Social Integration in the EU

A Case Study of Belgium

The European flag is the symbol not only of the European Union but also of Europe's unity and identity in a wider sense.
The European flag consists of 12 golden stars in a circle on a blue background. The stars symbolise the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe

- Can we see the United States of Europe in near future under the Realization of the European Identity according to the concept of "United in Diversity"?

Research Questions

Difficulties and Challenges to go ahead as an European Nations: European Identity

Nationalism VS European

- Social integration requires proficiency in an accepted **common language** of the society, acceptance of the laws of the society and adoption of a common set of values of the society.

Concept of Social Integration

- Making European countries accept their fellow European members as equals without prejudice of ethnic, social or financial class.

EU Social Integration

- If European nations are indeed "united in diversity" then a social integration must be taken in the **EU level** to integrate the EU socially.

Ideas: Unity in diversity

- The three language communities:
  - the Flemish Community (Dutch-speaking)
  - the French Community (French-speaking)
  - the German-speaking Community
- The three regions:
  - the Flemish Region, subdivided into five provinces
  - the Walloon Region, subdivided into five provinces
  - the Brussels-Capital Region

Now the Case of Belgium

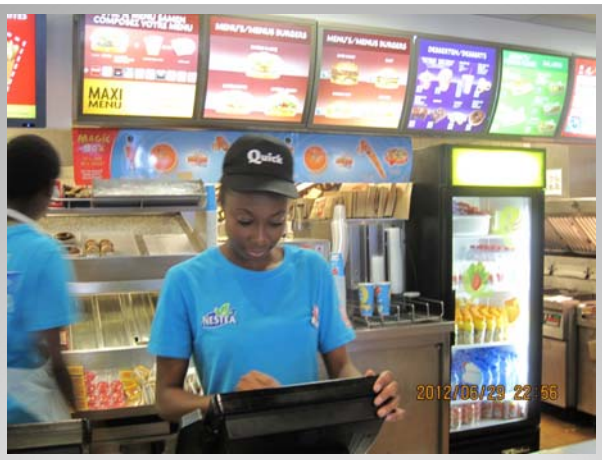
- Belgium can be considered as **"Local diversity"** Belgium is a multicultural and multilingual country from its off set in 1830

Belgium – The Capital of the EU

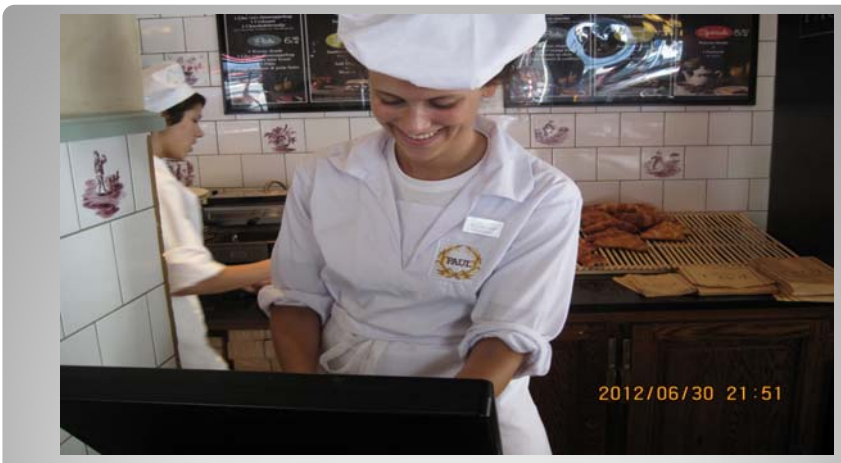
- Brussels has large minorities of North-Africans (predominantly Moroccan),
- Congolese,
- Rwandans,
- Burundians,
- Spaniards,
- Portuguese,
- Italians,
- Turkish,
- Greeks,
- Poles and many more

