

## WelfSOC Democratic Forum – Day 1

Time	Content	Notes
9.00-9.30	FIRST ROUND OF QUESTIONNAIRE	Each participant will get an individual number allocated, ranging from 50 to 80. Questionnaires will be numbered accordingly, in order to link the surveys to statements made throughout the event. A seating plan will be prepared in advance for plenary and breakout sessions.
9.30-10.15	PLENARY – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
9.30-9.45	Welcome and introduction (15 minutes)	<p>Lead facilitator to welcome participants and introduce the format of the day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce self and independent research agency</li> <li>• “The topic we will be talking about is <b>the future of welfare policy in [country]”</b></li> <li>• “The main objective of this two-day forum is to discuss the priorities of the [country’s] government in terms of benefits and services in 25 years’ time, i.e. in 2040”.</li> <li>• “We will be reflecting on the <b>future</b>, and not on the present”</li> <li>• “We will be discussing some things you may or may not have heard about before”</li> <li>• “There will be quite a lot to take in but we will be doing it in a fun way – with presentations, table conversations and other activities”</li> <li>• “The main objective of this event is to produce a report on what the priorities of the British government should be for benefits and services in 2040. This report will be press-released and sent to the main political parties and the relevant government departments. At the end of the event (Saturday 31 October), you will decide which priorities will be included in this report”.</li> <li>• “It is not a test and this is not school! We want to give you the opportunity to speak up. We genuinely want to know where you don’t understand things and we want to hear your questions too”.</li> <li>• “There are no right answers to the questions. We want to hear your views.”</li> <li>• “There will be regular breaks for refreshments throughout the day, help yourself to tea, coffee or water as you wish”.</li> <li>• Introduce other moderators and the research team.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “We are also recording the table discussions for our records and we will be filming the day”</li> <li>• “Each of you has been allocated a specific number and has a workbook on the table in front of you. This is for you to use and record your thoughts and feelings as you wish”.</li> <li>• “Throughout the day, you will have the opportunity to put notes, reflections or comments on the topic in this “box for thoughts”. All comments will remain confidential. We will open the box on the second day and discuss any thoughts that have not been raised during the event”.</li> <li>• Briefly explain ground rules (e.g. listen to each other, respect comments, etc).</li> <li>• Explain the structure of both days: most of the discussion on Day 1 focuses on your own themes (i.e. what you identify as the main issues/priorities for the government in 2040) and you will have the opportunity to ask for more information to the moderators throughout the day as well as by email throughout next week. The requested information will then be sent to you a few days ahead of Day 2. On Day 2, the discussion will mostly focus on formulating recommendations and priorities that will be press-released and made available to political elites and will emphasize five themes identified as likely to be important: inequality, gender, intergenerational issues, labour market issues and immigration.</li> </ul>
9.45-10.15	“What is welfare policy?” (30 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting with 5 minutes of deliberation in groups of two or three on the question;</li> <li>• Then a 15-minute long plenary brainstorm session in order to test people’s knowledge of welfare policy. What does it mean to them? What do they think of when they hear “welfare”?</li> <li>• Each issue/notion introduced by participants will be written on posters (up to 7 notions). After the brainstorm session, participants will be asked to come and write down some issues, concerns or challenges related to these notions (for 5 to 10 minutes).</li> </ul>
10.15-10.30	Break	Moderators and research team to discuss the posters, and link the issues to our key themes: income inequality; immigration; gender; intergenerational issues; and labour market.
10.30-11.00	Presentation of the five themes (lead	Slideshow presentation by the lead facilitator, defining the welfare state. This

