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### **UNITY in the diversity of EUROPE**

**The European Union is a unique partnership between 27 European countries.** It was created after the Second World War to promote economic interaction between the states, warring until recently, and recovery after the severe economic crisis.

The EU, like any alliance, has its **values and principles**. The values of the individual, in the case of every citizen of the Union, are brought together in the values of the state, that is the nation to which it belongs. Hence, we can point out that European values are based on and unite the values of each nation, and that, in turn, brings together the values systems of every single European citizen. As every composed union, the European Union is based on principles. These principles, together with the objectives and values of the union, support its existence.

In 2000, the Union's motto, "United in diversity" appeared on the basis of the proposals of students from all over Europe. It is a symbol of the values that the EU brings together as an organization of the 27 Member States. And although every country has a personal uniqueness expressed in culture, language, religion, tradition and history, the EU finds something common, something united.

The definition of diversity is based on a variety, something different and heterogeneous. On the other hand, unity is seen as integration and association.

The expression therefore takes on the full meaning of "Unity in Diversity", which is **to unite the different** ones.

Diversity can be addressed in different aspects. Diversity in the European Union can be considered as the differences between its individual citizens. The diversity of rich **cultures** and the intensity of the **history** of the Member States may also be implied.

From the very beginning, the Union has been seen as a unity in the diversity. **The yesterday's enemies in the face of Germany and France** are now in a Union, an economic union. It is this economic unification and reciprocity between the states that brings them closer in such a way that they cannot develop their economies without each other. They are radically different, they have their history and past, but they are now a whole. Consequently, a number of countries that are different, but entering the Union they become a whole.

**We are different, but we are together.** Together we are on the path of EU development. We are together in the fight for non-discrimination and democracy. Although we are different, we are all striving to implement and respect the common European value system.

While all Member States of the union work together, despite their differences, there will also be the motto "United in diversity". We will fight the difficulties because we are United. United in our differences.

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## United in Diversity My thoughts

"United in diversity" is the motto of the European Union. It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continents many different cultures, traditions and languages. This sounds very distant especially for young people but actually we can see the positives of collaborating with different people in our everyday life.

First of all we can find the benefits in the interaction between people. People usually have certain differences among them. We can observe this in public places, offices and even school. Working with diverse people provides an opportunity for developing communication skills. Furthermore, this interaction would build up a tolerance in people. Hence, people would respect the opinion of others. This leads to enhancing the quality of teamwork. This is because of the development of trust and bonding between people. I can observe these processes closely in my class. We are all very different and this often creates tension, which is normal. But only if we work together we can reach our lesson goals that's why we need to make compromises for the common good.

“United in Diversity” is very useful for a diverse country. Above all, the concept allows people of different religions, cultures, castes, to live together peacefully. The belief of Unity in Diversity certainly reduces the chances of riots and disturbances. It helps dispel negative stereotypes and personal biases about different groups. In addition, cultural diversity helps us recognize and respect “ways of being” that are not necessarily our own. ... As people from diverse cultures contribute language skills, new ways of thinking, new knowledge, and different experiences.

The motto of the EU carries the message for tolerance, respect, communication and diversity. Only together we can achieve more for our societies. Like the different parts of the machine that only together can put it in motion.

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### **“UNITY in the diversity of EUROPE“**

The European Union is a unique alliance of states with a common aim of preserving peace and development in all areas of economic, political and social life. The economic union has become a complex political structure with undeniable influence over the whole world. **"Rome was not built in a day" -- the history taught us how important unification is.** Our society is not perfect in this regard and it will not be so, but **we, the young generation, are happy to build our future in a United Europe by defending our national identity; we are happy to feel united in the great European family and at the same time to feel national pride.**

‘Man is free only when he does not have to obey no one but the law.’ (Kant)

**Freedom is by far the highest value for man.** At the age of 18, we take responsibility for all our decisions and steps, but are we really free then? "Truth will set you free" (Veritas liberabit vos) - **the truth can only be established through knowledge.** In the information age we live in, knowledge is about motivation. The most valuable resource we have – time, is absorbed by focusing on insane consumption. Would the will of man for self-improvement withstand, or the temptation like Instagram, "only five minutes" would prevail? Immersed in electronic communication, we have the feeling that we are involved in the big world, that we are part of it, but we do not feel united. In our quest to be like the others, we remain alone, lose our personality and enter

the general profile of the generation. **Only the most daring succeed in stating their diversity.**

It is very difficult for the young person to be different from his generation. Times are changing, the processing of a huge amount of data by the big technology giants makes us targets. Those who adapt to an environment do not survive, but those who change the rules. The preservation of European ideals - freedom, creativity and knowledge depends on the individual. **Only when we start from ourselves we can seek for change. We are what we do.** Our existence is our permanent choice, that's what we are.

**The topic of unity brings a positive charge. Unity makes strength.** The opposite is "Assimilate ubiquitously", a general assimilation. The novel "1984" explains very well the manipulation of a large group of people through dual thinking when we believe in two opposing points of view. In order to protect ourselves and combat the assimilation of imposed stereotypes, false facts, false news in our thinking processes, we must learn to read. To stimulate our own imagination, to cultivate our own consciousness, our own systems of beliefs. **We all need the skills to protect ourselves, to keep our own minds. Such a cause requires unity.**

Isn't Nietzsche's concept of 'superman' way too inhuman - why not just be people? **It is important that we understand as early as possible the difference between the real world and the world that we want to be.** The difference between the image of the world that some people want to impress on us and the world that actually is. For this is only how we will know what to expect. Only in this way will we see the clear world. And we will not be cynics, people who have preserved some or other dream in the dusty corners of their minds, dreams that make our perception of the world sour. We will not be sceptics either. I am not even sure there is a word about that. We will simply be

people who see the world right in the eyes and see it in all its diversity. Once we assume that evil is an integral part of human nature, we will deal with it. **Unity is the most powerful weapon for achieving this cause.**