

## National identity – feedback of students

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### Introduction

During 2019-2022 has been realized the Erasmus+ project *Reflection of National and European Identity in the New Millennium*. The project brought together four partners from Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia and United Kingdom to compare their experience with learning the above named topics to learn about the state-of-art development, which can be used by university teachers and teachers at secondary schools.

The long-term aim of the project was to raise educational achievement and participation of young people in active EU citizenship. The particular aim of this project is to teach the above named topics at university level in a highly innovative way with the use of information and communication technology (ICT) which enables instant communication of project members and shared teaching in real time in the 3D virtual classroom, regardless of where users are located. This will also significantly raise the awareness of university teachers about using ICT in the blended learning form at university level.

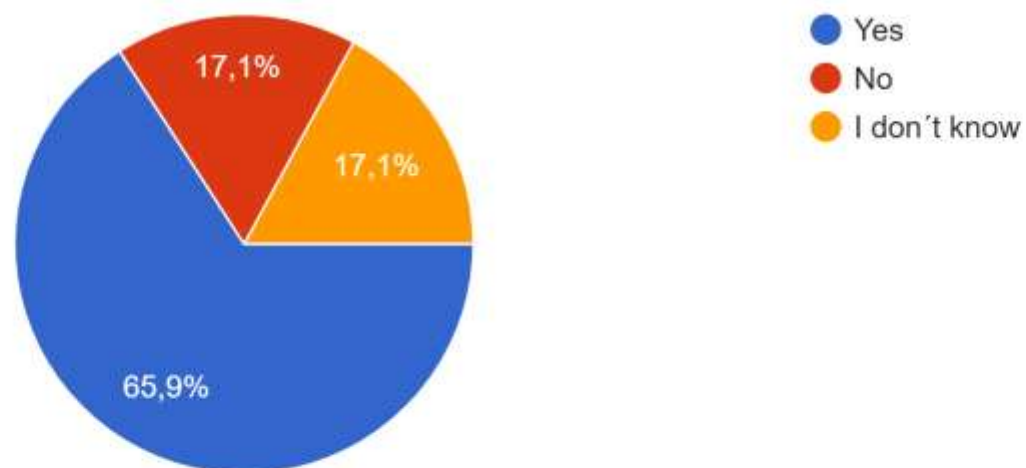
The project also included the implementation of feedback from students. A questionnaire survey was carried out, which was attended by 400 students, as well as a feedback survey of 40 students who took part in a month-long blended mobility, which was a combination of 3 weeks of virtual online learning and 1 week of joint face-to-face teaching at Palacký University in Olomouc.

The questionnaire items focused on the students' sense of national identity, sense of belonging to the European Union and their views on current EU issues related to globalisation, immigration and multiculturalism. In the next part of the article we present selected results of these surveys.

1 Selected results of the quantitative research:

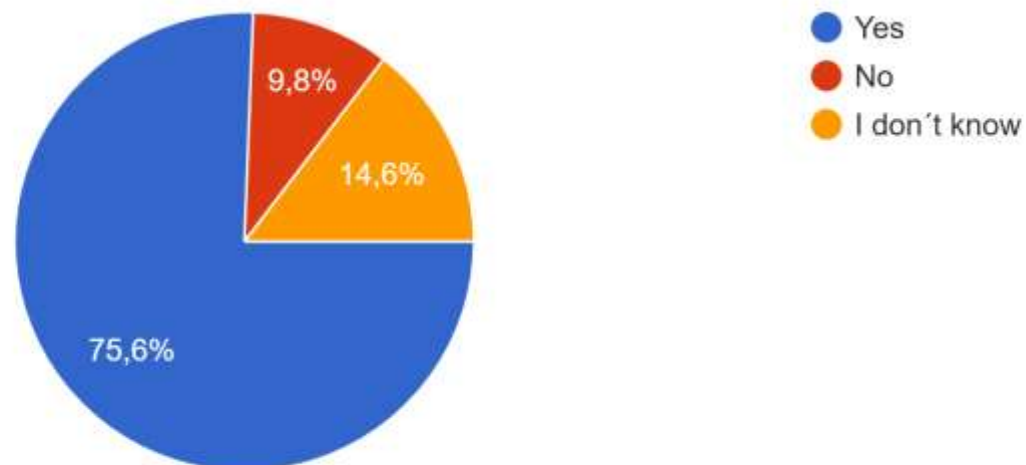
Is being part of a particular nation important for you? (Select one and explain in the next question.)

