

# FEELING EUROPEAN TODAY: THE AIMS AND CHALLENGES OF CREATING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY AMONGST EU CITIZENS

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# Lecture Outline

- ❑ Why does European identity matter?
- ❑ What is European identity?
- ❑ What do we know about European identity?
- ❑ How does identity impact support for integration?
- ❑ What are the challenges to creating a European identity?
- ❑ Who are the Europeans?

# Why does European Identity Matter?

- ❑ **Overriding goal of EU project was reducing nationalism through Europeanism.**
- ❑ Political systems gain legitimacy through “we-feelings.”
- ❑ Identity has an impact on support for integration.
- ❑ Enlargement and the Turkey question pose challenges to creating “we-feelings.”

# Creating Peace on the Continent

*What is this sovereign remedy? It is to **recreate the European Family** or as much of it as we can and provide it with a structure under which it can dwell in peace, in safety and freedom. We must build a kind of **United States of Europe...***

*(Zurich, 19 Sept 1946)*



# Creating Peace on the Continent

*"I could see only one solution: we must bind ourselves inextricably to Germany in a common undertaking in which our other neighbors could join. A European-wide territory of prosperity and peace would thus be created."*

*~Jean Monnet*



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# Democratic Deficit in the EU





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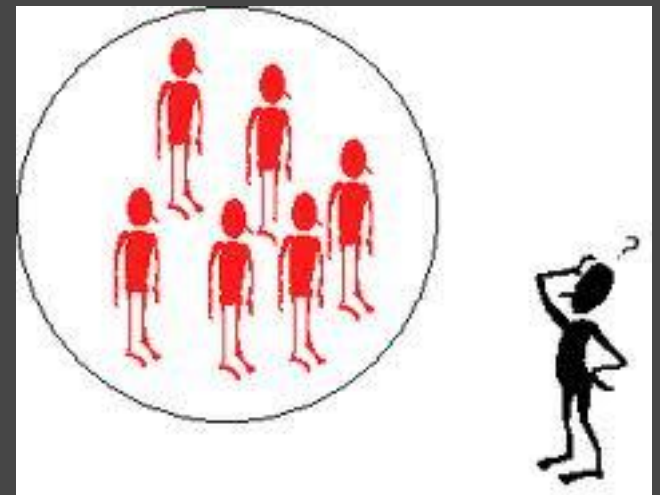
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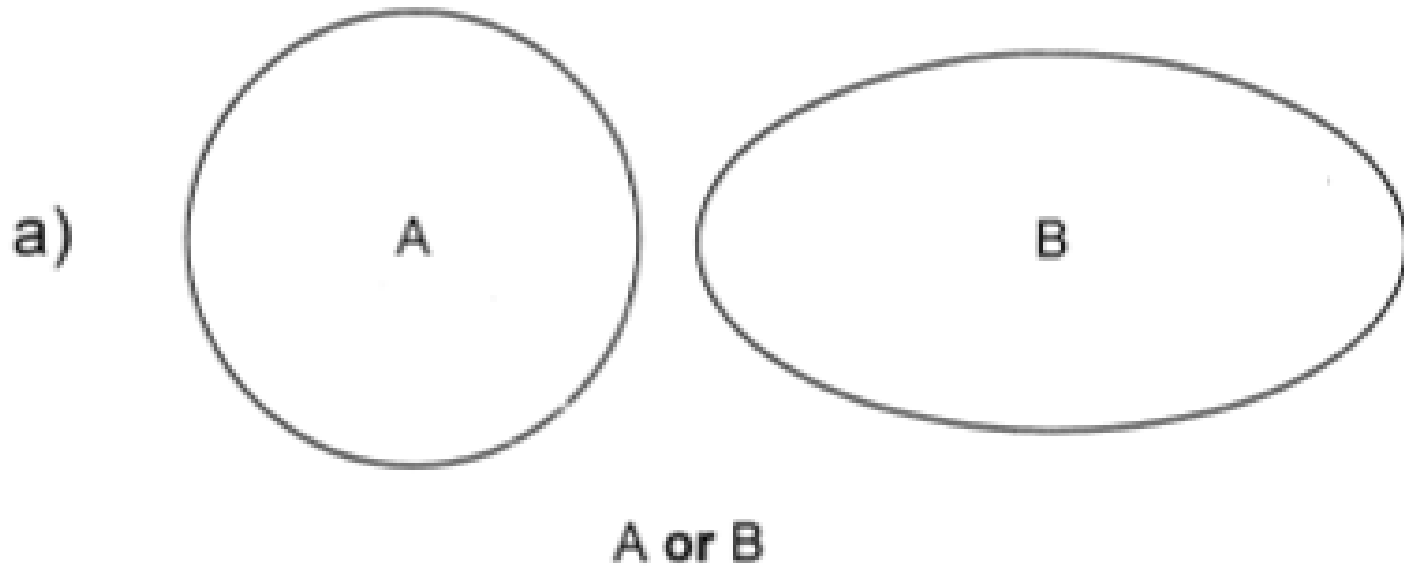
# Social Identity

