



Citizen's Voice: Street debate on “How important is Europe for you?”

12 street debates had been organized in various European towns: Novi Sad (Serbia), Pula (Croatia), Orléans (France), Lecce (Italie), Tallinn (Estonia), Chios (Greece), Sinpaul (Romania), Vienna (Austria), Trebjne (Slovenia). 12 street debates had been organized in various European towns: Novi Sad (Serbia), Pula (Croatia), Orléans (France), Lecce (Italie), Tallinn (Estonia), Chios (Greece), Sinpaul (Romania), Vienna (Austria), Trebjne (Slovenia).

Logically I feel like an European because I live here. For me Europe means place where I live and where I feel safe. Wherever I go people are the same for me – they are people.

Tijana, 15 y.o

From my perspective Europe is an OLD SLEEPY LADY. I have nice memories living in Europe, but not so nice memories about finding jobs.

Sandra, 40 y.o

Europe offers jobs. When there is unemployment in a country, workers can move to another. You can travel freely abroad.

Stasa, 51 y.o

Europe doesn't exist in our everyday life. For example, during the recent fires, there was no help from Europe. There could be a European body to deal with such extraordinary phenomena. Some works are being held but this is not so clear in our everyday life.

Maya, 35 y.o

I do not want this Europe. It should be Europe for the peoples. I want equal rights for everyone and not always the strongest countries as Germany to decide. It is important that there is a union of states, but there should be based on different terms and criteria.

Diamantis, 41 y.o

I feel that Europe offers me protection. I feel more secure in both economic and national security/border issues.

Giorgia, 40 y.o

Above all it is important to me as a peace project

Irma, 62 y.o

Europe is the symbol of division, although it sounds paradoxically today, when we have supranational entity such as the EU, which we need to acknowledge as the conglomerate of nations. A hybrid entity that doesn't exist anywhere in the world (at least of such strength and importance). The important question is where the borders of this Europe are. Europe is the continent of culture and blood.

Vladislav, 25 y.o

Of course, there are great inequalities in European countries, but many of them that belong to the European Union take care of their people. Our good times were in late 1980s. Novi Sad deserves to be the European Capital of Culture and to have higher standard. It's pity that young people are leaving the country, it is beautiful here, but we lack economic stability that they can find it in the countries of the European Union.

Pavle, 49 y.o

To me, Europe means, first of all, home and that is why I believe in its importance. I am a european citizen, so I am a part of Europe. Europe is the key for citizens to grow, to educate themselves, to communicate and, in the end, to get to know the rest of the world better and to reciprocate it."

Miruna, 17 y.o

We have to be more integrated in Europe. Serbia is not part of Europe enough, i.e. European values. We only belong to it geographically.

Nevena, 50 y.o

I am not a fan of the EU, I want Europe to keep the different cultures separate

Walter, 61 y.o

This is not my problem, I am from Switzerland

Man, about 45 y.o

Europe is not important. It's all robbery.

Aleksander 37 y.o

Initially I am feeling more as an European citizen, than a citizen of Slovenia.

Nikola 43 y.o

Europe evokes positive connotations in me – in cultural, artistic and technological way. The strive for progress and liberalism are definitely important if we talk about the importance of Europe. However, I also think that Balkan people are separated, in a sense of certain prejudice that people living in the European Union have against people living in the South Europe and Balkans region.

Petar, 36 y.o

For me Europe is important especially because we have common values that we represent. Uniting the nations, and that we have the opportunity to improve and care for common good are those things that make Europe special and I appreciate them the most.

Marina 28 y.o

I see EU as something that I cannot imagine my everyday life without. I think that when we eliminated country borders, we also eliminated borders in our heads. It is important that we are active citizens of our Europe.

Mate 26 y.o

For me, Europe is very important because it is a framework in which we can develop, as a country, by having an economical, political and social collaboration with other countries and because it implies the use of a certain set of values meant to protect democracy and free will."

Ana Maria, 20 y.o

Europe goes beyond geography, it's a state of mind, a set of values, respect and diversity.

Paula 39 y.o

Europe is to me a very important thing because it seems to be easier to meet new people with a very diverse baggage of knowledge and learn from them so many interesting things."

Claudia, 13 y.o

Personally, I really don't care about Europe but the choices that those in power make have an impact on my little life. For example, for pesticides: Europe accepts glyphosate which kills bees and therefore life. That affects me. And I like honey! The real question is: what interests are served by Europe?

Cédric, 37 y.o

It's generational, for me it is important because I was born in the middle of the war. My dad and granddad made war, but I grew up with the premises of Europe and of the Franco-German friendship. In fact, we were getting very angry about that. You should have seen the face of my granddad when I brought my German pen pal to him. But things change and I am happy that my son makes Erasmus rather than war.

Yves, 72 y.o

I am more concerned about mosquito bites than about the fate of Europe, to tell you the truth. For me there is nothing concrete. To make people believe in Europe, it would have to act on our everyday lives. Otherwise, people – and me first - will continue to either not vote or to vote ever more for the right wing.

Dominique, 53 y.o

Europe means the "EUROPEAN DREAM". I know from my parents what communism meant and it's sad that people don't make the difference between past and present. Things are better now! but still there are people who don't know who to blame for...and they blame Europe, like in UK with the Brexit. Nowadays, situation is very different, and I mean in a GOOD way. From start, now you can travel in the world just because you want to discover a new culture and not because you're looking for a job. Europe means economic development, opportunities, freedom of thought and of movement

Aleksandra, 33 y.o.

I think that we have to keep going like that. More Europe, more integration. When things are not going well it's easy to shoot against the others, people use to say "It's because of Europe etc..." but the school of my children received a lot of money from Europe, and it's the same for my municipality, the farmers, the association etc.. We have to explain better the benefit of Europe.

Sergio, 51 y.o

I think that it we could do without. Yes, I don't need to stop at the boarder when I go to see my relative in Germany, but it's the only concrete things that it change in my life. And I go there once a year, so it's not enough to make me forget the negative side of the EU.

Marco, 36 y.o

Europe is our country, so we should take care of it!

Lou, 8 y.o

I don't have a fix opinion about it. I'm born with the Europe, it's part of me, I'm European even if I don't realize it. The first time I understood that I was European it's when I went back in my favourite Chinese restaurant and that I ask to the owner if she recognize me. You know what she answer: sorry but you're all looking like the same you the europeans!

Francesca, 25 y.o

I am French and English. When people ask me which of both I feel the most like, I answer: none. Why? Because I feel European. Europe is the idea of looking beyond national identity and seeing all humans of this continent converging towards the notion that we are all sharers of common ground and values.

Tim, 25 y.o

I think that our grandparents did well to gather and create the EU. Me I'm 20 years old and when I met some others European it's not to fight them as my grand-father did but to enjoy good moment. I just came back from an Erasmus youth exchange and I had a lot of fun. I think that my grandparents would be happy to see that. They create peace and harmony in Europe and I'm proud of that.

Andrea, 20 y.o

From the beginning the Europe had been created and ruled by bankers, rich and powerful people. So I'm not surprised that the only results of EU is a common market. Now the challenge for us, simple citizens is to recover it!

Lucas, 32 y.o