European Identity in the intercultural context

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My personal path to the subject

Teaching (Cross-cultural management, Intercultural Communication Skills, Jean Monnet Module: Multicultural Europe: diversity and social cohesion)

Administrative work at the International Relations Office (international partnership, double degree programs, academic mobility, joint projects under Erasmus+(Tempus+ Jean Monnet Programme)

Research (multiculturalism as social phenomenon, European Integration, European identity, intercultural communication and dialogue)

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Erasmus+

- Launched in 1989 the **"Jean Monnet Action"** aimed to facilitate the introduction of European integration studies in universities by means of start-up subsidies.

• Dedicated to the memory of Jean Monnet (1888-1979), one of the forefathers of the European Union.
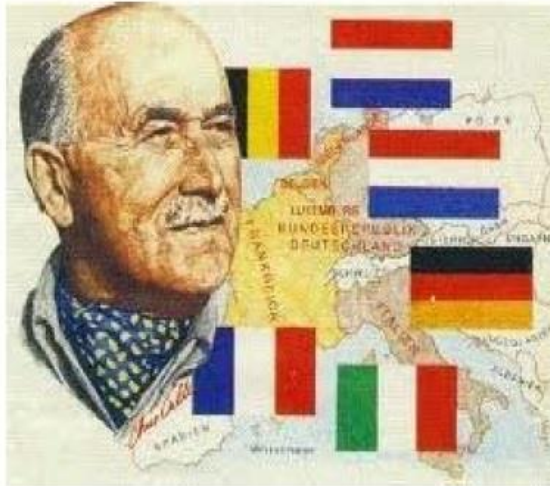
• The later named **"Jean Monnet programme"** marked its 25 years of existence in 2014. It is henceforth inserted within the framework of the **Erasmus+** programme and now referred as **"Jean Monnet activities"**
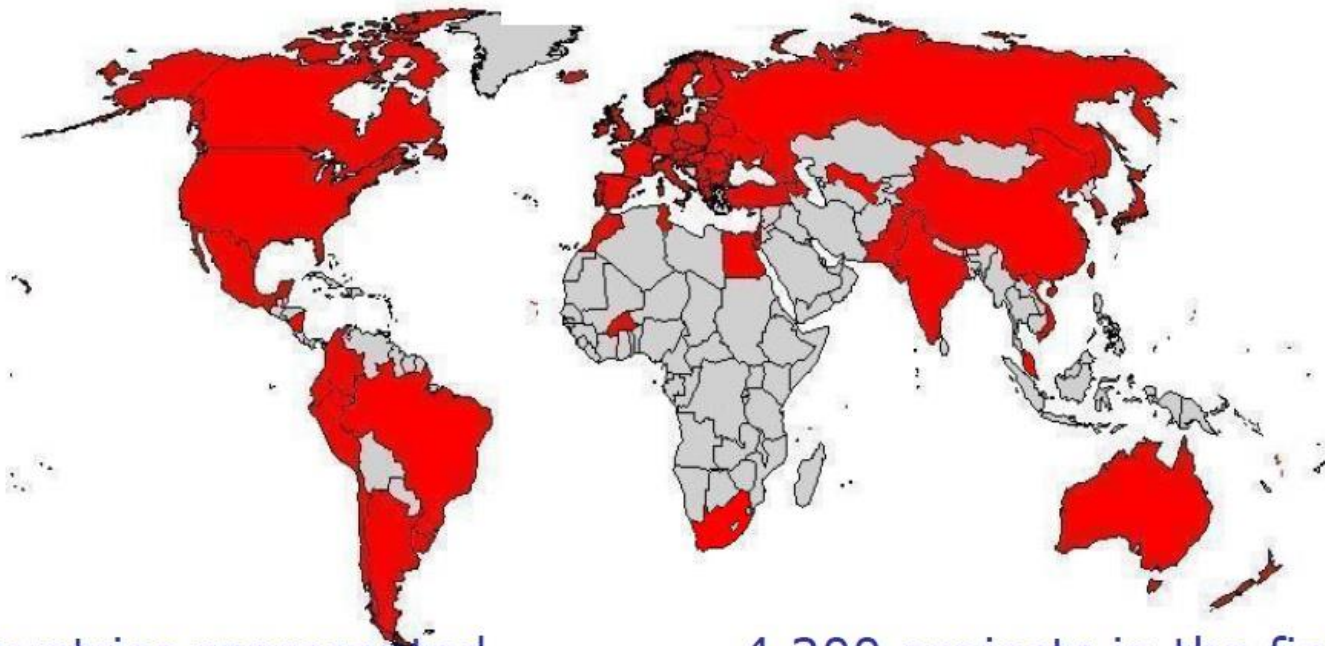
Education and Culture