41 odpovědí

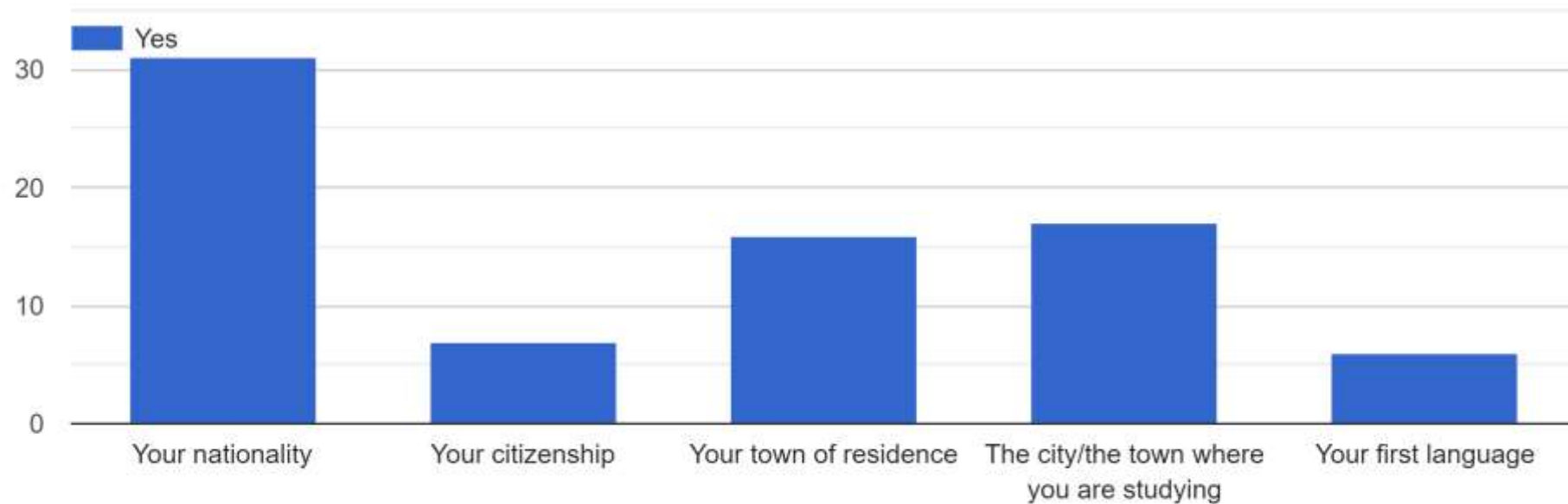


Is being part of the European Union important for you? (Select one and explain in the next question.)

