



## THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

72 years after the Schuman Declaration it is as important as never before to deal with the fundamental ideas and values of Europe, to emphasise the importance of Europe and to avoid an attitude that takes an intact European Union for granted. As this quotation by Schuman suggests: "World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it."

Not everything should be taken for granted nor should one believe that it is obvious that reality will remain unchanged.

Although young people hear about the European Union from various sources, schools are at the heart of what young Europeans learn about the EU. They can promote critical awareness of the European Union and a sense of belonging to it.

Accordingly, it is interesting to analyse the following questions. How deeply is the idea of Europe/European Union ingrained in our students' minds? At school this topic is partly subject to debate, but to what extent is a European awareness being strengthened?

What ideas/values can we convey to them for their future? To what extent do they consider themselves to be Europeans?

Do not schools and international projects have the aim or even the obligation to sensitize the students for Europe? To show them an image of Europe, which, despite its flaws and imperfections, is of a fundamental importance for our continent?

It is in this spirit that we would like to raise awareness of the diverse cultures/values/identities as parts of European values, way of life, social interaction, traditions.

Furthermore, it is essential to strengthen a European identity and counteract Euroscepticism. In other words, we want to help the students, in ways that inspire, to gain substantial knowledge and understanding of the European Union: its history; its fundamental values and aims; its actions and policies; the functioning of its institutions and its decision-making processes.

As Esch will be European capital city of culture 2022 we want to focus on culture. In the context of identity, the question that arises is to what extent students have a cultural awareness (art, tradition, literature). So, it is also important to consider the migration background. Going a step further, it would be interesting to see if there is a European cultural identity? The point of view of the students coming from different countries would be interesting. What about the access to culture in the various countries? How strongly is it promoted on a national level and how far on a European level? Are there existing similarities or differences in this process?

The second approach concerns the European values. Are they familiar to the students? How far are they important to the students? Do they (still) play a major function/role in their life/daily life? To what extent are they aware of the importance of these values? What role do the parents play concerning the development of a European awareness among the students. Is there an awareness of the values and are they important or not?

The students will engage with fundamental European values in a creative, artistic manner. The basic information relevant to this task (respect of human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law) will be displayed on an advertising pillar designed by students from LHCE. There will be five workshops (poetry slam, graffiti, Hip Hop, dance, improv theatre), each of which will focus on one particular value. These tasks will encourage the students to thoroughly engage with the aforementioned values, and to voice their ideas and visions in diverse artistic ways.

A pre-task for this conference will be 3-generational short films the students will produce with a focus on the meaning of Europe. One group of students will have put together a photo exhibition about the greatest achievements of the European Union, which will be officially presented during the conference. The various workshops will have produced a variety of creative outcomes, including texts, a graffiti artwork, a rap performance, a dance and improv theatre.