Jean Monnet Activities

A worldwide network since 1989

Erasmus+

- 78 countries represented throughout the world
- Over 800 universities offering JM courses as part of their curricula

- 4,200 projects in the field of European integration studies
- Over 1,700 professors
- 265,000 students/year

Education and Culture

Erasmus+

Jean Monnet Classical Subject Areas

- EU and Comparative Regionalism Studies
- EU Communication and Information Studies
- EU Economic Studies
- EU Historical Studies
- EU Intercultural Dialogue Studies
- EU Interdisciplinary Studies
- EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies
- EU Legal Studies
- EU Political and Administrative Studies

Education and Culture

Identity

Identity is a many-sided phenomenon.

- Gender, age, ethnicity, religion, nationality, social class, relationship - the basis of people's main identities.

- Identity is not fixed, but fluid; its character can change significantly over time.

- Identity is understood as the social positioning of oneself and others (Bucholtz and Hall, 2005), which helps the individual understand his/her place in society (Mole, 2007).

- Social identity relates to how we identify ourselves in relation to others according to what we have in common.

Social identity

How much do you identify with the *ingroup?*

Categorization

- I see myself as a memeber of this group (Hobman & Bordia, 2006)

- My group is a good reflection of who I am (Cameron, 2004)

- I prefer to see people from other *outgroup(s)* as being different from *ingroup* (Bond & Hewstone, 1988)

- The group success is my success (Mael & Tetrick, 1992)

Sense of belonging

- I feel involved in what is happening in my group (Evans & Jarvis, 1980)

- When someone criticizes this *group*, it feels like a personal insult to me (Mael & Tetrick, 1992)

- What matches the relationship (*1=very distant, 6=very close*) whit your group as a whole? (Hinds & Mortensen, 2005)

Postivie attitudes

- I am happy I am an *ingroup* member (Sellers et al., 1998)

- I think my group has little to be proud of (Ellemers et al., 1999)[*]

- There are many people in this group that I like as individuals (Stokes, 1983)

- Generally, I feel good when I think about myself as a(n) *ingroup* member (Cameron, 2004)

FeitosaJ.,&Salas E.Social Identity: Clarifying its Dimensions across Cultures,2012

European Identity

"We-feelings" was conceived to be a critical precondition for European and international integration in "security communities" in the post-war era (Deutsch et al. 1957).

European identity is a contested and fluid concept that has been central to EU integration scholarship since its very foundation (Risse 2001; 2005).

European Identity. Official beginning

December, 14, 1973 Copenhagen declaration on the European identity (http://www.cvce.eu)

The Nine member countries of the European Communities have decided that the time has come to draw up a document on the European Identity. This will enable them to achieve a better definition of the relations with other countries and of their responsibilities and the place which they occupy in world affairs.

Three main views of European identity in the social sciences

- **Eurocentrism.** Common European cultural identity is the best alternative for all the people on the European continent. The European citizenship and the European cultural identity will translate later into world citizenship and universal global cultural identity (Lehning, 2001).

- **EU-Europe of the nations.** At the beginning this was promoted predominantly by politicians, such as Charles de Gaulle, John Major and Tony Blair. Europe should be constructed as a common economic and legal unit, at that every nation should keep its relative independence, cultural heritage and traditions.

- **Euroscepticism.** The supporters of this position are actively opposed to the European Union. "The efforts of the European Commission to create a common European cultural identity have resulted in a political cliché of bureaucracy that distorts the idea of Europe as a historical and cultural heritage (Delanty, 1995).

