European Union and Identity
Can a European Identity be formed?

- The EU consists of Member States, all of which have their own independent national identities.
- Supranational, Transnational and Intergovernmental traits of the EU
- How can the European Identity be formed?
- Does European Identity need to replace the existing national identities or can it exist independently from them?
Nation Building => the desire to achieve independent status, the struggle to be recognized as an independent unity with its own language, culture, history and identity.

Nation building can be forged ‘from above’ by elites or ‘from below’, by social movements or other organized action.
European Union does not intend to replace the national identities of the Member States with a “European Identity”.

“It is neither possible nor desirable to level out the national identities of member nations, nor melt them down into a “Nation of Europe”

Jürgen Habermas
What kind of integration does the European Union want?
- Political
- Economical
- In some cases cultural and social
- Unity in Diversity
The evolution of the European Union (EU) from a regional economic agreement among six neighboring states in 1951 to today's supranational organization of 27 countries across the European continent stands as an unprecedented phenomenon in the annals of history.... it has many of the attributes associated with independent nations: its own flag, anthem, founding date, and currency, as well as an incipient common foreign and security policy in its dealings with other nations.

European Flag

- It consists of a circle of twelve golden stars on a blue background
- A cross with 9 stripes.
- 9 stripes
- a) The syllables of the phrase “Freedom or Death”
- b) The 9 Muses
The European Anthem

- *Ode to Joy-An die Freude*
- Friedrich Schiller
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Beethoven's musical interpretation has become, *without text*, the anthem of the European Union.
Schiller and Beethoven
The Greek National Anthem

- The Hymn to Liberty by Dionysus Solomos.
- I shall always recognize you by the dreadful sword you hold, as the earth, with searching vision, you survey with spirit bold. From the Greeks of old whose dying brought to birth our spirit free, now, with ancient valour rising, let us hail you, oh liberty!
Dionyssios Solomos
www.epirus.de
The European Union adopted 9 May as "Europe Day" at the Milan summit in 1985, to celebrate that Robert Schuman presented his proposal on the creation of an organized Europe, on 9 May 1950. This proposal, known as the Schuman declaration, is considered by many to be the beginning of the creation of what is now the European Union.
National Days of Greece

- March 25
- Declaration of the War of Independence in 1821
- October 28
- Declaration of War against Greece by the Italian fascists of Mussolini in 1940. The Greeks won the war (first allied victory in WWII)
Currency and Motto

- Euro
- *In varietate concordia* meaning in Latin
- *Unity in Diversity*
Ideological Movement with diverse points of view.

Euroscepticism originated in England, and at first referred to those within the Labour Party and Conservative Party who were skeptical of their parties' official support for UK membership of the then European Economic Community.
A sign with the EU flag crossed out.

A sign pointing to 'Antyki' (Antiques) at ul. Smolna 1c with phone number 551-73-10.

Another sign indicating a studio at Studio Szkła Artystycznego with additional text not clearly legible.
"We have our own dream and our own task. We are with Europe, but not of it. We are linked but not combined. We are interested and associated but not absorbed".

- Winston Churchill
Precisely what eurosceptics oppose varies from country to country.
Opposition to joining it (in the case of Norway)
Non participation in the Euro (the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden)
Eurosceptics oppose the idea of a federal Europe in the sense of a federation that is as integrated as, or more closely integrated than, the United States of America. They therefore oppose measures they see as leading towards that goal.
Όλοι οι Έλληνες στην Πανελλαδική Συγκέντρωση την Παρασκευή 18 Μαρτίου μετά από 16.00 στην Κεντρική Πλατεία Ζαππείου Μεγαρού

“Οταν οι πειρατές της Εθνικής Αστυνομίας απεφέρουν ζωή και περιποιημένα, δεν μπορούν να μιλήσουν με νοημοσύνη και οι άλλοι θέλουν ως ζωή και περιποιημένα.”

Στρατηγός Μακρυγιάννης

ΟΧΙ στην Επιβολή του Ευρωπαϊκού Συντάγματος
ΟΧΙ στις αποφάσεις για ΕΛΕΑΣ, ΧΩΡΙΣ ΕΜΑΣ

ΚΑΤΑΡΓΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ
ΕΦΑΡΜΟΓΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΝ ΣΥΝΘΕΣΕΩΝ ΜΟΝΟΤΥΠΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΟΦΡΥΔΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΧΕΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΤΟΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΟ ΜΑΣ ΣΕ ΠΟΛΕΜΟΥΣ ΠΕΤΡΟΛΑΙΟΚΙΝΗΤΗΡΕΣ ΣΤΟΝ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΩΝ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΩΝ ΣΤΟ ΙΡΑΚ, ΚΟΥΒΕΤΙ, ΑΦΓΑΝΙΣΤΑΝ ΚΑΙ ΌΠΟΥ ΆΛΛΟ...

