

A collage featuring a woman with glasses and a blue background with the text "MORE THAN ONE EUROPE" in a bold, hand-painted style. The text is split across two lines, with "MORE THAN" on the top line and "ONE EUROPE" on the bottom line. The background includes a red and white star, a blue and white checkered pattern, and a blue and white striped pattern. The woman is in the center, looking directly at the camera. The overall style is artistic and expressive, with a focus on the text and the woman's face.



# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

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# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## PREAMBLE

### Hi there!

A question to start with: What does Europe mean to you?

For most people, Europe is either simply a continent, or the European Union, or just an idea that was created in ancient Greece. But how is this idea being implemented today? Does something like a “European Identity” still exist?

If you look at the recent success of many nationalistic parties and movements in different countries, you would think that the European idea has been lost somewhere between the founding of the EU and the refugee crisis. You could also jump to the conclusion that the European countries only act in their own interest and that Europe simply supplies the free market they need. But is that really the way its citizens see Europe? How do young Europeans look at their future?

Bearing these questions in mind, we, a group of European volunteers currently living in Luxembourg, created a project. In this project, we wanted to find out what young people really think about Europe. We wanted to know what defines their Europe. And because Europe has more than one side to it, we called the project “More than ONE EUROPE”.

In this booklet, you can find the results of our project. We interviewed ten people from different European countries, we made an online survey, asking more than 200 people about their opinion, and during all this process, we asked ourselves again and again: “What is Europe to me?”

Hopefully, reading this booklet, you yourself will find an answer to this question. If you feel like you want to share your answer with us, you can find our contact details in the back of this booklet. Because even though it seems like our project is over now, it will never really finish in a way. Because we all live in Europe, and Europe lives in all of us.

Have fun exploring and all the best,  
Maria, Luisa, Vera, Alexandre and Lucy.

# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**The Idea** for our project originated in a discussion Lucy had in February 2017 with her mother: "Why don't you just interview people if you want to know what they think?"

No sooner said than done! In March, we had a first brainstorming meeting, gathered ideas (together with Carina who then left Luxembourg but she still helped us a lot) and made plans. We, that is:

### The Team:



**MARIA** from Germany who is doing her voluntary service for *ATD Quart Monde*, a human rights organization that fights against poverty. She is 19 years old and has been in Luxembourg since September 2016.



**LUISA** from Germany who did her voluntary service first for *Kulturraum Großregion* and then for the *Musée de la Résistance* in Esch-sur-Alzette. She is also 19 years old and arrived in Luxembourg in August 2016.



**LUCY** from Germany who does her voluntary service for the *Youth Conference (CGJL)* and did the project in accordance with her work there. She is 18 years old and has been in Luxembourg since September 2016.

# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT



**ALEXANDRE** from France who is doing his voluntary service for the *Youth Information Center (CIJ)* and also participated in the interviews. He is 23 years old and arrived in Luxembourg in January 2017.



**VERA** from Germany who is doing an internship for the *Youth Conference (CGJL)* and joined us mid-way through the project when she arrived in Luxembourg in April 2017. She also did a European Voluntary Service in 2014/15 and worked for the Institute For Infirmes Moteurs Cérébraux.

**The Project** did not really start until April, though. Questions were created, the online survey was set up, and dates for the interviews were fixed.

**The Survey** went online shortly after the beginning of April and stayed there until the 15th of May – more than a month. To get more people to answer our many questions, every participant had the chance to win one out of six prizes. That is why we sent two JBL Go boxes and three pairs of cinema tickets to Luxembourg and Germany in mid-May.





# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT



**The Interviews** all took place in the week of the 24th until the 28th of April at Radio Ara (we are so grateful for that by the way, it was the perfect place!). And then everything went really fast: We had over 7 hours of audio and video material to edit, texts to write, photos to take and 232 answers from the survey to evaluate.





# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

And now this is one of the two final products:

**The Booklet.** We hope that you enjoy reading it and find it as interesting as we do. If you are further interested, however, you can find the short film we also made on the Facebook page of the Conférence générale de la Jeunesse du Luxembourg (CGJL). Check it out!



# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## EVILENA (GREECE)



**Age:** 25

**Position:** European  
Volunteer since October  
2016 for the *Red Cross  
Luxembourg*

**"I believe that we are a chain: if something bad happens to someone else, (...) something bad will happen to us as well. That's why we should support each other!"**

Evilena grew up in Greece – the country that earned a lot of criticism by the EU and its member states ever since the financial crisis. What does she think about the criticism, her home country and how does the situation affect her personally?

Her answers showed a certain disappointment about the EU's reaction to the problems in Greece. For her, Greece is reduced into two types of perceptions: The first one is that all Greeks are lazy and are therefore responsible for the financial situation. The second one represents Greece as the ideal summer destination for holidays. For Evilena, this is a much underestimated image of Greece, which raised the feeling that it is not appreciated in Europe any more. The truth about her home is some-

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## EVILENA (GREECE)

where in the middle, but “it is not good to have a very fixed perception of a country”, however. For her, Europe is the idea of a democracy, in which people are respected and differences are accepted. She thinks “a more European attitude would be to distinguish more and appreciate people for what they are”. The trend to generalize and reduce people on their weaknesses increases her concerns about the EU’s future. If the focus lies on the differences between people rather than on similarities, she cannot be optimistic regarding an united Europe.

At latest after observing the Brexit referendum, while she was studying in Cardiff, she realized how important the EU is for her own future plans. “I am sure that I am directly affected by Europe. My friends who are still (in the UK) are really worried if they can stay there or if they have to go back to Greece”. Evilena shares her friends’ concerns in the way that she is afraid of losing her independence because she cannot find a job. Staying in Luxembourg, a country that she calls her home now, would make her happy, but in order to get her dream job as a primary school teacher she is open for other countries as well. Evilena stays optimistic because: “this is a good point of view. Maybe things would be better if all of us thought a better way.”

And last but not least, what should the world know about Greece besides its financial situation? “The hospitality, the smile and the kindness of the people!”