European Identity as a collective identity

- Social identity is often referred to as collective identity (Ashmore, Deaux, & McLaughin-Volpe, 2004) or group identity (Ashforth & Mael, 1989)

- Basic group identities, such as the ethnic and the national, are constructed out of: 1) a common territory (not obligatory for ethnicity); 2) a common historical past; 3) a common language and culture; and 4) a common desire for mutual existence; 5) a common origin; and, often: 6) a common religion. (Antony Smith, 1990).

- Is it possible for the existence of a common territory alone to unite the citizens (of Europe)?

European Identity. Paradox

European peoples have a different historical and political development, different languages and cultures.

The European nations have no common myths either. The idea of the ancient Greek or Roman heritage cannot unite the people…. The myth of Indo-European languages cannot serve as a means of cultural integration…(Smith, 2000).

But.. to the question "Do you feel European?" the greater part of the European population would have answered positively.

Feeling European. Emperical evidence

Eurobarometer public opinion surveys conducted by the European Commission since 1973

In the 1970s and 1980s most of the empirical research on European attitudes and identity related issues focused on socialization dynamics among European elites working in Brussels rather than citizens in the Member States (Pollack 1998).

European identity in Eurobarometer since 1992

Eurobarometer 1993. Most EU citizens do feel they have some kind of European identity. At the nation al level, the "our country-only" are in a majority solely in the UK while Danes and Irish are divided about their European identity

Trends in European Identity
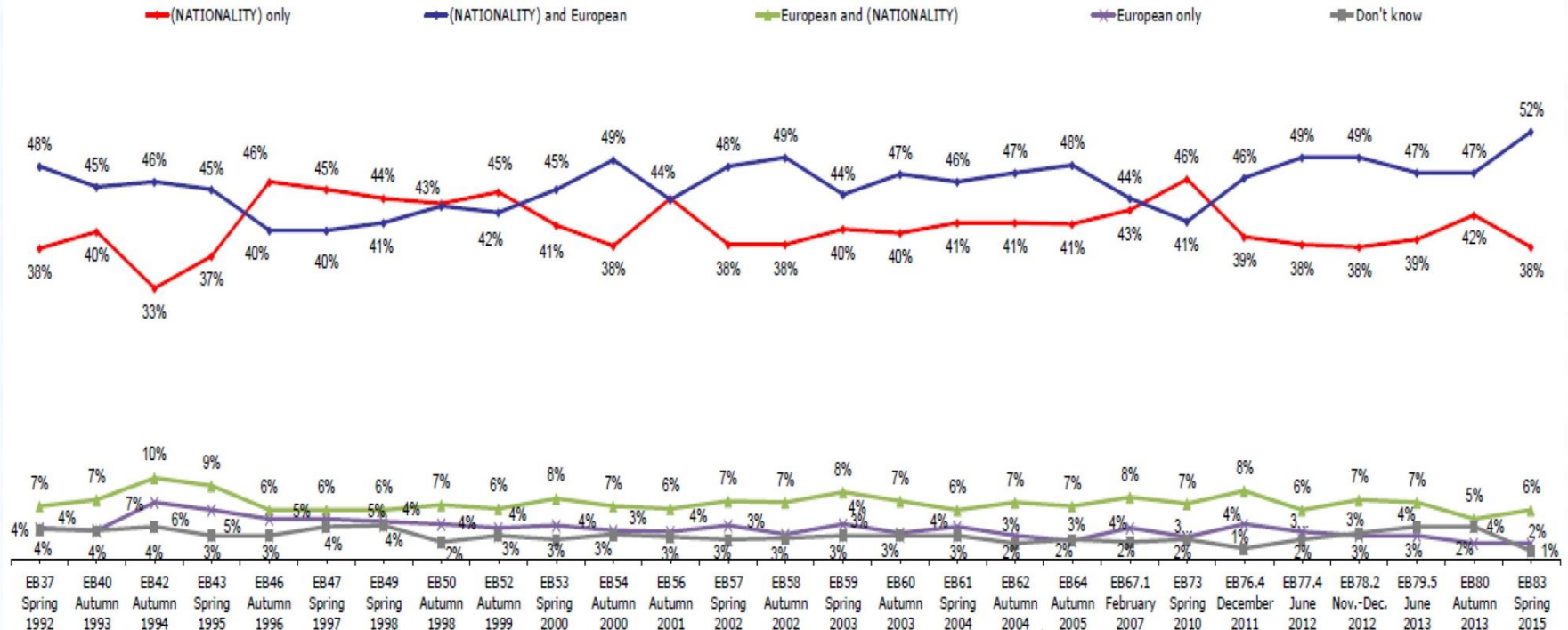
Mendez C.and J Bachtler.J,European Identity and Citizen Attitudes to Cohesion Policy: What do we know? H2020Research, 2016

