

EU VALUES & YOUTH and SOLIDARITY

EUROPE TALKS SOLIDARITY, Sept 10-12, 2024

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What was the earliest sign of a civilized society?

A black rectangular frame containing the opening title card of the Star Wars franchise. The text is centered and reads: "A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY..." in a yellow, serif font. The background is a dark space filled with numerous small white stars.

A LONG
TIME AGO
IN A GALAXY
FAR, FAR AWAY...

Margaret
Mead

Fractures of the Femur



Solidarity
as a
starting point

„Helping someone
else through
difficulty is where
civilization starts“

What is a
value?

And what is
identity?

- Identity = a set of qualities, beliefs, personality traits, appearance and expressions that characterize a person or a group
- Identity = formed through heritage and experience
- Identity = shaped by social and cultural factors through life
- Identity = not a final product, but a process

Why do we need identity?

- Identity = a self regulatory structure
- Identity provides meaning, direction and self-control
- Identity fosters internal harmony, serves as a behavioral compass
- Identity enables orientation towards the future and the establishment of long-term goals

How is
identity
formed?

Values are the roots of identity

What are values?

- Values are „what is important in life“
- Values are the morals, the principle, the ethics, the code, the standards of our behaviour
- Values are our common heritage, they shape our culture

Which values define European Identity?

- Peace
- „The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities“ (TEU, Art. 2)

Which values define European Identity?

„These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail“

(TEU, Art. 2)

The motto of
Europe

UNITED IN DIVERSITY
ZJEDNOTENÍ V ROZMANITOSTI
UNITÉ DANS LA DIVERSITÉ
IN VIELFALT GEEINT

The motto of Europe –
created by a
youth contest
(1999/2000)



Ursula von der
Leyen,
President of the
European
Commission,

Sept 2023

„We can build a continent where you
can be who you are, love who you
want, and aim as high as you want“

(TEU, Art. 2)

Heads of State
and Government,
Council of Europe,

Reykjavik,
May 2023

„We have a common responsibility to fight autocratic tendencies and growing threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Those core values are the bedrock of our continued freedom, peace, prosperity and security for Europe“

Heads of State
and Government,
Council of Europe,

Reykjavik,
May 2023

„We work to promote the rights of the child, we underline the importance of education to give children and young people the necessary references to grow up embracing our democratic values in culturally diverse societies and take an active part in the protection of our cultural heritage“

European Solidarity
Corps

Regulation 2021/888

„The Union is built on solidarity, both among its citizens and among the Member States“

What did we find?

- Values are roots of identity. They are valuable effects of lessons learned.
- Values shape behaviour.
- When values are neglected, they lose value.
- Wherever values shape action, they unfold their power and inspire a new generation.

Solidarity
then,
now and
in future

- **Solidarity is an ancient value: it grew with humanity and it made humanity grow**
- **Let us be proud of being shaped by solidarity and enjoy the use of it**
- **Carefully cultivate this value for good use in future**

Thank you
for the walk