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## DAVID (GERMANY/BELGIUM)



**Alter:** 23

Hat in Luxemburg ein fünfmonatiges Praktikum beim EU-Parlament gemacht

### **“Wir stellen uns (...) nicht mehr die Frage, was Grenzen in Europa ausmachen.”**

Jede Antwort, die David auf unsere Fragen gibt, führt auf dem einen oder anderen Weg auf ein Thema zurück: Politik. Für ihn heißt Europa vor allem EU – und die wirkt sich auch auf sein Heimatsverständnis und seine Erwartungen für die Zukunft aus. Das liegt vermutlich unter anderem daran, dass David, der seinen Bachelor in Sozialwissenschaften und seinen Master in Journalismus gemacht hat, ein 5-monatiges Praktikum beim EU-Parlament in Luxemburg absolviert hat.

Für David ist es ein Privileg, Europäer/in zu sein: „Wir leben in den (...) sichersten Ländern dieses Planeten, wir profitieren alle von Demokratie (...)“ Zudem hat man auch andere Vorteile: Innerhalb von Europas kann man sich frei bewegen, außerhalb von Europas ist man durch seine EU-Staatsangehörigkeit dazu befähigt, im Notfall in jeder EU-Botschaft Hilfe zu suchen, wenn die eigene nicht erreichbar ist. Wenn

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

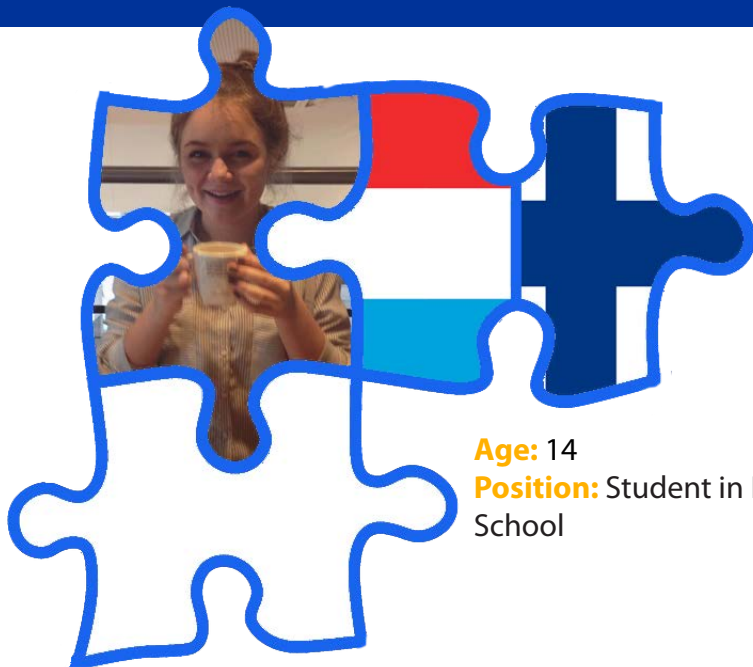
## DAVID (GERMANY/BELGIUM)

man David, der deutsch und belgisch ist, fragt, als was er sich eher fühlt, antwortet er: „Ich fühle mich eher als Europäer.“ Ihm ist die Nationalität nicht so wichtig. Trotzdem sieht er auch Unterschiede zwischen den Ländern: Politische und wirtschaftliche, wie dass Deutschland „irgendwo Motor Europas (ist), mit Frankreich.“; aber auch kulturelle, wie dass in Deutschland meistens Ordnung herrscht, während in Belgien das Chaos regiert (und in ihm persönlich ist beides irgendwie vereint). Er versteht die Kritik an der „Vormachtstellung“ Deutschlands in der EU, aber erklärt sich diese Position auch einfach mit der Bevölkerungsgröße Deutschlands.

Als ich David frage, was für ihn die Grenzen innerhalb Europas bedeuten, schaut er mich verwundert an und fragt: „Welche Grenzen? (...) Ich kann mich verschwommen daran erinnern, als Kind (...) hinter Aachen an der Grenze gestanden zu haben. Aber heute... (...) ich denk da nicht mehr drüber nach. (...) Ich bin (...) Teil einer Generation, die da derart mit aufgewachsen ist. (...) Wir stellen uns (...) nicht mehr die Frage, was Grenzen in Europa ausmachen.“ Das ändert sich aber ja gerade wieder, weil einige Länder ihre Grenzen im Zuge des Flüchtlingsstroms zumachen. Was er dazu meint? David ist der Meinung, dass man das hätte anders lösen können, wenn sich alle EU-Länder auf eine gemeinsame Flüchtlingspolitik geeinigt hätten und prozentual gleich viele Flüchtlinge aufgenommen hätten. Er glaubt aber, dass der Flüchtlingsstreit auch ein Ventil sei für andere Probleme, die die Menschen in der EU sehen: „Es gibt auch immer so eine Tendenz, dass man die höchste Instanz anpeilt, wenn man unzufrieden ist als Bürger. (...) Und da ist die EU bzw. Europa als Zusammenschluss natürlich das perfekte Ziel.“ Trotzdem hofft er, dass sich in zehn Jahren die schwierige Situation in Europa beruhigt haben wird und das Positive an Europa wieder mehr fokussiert wird: Dass kulturell, geographisch und sprachlich so unterschiedliche Länder versuchen, miteinander klarzukommen und Gemeinsamkeiten zu finden, „weil das ziemlich dämlich wäre, das zu verschenken.“

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ELLEN (LUXEMBOURG/FINLAND)



**Age:** 14

**Position:** Student in High School

**“I don’t think you can completely judge a whole country and everybody in that country based just on a couple of people (...).”**

“For me, to be European means not only to be from an European country, but it is also the culture and the different religions, and people joining together to celebrate these different cultures and religions.”: This is how Ellen starts her interview. Europe is for her not only a geographical region or continent but a certain way of feeling and of behaving.

She thinks that Europe is made of varieties: All people are different, and we should be aware of that and make distinctions, but not in term of race, gender or age. In her opinion, it is everyone’s way of seeing these differences that account for the positive and the negative sides of Europe: Racism and discrimination are aspects of the negative side, while the positive side is that we are learning to celebrate these differences between countries and people. Ellen is convinced that borders



# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ELLEN (LUXEMBOURG/FINLAND)

are important because they have history and it is crucial to remember our history in order to be able to see and prove how we have changed. On the other side, though, Ellen thinks that the actual borders do not mean a lot since we can move freely in Europe.