The research outcomes

One of the most commonly used questions since 1992 is the so- called 'Moreno' question(1986 on self-identification): 'Do you see yourself as (nationality) only, (nationality) and European, European and (nationality) or European only?'

First, this majority consider themselves **National** first and then **European**

Few citizens consider themselves **European** first then **National**, and fewer still **European** exclusively

A dip after the crisis in 2007/8 the level of European identity; recovery to pre-crisis levels in 2010; a historical high in 2015 with **52 %** feeling **National and European** for the very first time

Variations in European Identity across Member States

Historically, citizens of the founding Member States and of Southern Europe have greater levels of European identity than citizens in Scandinavian countries or the in UK (Citrin and Sides 2004).

The UK has the lowest level of European identity historically, no doubt being part of the explanation for BREXIT.

Levels of identity in the new Member States are generally lower than in the older Member States (Ceka and Sokja 2016).

The most recent Eurobarometer data reveals marked increases in European identity from 2010 to 2015 in many countries (notably in Germany, Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden), while only Cyprus has witnessed a significant fall.

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Dignity

Freedoms

Equality

Solidarity

Citizens' rights

Justice

What make Europeans think positively?

- Peace and stability in Europe

- Economic strength

- Free movement of people, goods ,services, and capital

- Commitment to the EURO and to financial stability. (More choice and stable prices for consumers; closer economic cooperation between EU countries)

- The single market :significant reductions in the price of many products and services, including airfares and phone calls; more choice for consumers ; new jobs)

- European Stability Mechanism: Fund to help countries in extraordinary economic difficulties

- 'Schengen" zone. No police or customs checks at borders between most EU countries

- EU actions towards: cleaner water, much less acid rain; strict rules on food safety, more organic and quality farming

- Greater cultural and educational exchange…. **To be continued**

Getting in touch with the EU

Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help

- By phone, email or webchat
- Over 500 regional information centres

europa.eu/europedirect

Challenges and threats

- Growing individual and collective insecurity, which brings out extreme forms of national and local identities, eroding the construction of a European identity;

- Collapse of mutual trust between governments and between peoples, reflecting widespread fear for the future, which undermines the sense of rights and duties;

- The feeling of people as voters in democratic systems, that they count for little or nothing in fashioning decisions they deem beyond their control.

- The European Union is perceived increasingly as a boring institution with more rules and more bureaucracy than as a blessing.

- Citizens see that there is a deficit in democracy and become alienated from the European Union, often seeing themselves as the "others.

Report "State and Prospects of the European Union" . Chamber of Deputies. (February,2017)

Challenges for the EU in eyes of youth

- Unemployment 49%
- Access to jobs for young people 27%
- Social unequality23%
- Immigration 20%

Young Europeans want the European Parliament to give priority to defending human rights (51%), freedom of speech (41%) and equality between men and women (40%).

Flash Eurobarometer of the European Parliament, 2014

European Values for shaping European Identity.

Common Understanding European public opinion in regards of European identity lies partially through an analysis of the values of Europeans.

What are they?

(1) democracy, (2) non-discrimination, (3) tolerance and respect for diversity, (4) solidarity and (5) social cohesion.

- Are these values shared between the Member States?

- What are the values that matter most to Europeans?

- What values do they attribute to the EU?