Local Diversity

City Centre



Fast Food



Close to EU Commission

The Area Of Foreigner

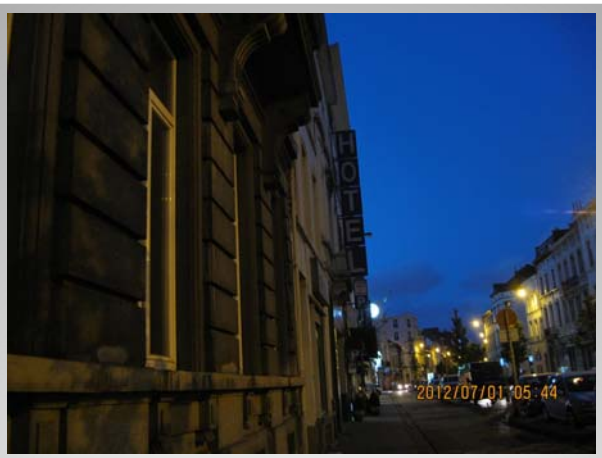
The Area of Foreigner

Metro Line

2012/06/30 18:45

Metro

Clemenceau
VEILIGHEID
SECURITE
2012/07/01 05:33



Night View

Day time

Storekeeper

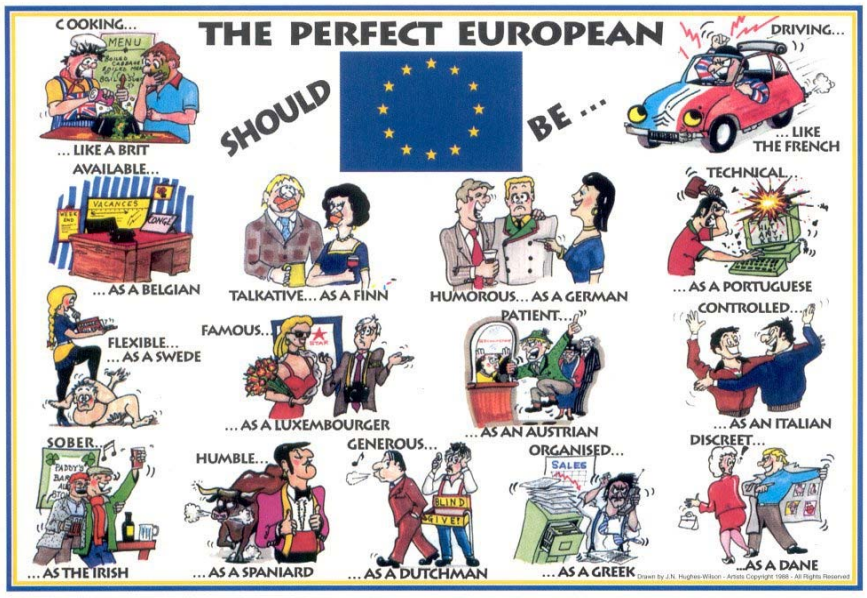
Hof-ten-Berg

Remaining the Nationalism

Remaining the Nationalism

- Then Where is the Real Identity of European?
- Yes!!!!!!!!!
- **United in Diversity**

Europeanization



- Then the question of United?

- Mostly ~ No Idea of the EU and its system (General)
- One case ~ EU….is it same as the UN??
- Others Like **expert or student** ~ Got the idea of the EU

Random Survey

2012/06/30 21:16

2012/06/30 21:16

High Rank of Police Commissioner

Theoretical Explanations

- "Contact Theory"

Meaning of Contact Theory

- In criminology, psychology, and sociology, the contact hypothesis has been described as one of **the best ways to improve relations among groups that are** experiencing conflict**.** Gordon W. Allport (1954) is often credited with the development of the **Contact Hypothesis, also known as Intergroup Contact Theory**

Theory & Practice: Requiremts

- **Equal Status**: Both groups taken into an equal status relationship,
- **Common Goals**: Both groups work on a problem/task and share this as a common goal, sometimes called a superordinate goal,
- **Acquaintance Potential**: The opportunity of group members to get to know each other as friends, and not merely as actors playing out social roles or as representatives of their social groups; the familiarity between group members involving the task or situation at hand
- **Support of authorities, law or customs**: Some authority that both groups acknowledge and define social norms that support the contact and interactions between the groups and members.

According to Jan, European social integration can be defined as increasing levels of "mutual relevance between and cohesion among the different EU nationalities

Some EU experts Agreed Upon

- There are a variety of indicators for mutual relevance. Certainly, "exchange mobility" (Blau 1977), such as **intergroup marriage and migration, is an indicator of strong ties.**