She makes some interesting comments about what is home to her. Even if she is originally from Finland, she says: "Europe is a home to me," and that she feels more European than Finnish or Luxembourgish. She also adds that home means for her family, having important people around, friends, and also school. Since she has been living in Luxembourg for 14 years, she built her network of "important people" here, which is why Luxembourg is where she feels at home. However, it is interesting to see that when she is asked questions about her country, she always talks about Finland: She includes herself when she talks about Finnish culture in general ("We are on the side of Europe."), but she excludes herself talking about some characteristics of some Finnish people that she describes as racists or close-minded. Still, she feels proud of her country, because she thinks one cannot judge a whole country based on a couple of people. So, as she said before, there are naturally differences between people, not in terms of race or gender or age but in terms of ideas, backgrounds and networks. Indeed, she says that moving to Luxembourg influenced her whole life, and she thinks she is more open-minded than if she would have just stayed in Finland.

The values Ellen stresses the most during the interview are open-mindedness, awareness and communication. She thinks that people from her generation do not know what they want, and that school is not preparing them for real life. She herself, though, has quite specific ideas for her own future, considering that she is only 14 years old. Her dream is to travel and her passion is writing, so she would love to work in a field where she could combine the two. Her parents and some teachers are guiding and helping her in finding her path, and, if all goes well, she would like to study in the U.K.

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ALEXANDRE (FRANCE)



**Age:** 23

**Profession:** Volontaire  
Européen au Centre  
d'Information Jeunes  
Luxembourg depuis  
Janvier 2017

### « Je suis fier de l'Europe, mais pas de mon pays. »

Depuis qu'il est tout petit, Alexandre a appris à ne pas se sentir simplement français, mais surtout européen. Pour lui, l'Europe est comme un très grand pays qui ne partage pas seulement la même monnaie, mais aussi des valeurs et libertés identiques. Dans ce pays, il peut se sentir chez lui dans n'importe quelle région, du moment qu'il a ses amis, sa famille, une bonne bière ou son ordinateur, il est chez lui. Les frontières nationales ne jouent donc pas un rôle signifiant, elles sont plutôt « un moyen pour mieux se repérer sur les cartes. ». L'Europe lui apporte les valeurs du partage et l'ouverture d'esprit. Mais qu'est-ce que la France représente selon Alexandre ? L'image des français est celui d'une personne avec un verre de vin et une baguette dans les mains. Même si Alexandre est d'accord que la baguette française soit irremplaçable, il y a des choses plus importantes qu'on devrait savoir : « Malgré les apparences, les français sont très accueillants ».

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ALEXANDRE (FRANCE)

Dans le cadre des élections présidentielles par contre, il est déçu de ses concitoyens. Comme nous avons tous pu suivre dans les médias, le candidat François Fillon avait volé de l'argent aux gens et a fait des emplois fictifs pour sa famille, mais malgré ce point c'est quand-même 20,01% de Français qui ont voté pour lui comme président.

« Ça me dérange. On ne peut pas voler des gens et ensuite se présenter comme président. ».

C'est peut-être aussi pour cela qu'Alexandre ne sent pas son avenir en France. L'avenir est incertain, mais en tant que rêves, Alexandre aimerait voyager et découvrir le monde. Il nous racontait qu'il veut partir à l'étranger et laissez la France de côté, de plus il ne voit pas beaucoup d'opportunités pour lui là-bas.

Est-ce que ça ne fait pas peur, de quitter son environnement connu? Non au contraire. Pour Alexandre, le pire qui peut arriver est de ne pas oser. Pour cela, il essaye de s'orienter à ce que sa mère lui disait : « Quand t'as une idée fais-le. Si ça te tient au cœur fais-le. Tu verras après. ».

Certainement, l'Europe est important pour lui pour réaliser ses rêves et si l'Union Européenne n'existe plus, ça aura toute de suite des conséquences. Alexandre essaye de rester optimiste. Il se dit « il faut toujours avancer et croire aux rêves. ».

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## SARA (SPAIN)



**Age:** 24

**Position:** European Volunteer since January 2017 in the *Spanish Center Lucien Wercollier* in Luxembourg

**“Europe for me is opportunity (...), and sharing and learning about everybody (...) because there is this space to share experiences and cultures, and it’s easy to do it.”**

Before Sara came to Luxembourg, she did not know much about Europe, the EU and what it means or does. Sara said: „We didn’t hear about Europe in the news (...), we didn’t talk about it in school, it was not a topic of conversation whatsoever. (...) In Spain you live in your own bubble“. In the last few months during her European Voluntary Service, Sara learned that being European means sharing different cultures and meeting people from various countries. Especially in Luxembourg she feels European because she is in touch with so many different people. But also the open borders, the common objective and the dialogue between countries (which is one of the most important things for her) are aspects of Europe. Therefore, Sara thinks that the EU should be more promoted and also that Spanish citizens need to be more interested in it.

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## SARA (SPAIN)

When Sara is asked what she needs to feel at home, her answer is: "Just having a roof over my head (...) and a little room (...) where I feel safe and have my own space. All the other things I need to feel at home I take with me so it doesn't really matter where I am." Of course she misses her friends in Spain but in a time of modern technologies where you can always send a message or have a conversation over Skype, it is not so hard. The question whether she adapted any values from her home country was a little bit more difficult for her, because Sarah never really felt Spanish – she said she is more "a citizen of the world". But she realized that she brought her own specific way how to deal with people to Luxembourg, which is, like with many Spanish people, really „huggy“. And in her volunteer home, she is always the one in the house who eats dinner last.

For her future, Sara wishes that she can do the master she wants to do and after that she hopes to find a good job which gives her financial security to cover her basic needs. In order to always have enough motivation to work on this future dream, Sara has a notebook full with names of people who have sparked something in her. That can also be someone she met just one time, for example a fitness blogger or a coworker. Whenever she feels sad or whenever she thinks that it is pointless to work so hard, she looks at this book and reads all the names of the people who have "made it" and who make the world a little bit better. That helps her to find new energy and to believe in her own plans. She is afraid, however, that Europe might not "be there anymore" in the future, because "people tend to elect, in this moment, leaders who close of the borders". Sara hopes, though, that this period passes and that Europe survives.

# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The survey was online for **42 days** (4th April - 15th May).

During this time, we got **232 answers**.

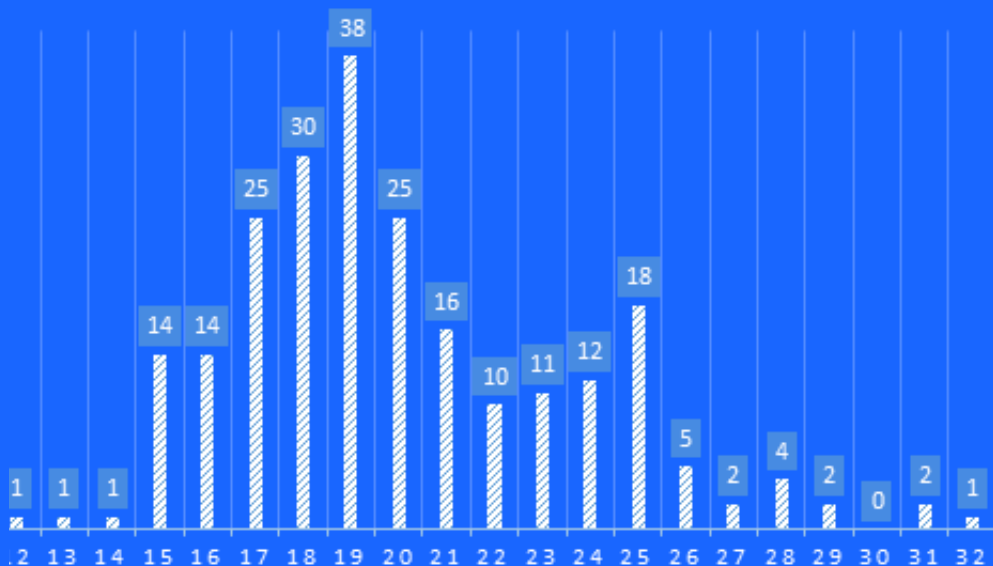


67% female



33% male

### Age of participants



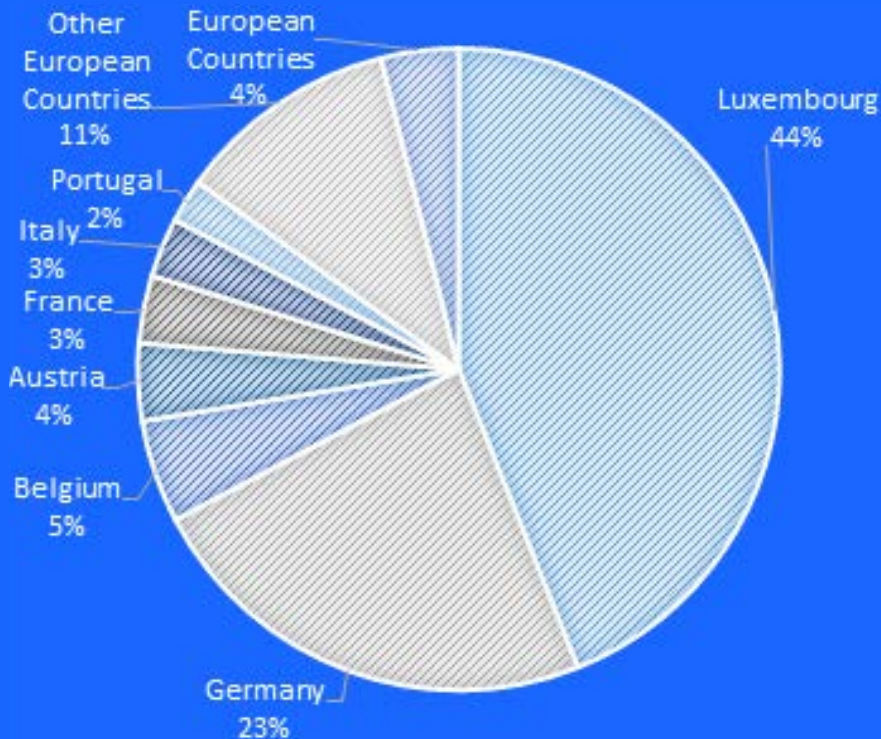
More than **90%** of the participants were between **15 and 25** years old. The average age was **20 years**.



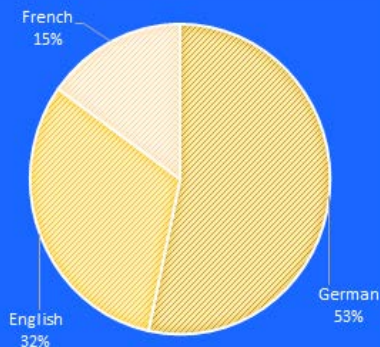
# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Countries of origin



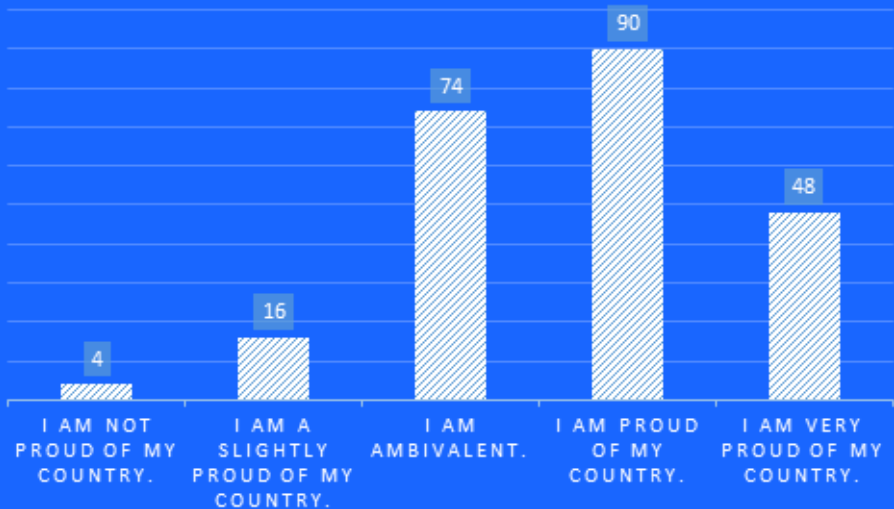
The survey was mostly taken in **German**. Only about a third of the participants did it in English, 15% in French.



# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

## TOPIC HOME

### How do you feel about your country?



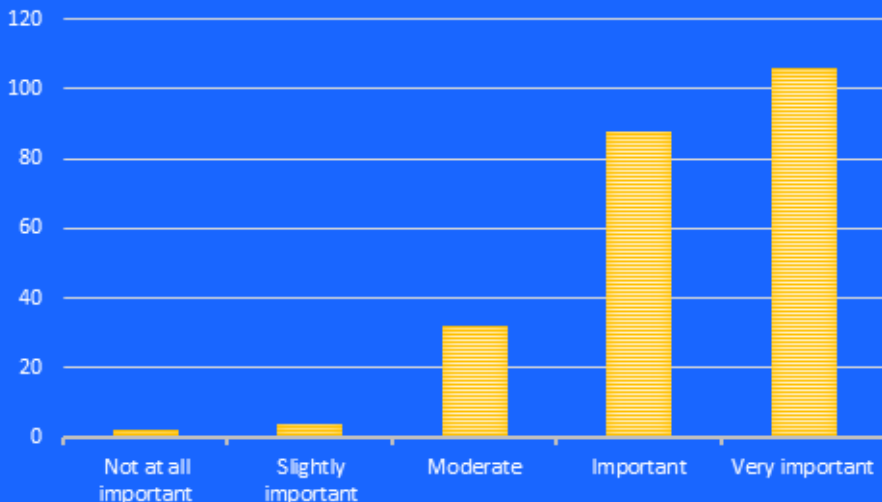
### Where do you feel at home?



# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

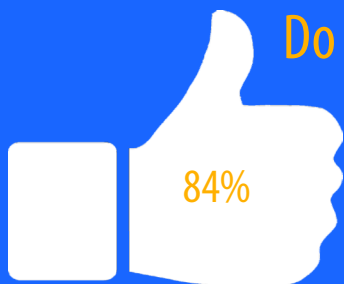
## TOPIC EUROPE

How important is Europe to you personally?



Do you feel European and why?

9% do not know how to answer this question



**„Europe is like a family for me which consists of different kind of people but (they) belong together.“**

**„Europe does not make the countries. The countries make Europe.“**

...because of the open borders (59)

...because we share a mentality (48)

...because of Europe´s multiculturalism (24)

...because I live in Europe (20)

...because my national identity wins (8)

...because we have no common values (5)

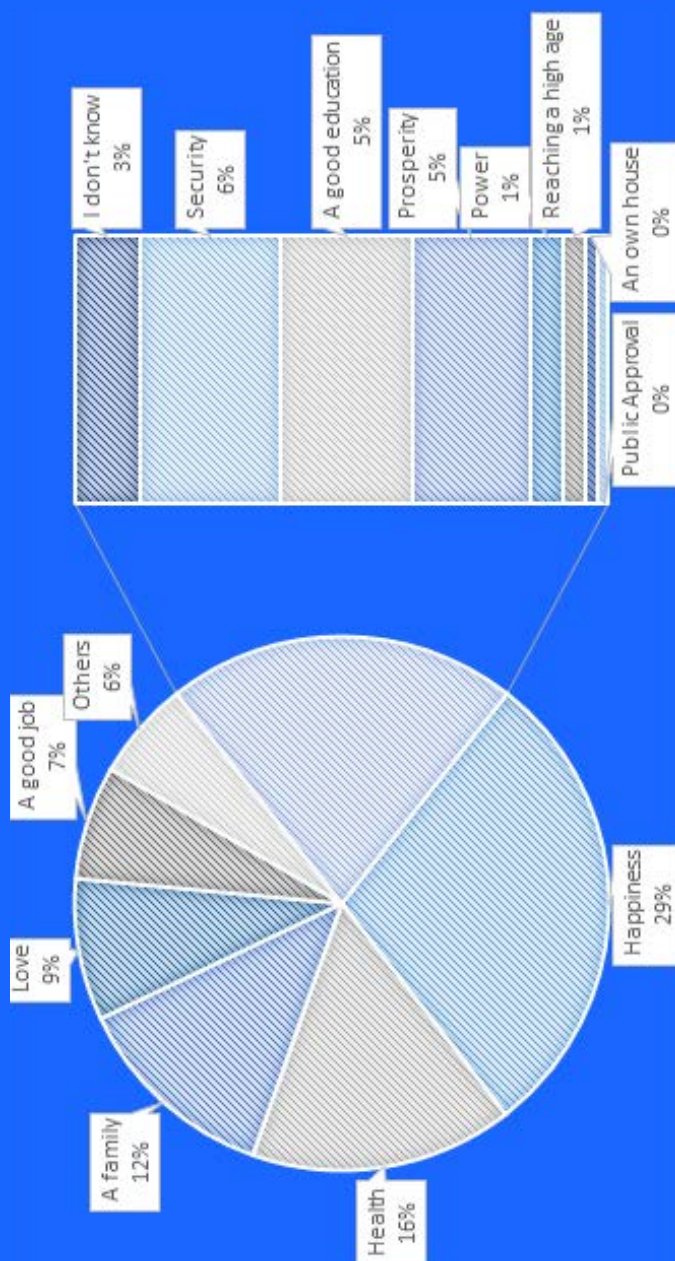
...because of Europe´s isolation policy (3)

...because I just feel human (3)

# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

## TOPIC FUTURE

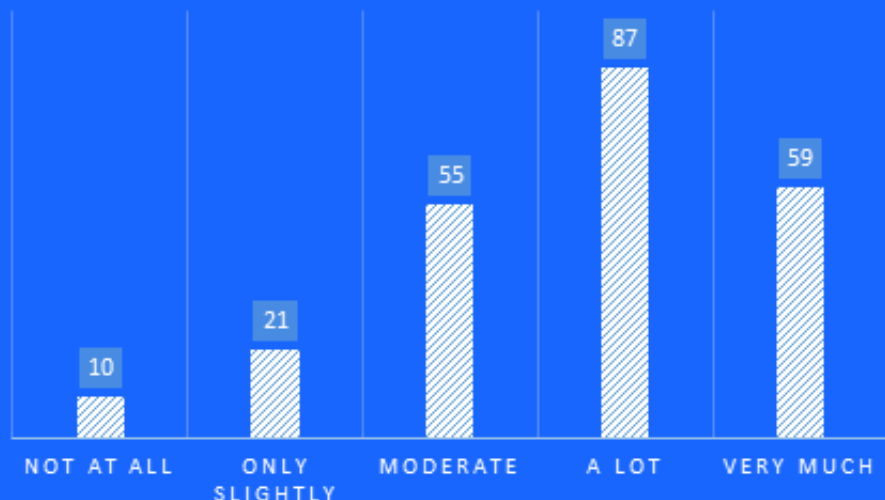
What do you want most for your own future?