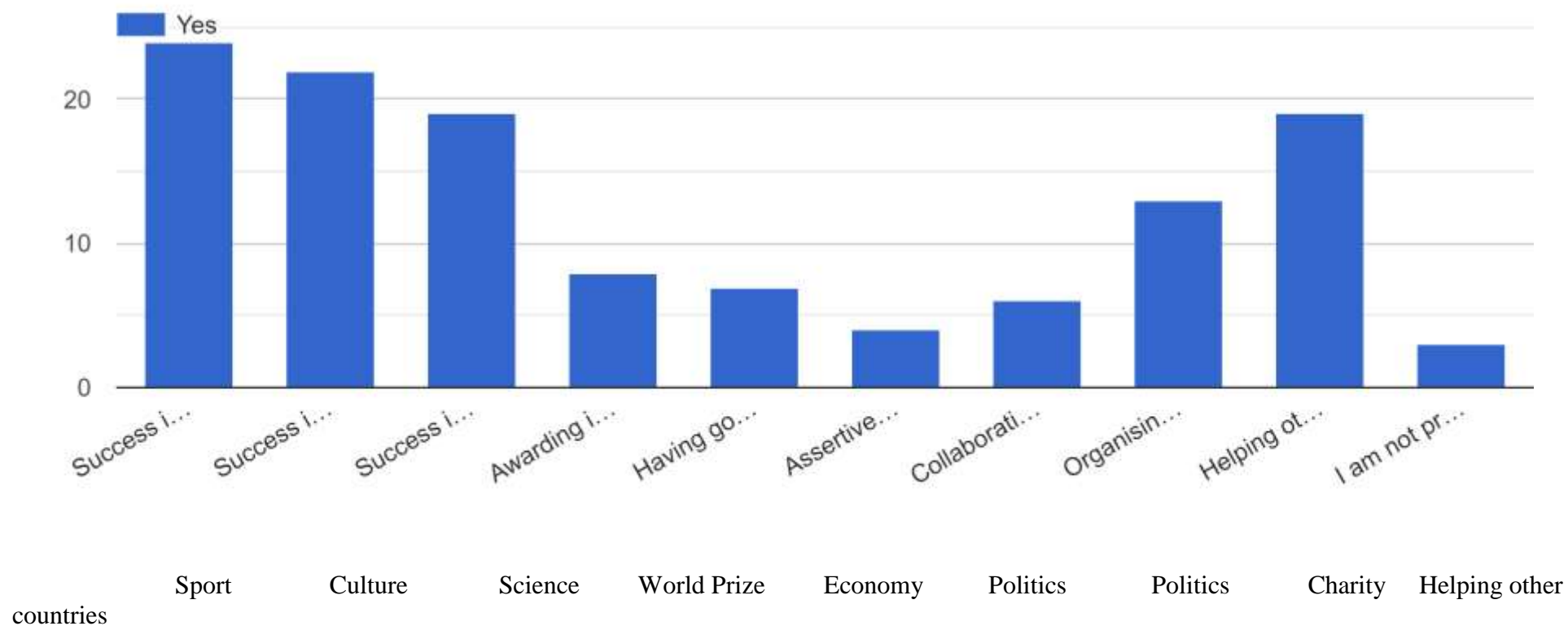
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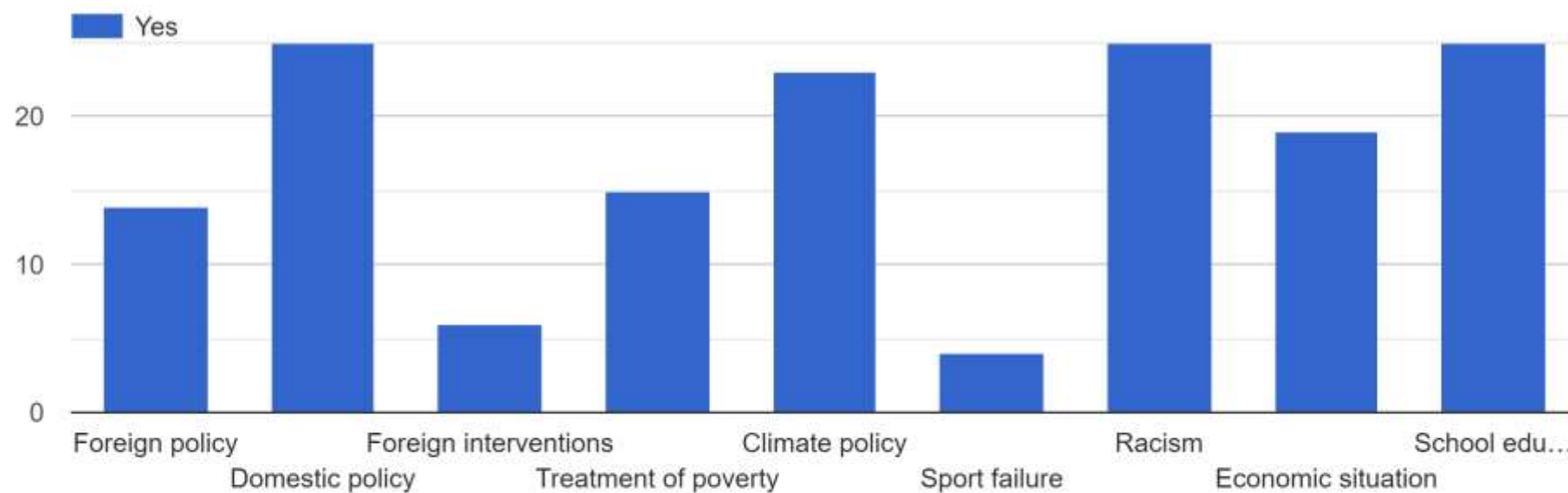
When you introduce yourself abroad, you mention first and second: (Select only two options.)



