

Reconnecting citizens with policy

- Launch of the Puzzled by Policy Platform

Every day, people encounter situations that are governed by national and EU policy: what mode of transport to take to work, are they eligible to live in an EU member-state, where can they study? However, many are unaware of what their country's and EU current policies are and, as such, whether they agree with them.

Puzzled by Policy 'Helping you to be part of the EU' aims to help correct this situation by providing citizens with an engaging and easy-to-use platform, where they can learn about and give their voice to policy issues concerning immigration in the European Union.

The Puzzled by Policy platform allows users to graphically compare their views on immigration with national and EU immigration policies, as well as with the opinions of relevant stakeholders. Users are then encouraged to join discussions on particular aspects of immigration policy they feel strongly about.

The platform is customized for Greece, Hungary, Italy and Spain, profiling users based on national and European immigration policy. However the platform is also available in English and discussions can be automatically translated into any language. To ensure accessibility to all users, the Puzzled by Policy widget can be embedded on any social media site, blog or website.

Local, national and European decision-makers have expressed their support in participating in debates and listening to the results of these collaborative discussions. Another avenue for bringing citizens and policy stakeholders closer to the making of immigration policy in the EU and its member-states is through the official public consultation processes, such as the current consultation on the right to family reunification in the EU¹. Puzzled by Policy aspires to contribute policy proposals and summaries of the discussions taking place to such consultations.

To try Puzzled by Policy click on http://join.puzzledbypolicy.eu

"Puzzled by Policy" is funded by the European Commission under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) - ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP). The project is led by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at NUI Galway and has a consortium consisting of 12 partners from nine European Countries (Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom). It started on 1st October 2010 and will run for 3 years.

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm