



INVITATION TO SPEAKERS PANEL

What could a common European identity be like?

What does identity actually mean? When we talk about identity, we are referring to it as a self-description. Your own identity creates a sense of belonging to groups and other people who represent the same values and ideas as you do. Identity is therefore also a sense of unity. People can form an identity through many different characteristics, e.g. their gender, age, hobbies as well as their nationality. However, as Europeans, we are not only German or Polish citizens, but also EU citizens. As Europeans, we can also be united by common values, traditions or our history.

Identity, and this is important, is never fixed, but can change over time - just as our views and values can change. What Europe means to its citizens, for example, has also changed over time. Our grandparents' generation knew Europe as a continent where states were at war with each other.

Today, the EU attaches great importance to a common European identity. The idea is to create more cohesion and close cooperation. We all benefit from this personally, but also economically. A European identity can have many advantages. However, it cannot simply be imposed, because many people who have grown up with different languages, political opinions, in different geographical areas and with different historical backgrounds have to communicate with each other.

However, identity is not only something that can bring people together, but also something that people use to distinguish themselves from others and set themselves apart. Therein lies the danger of a sense of unity, because where there is a "we", there are also "the others". However, a common identity should not be misused to devalue other people and to justify racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory behavior towards them. So what could a European identity look like?



Role sheet

You are hosting a panel discussion on the topic of European identity. You invite various guests from civil society to the speakers panel to discuss the following overarching question:

What can a common European identity look like?

You host the expert panel. This means you will ask your guests various questions on the topic of European identity in order to find out their opinions. You keep the discussion going with basic questions (especially at the beginning) and follow-up questions. You also allow the guests to discuss among themselves if this arises. Your role as moderator is to make the positions and differences of your guests visible and comprehensible to the audience. It is important that you maintain neutrality during the panel discussion.

At the beginning of the expert panel, give a brief introduction to the topic and then ask your guests to briefly introduce themselves. Then begin with the discussion question: **"What can a common European identity look like?"** When you have reached the end of the debate, close the debate with one of your final questions.

Your guests:

Social activist: Hashim

This role emphasizes the importance of Europe's past in shaping a common identity. It illustrates how colonialism shaped Europe's history through oppression and exploitation. It is important to ensure that the voices of minorities are heard and the diversity of Europe is honored when shaping a common identity.

Committed citizen: Yilmaz

As a citizen with a history of migration, this role emphasizes Europe's diversity as one of its greatest strengths. European identity is based on openness and shared values such as respect for human rights and diversity. It is crucial that the EU encourages an open community that recognizes people's diverse perspectives and experiences in order to create a united Europe where every voice matters.

Cosmopolitan : Schmidt

This role represents the perspective of the cosmopolitan and questions the need for a purely European identity in a globally interconnected world. An emphasis on global identity could promote cooperation with other parts of the world and strengthen connections across political borders.

Historian: Nowak

The role emphasizes the close connection between European history and the formation of a common identity. Despite the different perspectives of each country, the recognition of a common basis is crucial in order to shape a dynamic European identity.



INVITATION TO SPEAKERS PANEL

What could a common European identity be like?

What does identity actually mean? When we talk about identity, we are referring to it as a self-description. Your own identity creates a sense of belonging to groups and other people who represent the same values and ideas as you do. Identity is therefore also a sense of unity. People can form an identity through many different characteristics, e.g. their gender, age, hobbies as well as their nationality. However, as Europeans, we are not only German or Polish citizens, but also EU citizens. As Europeans, we can also be united by common values, traditions or our history.

Identity, and this is important, is never fixed, but can change over time - just as our views and values can change. What Europe means to its citizens, for example, has also changed over time. Our grandparents' generation knew Europe as a continent where states were at war with each other.

Today, the EU attaches great importance to a common European identity. The idea is to create more cohesion and close cooperation. We all benefit from this personally, but also economically. A European identity can have many advantages. However, it cannot simply be imposed, because many people who have grown up with different languages, political opinions, in different geographical areas and with different historical backgrounds have to communicate with each other.