	<p>facilitator)</p> <p>presentation needs to be very general and provide uncontroversial information. We strongly advise not to include any statistical data in this presentation (this can be done in the stimulus on the second day). The research team will only be observing the event throughout the day. The following text is a suggestion of what should be included in the presentation</p> <p>“Welfare policies are benefits and services provided by the government in order to meet people’s needs. The main areas are the health service, pensions, benefits for unemployed and low-wage people, benefits for people in work, social housing, childcare provisions, rights to paid leave, social care for older people and, in some countries, schooling. The welfare state is by far the largest area of government spending, and there are many issues to be considered for the future. We have identified the following five areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Income inequality</u> is the gap between rich and poor. <i>WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE?</i> Because this gap has got much wider in the last 30 years and this seems likely to continue;</li> <li>• <u>Immigration</u> is people moving to live in another country. <i>WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE?</i> because more people move and work in other countries, contributing to the economy but competing for housing, education and jobs and we expect this to continue;</li> <li>• <u>Gender</u> relates to equal opportunities for men and women on issues like childcare (parental leave), access to jobs, promotions, equal wages <i>WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE?</i> Because gender inequality is still there and it raises questions about who looks after children and the effects it has on people’s working and family lives;</li> <li>• <u>Intergenerational issues</u> involve the balance between services for children and younger people (such as education at all levels) and services for older people (pensions, social care and most health services). <i>WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE?</i> Because people live longer and spending on older people services is rising;</li> <li>• And <u>labour market</u> relates to people’s working lives, the kind of jobs and opportunities people have. <i>WHY IS IT AN ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE?</i> Because there are many changes in the</li> </ul>
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<b>11.00-15.30</b>	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>	
11.00-12.00	<p>Explaining breakout sessions (5 minutes)</p> <p>First breakout session (25 minutes)</p> <p>Break (5 minutes)</p> <p>Second breakout session (25 minutes)</p>	<p>Explain how the breakout sessions will work – a “carousel” method</p> <p>The whole group will be divided into 3 groups (with 10 participants each) in order to reflect on the main question (i.e. “what should the priorities of the government in [country] be for benefits and services in 2040?”). Groups will be selected by the research teams, to make sure that some minorities are groups together. Accordingly, ethnic minorities (including EU migrants) should all be in the same group. The same applies to self-employed and unemployed participants (these three groups constitute key minorities across Europe). The rest of the breakout group should be a deliberate mixture of other "mainstream" categories (e.g. gender; age; family status; richer/poorer; etc). A seating plan will be provided (using participant numbers), in order to help us identify who says what. There will be a total of <b>five</b> sessions, one on each theme (<b>5 recurring issues discussed during the first plenary session and mentioned on posters, identified as relevant by the moderators and research team</b>). In case discussions run out during the breakout sessions, moderators will be encouraged to lead the discussion towards the themes highlighted during the introduction, namely: income inequality; immigration; gender; intergenerational issues; and labour market.</p> <p>One observer (from the research team) and one moderator will stay with the same group throughout the breakout sessions. For each <u>session</u>, one participant per group will be designated as “rapporteur”: s/he will be asked to take notes and prepare a brief presentation on the discussion at the end of the day.</p> <p>The moderators will be asked to pay particular attention to key questions raised throughout the day, in order to prepare the stimulus.</p>

<b>12.00-12.45</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
12.45-14.25	Third breakout session (25 minutes) Break (5 minutes) Fourth breakout session (25 minutes) Break (5 minutes) Fifth breakout session (25 minutes) Break (15 minutes)	As above.
<b>14.25-17.00</b>	<b>PLENARY SESSION – FINDINGS AND PREPARATION FOR THE STIMULUS</b>	
<b>14.25-16.30</b>	<b>Presentation of breakout discussions</b> 14.25-14.45: issue 1 (5-10 min presentation by rapporteurs, followed by a 10-15 min whole-group discussion) 14.45-15.05: issue 2 15.05-15.25: issue 3 15.25-15.40: Break 15.40-16.00: issue 4 16.00-16.20: issue 5 16.20-16.30: Break	This presentation is divided into five parts (one per issue). The rapporteur (or spokesperson) of each group will be asked to summarise the discussion in a few minutes. Then, as part of this plenary session, all participants will have the opportunity to react, ask questions or raise some concerns for 10 to 15 minutes.  This scheme will be repeated for each theme.
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	<b>Open session</b>	Open floor session for all participants to conclude the day, at which any further needs for background information will be identified (on top of the issues that have emerged throughout the day) Participants will be encouraged to send in further suggestions for areas in which stimulus material is needed by email or post and will be given an email address to do so.
<b>17.00</b>	<b>GROUP PHOTO: END OF FIRST DAY</b>	

**WARNING – THIS IS A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE SO FLEXIBILITY IS ADVISED. Some sessions may be slightly longer/shorter than others.**

*The required background information identified at the end of the first day will be prepared by the national academic team and circulated to the group at least two days before the second democratic forum by email or by post, depending on the research agency's preference. This stimulus will be 2-3 pages long [OR LONGER< DEPENDING ON WHAT IS APPROPRIATE IN THE COUNTRY] and using a structure based on our five themes: 1. Income inequality; 2. Immigration; 3. Gender; 4. Intergenerational issues; 5. Labour market; 6 other issues (that do not fit in these five themes). It needs to be fairly short – equivalent to 2 PowerPoint slides for each of the five themes plus any other themes highlighted by the participants – and written in an accessible way for participants.*

