



Education and Culture DG
'Europe for Citizens' Programme



Generation '89
www.generation89.eu

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The **"Generation '89"** project commemorated the fall of communism in Europe through the lens of young people born in 1989. Young people from the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary have lived their lives in a different historical context than previous generations did. Hence, the main objective of this project was to bring together these young people and to offer a space where they could share experiences and expectations for the future. The participants were invited to attend simultaneous two-day meetings in Bucharest, Brussels, Prague and Warsaw in order to develop the "Generation '89" Declaration, a vital manifesto assembled by young people which gives voice to the new citizens of a free Europe.

Project objectives

* to gather young people born in 1989 in order to discover similarities and differences in their history and societies, and to get them actively involved as EU citizens in developing ideas and proposals for the future by drafting a Declaration of Generation '89, which will be presented to European and national institutions, namely Ministries and Agencies for Youth, Education and Labour;

* to give the generation that lived through the events of 1989 the opportunity to express their diverse views – as both protagonists and spectators – on that crucial year for Europe, as seen both at that time and 20 years later.



Mr Václav Havel
Patron of the project "Generation '89"
Former President of the Czech Republic

"I think that it's really a general rule that young people are somehow not yet jaded, spent and worn down by life. They have a fresher outlook, more curiosity, more energy, more sensibility to a variety of injustices. They may be less experienced and can waste energy in all sorts of ways, but they have a fundamental sensibility. This is quite understandable and comprehensible and there are many examples to back it up, examples from different countries where that fight against repression, against dictatorship, against a totalitarian system, has been driven predominantly by the energy of young people. That's the way things turned out in Czech history, too... I think it's terribly important for [young people] not to take their freedoms for granted, for them to be aware that they might be threatened, that there are many parts of the world where those freedoms are lacking, and that the onset of violence and the suppression of freedom are often quite inconspicuous... Civic courage is possible anytime, anywhere, but it has to be done with care and sensitivity and we have to start with ourselves... You have to begin with the imperative that you're responsible for the whole world. If young people take that kind of position, then there's hope. It's actually the only hope there is."

Interview with Václav Havel - The Power of the Powerless (2009) - documentary

Václav Havel
♡



Mr Horia-Roman Patapievici
President of the Romanian Cultural Institute
First Vice-President of the European Union National Institutes for Culture – EUNIC Europe

More than a year ago, the European Union National Institutes for Culture came up with the idea of marking 20 years since the great changes of 1989 through initiating a platform dedicated to young people keen to have their views and contributions as citizens taken into account.

EUNIC's "Generation '89" represents a great opportunity for the constructive exchange of ideas and perceptions among young people born in 1989, citizens of nine European countries. During the April 2010 meetings in Brussels, Bucharest, Prague and Warsaw, the key element was dialogue – connecting individuals with different cultural backgrounds and life experiences.

The discussions were triggered by reflections on totalitarianism and the fall of communism in Europe. With this background, the participants debated some of the most pressing challenges of the moment and they creatively imagined together what the Europe of the future should look like.

We invest high hopes in younger generations, but these should not be understood as a burden, as an obligation to fulfill others' expectations. They should instead be taken as encouragement. These young Europeans need the right environment and tools to share experiences and develop and express their own opinions. As such a tool, EUNIC's "Generation '89" project needs to go beyond international youth exchanges and become a genuine medium to promote and implement active citizenship among young people.

I believe that the Generation '89 Declaration, representing the crossroads of hopes, expectations and ways these young Europeans relate to their future, will truly inspire decision-makers in Brussels and across our European Union.



Mr Dan Mircea Duță
General manager of the project "Generation '89"
Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Prague, President EUNIC Czech Republic

"Generation '89" is a project developed in nine European countries under the coordination of EUNIC Czech Republic, under the presidency of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Prague. It is the second multi-cluster project of EUNIC – European Union of National Institutes for Culture. We started the "Generation '89" project with the firm conviction that it would strengthen EUNIC and the spirit of cooperation between the cultural institutes. Many institutions from nine countries cooperated constructively and managed to implement the project, in spite of some expected and other unpredicted difficulties. I am very happy that we managed to solve the various problems encountered and push the project forward.

Initially developed thanks to the grant from the Citizenship 2007-2013 Programme of the European Commission, with legal support from the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest, the project also benefited from the substantial financial support of EUNIC members, including: the Austrian Cultural Forum, the British Council, the Bulgarian Cultural Institute, the Czech Centres, the Wallonia-Brussels Delegations, the Goethe-Institut, the Hungarian Cultural Centre, the Flemish Representation, the Polish Cultural Institute, the Romanian Cultural Institute, and various national partners. I would like to thank them, as well as all jury members, moderators, speakers, guests and – last but not least – all of my colleagues who worked for many months, for their generous support and involvement in the "Generation '89" project.

