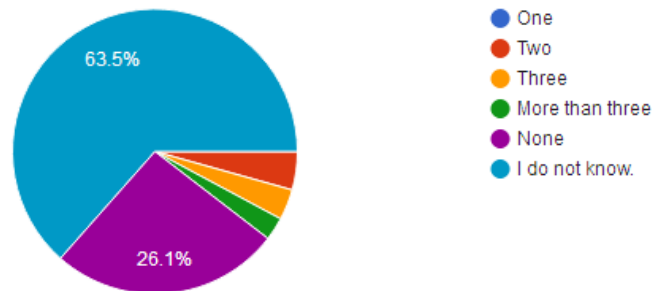
On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely), do you think DE platform is open about sharing citizens' opinions on all issues under debate?

115 responses



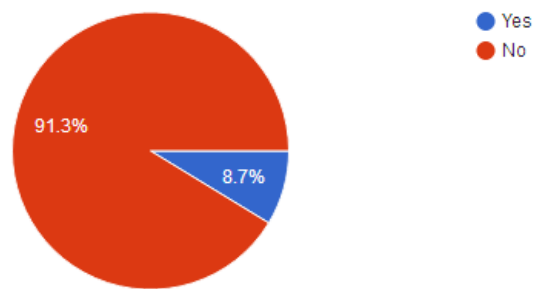
How many of your comments were taken by the Debating Europe platform and served as new topics of debates?

115 responses



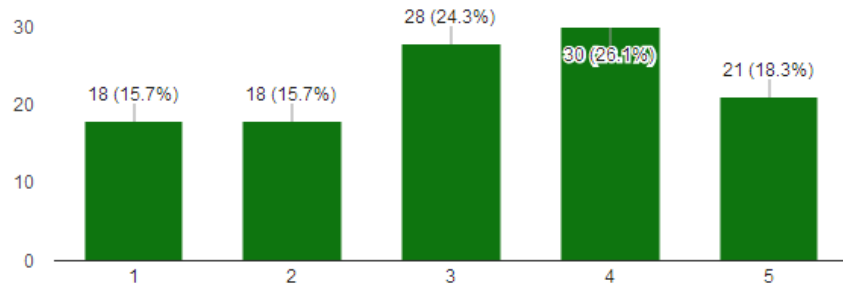
Has the Debating Europe platform let you know if some of your comments served as topics of other debates?

115 responses



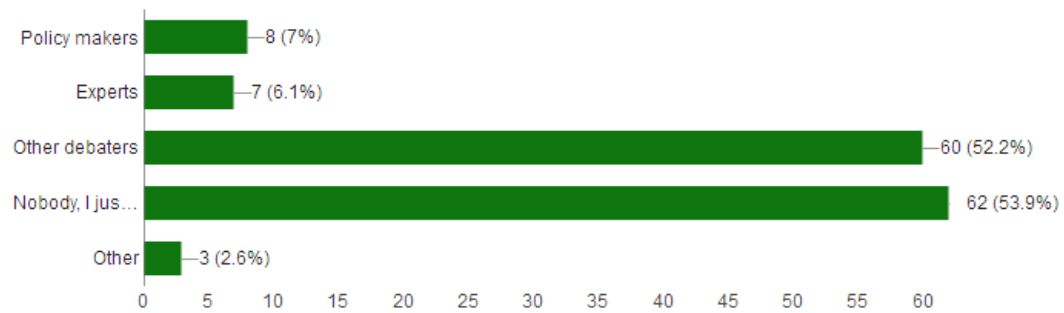
On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely), do you think Debating Europe platform is interested in creating a dialogue between citizens and policy makers and experts?

115 responses



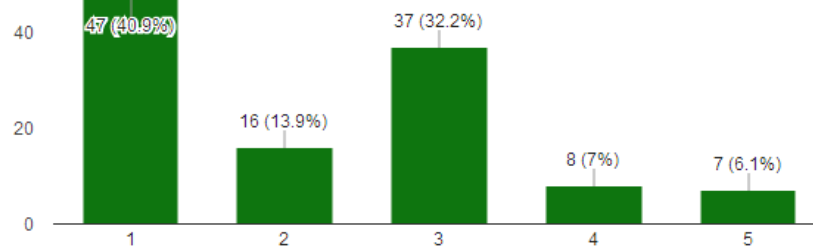
With whom did you interact so far on the Debating Europe platform?

115 responses



On a scale from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high), how would you rate the influence that the debates you have taken part in on the platform so far may influence the EU policymakers?

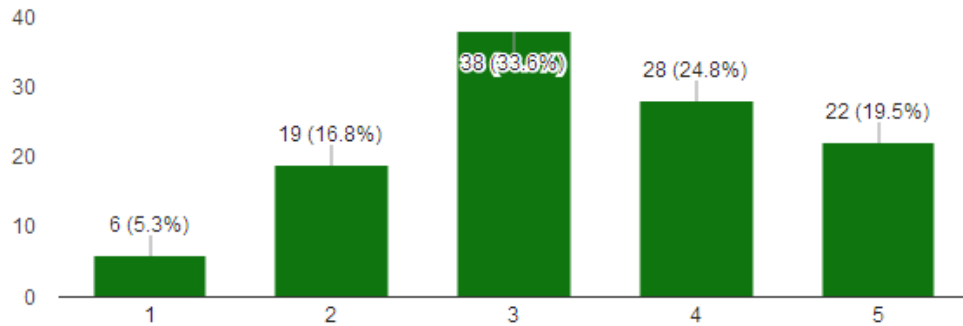
115 responses



LIKELIHOOD OF RETURN VISITS

On a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good), how do you evaluate the Debating Europe platform on the whole?

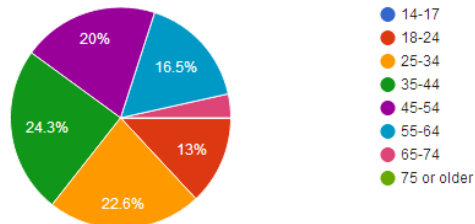
113 responses



Data about the respondents:

What is your age?

115 responses



What is your gender?

115 responses