The Values shaped by Europeans and those that Best Represent the European Union

Survey coordinated by the European Commission in May 2012
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Human rights (43%)

Respect for human life (43%)
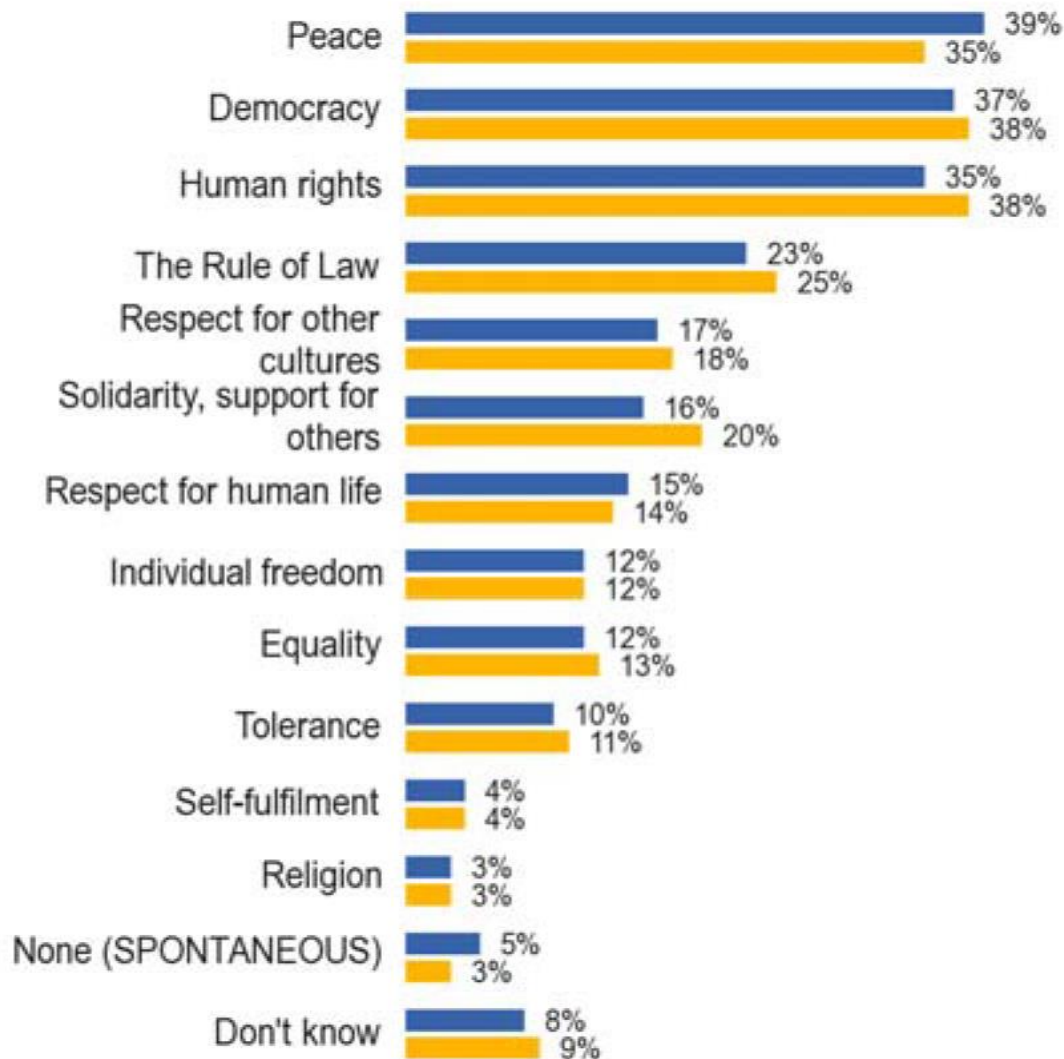
Peace (40%)

Democracy (28%)

Individual freedom(23%)

Rule of law (21%,),equality (20%),

solidarity (15%) tolerance (15%), self-fulfillment(11%), respect for other cultures (9%) and religion (5%).

QE2. In the following list, which are the three most important values for you personally?

Value	EB77 Sp.2012	EB74 Aut.2010
Human rights	43%	47%
Respect for human life	43%	41%
Peace	40%	44%
Democracy	28%	29%
Individual freedom	23%	23%
The Rule of Law	21%	22%
Equality	20%	19%
Solidarity, support for others	15%	15%
Tolerance	15%	15%
Self-fulfilment	11%	10%
Respect for other cultures	9%	8%
Religion	5%	6%
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	1%

■ EB77 Sp.2012
■ EB74 Aut.2010

⬤ EU27

QE3. Which three of the following values best represent the EU?