ΑΣ ΔΩΣΟΥΜΕ ΑΛΛΟ ΓΛΗΝΟ ΕΩΣ ΔΟΥΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΟΓΚΟΝΤΟΝΟ ΠΟΥ ΑΠΕΙΛΟΥΜΕ ΕΔΩ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΡΑ ΑΠΑΙΤΟΥΜΕ ΠΛΗΡΗ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΤΡΟΣΗ = ΦΟΝΟΣ

ΣΥΝΟΝΟΜΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ ΚΑΤΩ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΟΥ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ 210 56 10 710 ΟΡΕΣ 19:00 - 21:00 & 210 52 20 741 ΟΡΕΣ 10:00 - 18:00
On 25 March 1957 in Rome, 6 countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), signed a Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (EEC Treaty).

This has since been followed up by other European treaties (the Maastricht Treaty, the Amsterdam Treaty, etc.)
The European Constitution was signed by the Heads of State or Government of the 25 Member States in Rome on 29 October 2004.
A Constitution is a text which contains the fundamental rules of a State or a group of States.
The European Constitution replaces the main existing Treaties with a single text.
Why a European Constitution if every Member State has its own Constitution?

- The European Constitution does not replace the national Constitutions of the countries of Europe.
- It has its own justification and its own autonomy.
- The European Constitution applies throughout the whole of the European Union.
Part I defines the values, objectives, powers, decision-making procedures and institutions of the European Union.

Part II contains the “Charter of Fundamental Rights”.

Part III describes the policies, the internal and external action, and the functioning of the European Union.

Part IV contains general and final provisions, including the procedures for adopting and revising the Constitution.
**European Council**
President

- Heads of State or of Government
- National Ministers

**Council of Ministers**
*Rotating Presidency*

- Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**European Commission**
President

- 25 Members → 2014

- Proposes European legislation and monitors its implementation
- Monitoring compliance with the principle of subsidiarity

**European Parliament**
President

- Max. 750 Members

- Jointly adopt European legislation and budget

**Court of Justice**

- Judicial review

**European Central Bank**

- Monitoring the accounts

**European Court of Auditors**

- Consultation

**Committee of the Regions**

- Consultation

**European Economic and Social Committee**

* Except in areas where unanimity is required, the decisions of the Council of ministers must obtain the support of 55% of the Member States representing 65% of the population.

**Vice-President of the European Commission and responsible, within the Council of ministers, for foreign and security policy.**
The main opposition against EU in Greece comes from three ideological areas:
- The **Far-right**-EU poses a threat to Greek Identity.
- The **Left**-The EU is a “capitalist’s Lobby”.
- The **Church**-threat to Greek Identity, traditionalism, anti-European sentiments.
Greece A pro-European country?

- All polls of Greek public opinion show the majority of Greeks supporting the participation of their country in the European Union, and pro-European parties tally over 80% of the popular vote in general elections.
- Greece, Ireland and Portugal, trust the EU more than any other country.
The Greek Chamber of Parliament ratified the draft treaty establishing the Constitution for Europe on 19th April 2005 by 278 votes in favor versus 17 against.

The Communist Party (KKE) and the Left Wing and Progress Coalition Forces (Synaspismos) requested the organization of a referendum.
The need to educate the people

In an initial survey undertaken in November 2004 and published in March last half of the Greeks (49%) said they had never heard of the European Constitution. Less than one Greek in ten (6%) knew what the text contains overall and 44% had heard of it but knew very little about it. One third of those interviewed say they were in favor of the ratification of the European Constitution (31%), 11% say they were against it. More than half of those interviewed said they had no opinion (55%).
Greece is one of the few countries that does not officially recognize private education. Private universities are forbidden by the 1975 constitution, article 16. Since, according to the Greek Constitution, Education is one of the main missions of the State, all the Greeks have the right to free education in all levels.
4. All Greeks are entitled to free education on all levels at State educational institutions. The State shall provide financial assistance to those who distinguish themselves, as well as to students in need of assistance or special protection, in accordance with their abilities.