- ❑ Psychological link between individual and group
- ❑ In-group fosters feelings of mutual obligation, attachment, loyalty (Tajfel 1981 & 1982)
- ❑ Sharp boundaries drawn around out-group
- ❑ Negative feelings about out-group
- ❑ Identity integrates and divides
- ❑ Identity is socially constructed
- ❑ Identity is fluid



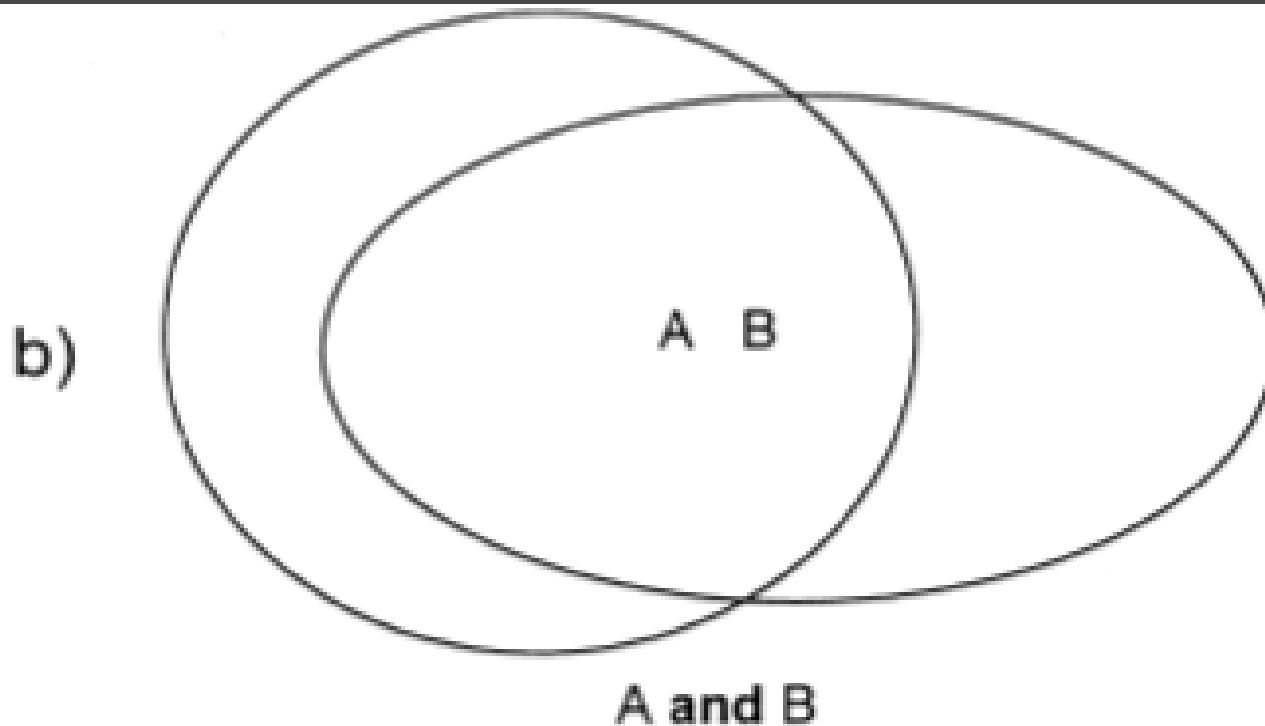
# Relationships between identities

- Identities are SEPARATE from one another.