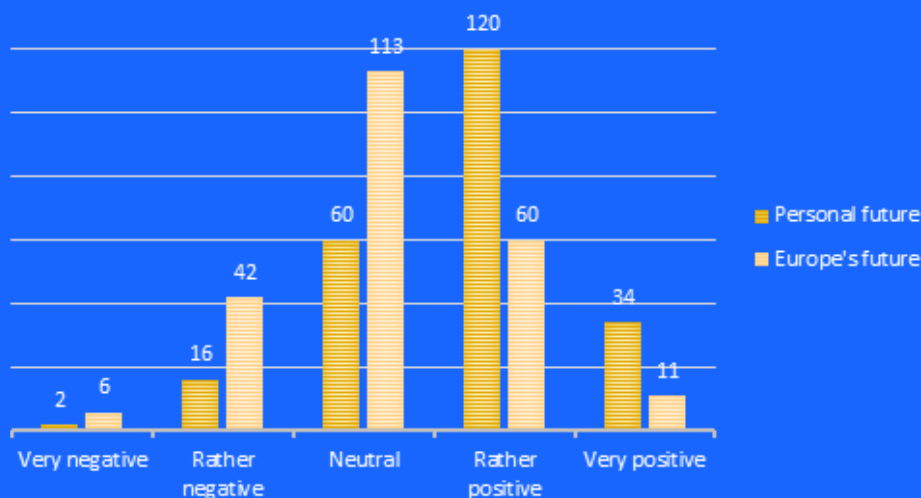
# ONLINE SURVEY - RESULTS

## TOPIC FUTURE

How much does Europe influence your future?



How do you see your own and Europe's future?



# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## EMA (LUX/ BOSNIA + HERZEGOVINA)



**Alter:** 17

**Position:** Schülerin

### **„Ich fühle mich wie ein Cosmopolitan aus Luxemburg.“**

Ema hat einen interessanten Hintergrund: Sie sieht sich als Luxemburgerin, auch wenn ihre Eltern aus Bosnien und Herzegovina und Montenegro kommen. Das liegt daran, dass bei ihr zuhause zwar Bosnisch gesprochen wird, sie aber in Luxemburg geboren wurde und sich über die luxemburgische Kultur und Sprache identifiziert.

Für sie heißt Europa deswegen auch, mehrsprachig zu sein (und zwar nicht nur als Luxemburger/in!) und frei innerhalb der Grenzen Europas reisen, studieren und arbeiten zu können. Für Ema, die aus einem Land kommt, das gerademal so groß ist wie das benachbarte Saarland, sind die Grenzen zwischen europäischen Ländern quasi nicht vorhanden. Sie würde es sogar begrüßen, wenn es gar keine Grenzen mehr gäbe. Und was sagt sie zu den Ländern, die ihre Grenzen aufgrund des hohen Andrangs von Flüchtlingen zugemacht haben? „Ich finde es (...) wichtig, dass es Migration gibt, weil das macht Europa ja aus.“ Sie sieht



# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## EMA (LUX/ BOSNIA + HERZEGOVINA)

es sehr negativ, „dass sich ein paar Länder entscheiden, einfach Mauern zu bauen, und sich auszugrenzen“. Deswegen macht sie sich auch Sorgen um Europas Zukunft, aber: „Europa hängt viel von uns (...) und von den Entscheidungen ab, die wir heute und morgen treffen werden.“

Auf die Frage, wo sie sich zuhause fühlt, antwortet Ema, dass Heimat für sie nicht an Orte oder Gegenstände gebunden sei, sondern eher an Menschen wie Familie und Freunde. Auch Werte entstehen für sie nicht durch Nationalität, sondern viel mehr durch die Erziehung in der Familie. So hat sie von ihren Eltern die Kameradschaft, Offenheit und Hilfsbereitschaft übernommen – Werte, die sie auch mit nach China nehmen wird, wo sie die nächsten zwei Jahre in einem internationalen Internat verbringen wird. Luxemburg wird sie trotzdem vermissen, weil dieses Land für sie Offenheit und Multikulturalität bedeutet. Außerdem sei das Bildungssystem sehr gut, so Ema, weswegen sie auch hofft, dass ihre Kinder und Enkelkinder die Möglichkeit haben, in Luxemburg aufzuwachsen.

Und was erwartet Ema von ihrer Zukunft? „Ich weiß nicht, ob ich was von meiner Zukunft erwarte, aber ich denke, ich erwarte mehr von mir.“ Zwar hat sie auch Angst, dass sie Fehler macht, aber sie denkt, dass insgeheim jeder diese Angst hat. Ema findet es wichtig, offen gegenüber anderen zu sein, ehrlich und ambitioniert zu sein, und mehrere Sprachen zu sprechen, damit man sich in einem internationalen Umfeld verständigen kann. Das ist generell ihr größter Wunsch: Sie will später mal in einer internationalen Organisation arbeiten, und deswegen auch internationale Beziehungen oder internationales Recht studieren. Dafür geht ihr Aufenthalt in China ja auf jeden Fall in die richtige Richtung! Und danach? „Dann gucke ich, was die Zukunft mir bringen wird.“

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## UGURCAN (TURKEY)



**Age:** 24

**Position:** European  
Volunteer since September  
2016 in *Lisel Asbl*

**“I like my country a lot because (...) it’s super beautiful. But (...) we have really big problems in terms of people and education. So we need to develop (...) the way of thinking in Turkey.”**

Ugurcan grew up in Turkey and is currently working as an European Volunteer for the duration of 12 months in Luxembourg.