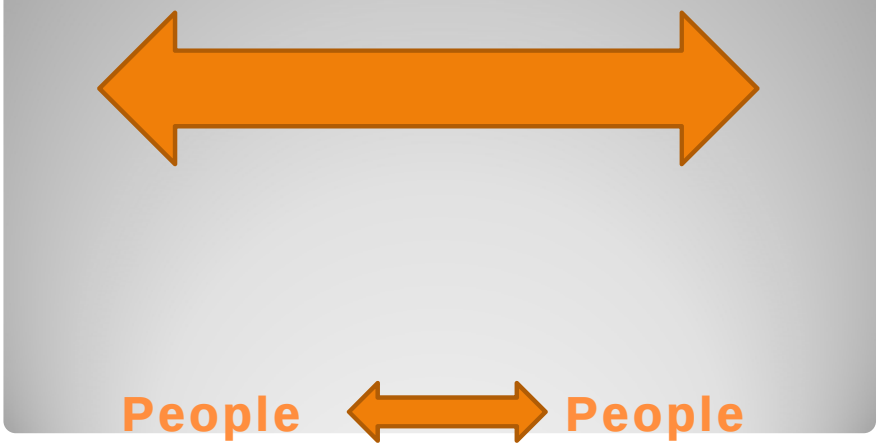
- Other indicators aiming at face-to-face relations between Europeans are **transnational friendships, acquaintances** or, at a **low stage of involvement, cursory personal contact**.

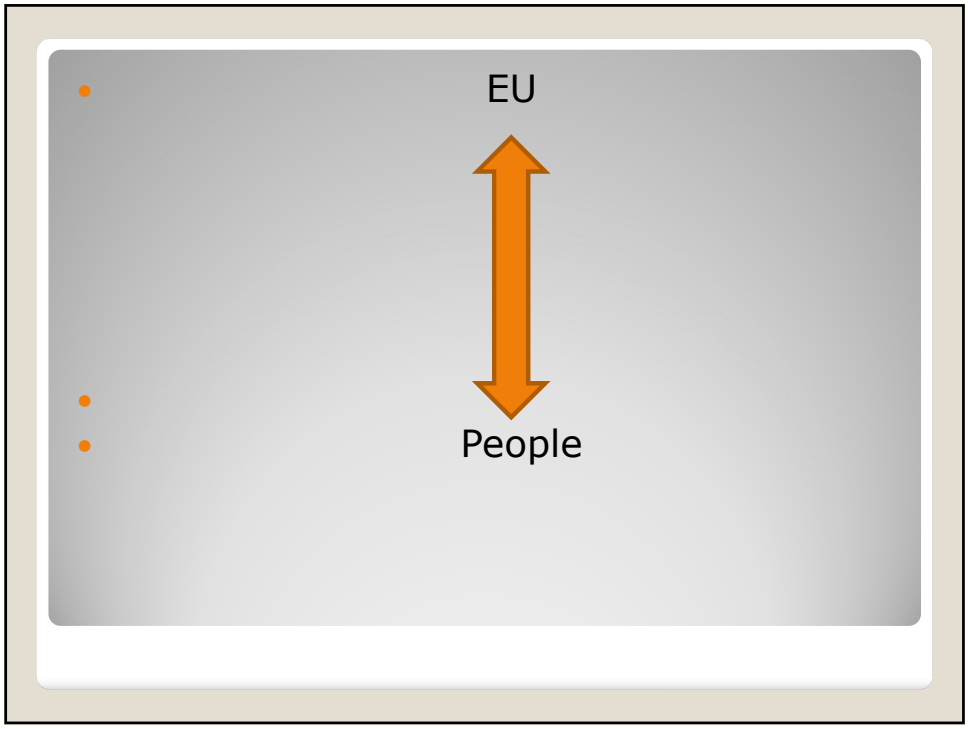
- According to the theory, interaction reveals inter-group similarities and forges new ones, overcoming the differences and skepticism that engender conflict and violence **(Brown and Lopez 2001, 281).**
- Subsequent development of the contact hypothesis focuses less on Allport's emphasis of groups' "common humanity" and more on their relative status, authority, and goals **(Brown and Lopez2001, 282)..**