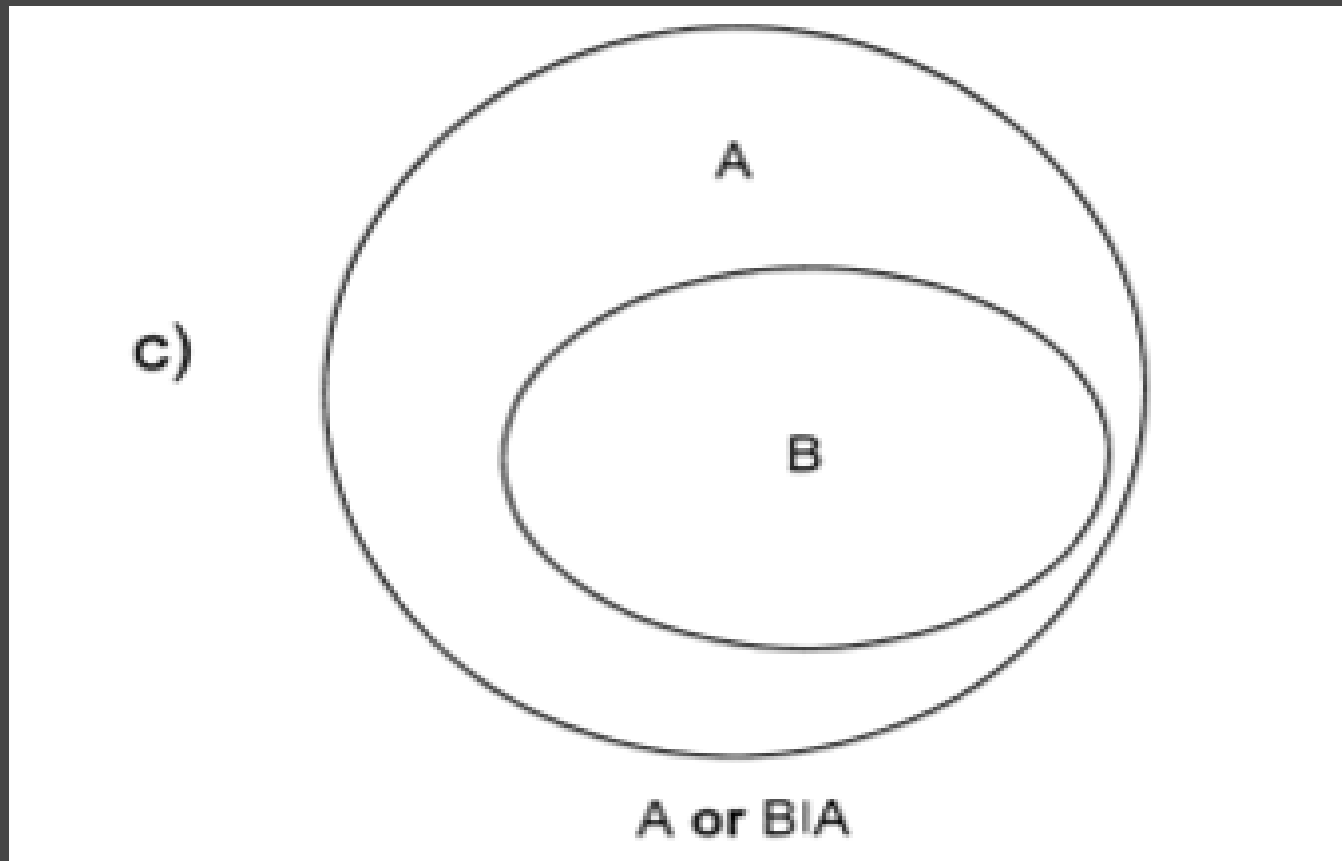
# Relationships between identities

- Dual Identities are CROSS-CUTTING/Compound.



# Relationships between identities

- Dual identities are NESTED.





# What do we know?

“Willingness to grant the EU authority over daily life requires some identification with Europe, but not one that actually prioritizes Europe over the nation.”

Thomas Risse (2003)



# Eurobarometer Surveys



In the near future, do you see yourself as:

