

Statements

Europe is our most important large-scale project

For one-and-a-half years, 20 students from France and Germany evaluated the attitude of their generation towards Europe. 2,000 young adults answered questions. Five focus groups then debated the results. The outcome was the Europaper, an urgent appeal to their peers as well as to politics and business. Here are the authors:



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Marc Fort © 2014

Marc Fort was born in Neustadt an der Waldnaab in 1994. Of German and French origin, he studied at the European campus at the Sciences Po in Nancy. Social engagement means a lot to him: As a student, he was chief editor of his school newspaper and, after finishing his studies, helped out in a social centre during the summer. For the past year, he has been collaborating on Eurocosmos, an international project, which simulates cooperation between the European institutions and evaluates scope for improvement. Marc Fort is also keen to improve TerraEuropa:

"Open borders, transnational parliamentary elections, Erasmus - the achievements of the European Community have become second nature to us. We must be clear about what could be destroyed, if we don't stand up for our community of states. For me, this means showing an interest in the Union, and, above all, going to vote."

Katharina Hanna Meeh is studying for her bachelor's degree at the French university Sciences Po in Nancy. Alongside her studies, she works as an intern in the town hall of her hometown. The 18-year-old joined Eurocosmos as soon as she started to study.



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Katharina Hanna Meeh © 2014

Katharina Meeh believes that as many citizens as possible, from both current and future EU Member States, should actively participate in shaping Europe. For the young student, it is particularly important to actively promote the inclusion of everyone. Even as a pupil, she worked to bring people with and without disabilities together.

"The European Union is too complicated and too distant for its citizens. Our generation especially could be more enthusiastic about Europe and provide decision-makers with fresh impetus. In 1962, Charles de Gaulle addressed Germany's post-war youth and was seen as a beacon of hope for Franco-German reconciliation. Today, more than 50 years later, the youth in France and Germany should be the driving force behind a united Europe."

Mario Jendrossek started his global travels at an early age. The 19-year-old from Göttingen, for example, attended the *Colegio Inglés de la Serena* in Chile and the *Lycée du Sacré Coeur* school in France. No wonder he masters Spanish and French as well as he does German. In addition to his studies at *Sciences Po*, the young President of *Eurocosmos* is also learning Italian and Portuguese. He can also make himself understood in Arabic. Jendrossek works to promote human rights through Amnesty International's youth chapter in Nancy. At *Axit Europe*, he teaches elementary school pupils the European idea.



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Mario Jendrossek © 2014

"We want to draw attention to the aspirations that the younger generation has in Europe. The EU and its citizens must once again work together to take the wind out of the sails that power Eurosceptics."

Sonje Schwennsen feels at home in Europe. She has just graduated with a double Masters in European Affairs and Political Science from the Free University Berlin and Sciences Po. While studying, the 24-year-old took part in the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's programme to promote up-and-coming journalists. Her journalistic education has led the former graduate of Salem and King's College to various newsrooms across Germany, such as German News Agency (DAPD) and Southwest Broadcasting (SWR). She recently started working for ZDF's morning show in Berlin.



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Sonje Schwennsen © 2014

"I've been studying the European Union intensively as part of my studies for over five years now. As a consequence, it's become clear on a number of occasions how few people of my generation show any interest in this grand and inclusive project. What's the reason for this and, above, all how can we change it?"



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Lucile Tronel © 2014

Always on the move: after her European Business Baccalaureate Diploma ("Europäisches Wirtschaftsabitur") and stays in Romania and Senegal, Lucile Tronel spent a year at Berlin's Humboldt University as an Erasmus student. After that, she graduated with a bachelor's degree from King's College in London. Currently, the 24-year-old Parisian is completing her double Masters in European Affairs and Political Science at Sciences Po and the Free University Berlin. She acquired her first hands-on experience of European politics came while working on health and consumer affairs at the European Commission and in the European office of a large cosmetics company.

"We need a new vision for Europe to strengthen the cohesion of its members again and promote a common European identity. TerraEuropa gives young people in Europe a voice. I think it is important that it is heard by decision-makers as well as by other European citizens."



Photo | Frank Rumpenhorst: Nadiya Pavlivna Vertebna © 2014

After her A levels, Nadiya Vertebna graduated from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn and the Sorbonne in Paris with a interdisciplinary bachelors degree in German and French studies. While studying, she was involved with a student body at the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Bonn. The 24-year-old was then able to deepen her interest in politics and intercultural cooperation at the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung), the German Federal Foreign Office and through the media project "Internet, l'Europe et la culture." The student, who originally comes from Kiev and speaks Russian and Ukrainian, is enrolled on the double Masters programme in European Affairs and Political Science at Sciences Po Paris and the Free University Berlin.

"I am a part of Europe and would like to help shape it. Bringing younger generations together can generate ideas that can lead the way for the future of Europe."

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