Even though Ugurcan’s home country Turkey is only a candidate and not an actual member of the European Union, he still identifies as being European. Since he grew up in Izmir, the „Face of Europe“ as he told us, he experienced a Western lifestyle. Due to his passion for traveling, he recognizes the advantages of having a passport of an EU-member’s country. For him, the possibilities to travel and move freely within the EU are great, and the borders are mostly symbolic.

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## UGURCAN (TURKEY)

Ugurcan thinks that the EU will continue to grow and overcome problems like the negative attitude towards foreigners and the distribution of refugees.

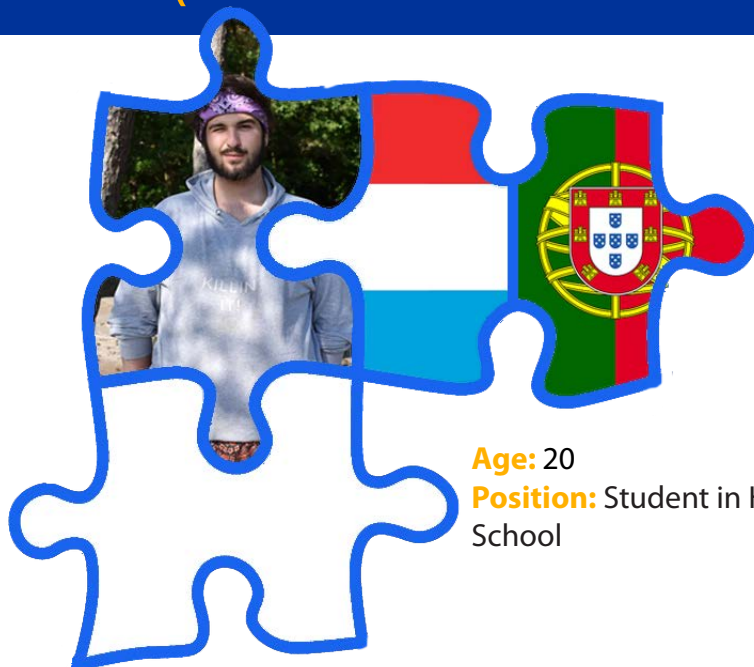
Since Ugurcan mentioned traveling several times, it seems to be a very important topic to him. We were interested, however, in the meaning of “home” for him. For him personally, home is about family and friends. The place does not really matter as long as close friends and family are nearby. He thinks that Turkey is represented by its cuisine and beautiful seashore. The most special things about Turkey are for him its culture and lifestyle. Because of Turkey’s interesting geographical position between the West and the Middle East, one is able to find very different lifestyles and mindsets all over Turkey. “And we are all living together”, says Ugurcan.

These differences may evolve politically in a wrong direction, says Ugurcan. He does not see the country developing in the fields of human rights or education. On the opposite, he observed a contra-progressive movement. Still, he is proud of his country, but only the country – “without people”.

Futurewise, Ugurcan seems pretty optimistic. He plans on doing his Masters-degree in the EU and working both in Europe and Turkey afterwards, which is why he would like to have both a Turkish and an EU-citizen passport. He likes to educate others about his home country, sharing traditions and food. Summarized he says that education is a process that never finishes, and that he plans on continuing to learn and travel.

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ARMINDO (LUXEMBOURG/PORTUGAL)



**Age:** 20

**Position:** Student in High School

**"I hope that people will mind less about other people's businesses (...). I think that this is really the seed of the problems nowadays. Everyone wants to add their (...) part to the situation where it wasn't asked for."**

"I just feel human!". That is Armindo's answer to the question if he feels European or not. He does not feel Luxembourgish or European because he does not know how his lifestyle is different to those of other people in the world. Europe to him means to be a part of the economy market but also personal freedom and open borders. Sometimes he feels a little bit special because he can travel in one hour to different countries and it is not so easy to cross borders in other parts of the world. Armindo describes Europe as the warm-hearted grandmother who wants to hug you and take care of you, but sometimes she is also difficult to handle.

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## ARMINDO (LUXEMBOURG/PORTUGAL)

Armando's home is Luxembourg. However, "home" does not have to be based on geographies. "It is more like the feeling of home, feeling well and being together with people you like", he says. Armando feels at home in Luxembourg but also in Portugal, especially in his uncle's house where he feels deeply at home because his Portuguese family is really kind and always gives him the feeling to be important. From his family, he also adopted some values like being loving to people or to appreciate what somebody else does for you. Concerning the question what is not famous enough in Luxembourg, he answered the effort Luxembourg puts in its development. People only see the rich country but it is a lot more than this, so many things being developed there now and Armando cannot even imagine how it will be in a few years. Because of this, he is proud of Luxembourg and feels happy whenever somebody talks about Luxembourg, for example in the series he watches (Gossip Girl, Breaking Bad) and he thinks: "Yes, that is my country, that is me!".

Armando does not have a concrete role model to orientate himself by, but he adapted some values from his mother. For instance, he shares the same love philosophy, warm-hearted being and the passion for cooking. He thinks that his future self will probably be like his mother and this makes him also a little bit afraid. Still, he looks forward to his future and he wants to try to be a more powerful person in society. Also, he wants to become an art history teacher because he is really interested in art. In order to achieve that, he wishes to study in a Scandinavian country (favorably Norway).

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## SARA (ITALY)



**Age:** 26

**Position:** European Volunteer since September 2016 in *Maison des Associations Luxembourg*

**“We talk about Europe as something that is already made, but I think there is still a lot to do.”**

Europe, culture, values, future... these are all such complex terms that sometimes it is hard to talk about it. Sara, who finished her degree of philosophy before starting her EVS, shared some interesting views and explained that there is a difference between expectations and reality. What is her ideal vision for Europe?