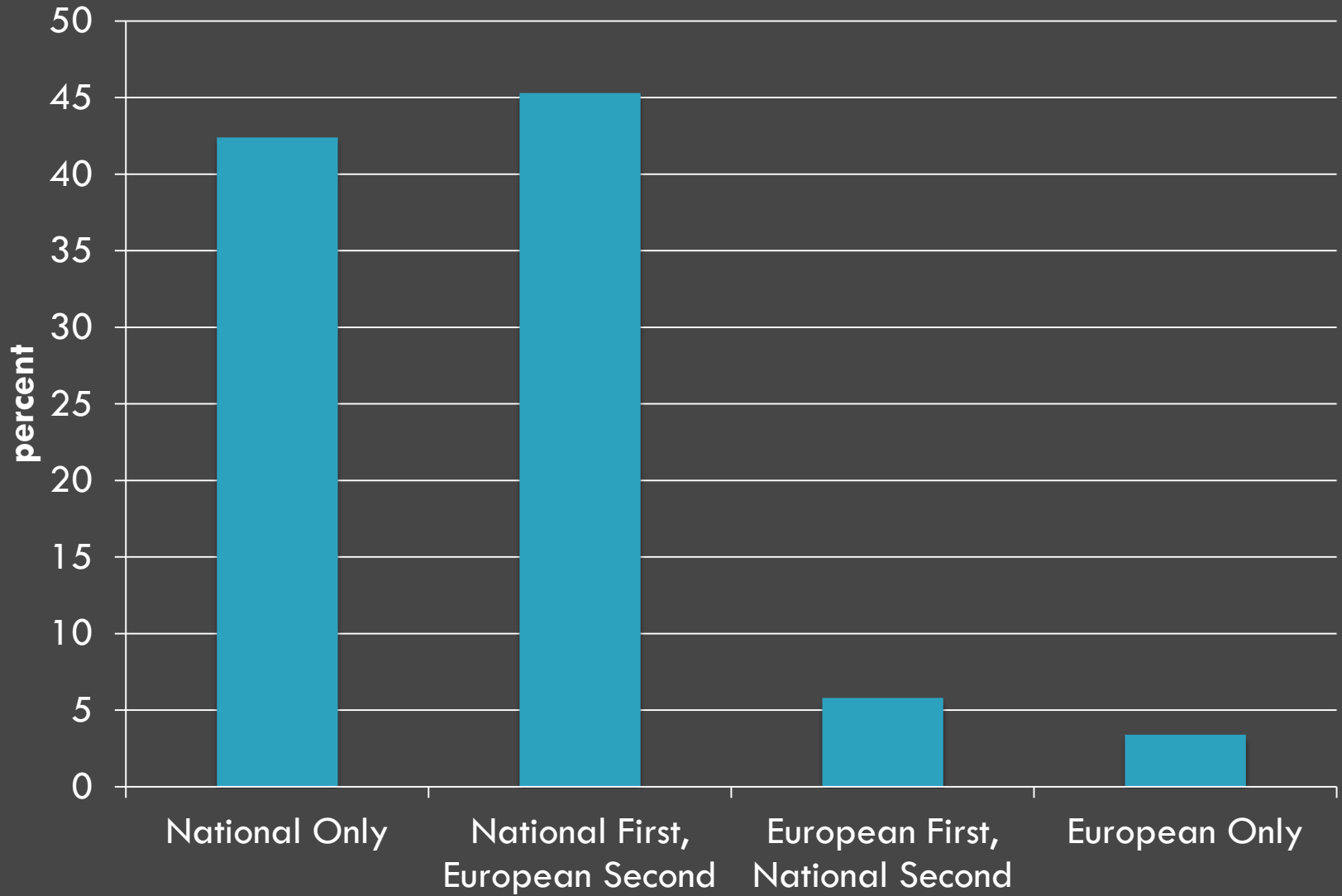
(1). [nationality] only

(2). [nationality] and European

(3). European and [nationality]