Value	EB77 Sp.2012	EB74 Aut.2010
Peace	39%	35%
Democracy	37%	38%
Human rights	35%	38%
The Rule of Law	23%	25%
Respect for other cultures	17%	18%
Solidarity, support for others	16%	20%
Respect for human life	15%	14%
Individual freedom	12%	12%
Equality	12%	13%
Tolerance	10%	11%
Self-fulfilment	4%	4%
Religion	3%	3%
None (SPONTANEOUS)	5%	3%
Don't know	8%	9%

■ EB77 Sp.2012

■ EB74 Aut.2010

🔵 EU27

The Personal Values of Europeans

Which values are the most important to Europeans' idea of happiness?

health (75%)

love (41%)

work (40%)

money (32%)

friendship (28%)

peace (28%).

Cultural Diversity

European societies are ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse (historical developments and of more recent immigrations from other countries and continents)

European Union's slogan 'United in Diversity' embraces both kinds of diversity: the kind that exists among Member States and the diversity of minority and immigrant groups within each Member State.

Three main types of visible minority groups in Europe

People of Colour (sub-Saharan Africa or the West Caribbean); the UK, France Sweden, and in smaller numbers in Italy, Spain, and Ireland

Muslims, (Turkish, North African or southeast Asian) Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, and Sweden

Roma, (usually indigenous or originate from other EU member states) Italy, Greece, Spain, France, Britain, and the Netherlands have native and immigrant Roma populations

Cultural Diversity

This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind.

The defense of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples
Article 1, 4 UNSECO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001

The Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of this Treaty, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.
Article 151.4, from The Treaty of the European Community (2002)

Cultural Diversity

"Indeed, Europeans share a common cultural heritage, which is the result of centuries of creativity, migratory flows and exchanges. They also enjoy and value a rich cultural and linguistic diversity, which is inspiring and has inspired many countries across the world. [...] Through this unity in diversity, respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and promotion of a common cultural heritage lies at the very heart of the European project." (European Commission, 2007)

Cultural Diversity

Contemporary multiculturalism expects individuals to deal with cultural contacts and to face possible tensions between different worlds.

The political efforts and initiatives in the EU suggest that the successful coexistence of different ethnic, cultural and national groups is possible in a democratic Europe.

European citizenship complements citizenship at the national level, rather than replacing it.

Intercultural dialogue in Europe

The survey was carried out in November, 2007.

Over 27,000 randomly selected citizens aged 15 years and above were interviewed in the EU countries.

83% EU citizens agreed about the benefits of intercultural contacts

49% of the EU citizens believe that people with a different background (ethnic, religious, etc.) enrich the cultural life of their country

Day-to-day interaction among people belonging to different cultures is a reality for 65% EU citizens

The Year of Intercultural Dialogue

European identity and language

There are 23 officially recognized languages, more than 60 indigenous regional and minority languages, and many non-indigenous languages spoken by migrant communities.

19% of Europeans are bilingual, 25% are trilingual and 10% speak four or more languages.

The European policy objective of a trilingual population (national language, English, another language) is already met by the majority of the population in Luxembourg (84%), the Netherlands (77%), Slovenia (67%), Malta (59%), Denmark (58%), Latvia (54%), Lithuania (52%) and Estonia (52%). By contrast, the countries furthest away from this objective include Portugal and Hungary (13% in each), the UK (14%) and Greece (15%).

2012 Eurobarometer 'Europeans and their Languages'

Conclusions

1. European Identity is one among many collective identities that people have and is in constant evolution.

2. European identity is part of a multiple set of identity features that may form part of an individual's identity which is in line with a given context and situation.

3. European identity as deeply intertwined with national identity and reject the conflictive model in which national and European identities are understood to be in an antagonistic relationship.

4. 'Country first, but Europe, too' is the dominant outlook in most EU countries, and people do not perceive this as contradictory

5. Dominant European identity narratives today turn diversity into a distinctive feature of European identity

6. Lack of foreign language skills is an obstacle to the development of a sense of European Identity.

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Thank you all for your attention