Sara dreams of a society that is giving people the freedom to discover other countries, cultures and languages, and of an union whose states are all equal in their importance. Europe should be an open space for diversity and should be ambitious to understand the differences between cultures and between people. Borders shouldn't play a role, they could even be abolished. She explains the fact that this is currently not the case by a wrong perception of Europe: “We talk about Europe, but it is made of different countries and individuals. There are people who

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## SARA (ITALY)

are afraid of anything that is different from them and they judge from the outside.”

Speaking about her own cultural background, Sara doesn't share the fear of losing the Italian identity: “What makes Italy Italy? I cannot think about only one Italy. Italy itself as a country has a great diversity. The way of behavior, food and language is very different in every part (...). Culture is permanently changing and every individual has an own culture. It is something open, always influenced from the outside. That is why we cannot say globalization or migration changed culture, there has always been migration and there has also been globalization from the beginning. It is not just now with the migration crisis.” Sara believes in order to get Europe closer to its ideal, we should talk more about those topics to spread consciousness to the people.

Another important topic occupies her: Europe puts itself in the center of the world. We need a more open Europe and also think about countries outside of the union. Recent elections and events like the Brexit do not lead the path to a more open and to a bigger Europe. This causes Sara to be also concerned about her own future.

Right now, she considers Luxembourg as her home and she can imagine to stay here after her EVS is finished. She dreams of being economically and personally independent and does not want to follow the path of her parents. “My parents lived in other times, they found the first secure job in their village and are still doing it. It is nice, but it is not what I want. I need to orientate myself and to construct myself, which is difficult. I imagine my future somewhere else in Europe.” Living in Luxembourg she is optimistic, but in Italy the situation is different. The high unemployment makes her afraid of not finding a job - going back there is (for now) not a real option.



# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## HANNAH (AUSTRIA)



**Alter:** 19

**Position:** Europäische  
Freiwillige seit September  
2016 beim *Institut Pour  
Infirmes Moteurs Cérébraux*  
(IMC) Luxembourg

**„Es sind einfach ganz kleine Sachen, (die mich mich zuhause fühlen lassen): Der vertraute Weg vom Bahnhof nach Hause, (...) der Geruch von der Luft, oder der Geschmack vom Wasser.“**

Hannah leistet derzeit einen Europäischen Freiwilligendienst in Luxemburg, der ihr erstmals eine konkrete Identifikation mit Europa bringt.

Schon zu Beginn des Interviews merkt Hannah an, dass es schwierig sei, den Begriff „Europäisch“ einfach zu definieren. Für sie war Europa im Alltag in ihrem Heimatland Österreich nicht wirklich wahrnehmbar. Jetzt, wo sie im Ausland lebt, entdeckt sie allerdings Gemeinsamkeiten zwischen europäischen Ländern, wie das Wertesystem oder auch die Möglichkeit, in einem anderen Land wohnen und arbeiten zu können, und durch die Größe leicht reisen zu können. Durch ihren Auslandsaufenthalt fühlt sie sich nicht nur mehr Europäisch, sie hat auch gemerkt, dass sie sich in der Fremde (stärker als Zuhause) mit ihrem Heimatland

# INTERVIEWS - RESULTS

## HANNAH (AUSTRIA)

identifiziert. Generell ist sie aber auch nicht richtig stolz auf ihr Land. Einzelne Erfindungen oder kluge Köpfe hätte Österreich ja hervorgebracht, aber generell erlebt sie gerade, dass man sich auch im Ausland sehr leicht über gleiche Werte und Ähnliches identifizieren kann.

Europa setzt sie gleich mit Respekt, (Selbst-)Kritik, aber auch Tradition. Angst vor der Fremde und Kleinkariertheit würden jedoch oft die Vorteile wie Austausch- und Identifikationsmöglichkeiten im Ausland überschatten. Der Aspekt des Austausches wird sich Hannahs Meinung nach in Zukunft wahrscheinlich ändern, weil sich Europa entweder weiter durchmischt und/oder wieder mehr Grenzen entstehen, wodurch der Austausch erschwert wird.

Zuhause ist für Hannah das Sich-Wohlfühlen in ihrer Umgebung durch Freunde, „Rückhalt (...) wie Familie“, aber auch Gewohnheiten und Vertrautes. Bezogen auf ihr Heimatland kann sie nun im Ausland sagen, dass sie die österreichische Landschaft und die Sportmöglichkeiten, die damit einhergehen, vermisst.

Für ihre Zukunft sieht Hannah auch nach dem Europäischen Freiwilligendienst weitere Möglichkeiten, um Erfahrungen zu sammeln. Sie könnte sich beispielsweise vorstellen, ein Auslandssemester zu absolvieren. Abschließend hält Hannah fest, dass sie in Luxemburg gemerkt hat, wie wichtig Sprachvielfalt ist. Mehrere Sprachen zu sprechen bringt nämlich nicht nur Offenheit mit sich, sondern auch ein Gefühl der Sicherheit, was die Verständigung in fremden Ländern leichter mache. Alles in allem ist ihrer Meinung nach der Einfluss, den Europa auf unser alltägliches Leben ausübt, größer als wir tagtäglich wahrnehmen.

# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## PARTNERS

### Many thanks to...

Of course we would not have been able to do this project on our own. Therefore, we want to thank different people and organizations that helped us in many ways and made this project possible.

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The interviews took place in the rooms of Radio Ara. Consequently, we want to thank the whole team of Radio Ara and Graffiti but especially Sandra who made it possible for us to record the interviews at their studios. Radio Ara/Graffiti is also broadcasting small parts of the interviews every week, starting in July. If you want to know more about that, visit their website: [www.graffiti.lu](http://www.graffiti.lu) or [www.ara.lu](http://www.ara.lu).



# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## PARTNERS

To make our interview people look even more beautiful than they already are, we borrowed soft lights from the SNJ Media Center in Marienthal. Therefore, we want to say thanks to the SNJ and Ivan who was our contact there.

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**Agir Tous pour la Dignité**  
**All Zesumme fir d'Dignitéit**



# MORE THAN ONE EUROPE

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Contact us

If you want to get further information about the project, talk about the topics covered in the interviews, or share your personal opinion about Europe, feel free to contact Lucy via [lucy.roellecke@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.roellecke@gmail.com). You can also find the short film we made on the Facebook page of the Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse du Luxembourg (CGJL).

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Luxembourg, June 2017