(4). European only

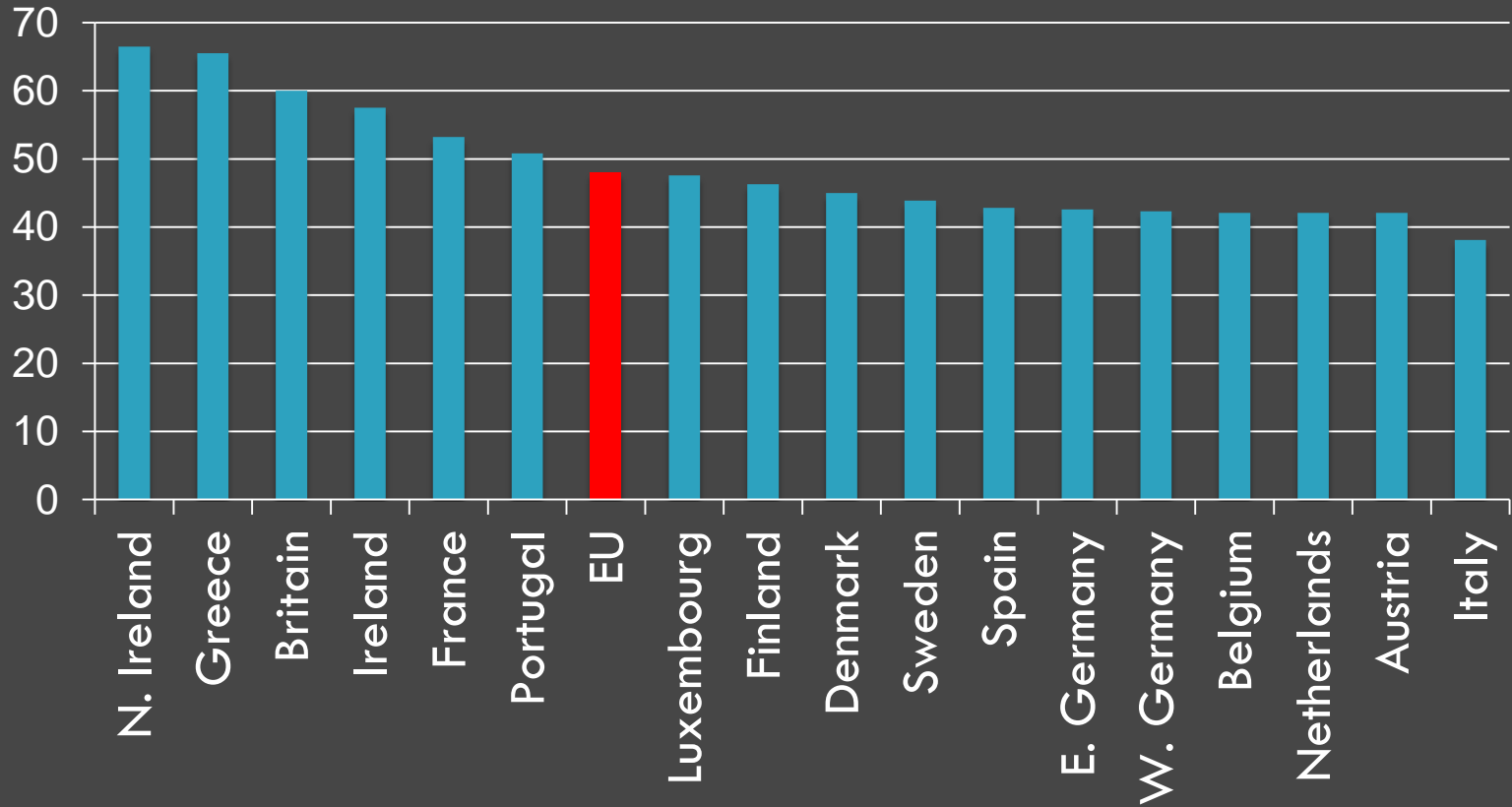
# Territorial Identities in the EU



# Explaining Support for Integration

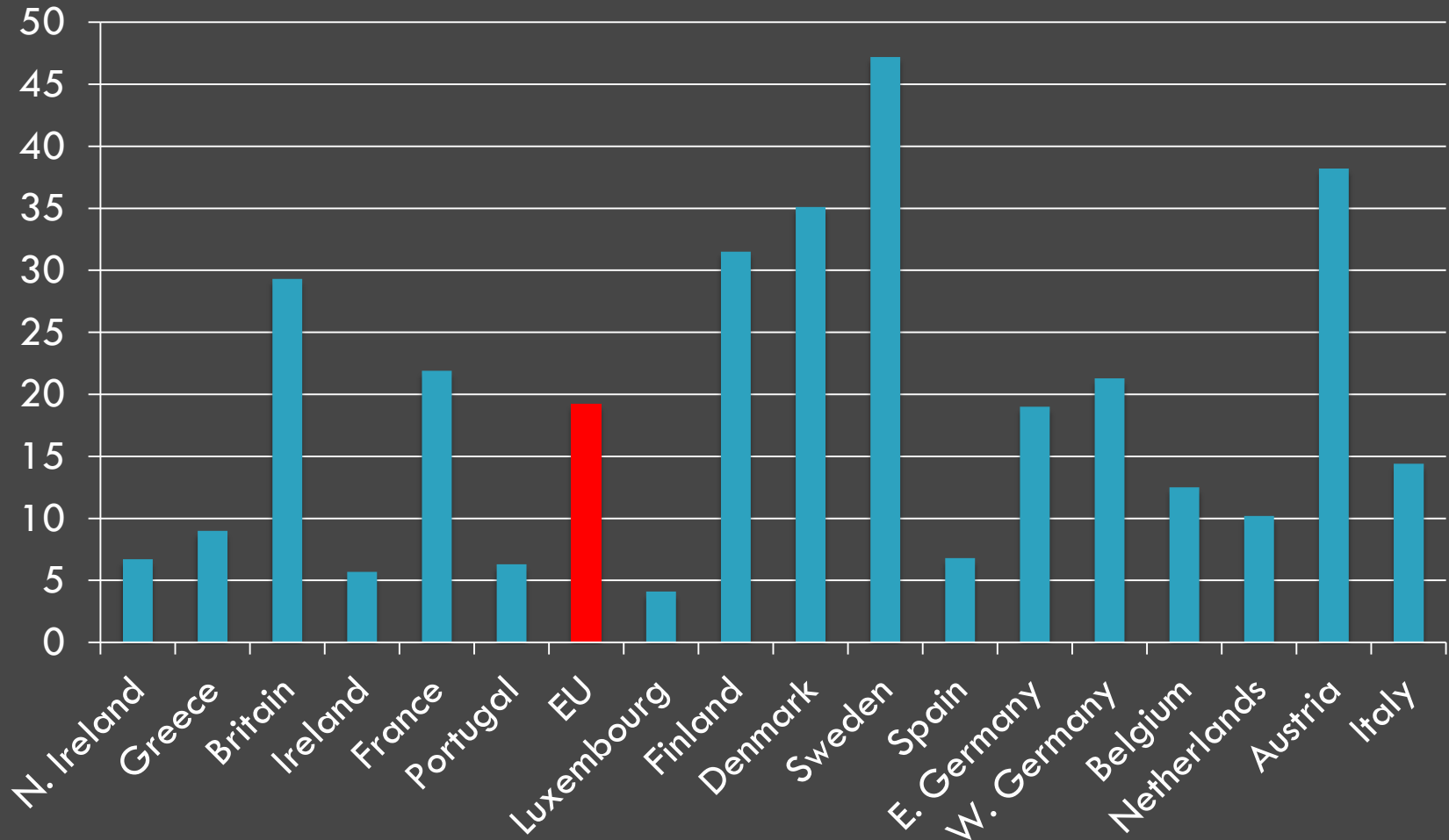
- ❑ Integration supposed to eradicate nationalism – clearly hasn't.
- ❑ Inclusive identitarians are more supportive of integration than exclusive identitarians.
- ❑ People with primary European identity less likely to feel attached to country.
- ❑ Exclusive nationalists have lower levels of EU pride.
- ❑ Exclusive nationalists more hostile towards minorities.