We all, together with the young participants in the project, proved once more our devotion to European values, our European conscience, our European spirit.

THE "GENERATION '89" DECLARATIONS

The four **"Generation '89"** Declarations represent, as a single statement, the voice of young citizens of the EU speaking about their European future. Taking as their point of departure the events of the year 1989, the participants in this project developed a four-part document in which they stated their hopes and wishes for a better life as citizens of the EU. With different cultural backgrounds and different experiences as citizens of the EU, the representatives of the young generation debated the past and imagined the future as they would like to see it. The Declaration, in four parts, deals with education, employment, culture, social issues, migration, equal opportunities, the environment, economic issues, and the role of Europe in the world.

BRUSSELS DECLARATION

Preamble

We, the first free generation of a united Europe, born in the historic year of 1989, gathered in Brussels, declare our readiness to take our share of responsibility to deal with the issues facing the European and global community in the world of the 21st century.

The European Union is a place where different cultures interact, and where we aspire to live in unity through diversity and share common values.

After 20 years of progress in finding common values among Member States, the biggest challenge that still remains, particularly with regard to the new Member States in the EU, is to overcome the inequalities that still exist.

We ask the European Parliament to join our efforts in shaping a better future for the European community by carefully considering our Declaration and addressing the issues outlined below:

Europe in the world / Foreign Policy

We want to promote greater transparency among the EU and other countries in the world, as well as strengthen relations with the main trading partners of the EU.

We want to promote the history, heritage and identity of the EU as a whole outside the European Union.

We want to continue to make independent decisions that protect and promote our interests and ideals as a world leader.

We encourage diplomatic solutions rather than military ones.

We want to support developing countries.

We want to promote constructive debate on reaching a Common Foreign Policy without excluding any EU Member State.

Economics

We want to promote the image of the EU as one economic force.

We will endeavour to tighten up financial market regulations and increase transparency in the banking system.

We find it crucial to take certain measures to limit the impact of a possible future banking crisis.

We believe it is imperative to reassess existing policies regarding the Euro.

We believe there is a need to balance the large disparity among subsidies for agriculture across the EU.

We want to encourage production in non-European developing countries in order to create an alternative source for imports.

Digital economy

We want to create a micro-finance instrument for young people and small companies that will act as an incentive in this domain.

We want to create and improve existing e-government websites for each country in the EU in order to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy (e.g., online applications for IDs and paying taxes; easy access to information; etc.).

We want to build trust in the digital economy by enhancing safety regulations and privacy.

It is essential that we tighten restrictions on piracy and internet crime.

By providing more public investment, we would like to facilitate greater access to the internet.

Culture

Culture is a unifying force within the diversity of Europe, bringing its inhabitants together. It is a means to reflect the past and present identity in order to avoid misunderstandings in the future. Along with its social importance, culture may have a beneficial impact on the economy.

For these reasons, we find it imperative to ensure transparency and reduce bureaucracy when accessing EU grants, and to broaden their availability according to their quality and likely impact, rather than the support of political or institutional interests.

Education

Education is the single most important factor determining the development of a society. International mobility within education is an essential condition for an open society and therefore should be further supported, developed and stimulated.

We find inspiration in the working education models of Scandinavian countries, for instance: providing access to private subjects in education; introducing the voucher system; reducing bureaucracy and finally, encouraging the plurality of pedagogic approaches at every school level.

We encourage all Member States to create a central database for higher education accessible to national and foreign students (using a model such as UK's UCAS).

We would like to emphasize that education is not only a form of preparation for future employment, but it also shapes the humanistic principles of a civic society.



Social Issues

We would like to express our support for the general values of the European social system. As a generation that will face unforeseen demographic changes, we would like to identify ageing populations as a serious social problem.

We find it important to support parenthood by improving access to, for example: kindergartens, part-time jobs, 'time credits'/career break.

The mobility of European citizens should be supported by the full mobility of social rights.

Environment

As representatives of Generation '89 and young people more generally, we feel responsible to give a positive example to the next generations by leading, supporting and promoting a sustainable existence.

Facing possibly one of the most challenging problems of modern society – namely, climate change – we want to urge more EU members to increase their usage of renewable energy sources, and to adopt policies to further reduce CO2 emissions, such as abolishing coal as the most polluting source of energy.

We support transport that is environmentally friendly, such as long-distance travel by trains, localized public transport, and commuting with bicycles as a carbon-free means of transport.