However, identity is not only something that can bring people together, but also something that people use to distinguish themselves from others and set themselves apart. Therein lies the danger of a sense of unity, because where there is a "we", there are also "the others". However, a common identity should not be misused to devalue other people and to justify racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory behavior towards them. So what could a European identity look like?



Name: **Yilmaz**

Role: **Dedicated citizen**

Role sheet

As a dedicated citizen with a migration background, I share my personal experiences as someone who has lived outside the EU and now considers myself part of the European community and society. I see European diversity as one of Europe's greatest strengths.

My own experience has shown that European identity is not only based on shared values and traditions, but also on openness to different backgrounds and perspectives. Therefore, I think it is important that the EU promotes an open community that welcomes people from different parts of the world and recognizes their diverse stories. Only through this openness we can create a truly united Europe where every voice is heard!

In addition to this discussion, I would like to add that European identity, and therefore diversity in Europe, is based on historical developments and migration. Europe is a continent that has always been and continues to be shaped by migration. This means that Europe thrives on cultural differences and the diversity of perspectives. What holds the EU together are the common European values such as respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, freedom, diversity and tolerance. In this sense, the different perspectives and experiences of people in Europe can help to shape a vibrant and dynamic European identity based on participation and European values, reflecting both the history and the future of Europe.



**#DEINE
REGIONALE
ZUKUNFT**



INVITATION TO SPEAKERS PANEL

What could a common European identity be like?

What does identity actually mean? When we talk about identity, we are referring to it as a self-description. Your own identity creates a sense of belonging to groups and other people who represent the same values and ideas as you do. Identity is therefore also a sense of unity. People can form an identity through many different characteristics, e.g. their gender, age, hobbies as well as their nationality. However, as Europeans, we are not only German or Polish citizens, but also EU citizens. As Europeans, we can also be united by common values, traditions or our history.

Identity, and this is important, is never fixed, but can change over time - just as our views and values can change. What Europe means to its citizens, for example, has also changed over time. Our grandparents' generation knew Europe as a continent where states were at war with each other.

Today, the EU attaches great importance to a common European identity. The idea is to create more cohesion and close cooperation. We all benefit from this personally, but also economically. A European identity can have many advantages. However, it cannot simply be imposed, because many people who have grown up with different languages, political opinions, in different geographical areas and with different historical backgrounds have to communicate with each other.

However, identity is not only something that can bring people together, but also something that people use to distinguish themselves from others and set themselves apart. Therein lies the danger of a sense of unity, because where there is a "we", there are also "the others". However, a common identity should not be misused to devalue other people and to justify racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory behavior towards them. So what could a European identity look like?



Name: **Schmidt**

Role: **Cosmopolitan**

Role sheet

I represent the perspective of the cosmopolitan in the discussion about European identity. As a citizen of the world, I emphasize that identities are not limited to political borders. I ask myself whether a European identity is necessary in the face of a very interconnected world. Perhaps it makes more sense to think of identities on a larger scale and not on a national or European level. For me, it would be exciting to think about identity on a global level. This could promote cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world, and this is always beneficial!

I wonder whether emphasizing an identity that remains limited to the continent of Europe could possibly disrupt Europe's global connections and cooperation with other parts of the world. Instead of limiting ourselves to a continental identity, a globally minded identity could build bridges to other parts of the world. This perspective allows us to share common values and goals with people around the world and to focus on global challenges such as climate change and social justice. A European identity could thus be embedded in a broader, global perspective that emphasizes the connections between people beyond political borders.



**#DEINE
REGIONALE
ZUKUNFT**



INVITATION TO SPEAKERS PANEL

What could a common European identity be like?

What does identity actually mean? When we talk about identity, we are referring to it as a self-description. Your own identity creates a sense of belonging to groups and other people who represent the same values and ideas as you do. Identity is therefore also a sense of unity. People can form an identity through many different characteristics, e.g. their gender, age, hobbies as well as their nationality. However, as Europeans, we are not only German or Polish citizens, but also EU citizens. As Europeans, we can also be united by common values, traditions or our history.

