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URED ZASTUPNICE U
EUROPSKOM PARLAMENTU
IVANE MALETIĆ

EUROSCEPTICISM- CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, SOLUTIONS



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Member of the European Parliament
Novi Marof
12th November 2017

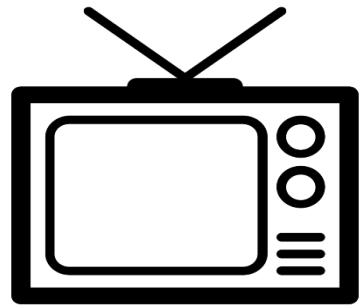
Causes of Euroscepticism

- Migration crisis
- Economic crisis
- High unemployment rate
- Open borders
- Terrorist attacks
- Growth of populism
- Lack of knowledge
- Media influence

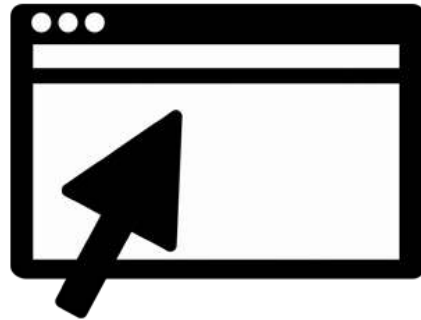


Media influence in the EU

Media usage



TELEVISION - 55%



WEBSITES – 16%

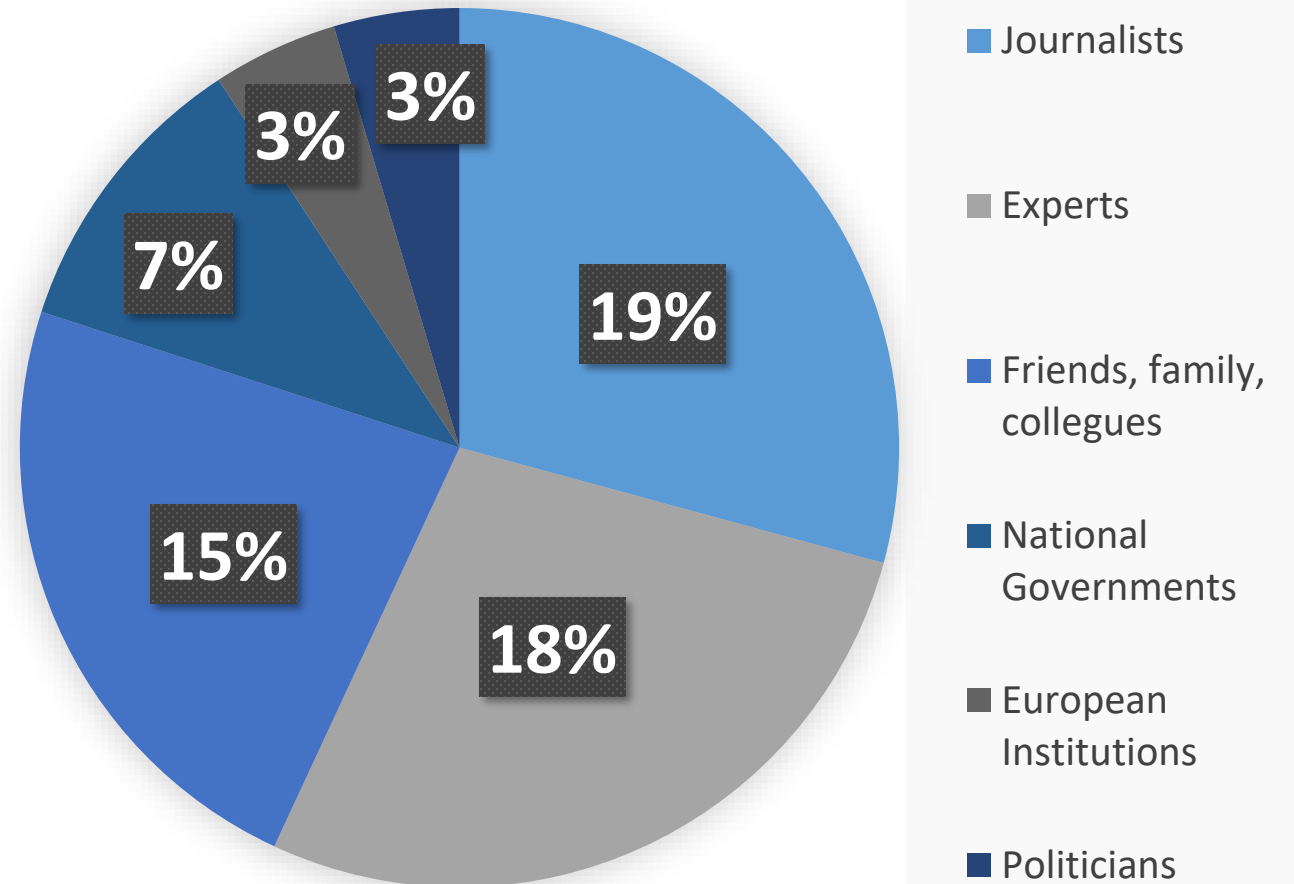


WRITTEN PRESS – 8%



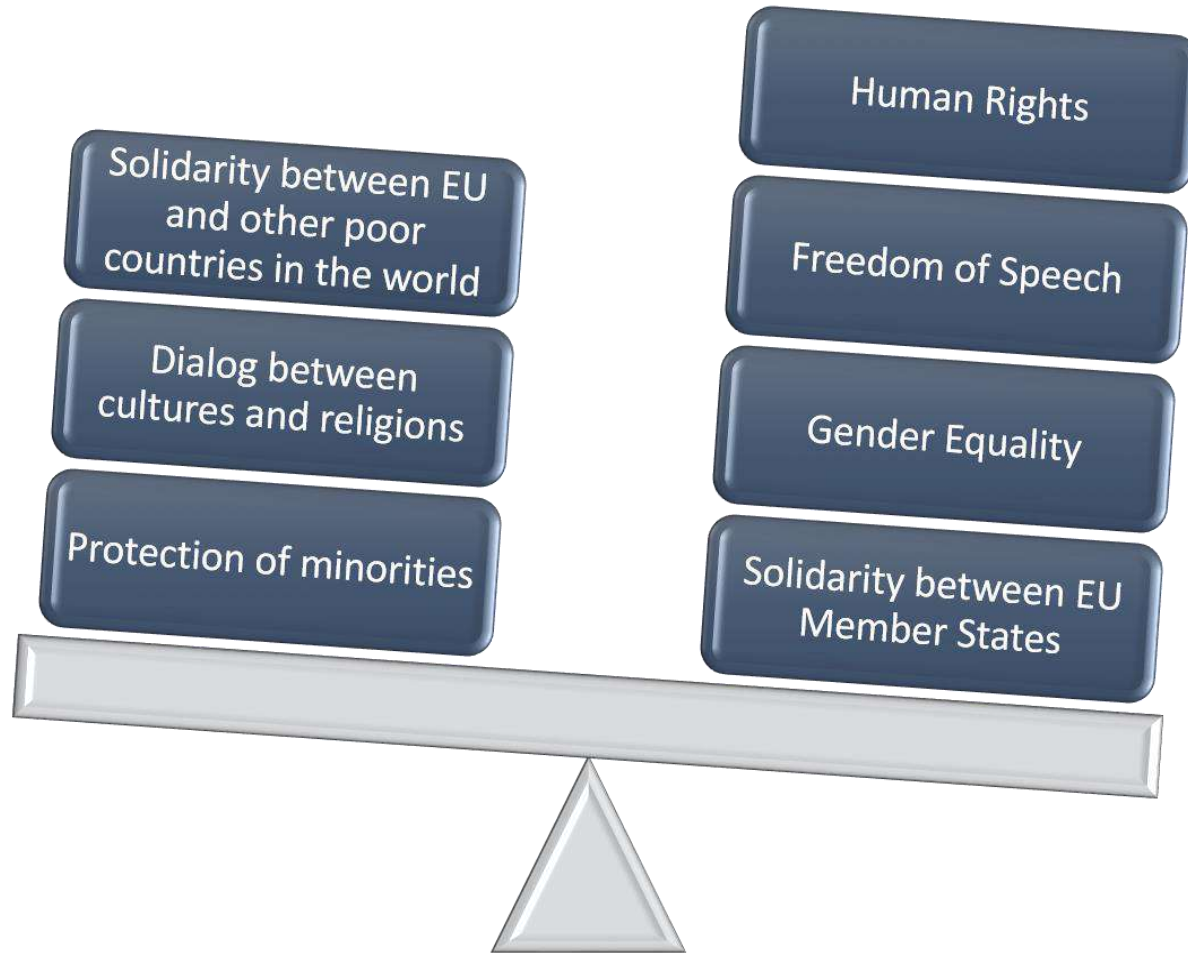
RADIO – 7%

Trust in media sources



Source: DG COMM, STUDY - Public Opinion Monitoring Series

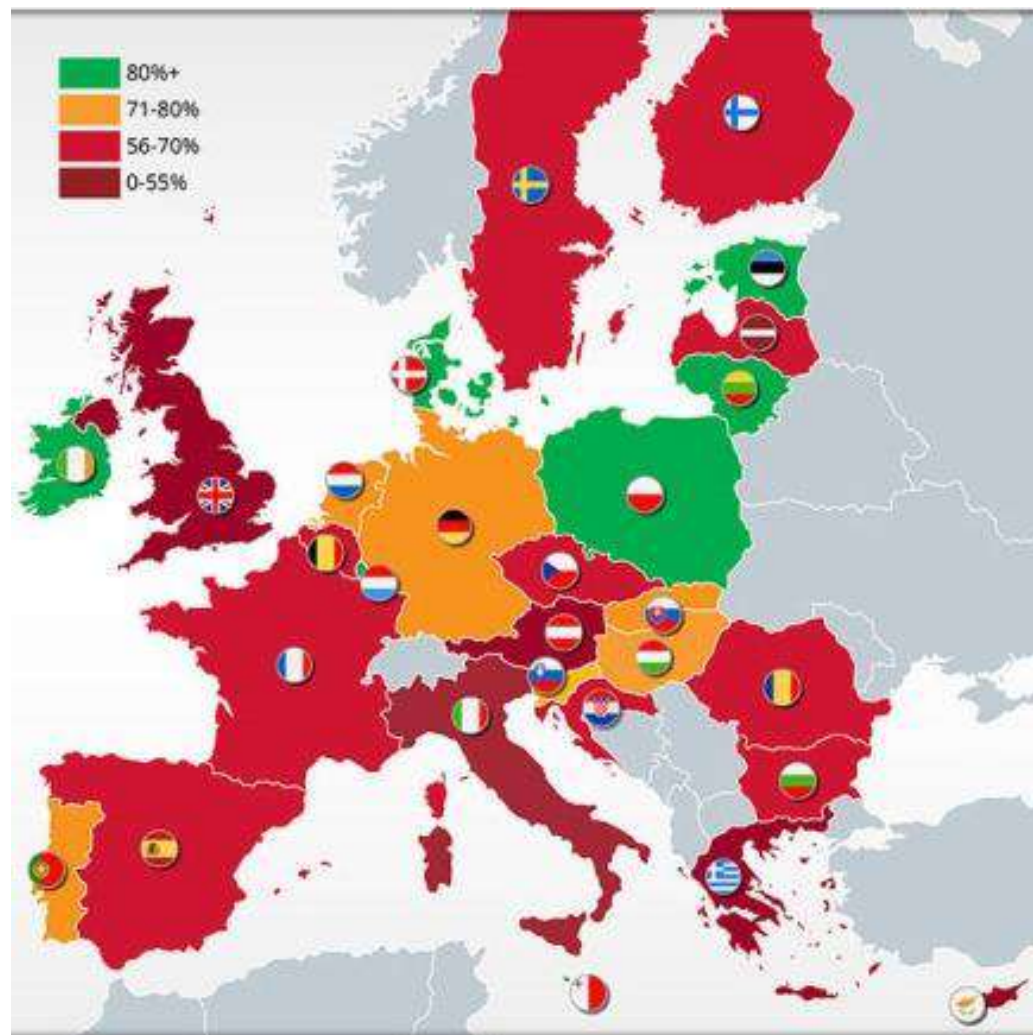
