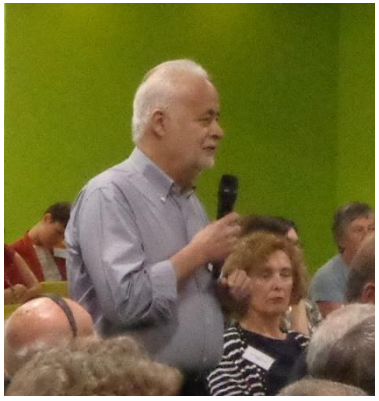
2018
EUROPEAN YEAR
OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE
#EuropeForCulture

# Older people have their say on Europe

**AGE member survey 2018**



What does being a European mean to you?

Being a person with a broader outlook

Sharing fundamental values based on human rights, solidarity and freedom

Being part of a movement of nations that seek to cooperate with each other

I am proud to share and enjoy my human rights in Cyprus as all other European citizens

A hallmark for peace, unity, integrity, democracy, solidarity and economic growth for all its member states

Peace, democracy, cultural diversity and identity

For the first time in 25,000 years, we get together instead of fighting each other to become stronger and to defend our value of democracy and freedom

Being part of a big dream aiming at more safety and solidarity despite the differences

Better standards of living for all European citizens

Being a European, to me means that I am a member of a large community of about 500 million people sharing wealth, knowledge, research and principle of equality across the 28 European States

Enjoying a free life with separation between government, Parliament, law and independent media, for people of all ages

Being a citizen of Europe for me means being an active part of a community that shares the culture of integration, peaceful coexistence, lifelong learning and the transmission to younger generations, as a prerequisite for the fight against nationalism, racism and inequality

Belonging to a larger family where European values are formulated and applied beyond the national borders provides opportunities, integration and collaboration and some degree of solidarity. It breaks isolation among nations

**What is the added value of the European Union in your daily life?**

Free movement between countries
Peace, economic growth, no borders, free travelling
I am able to travel, work and live everywhere across the European Union
Travel and make business easily throughout the EU thanks to a common currency and stronger facilities.
Travel throughout Europe without (almost) any problem, the European citizenship, European fundings.
A common currency. Freedom of movement without borders

A common set of values and standards
It sets goals, pushes for innovation, improves knowledge and rights
I feel that my human rights are more protected
The equal opportunities enhanced throughout all European member states
Born in ’44 I have lived without war in Europe

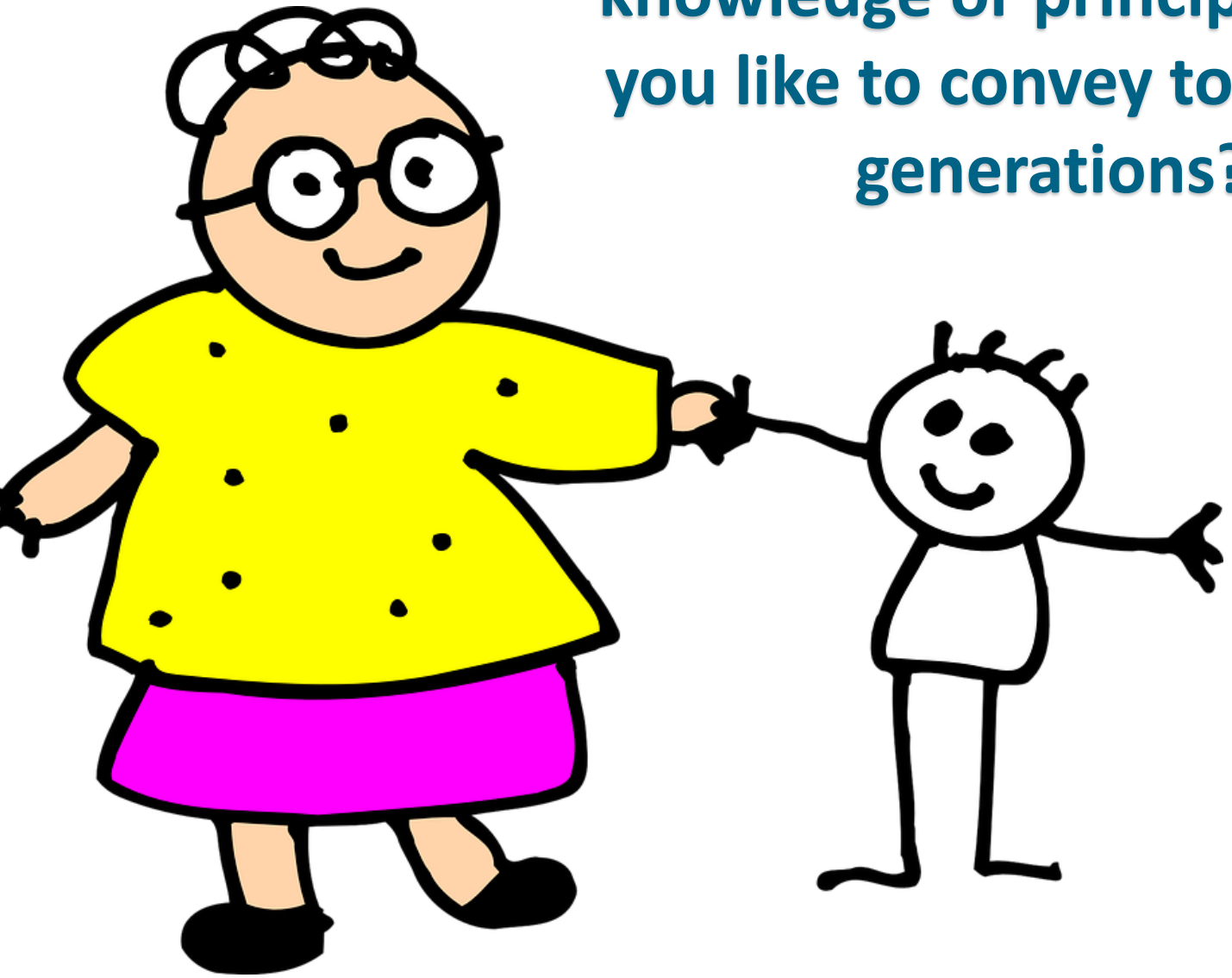
European Union in daily life… being part of a larger community, so diverse and rich gives me the opportunity to widen my views and is a daily democracy exercise
Peace, democracy, cultural diversity and identity
Equality legislation has changes Ireland for the better
Having a Bill of Rights, protecting workers, consumers and citizens, monitoring high quality standards, protecting the environment and supporting equality for all groups
Being a citizen of Europe for me means being an active part of a community that shares the culture of integration, peaceful coexistence, lifelong learning and the transmission to younger generations, as a prerequisite for the fight against nationalism, racism and inequality