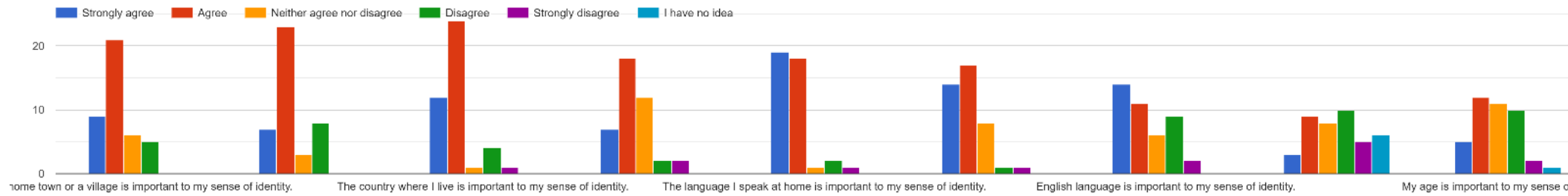
What makes you proud of your nation? (Select as many options as you want.)



What makes you not proud of your nation? (Select as many options as you want.)



This group of questions asks you to think about the extent to which different aspects of your local, national and European context contribute to your own sense of identity. Select one option for each sentence.



## 2 Selected results of the qualitative research:

Sure it's important to me. EU is a big union with clear sense.

Life is easier|

Being part of the European Union is related to values which I appreciate

Yes it is important for me, because it's important for international communication, exchange and peace in Europe.

Because Europe is an open cultural space, which makes it possible to get in touch with other countries.

Je to důležité z důvodu pocitu sounáležitosti, bezpečnosti, kvůli volnému obchodu, možnosti cestovat.

My country isn't in European Union yet, but I think that if it will be, than it will be a good move for us, Ukrainians.

Yes, I feel safe and stable



the sense of brotherhood is very important to me

Yes, because I have certainty that I am part of some big community.

It's important to me, because I'd like to become an efficient member of the society.

Because in EU we are united and can create new values and embrace mixture of our cultures to evolve.

It is a great advantage to be part of the EU, free travelling, trade etc.

The same. We belong somewhere and we can count on somebody.

I have easy access to travel and study in different countries. It opens many doors for my future education.

it is not that much about EU but about the Europe itself

In the EU, there are more cultures connected and I am a part of this.

Because i have possibility to getting know the other tradicions and cultures.

I think that we are safer and more economically stable as part of the EU.

Because that means communication and democracy for me.

The first thing that came to my mind is that the EU provides some kind of protection for us (as a member state). I know that every time a country becomes a part of the European Union it has to stand back and make some compromises in terms of its autonomy but I believe that by being a part of European Union we gain more than we lose. Some of the pros may be mutual protection, as mentioned before, financial support, various forms of grants, stable currency or free movement. Therefore I consider being a part of the EU important.

For me EU is a thing of culture, cooperation and safety. It provides a channel through which we can share things but stay who we are at the same time. Cooperation - travelling, trade, no border limitations. Safety - cooperation of army and police units when needed.

I don't feel so much part of the EU. I know, that EU helps us as a state or cities and also guarantees us some "protection", but I, as an individual, probably don't realize it much every day of my life.

It's not really important for me to be in the EU because I haven't really looked into the pros and cons.

On the contrary, being part of the European Union is very important to me, because it is important for my country, for a higher standard of the country and for the cooperation of countries in Europe.

It gives me mobility to work and study in multiple different countries and cultures, without needing to put in too much effort.

We are a part of something greater than us. We can travel, study, work abroad. We can meet new people more easily and get to know their culture. We can work together and built something greater than we would be able alone.

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This answer is similar to the one before.. the unity of European Union is more important than ever, so definitely yes

I dont see reason why shoud EU be important for me, i dont even see need for european union becose trade and free movement is possible even without brusel

Because I live in Czech republic

I believe it is very important at this moment in time to belive in the european nation and to feel as a nation. After Brexit the european nation felt weaker, less desirable than before, but know facing a new war I feel more secure knowing I live in a country that i port of the european nation.

I am proud of my nation now though. I am proud of our Ukrainian army. I am proud of Ukrainian people, that want to have independent country. And of course it is hard times for Ukraine, but we will stand these hard times, because whole world is with us in some way.



## Conclusions

The results show that in addition to a strong sense of belonging to the EU, aspects of identification with national identity, native place and native language persist. Nevertheless, there is also a visible acceptance of the nation's inclusion in the wider European culture and an awareness of the importance of English language proficiency for the ability to be a valid citizen of the European area.

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