Importance of EU values



Features of populist vs non populist political actors

	Non populist, "mainstream" political actor	Populist political actor
Main channels of communication	Radio, TV, newspapers	TV, blogs, vlogs, social networks
Communication style	Indirect, inclusive	Direct, exclusive
Intermediaries	Many, established	Few, if any
Idea of representation	Political parties, media, institutions	Peer-to-peer politics, "will of the people", anti-elites
Manifestation	Political party	Movement, anti-party
Political practice	Consensus-driven	Confrontational, logic of escalation
Interactions with public	Tend to react to events	Attempt to set agenda and manipulate the news cycle
Political ideology	Centre-left / centre-right	"Neither left nor right", issue-oriented

Source: Jacques Delors Institut

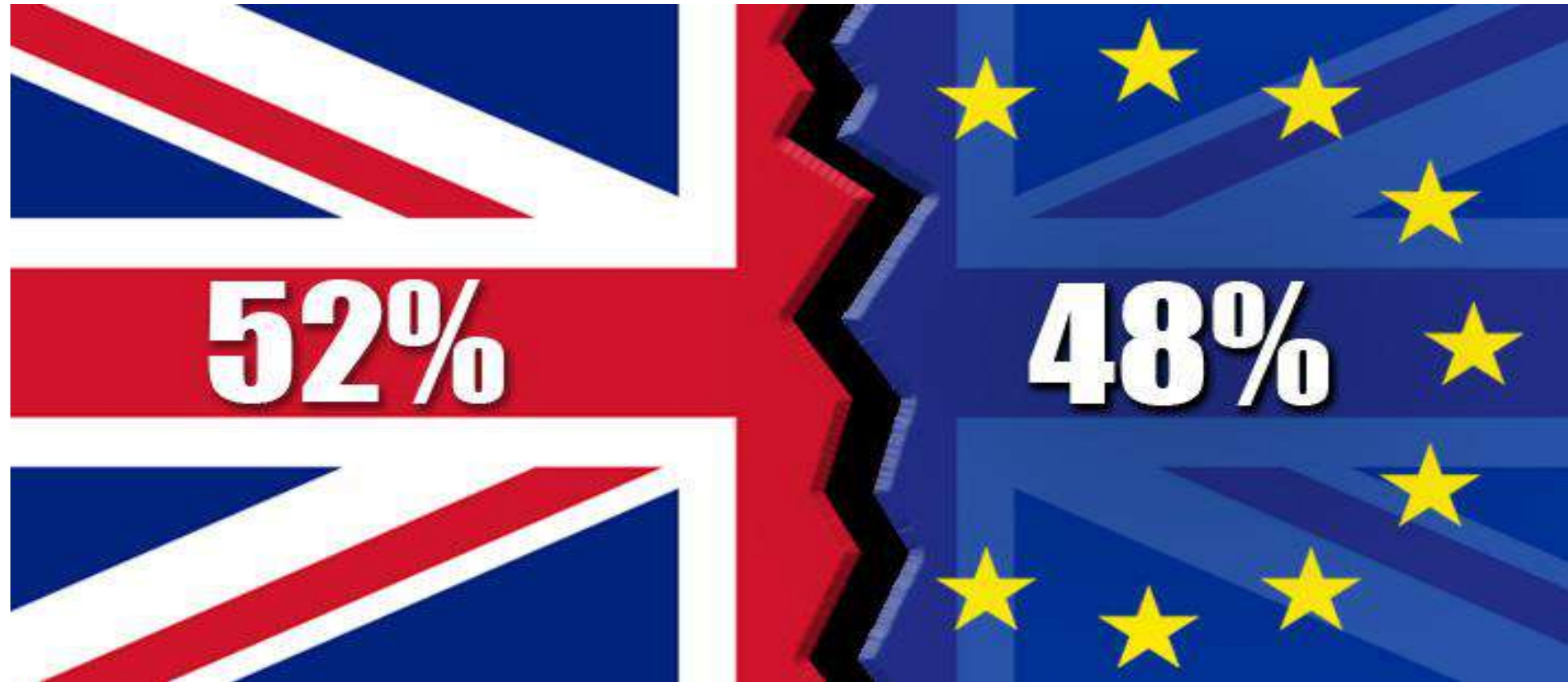


WHO FEELS EU MEMBERSHIP HAS PAID OFF?