# % Afraid of Integration



Source: Eurobarometer 54.1 (2000)

# % Afraid who think EU membership is bad



# Challenges to creating a European Identity

- ❑ **Cultural Factors**
- ❑ Political Factors
- ❑ Economic Factors
- ❑ Immigration, particularly from Muslim countries





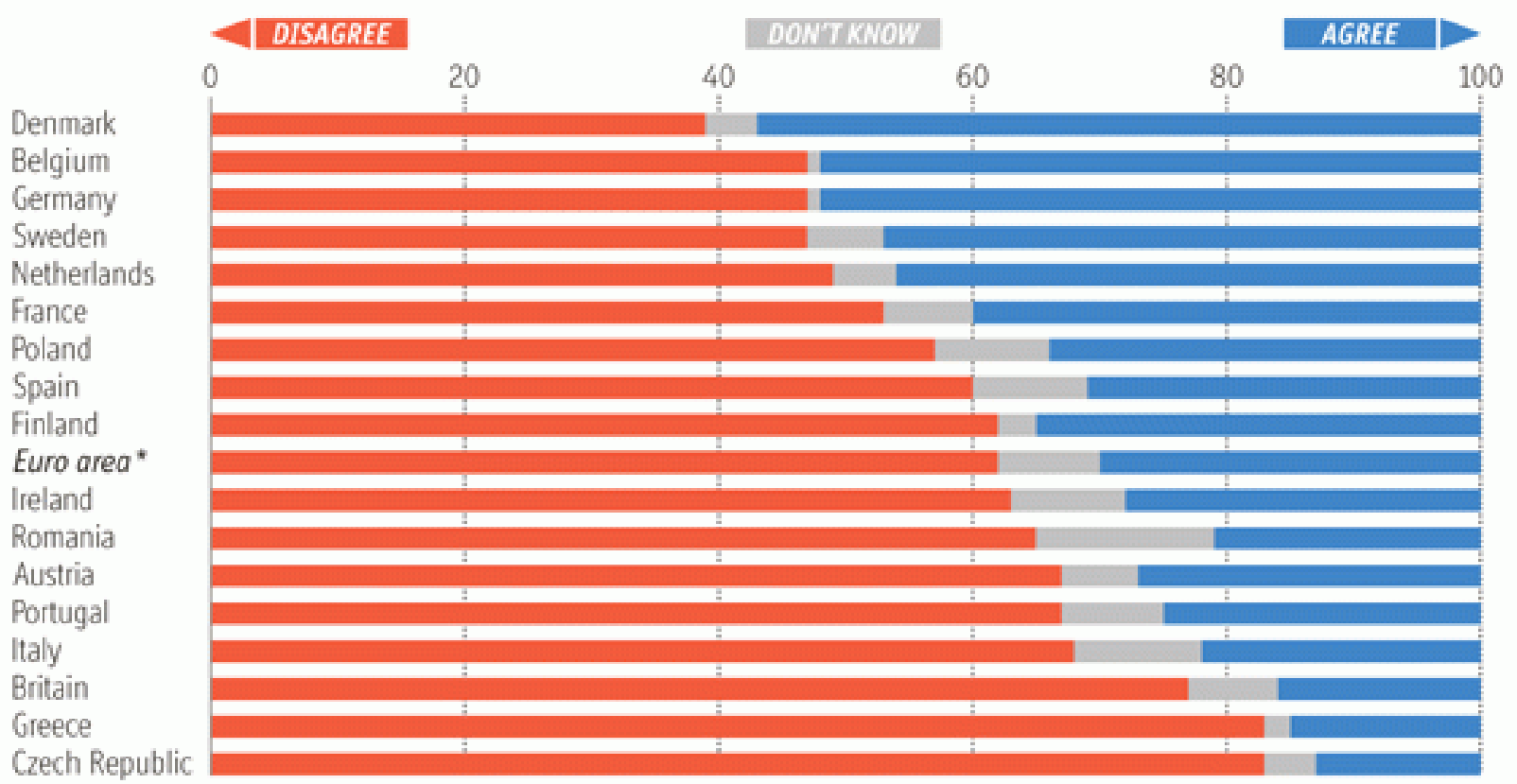


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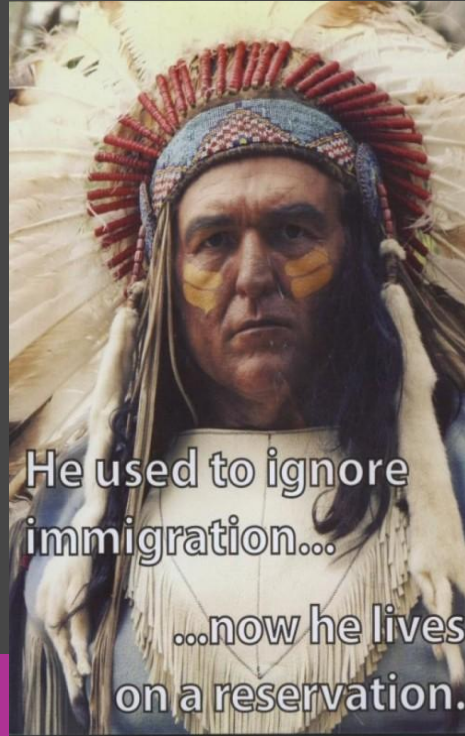
# Europeanions

"My voice counts in the EU", % of respondents who:



Source: Eurobarometer, spring 2011

\*Average



## UK Independence Party

The UK Independence Party made history in June 2009, taking second place in the European elections, beating Labour and the Lib Dems.

Millions of people agree with our common sense policies on immigration, education, crime and taxation and our insistence that Britain should be run by the British, not the European Union.

At this general election, it's time to remember that charity begins at home.