## Democratic Forum – Day 2

Time	Content	Notes
<b>9.00-10.30</b>	<b>PLENARY – PRESENTATION OF STIMULUS + Q&amp;A WITH EXPERTS</b>	
9.00-9.15	Welcome + “ice-breaking” discussion	This second day will start with a presentation of the schedule, followed by 10-15 minutes of reflection in groups of two or three on the research stimulus, as a warm-up exercise.
9.15-9.45	Stimulus presentation	Expert (i.e. research team leader) to present the stimulus, using slides, videos (where relevant) and illustrations. <b>RESEARCH TEAMS TO PRODUCE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO PRESENT THE STIMULUS</b>
9.45-10.15	Q&A session with experts	All participants will have the opportunity to ask questions to experts with regards to the stimulus presentation. Some questions can be mirrored to participants (e.g. “what do you think the answer is?”) etc.
10.15-10.30	Break	
<b>10.30-10.45</b>	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS – ROLE PLAY</b>	
10.45-12.15	Explaining breakout sessions (5 minutes) First breakout session (25 minutes) Break (5 minutes) Second breakout session (25 minutes) Break (5 minutes) Third breakout session (25 minutes)	Following the scheme introduced during the first day, explain how the breakout sessions will work – a “carousel” method, combined with some role-play. Participants will re-constitute the same breakout groups constituted during the first day, and again, five breakout sessions (one on each theme) will take place. This time, participants will be asked to formulate priorities for the government in terms of benefits/services in 2040, <b>with regards to the five themes presented on Day 1 (i.e. income inequality, immigration, gender, intergenerational issues and labour market)</b> . They will play the role of government advisers, who have to submit their proposals (i.e. priorities) to a plenary vote at the end of the day. Just as the first day, the same observer and moderator will remain with the same group throughout the sessions. In order to stimulate the debate, the moderator will also be asked to mention trade-off issues, or taxation matters (e.g. are you willing to pay for this kind of benefit/service? Would you prioritize spending in a particular policy area and not the other? What about

		<p>the implications in the future?).</p> <p><b>RESEARCH TEAMS TO PREPARE A LIST OF QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED TO PARTICIPANTS BY THE MODERATOR (E.G. WITH REGARDS TO TRADE-OFF ISSUES AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE)</b></p> <p>The main objective of these breakout sessions is to offer an open discussion on the highlighted issues, and to detect the priorities that will be included in the report, based on a broad consensus. However, it should be mentioned to participants that minority statements will also be included in the report. Participants will be asked to write the priorities agreed by the group on five different posters (one per theme).</p>
<b>12.15-13.00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
13.00-14.00	<p>Fourth breakout session (25 minutes)</p> <p>Break (5 minutes)</p> <p>Fifth breakout session (25 minutes)</p> <p>Break (5 minutes)</p>	As above.
<b>14.00-16.30</b>	<b>PLENARY SESSION – Q&amp;A, PRESENTATION OF PRIORITIES AND VOTE</b>	
<b>14.00-14.30</b>	Plenary Q&A session between participants and experts (i.e. research team members), in order to discuss/clarify any issues raised during breakout sessions	As mentioned above, some questions can be mirrored to other participants (and some questions may lead to short plenary debates as well).
<b>14.30-14.45</b>	Opening the “box for thoughts” and discussing any issues that have not been raised before the vote takes place	
<b>14.45-16.15</b>	<p><b>Presentation of priorities and vote</b></p> <p>14.45-15.00: Income inequality</p> <p>15.00-15.15: Immigration</p> <p>15.15-15.30: Gender</p> <p>15.30-15.45: Break</p> <p>15.45-16.00: Intergenerational issues</p> <p>16.00-16.15: Labour Market</p> <p>16.15-16.30: Any other issues</p>	Concluding session focusing on preparing the final report and voting on the key priorities for benefits and services (with a short break at 15.30). The voting process will be straightforward, with each participant having a green and red card. They will be asked to raise the green card if they agree on a statement or the red one if they disagree. Each statement will then appear in the final report – which will include a ranking to determine which benefits and services have received the most support.
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	<b>SECOND ROUND OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE</b>	
<b>17.00</b>	<b>END OF SECOND DAY</b>	