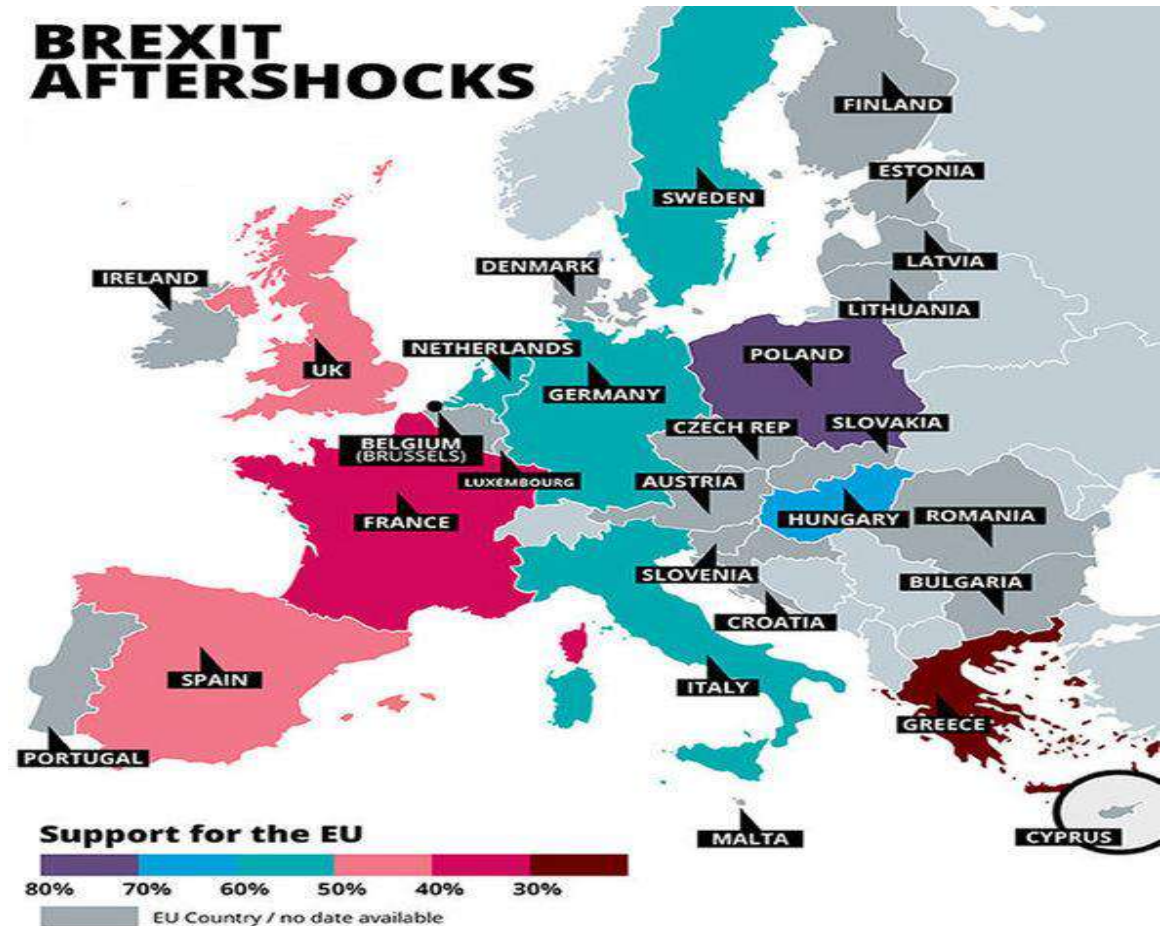
PERCENTAGE OF EACH NATION WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE NOT BENEFITED FROM BEING IN EU IN 2017