Our country's infrastructure is struggling, instead of funding the European Union to the tune of £45 million per day we need to invest in:

Our hospitals - Our schools - Jobs and Pensions.

# Vote UKIP

Freephone **0800 107 0304**  
[www.ukip.org](http://www.ukip.org)

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**SAY N**   
to paying the EU  
£40 MILLION a day.

He'd get our money back!



**VOTE UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY ON JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

[ukip.org](http://ukip.org)

**YOU SAID  
WHAT?**



**EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY**

# Challenges to creating a European Identity

- ❑ Cultural Factors
- ❑ Political Factors
- ❑ **Economic Factors**
- ❑ Immigration, particularly from Muslim countries







# Challenges to creating a European Identity

- ❑ Cultural Factors
- ❑ Political Factors
- ❑ Economic Factors
- ❑ **Immigration, particularly from Muslim countries**

# Front National in France

**LES IMMIGRÉS  
VONT VOTER...**



**ET VOUS VOUS  
ABSTENEZ ?!!**

NE PAS VOUS LAISSER  
LES MAINS LIES PAR  
LES AUTRES

**FRONT NATIONAL**  
8 rue de Valenciennes 92000 Nanterre - Tél. 01 47 13 10 00  
www.frontnational.com





“If we give them a minaret, they’ll have us all wearing burqas,” said Julia Werner, a local housewife. “Before you know it, we’ll have sharia law and women being stoned to death in our streets. We won’t be Swiss any more.”

euro crisis  
Bosnia  
unaccountability  
democratic deficit  
poverty  
GREEK DEBT  
FRENCH DEBT  
denial  
hidden agenda  
Chechnya  
BRAIN DRAIN  
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# Common identity based on

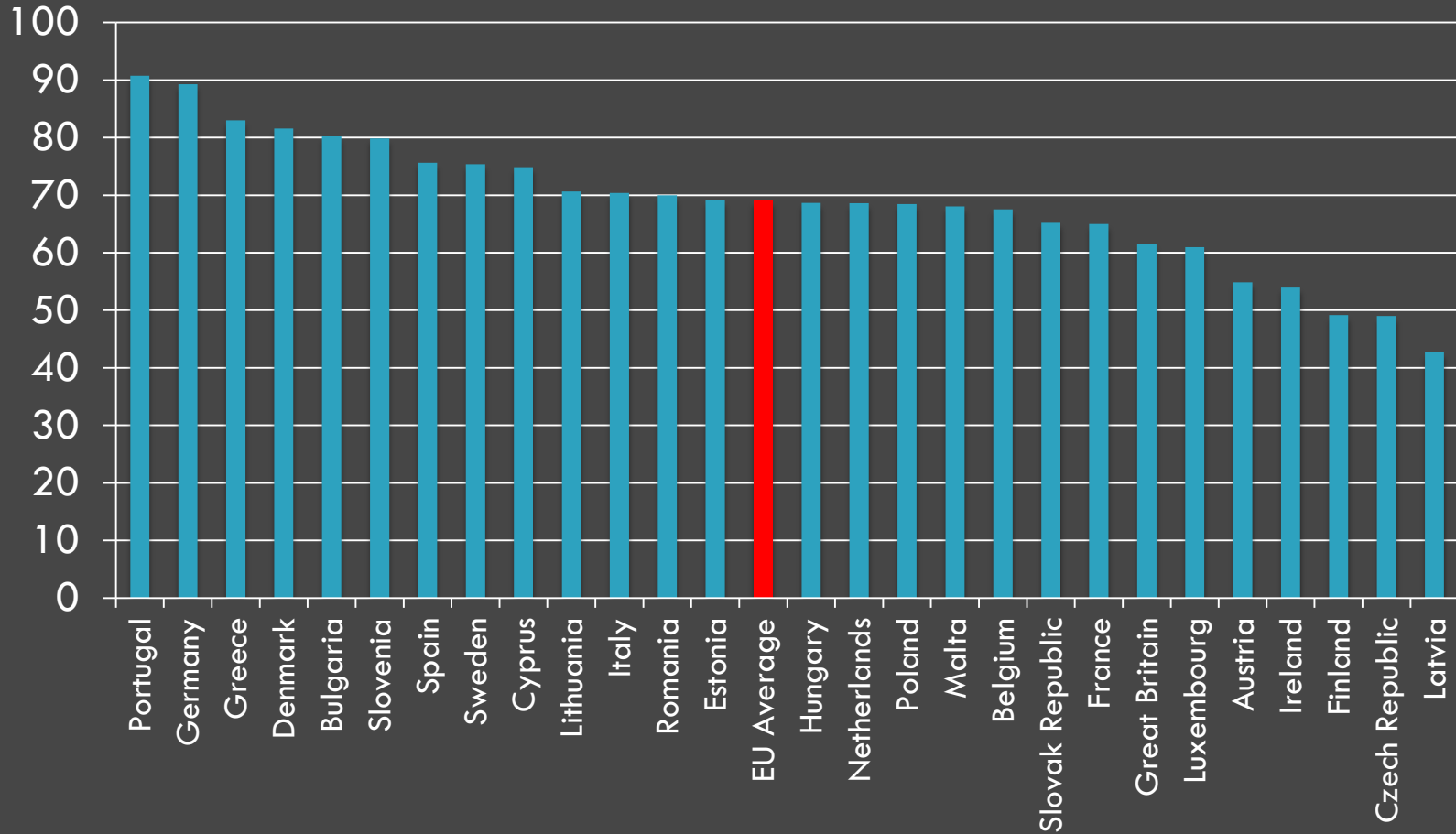


- ❑ Shared symbols: EU flag
- ❑ European anthem: Ode to Joy
- ❑ Common Currency: the Euro
- ❑ Functional Benefits: Passport, free movement
- ❑ Common values: peace, democracy, social justice