5. Education at university level shall be provided exclusively by institutions which are fully self-governed public law legal persons. These institutions shall operate under the supervision of the State and are entitled to financial assistance from it; they shall operate on the basis of statutorily enacted by-laws. Merging or splitting of university level institutions may take place notwithstanding any contrary provisions, as a law shall provide.
Private Education in Greece

- This does not mean that there are no private colleges and universities (mostly foreign), that have campuses in Greece.
- On the contrary there are.
- However their degrees are not recognized by the Greek state.
- The students who have graduated from these schools cannot work in the public sector.
On 2006 the New Democracy government of Constantine Karamanlis to break up the state system of higher education and introduce private universities.

At the same time the government tried to introduce certain higher education reforms such as:

- A maximum number of years for the completion of the Bachelor degree (twice the normal duration.

- As many as 94,000 undergraduate students who enrolled at university nearly eight years ago have yet to complete their four- or five-year programmes, according to the National Statistical Service.
The government also wants to change the asylum law which bans police from entering university grounds.

At this point only a special “asylum committee” can decide to allow police to enter university ground.
Ξεκινώστε και πάλι λοιπόν!
Δεν τα κατάφεραν να σας γονατίσουν.
Το πνεύμα που σας οπρώνει
να καταστρέφετε το κράτος
και κάθε εξουσία, δεν είναι το αποτέλεσμα
cάστας εσωτερικής παράρτημας
αλλά εκδηλώσεις ενός φυσικού
ΠΑΘΟΥΣ για ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ
που έφτασε από τα κατάβαθα
της ψυχής σας.
Μ. Μπακούνης
This particular law, the asylum law, was established in order to protect the academic freedom, the freedom of teaching and ideas.

However this has given the opportunity to unlawful elements to get advantage of the asylum law for their illegal operations.

On June 1 2006, university faculty launched an indefinite strike against the proposals and students began protests outside the education ministry. Two days later, students organized sit-ins at nearly 400 university departments and 60 technical colleges nationwide.

Many more protests till last week.
All levels of public education in Greece are provided free of charge and primarily the national budget and the public investment budget provide its financing mainly and subsequently nongovernmental sources (e.g. the E.U). Specifically, state financing covers expenditure concerning the purchase of land, the building- repair and maintenance of buildings, the procurement and maintenance of educational equipment and laboratories, the operational requirements of education at all levels and the Legal Entities of public or private law providing educational services. It also covers salaries, additional emoluments and compensations for the teaching and administrative staff at all levels of education.
The student movement's opposition to new private providers arose from both ideological and practical bases.

- A battle against "corporate" globalization and "capitalism".
- A battle against "Anglo-Saxon imperialism."
Greece has long had a highly regulated economy which is a mixture of private and public sector; and the widespread suspicion of markets fuels broad sympathy, if not support, for the student movement.

Even the youth wing of the conservative New Democracy does not support allowing for-profit institutions to operate in the higher education sector.
The students' opposition to private providers also stems from a more practical concern about their job prospects upon graduation. The Athenian newspaper Kathimeriní recently editorialized that student reactions can be largely attributed to anxiety about their likely post-university unemployment (or underemployment) and concluded that "their rage is directed against the broader political system, which has in past decades set up a largely useless industry churning out degrees with no practical value" (June 10/11, 2006).
At present, the Greek State has no system in place to recognize degrees wholly or partially obtained from private universities in Greece (though it does recognize degrees from private universities abroad via DOATAP [formerly DIKATSA]). Consequently, all private universities in Greece cooperate with foreign bodies for accreditation or validation, typically in the UK and USA.
The purpose of the Bologna process is to create the European higher education area by making academic degree standards and quality assurance standards more comparable and compatible throughout Europe.

It is named after the place it was proposed, the University of Bologna with the signing, in 1999, of the Bologna declaration by ministers of education from 29 European countries in the Italian city of Bologna.
Qualifications gained through study at these colleges are not recognized by the Greek government or Greek public education institutions. As a result, students in transnational programs in Greece are not able to apply for graduate-level employment in the public sector, defer military service, obtain professional registration, or undertake subsequent studies at Greek universities. Over the past decade, Greece has repeatedly been taken to the European Court of Justice over complaints by the European Commission that the refusal to recognize EU member-country qualifications obtained through transnational programs is in breach of EU Directives 89/48 and 05/36, which facilitate professional mobility within the union.