IRELAND 90%	SLOVAKIA 74%	CROATIA 68%	CZECH REP. 56%
MALTA 89%	NETHERLANDS 76%	BELGIUM 66%	BULGARIA 56%
LITHUANIA 88%	SLOVAKIA 74%	FINLAND 66%	UK 55%
LUXEMBOURG 86%	PORTUGAL 73%	LATVIA 65%	AUSTRIA 52%
POLAND 84%	HUNGARY 72%	SWEDEN 62%	GREECE 48%
DENMARK 81%	SLOVENIA 72%	ROMANIA 61%	CYPRUS 45%
ESTONIA 81%	SPAIN 70%	FRANCE 58%	ITALY 39%

Brexit



- Most suitable example of a Eurosceptic country in the European Union.
- The British Eurosceptic tradition was based on the geographical and psychological feelings.
- The Eurosceptic tradition ranges such as politics, economics, language, culture, and history make it difficult to accept the integration for the United Kingdom.



Leaders of capitalist reforms – today’s promoters of Euroscepticism and populism

- Gradual increase in domination of populist parties in the so-called “*Visegrad countries*” during the last four years, which jointly refused to receive a certain number of refugees set by EU quotas;
- The most striking example of the current prime minister Victor Orbán → rapprochement with Russia and China.
- Andrej Babiš and his „ANO” party won in last month’s elections for the Czech Parliament by almost 30% of votes → due to his wealth and anti-migrant policy he is also called the Trump of Central Europe.
- Last year’s victory of the Eurosceptic Polish government headed by president Andrzej Duda and prime minister Beato Szydlo → promotion of the idea of weaker influence of the EU on the largest of the “*Visegrad countries*”.
- The least Eurosceptic government from the mentioned group is that of Slovak prime minister Robert Fico.



Activities in the fight against Euroscepticism

- A proposal for a resolution on designing measures aimed at fighting growing Euroscepticism among European citizens and promotion of their deeper involvement in the life of the Union and its decision-making processes.
- Eurocities Mayors Summit (March 2017) – discussion on the urgent need for taking measures against growing populism and Euroscepticism.
- Within the framework of the “Rethinking Europe’s Future” campaign, the European Committee of the Regions is holding open discussions with citizens in 75 regions and towns cities, with the **main objective** of carrying out a current discussion on Europe’s future aimed at adoption of a common resolution in 2018.
- Since the initiation of the campaign in March 2013, CoR organized 27 events under the title of “Rethinking Europe’s Future” in 13 Member States, with the participation of 72 CoR members and over 3200 citizens .
- Improving citizens’ knowledge and understanding of EU affairs
- Engaging citizens to become involved and active in view of citizen participation in solving local and European issues
- Disseminate what they have learnt and motivate more citizens about the importance of citizen participation and the EU affairs for every citizen

Ways to tackle Euroscepticism

- European Coffee (events)
- Let's talk about Europe (events)
- Pop Up Europa (events)
- Erasmus+
- Beer Mats
- Brochures



Erasmus+



Steps forward - 2017

- *State of the Union 2017*"; Juncker - „The future of the Union with all Member States in the Eurozone and the Schengen area.”
- **Higher growth rate** in the EU than in the USA in the last two years
- **Unemployment** in the EU at the lowest level in the last 9 years.
- **Migrant routes** are either completely closed (Western Balkans ones) or better controlled than before.
- **“The spring” of European populism and Euroscepticism** has not been actualized (France, the Netherlands)

Conclusions

- **Being attentive to and raising citizens' awareness** relating to the added value of the European project;
- **Citizen education** – correct knowledge of the EU's advantages and disadvantages can serve as a protection from populist deceptions
- **The future of Europe** starts in towns and with citizens;
- **Local authorities** are best positioned to fight against populism – through implementation of projects;
- **Observance of EU fundamental values** on which Europe was built: solidarity, tolerance and democracy. We must not abandon those values because Europe would lose its purpose.
- **Greater involvement of citizens** in the processes of bringing European policies -> example: LAG PRIZAG



The choice before us is not whether we want Europe or not, but rather the scale of the contribution we make to the future of the EU.

...let us do much more to place citizens at the heart of all political action. The European Union is not a project for elites; quite the contrary. It was born and grew to ensure the well-being of all citizens.

*Antonio Tajani
President of the European Union*

Hvala na pozornosti!

IM

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