It gives me a sense of security against threat related to war to financial breakdown
I don't have to be afraid that one country might get too much power
It offers knowledge, human rights, experience of what is happening in other EU countries
For the first time in 25,000 years, we get together instead of fighting each other to become stronger and to defend our value of democracy and freedom
Photo by Huy Phan on Unsplash

The opportunities to work and cooperate with people from different parts of Europe with minimal barriers is great
Free movement, financial and economic and academic possibilities and choices
Models to get inspiration from and good practices to adapt in my country
Being a citizen of a small country is being treated the same as a citizen of a larger member state
An opportunity to share good practices and facilitation of exchanges in all aspects of life, trade, culture, learning, travel for example

Higher product and service standards
The EU allows a transnational approach to global challenging issues, such as climate, renewable energies, digitalization,…
Ability to share projects in a larger community for more useful innovations for all

**What value, tradition, knowledge or principle would you like to convey to younger generations?**



Staying together and helping each other makes us stronger and gives a chance of growing stronger
A value to convey to younger and future generations is the democratic way of solving problems between countries and seeking the way to build a common future, not despite the different cultures, but within those differences

I would encourage them to visit other European countries, get to know their “neighbours”, study and live with other nationalities
Although we have our tradition, knowledge or principles, which we must proudly keep, there are many such aspects in other member states which we must admire and enjoy in a friendly manner
Accept and enjoy cultural differences, but also recognize how much more we can do as a united set of countries. We still have a long way to go to make an equitable, good life for all older people and indeed people of all ages

Respect of our cultural and historical heritage. Lesson to be drawn from wars, invasions and foreign dominations. European people have suffered among centuries until recently and make sure it never happens again
Be aware of our common history, unfortunately so conflictive, which led to the decline and almost ruin of Europe in order to avoid repeating the failures of the past
European Union may mean peace and prosperity for all members. It is therefore necessary to maintain it and make the arrangements useful for these purposes
Respect of human beings at all ages – men and women equally – freedom of thinking and religion, respect of democracy, constitutions and laws. Recognition of work as a value
Pixabay

Many positive developments have been brought in Europe: more freedom, fraternity, equality. And respect for each particular culture
Keeping promoting culture, knowledge, human rights experience of other countries, freedom, dignity
In an unjust economic system, where the dominion of finance has widened the gap between rich and poor, the principles and cultural values to be handed down are mainly those of solidarity between people and between generations, equality and equity based on work, education, the use of common goods, access to the benefits of the welfare state, eco-sustainability
An end to internal European wars. A belief and respect for democracy, a secular world, and aim for greater equality and justice for all

What do you think should be improved to build a stronger and sustainable Europe?

More equal opportunities should be made available whatever the size of the member state

The anthroposophical and humanistic values are being overtaken by the financial prosperity. The markets tend to prevail over the people. A shift in creating a more human-based approach is needed

It is no use making laws if they are not enforced. It costs money but in the long run, if not immediately, making sure that enacted laws are not broken will turn out to be an "investment" in the daily well being of the population

Moving towards an inclusive society seeking social, economic, gender and ethnic equality, a common objective "to face the challenge of an ageing population by taking advantage of the new silver economy"

I think the unity in diversity should be improved. All of us are similar but with multiple identity, national identity. Europe should be inclusive in terms of economy, social and political policies

More democracy. An end to austerity. A clear belief in the separation of power between the law, the government, Parliament, the media and an economy and society for all ages, ethnicities, several identity, gender and social economic classes. More respect for diversity

The decision making process should bring countries closer to each other and give a real priority to countries inside the Union

**European should to keep, support national traditions**

**The EU should be more focused on cultural aspects and less on financial issues**

Sort out the euro – and the role of the European banks. Support the human rights and internationalization of the European Union

Confidence. Better media coverage. Better democracy

We have a common background but also differences due to history. Better understanding of the differences is needed to be able to use them as complementary background and build on better cooperation. Exchange more practices than theories in order to go faster to build common concrete projects

Confidence. Better media coverage. Better democracy

The EU should concentrate on a few priorities – external relations, defense, uncontrolled migration, economy and education - and facilitate exchanges of good practices in the other fields

**The social programme should be stronger**

The European Union should improve its decision making mechanism and should keep seeking ways to represent the European citizen

I agree on open market for travelling, goods and services. I think the right to live (and be supported) where you want has to be reconsidered

**Contextualization of massive changes from renewable energies + digitalization**

I think that every effort should be done by all member countries to work together for the improvement of their common good, while keeping divergent customs, habits and identity in every individual state.

Moving toward a European federation. Better information on the European institutions and policies to the individual citizens. Don’t give the populists a chance!

**Less bureaucracy, more transparency and more solidarity**

AGE work is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of AGE Platform Europe and cannot be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.