

The (Socratic) Dialogue

"The wise man learns from everything and everyone, the ordinary man learns from his experience, and the fool knows everything better."

Socrates, philosopher 469–399 BC

The MoneyMuseum consciously cultivates a culture of dialogue with its visitors on the subject of money in theory, practice, history, and society.

The (Socratic) dialogue refers to the technique of thoroughly discussing and making an interesting topic comprehensible in discussions with one or more people. So let us talk about a money-related issue that, one way or another, concerns and affects us all in a very specific way, such as the compulsion to grow.

For politicians and business representatives, it is clear: the economy must grow; otherwise transfer payments cannot be paid. Others disagree and say that the compulsion for growth is motivated by greed, nota bene managers and financial experts. Which view do you hold? And why? We could enter into a dialogue on this, and start an in-depth exchange of views.

Making a dialogue so special is that it is a process in which everyone participates. The result arises from the collaboration of those involved in the conversation. Making the thinking process transparent, the dialogue provides an illustration of how we think: often in the form of assumptions whose validity is checked out, modified, refined or rejected. In the (Socratic) dialogue, this is accomplished through the exchange with other people.

In order for a dialogue to succeed, the ones involved should be interested in the matter under discussion, listen, be open to other people's thoughts and, at the same time, be self-critical and critical. The aim of the classical (or Socratic) dialogue is to reach a consensus among the participants on the topic to be discussed.

We at the MoneyMuseum are not yet on a par with the famous thinker Socrates, but we strive to constantly improve ourselves in the art of dialogue.

Stephan Koncz
Translated by Annika Backe