We must raise awareness among people about the implications of irresponsible use of natural resources. Hence, Member States need to implement policies to reach higher targets for recycling and adequate waste disposal.

We would like to promote incentives for eco-friendly buildings.

Employment

We would like to continue to support the mobility of workers throughout Europe.

Preventing the brain-drain is very important. We would like to do this through funding programmes that encourage qualified workers from abroad to return to their countries of origin, set up homes or companies, and attract other qualified EU citizens.

Creating incentives to attract qualified non-EU individuals to come to the EU is also necessary.

We support an increase in the information flow to EU citizens concerning their rights and opportunities, which would include initiatives such as migration profiles.

We support an EU policy that ensures that all EU citizens can enjoy the benefits of a "flexicurity" system.

We support the promotion of EU initiatives that create jobs.

Migration

We propose a RoadMap to address the EU issue of immigration, with the ultimate goal of having a common EU policy on immigration.

We support EU initiatives to facilitate the integration of migrants and ethnic minorities, while acknowledging that the will to do so must come from both sides.

Equal Opportunities

We find it necessary to support the need for EU-wide quotas to prevent gender discrimination.

We support the creation of a pan-European platform for aiding the reintegration of older workers.

Challenging the mindset of employers and guaranteeing the active participation of older workers are of significant importance.

Signatories:

Samuel Bahlsen (Germany), Daniel Luță-Dumitrașcu (Romania), Jáchym Hercher (Czech Republic), Verena Hörmann (Austria), Marius Iliescu (Romania), Izabela Kołodziej (Poland), Tomáš Kopečný (Czech Republic), Viktor Sándor Kovács (Hungary), Václav Krajiňanský (Czech Republic), Caitlin Mills Lyle (UK), Florian Lüdtker (Germany), Boriana Madjarova (Bulgaria), Patricia Muhlbauer (Austria), Alexandru Bogdan Seran (Romania), Deyana Stareva (Bulgaria), Magdalena Surówka (Poland), David Tóth (Hungary), Bartosz Wiśniewski (Poland).

BUCHAREST DECLARATION

We, the people of Europe born in 1989, in order to shape a better European Union, maintain peace, enjoy freedom, live democracy, stand-up for solidarity, ensure stability, and contribute to our common prosperity, establish this declaration to promote our vision for a better future.

European cultural identity

Cultural diversity is an important part of our European identity. We should emphasize the importance of knowing our European culture, as it has direct implications on our education.

From an outside perspective, one can see only one European culture; but as a European citizen, you see a multicultural continent divided by political and geographical barriers. As Generation '89 sees it, the EU is foremost divided between East and West. The East strongly appreciates the EU identity, given that they fought for freedom and tend not to take it for granted, whereas the West grew up free.

We recommend that European institutions become more open to citizens. This aim can be achieved by enhancing their adaptability to regional differences and through the adoption of more citizen-oriented policies. Law- and policy-making should be more transparent and personal accountability increased. Accessibility to EU institutions and cooperation with national governments should be increased.

In order to overcome ignorance and stereotypes, we should try to develop more integrated intercultural relationships. We emphasize the importance of knowing our European culture as an aspect of education. We should increase and promote networking programmes across Europe, as today we have the necessary means to implement them.

As a young generation using the mass media as means of information, we suggest more transparent, accurate and appealing communication concerning Member States and the EU in various media. National media should be responsible for transmitting information in a manner that attracts and motivates people to take part in EU issues.





Youth active citizenship

Citizenship is the sum of rights and responsibilities the individual has towards different levels of communities, both national and global. We see a distinction between active and passive citizenship. Passive citizenship is the consumption of rights, without engaging fully in one's responsibilities. Active citizenship can be defined as involvement and participation in issues pertaining to society, resulting from a general awareness that affects your rights and responsibilities.

We recognize that there is widespread non-participation and political apathy amongst citizens. We focus on youth because they are the generation of the future and they need the tools to make informed decisions at a later stage, when they assume responsibilities alongside rights.

What is the problem currently with Youth Active Citizenship?

- On an educational level:
 - Some do not have access to information.
 - Some have information, but do not know how to use it.
 - A feeling of not being involved, lacking a connection to the state.
 - Insufficient formal education about civic issues.
- On a motivational level:
 - The presentation of information is not interesting.
 - Perceived stagnation of politics, "nothing is changing", politics has become non-relatable, seen as bureaucratic or unrepresentative and elitist.
- Other practical constraints: time; money.

The interaction of these factors lead to a lack of trust in the system and political apathy.

What solutions are we proposing?

