(English version)

Question for written answer E-001924/25
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(14 May 2025)

Subject: Fostering a European identity

One of the objectives the Commission has set itself is to foster a European identity.

1. Has the process to create, strengthen or develop a European identity received any financial support from the Commission or its subordinated bodies, offices and agencies or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) since 2009? If so, how much funding was provided, and from which organisations?

2. If applicable, depending on the answer to question 1, what criteria do the Commission or its subordinated bodies, offices and agencies use to measure the potential success of programmes that receive financial support to create, strengthen or develop a European identity?

3. Are the Commission, its subordinated bodies, offices and agencies or Commission-funded NGOs involved in curricula for education institutions in EU Member States to foster a European identity?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(5 August 2025)

Article 3 of the regulation ([1]) on the Erasmus+ programme objectives includes the strengthening of European identity and active citizenship.

Since 2014, around 50 000 projects with this objective were funded (EUR 3.79 billion). The Erasmus+ annual report ([2]) 2023 indicates that 82% of participants in mobility activities declare that they feel more European.

The interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps found that the programme greatly strengthened participants' sense of European identity, with volunteers reporting a 71% increase in their sense of belonging.

Participants declared that they became more tolerant towards the values and behaviour of others (84%) and capable of cooperating with people from different backgrounds or in specific situations such as disability (89%).

The Creative Europe Programme, the European Capitals of Culture and European Heritage label (EHL) are meant to actively reinforce shared cultural identity and feelings of belonging.

The Commission also awards the EUR 1.5 million Melina Mercouri Prize to selected European Capitals of Culture and the EHL BUREAU (EUR 3 million for the 2023-2026 period) for the EHL community. The evaluations' results will be available in the second half of 2025.

The Commission supports cooperation with civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations in the field of education and training to foster their active involvement in the implementation of policy reforms and the Erasmus+ programme.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, pp. 1-33.
([2]) https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/884d8a20-ac87-11ef-acb1-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.