Identity, and this is important, is never fixed, but can change over time - just as our views and values can change. What Europe means to its citizens, for example, has also changed over time. Our grandparents' generation knew Europe as a continent where states were at war with each other.

Today, the EU attaches great importance to a common European identity. The idea is to create more cohesion and close cooperation. We all benefit from this personally, but also economically. A European identity can have many advantages. However, it cannot simply be imposed, because many people who have grown up with different languages, political opinions, in different geographical areas and with different historical backgrounds have to communicate with each other.

However, identity is not only something that can bring people together, but also something that people use to distinguish themselves from others and set themselves apart. Therein lies the danger of a sense of unity, because where there is a "we", there are also "the others". However, a common identity should not be misused to devalue other people and to justify racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory behavior towards them. So what could a European identity look like?



Name: **Nowak**

Role: **Historian**

Role sheet

As a respected historian with a good understanding of European history, I am convinced that the formation of a common European identity is inseparably linked to the history of Europe. The idea of a common identity is rooted in historical events such as the Enlightenment, which laid the foundations for common values including freedom, equality and solidarity. Traumatic experiences such as the two world wars led to a common desire for peace and cooperation. Coming to terms with these experiences was a crucial step towards a European identity.

However, it is equally important to note that each country has its own perspective on the common European history and ideas about what a European identity can look like may differ. European identity is not a fixed entity, but a concept that is constantly evolving. Our task is to draw lessons from the past in order to understand the present and shape the future. European diversity must be honored while creating a common ground based on shared values and a deep understanding of Europe's historical developments.



**#DEINE
REGIONALE
ZUKUNFT**



INVITATION TO SPEAKERS PANEL

What could a common European identity be like?

What does identity actually mean? When we talk about identity, we are referring to it as a self-description. Your own identity creates a sense of belonging to groups and other people who represent the same values and ideas as you do. Identity is therefore also a sense of unity. People can form an identity through many different characteristics, e.g. their gender, age, hobbies as well as their nationality. However, as Europeans, we are not only German or Polish citizens, but also EU citizens. As Europeans, we can also be united by common values, traditions or our history.

Identity, and this is important, is never fixed, but can change over time - just as our views and values can change. What Europe means to its citizens, for example, has also changed over time. Our grandparents' generation knew Europe as a continent where states were at war with each other.

Today, the EU attaches great importance to a common European identity. The idea is to create more cohesion and close cooperation. We all benefit from this personally, but also economically. A European identity can have many advantages. However, it cannot simply be imposed, because many people who have grown up with different languages, political opinions, in different geographical areas and with different historical backgrounds have to communicate with each other.

However, identity is not only something that can bring people together, but also something that people use to distinguish themselves from others and set themselves apart. Therein lies the danger of a sense of unity, because where there is a "we", there are also "the others". However, a common identity should not be misused to devalue other people and to justify racist, xenophobic or otherwise discriminatory behavior towards them. So what could a European identity look like?



Name: **Hashim**

Role: **Social Activist**

Role sheet

In my opinion, Europe's past is a key factor in the challenge of building a common European identity.

Europe's history is complex and characterized by very dark chapters such as colonialism. During colonialism, European states conquered territories in other parts of the world, oppressed their populations and exploited them. Natives in the global south were often robbed of their own culture and identity in the process. In my opinion, the exploitation of the populations of other states was the result of a European self-image that placed itself above other cultures in the world. My central concern is that those who benefit most from certain structures may also have a decisive influence on how a European identity is formed. At the same time, I emphasize the need to ensure that the voices of those who have been oppressed in the past are heard.

The challenge for us is to draw our lessons from history without overlooking the diversity that characterizes Europe. Identities are not only formed from within, but are also shaped by historical circumstances and power relations. In this context, it is crucial that the formation of a common European identity is open and takes into account different perspectives and experiences.



**#DEINE
REGIONALE
ZUKUNFT**