# Who are these Europeans?

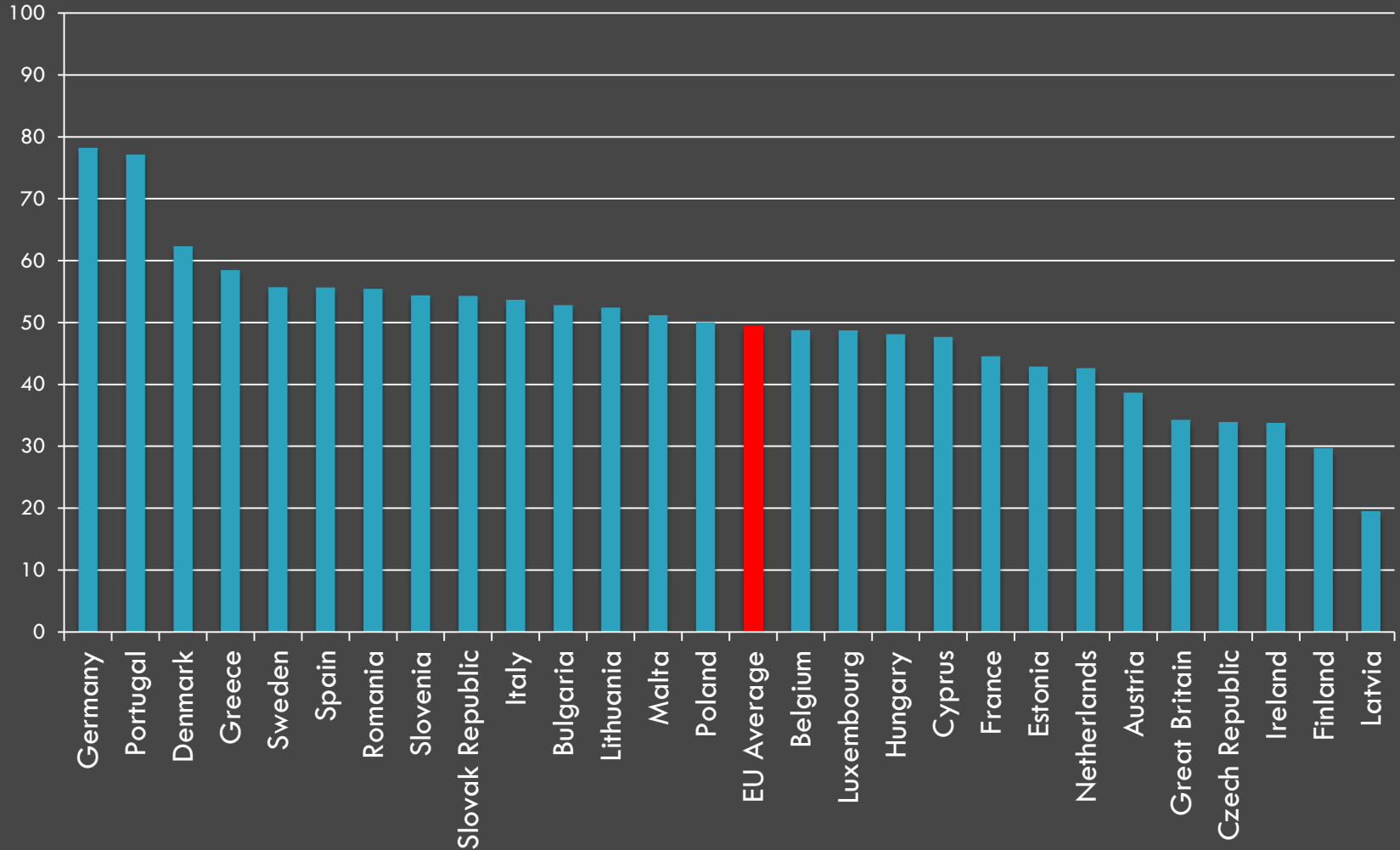
- ❑ Those most likely to see benefits of integration
- ❑ Young
- ❑ More mobile
- ❑ More educated
- ❑ Wealthier
- ❑ Not employed in industrial or agricultural sector
- ❑ Overall more cosmopolitan

## Concerned With the Living Conditions of Fellow Countrymen



Source: European Values Study (2008)

## Concerned With the Living Conditions of Europeans



Source: European Values Study (2008)