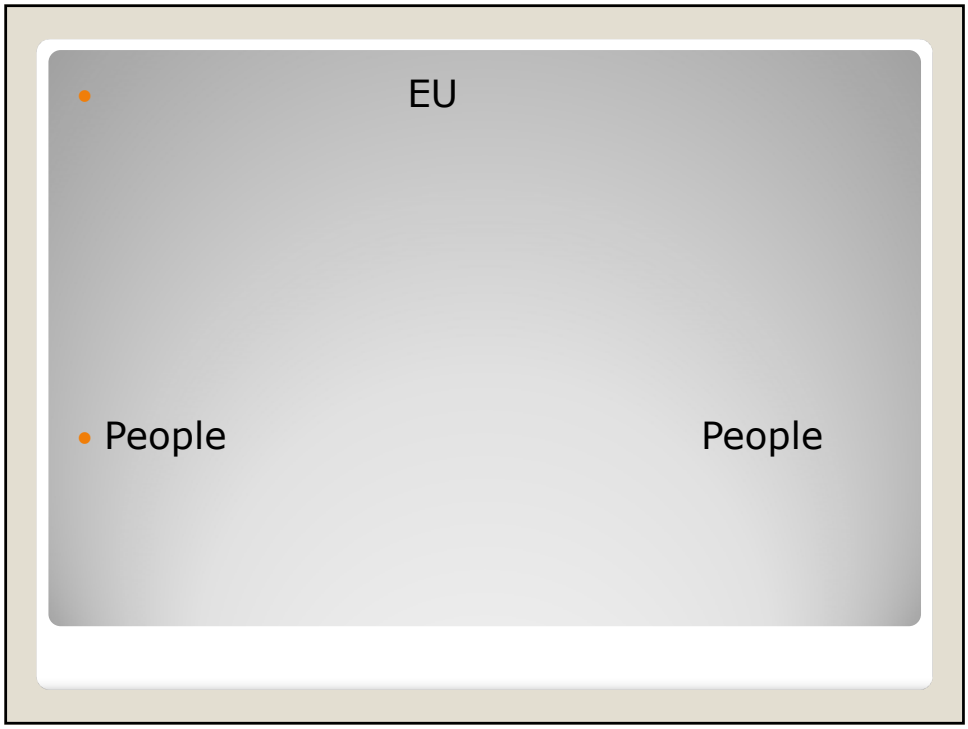
Other's References

- It is argued that although it emphasized on contact between the citizens but it is not given any proper component to contact **between the European Level**. In other words, European social integration is a process that results from social policy-making and can be identified through the literal meaning of integration: to make parts into a whole. Therefore the EU would be socially integrated if its component societies had lost the geographical and legal boundaries to their social institutions and social practices, and functioned instead as 'a single social area'.

The Main Problem with the EU




EU
People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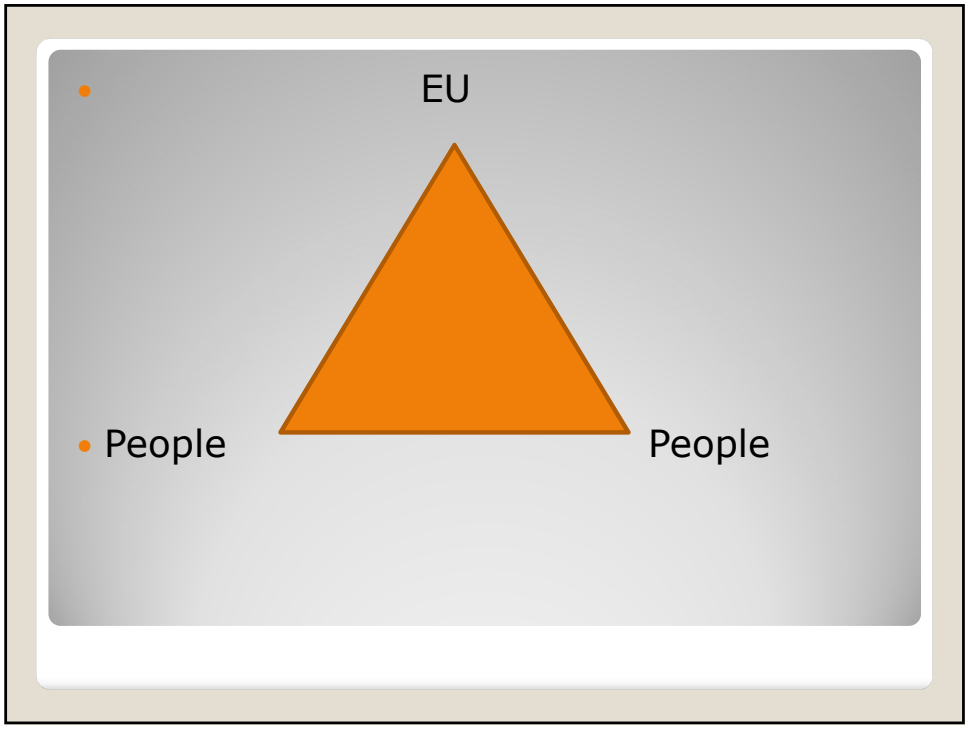
EU
People
People

United In Diversity

- In 2000, the European Union adopted 'United in Diversity' (Latin: In varietate concordia) as official Motto, a reference to the many and diverse member states of the Union in terms of culture.
- Apart from its English form, the European Union's motto is also official in 22 other languages.

'United in Diversity'

Merci Beaucoup