- On current educational infrastructure
 - We want to complement current national education systems, not replace them. In this respect, the EU should act as an enabler. We propose that a regular class on citizenship be introduced or expanded on all educational levels.
 - We desire a high quality and quantity of "civic education" classes through innovative teaching techniques and specialized teacher training. We propose that a "global training" course take place, where teachers are made more aware of global issues and overarching political problems. In support of this, we recommend initiating an exchange similar to the Comenius Programme.
- On informal motivational techniques
 - By using non-conventional means: interactive activities, discussions, creative teaching, excursions and overarching examples from different aspects of citizenship, students will have a more holistic approach to the issues presented. This method should be student-led and focused.
- Use of Mass Media
 - By using mass media as an effective channel of communication, we will create more awareness on the subject of citizenship. The EU should provide additional funding to public or private media organizations to stimulate awareness for a global perspective on news, without interfering with freedom of expression.
 - Emphasis should be placed on social networking and information internet sites, which would be used to educate in an interactive and creative manner.

Social challenges

This topic covers many pressing issues, including social security, immigration, education, equal rights, freedom of speech, etc. We choose to focus, however, on labour, education and immigration.

When it comes to education, we believe that the educational curriculum should be more homogenous across the EU in order to assure a common educational background for young people who study in Europe. Such a curriculum must be more attractive and stimulate more creativity and innovation than existing curricula do. We emphasize the necessity to expand mobility and European exchange programmes, for both students and teachers, in order to improve the overall quality of education. Immigration is another important issue with serious implications for the EU. It must therefore have a special place on the European agenda. We find the following social problems to be particularly important: segregation, xenophobia, overcrowding and crime. Better immigration policies are needed.

These policies should address a wide range of issues, including: the so-called brain-drain, social security for immigrants, new measures for social inclusion and poverty reduction among immigrants, more efficient regulations against immigrant-smuggling, and the integration of refugees and asylum seekers.

Environmental challenges

Generation '89 is aware of the environmental challenges that have a great impact upon the quality of life. We therefore urge people to be more conscious about the environment.

We have identified some concerns and problems that affect all of us, regardless of the region or country where we live. Among these concerns, we emphasize: the lack of responsibility in using natural resources, overconsumption, pollution, poor waste management, the reliance on fossil fuels and limited use of renewable energy sources, insufficient education on environmental issues, and a low public awareness of environmental risks and legislation.

In order to reduce and solve these problems, we have identified some possible solutions. Formal or informal, education must be the main pillar of any policy concerning the environment. We recognize the necessity of a lifelong learning process on environmental issues, with information integrated in different courses or teaching materials.

Legislation, standards, and sharing of best practices are also very important for insuring a strong and efficient framework able to protect society against abuses related to environmental issues. We believe that the right to a clean environment is essential for each individual and must be included in the constitution of every member state.

Generation '89 concludes by stating that if we want to make a change we need to open our minds, be more responsible, and try to become examples of citizens who care about their planet.

Born out of the legacy of the events of 1989, we strive to learn from past mistakes in order to build a better future, while keeping our moral and spiritual values intact. We, the people who enacted this declaration, want the voice of our generation to be heard and taken into account.

Signatories:

Ștefana Bădescu (Romania), Nora Christina Berger (Austria), Josties Bettine (Germany), Dries Boeye (Belgium), Roxana Bucioacă (Romania), Anamaria Chelu (Romania), Irina Mihaela Ciortan (Romania), Miranda Clark (UK), Georgiana Constantin (Romania), Alexandra Elizabeth Hardiman (Austria), Dóra Janikovszky (Hungary), Liviu Alexandru Jujău (Romania), Dimitar Krustev (Bulgaria), Danya Lam (Bulgaria), Doris Manu (Romania), Raluca Mancu (Romania), Simona Melinte (Romania), Katarzyna Michalska (Poland), Leonida Mura (Romania), Claudia Nagel (Germany), Adriana Neagoe (Romania), Agata Olewicz (Poland), Aleksandra Paciorek (Poland), Ondřej Pavlík (Czech Republic), Michel Pepa (Belgium), Alexandra-Maria Pupos (Romania), Jonathan Pritchard (UK), Marie Prouzová (Czech Republic), Florin Rugină (Romania), Elisabeth Suci (Belgium), Cătălin Vrînceanu (Romania), Enikő Tóth (Hungary), Jan Vohryzek (Czech Republic), Alexandra Zait (Romania).

PRAGUE DECLARATION

"This is our Declaration. It is something for European people, and we come from many different European countries. It struck me that everybody left national ideas and national interests aside in order to promote universal values of the European Union and, in a larger area, of the world." (Oscar Coppieters, Prague elected delegate)

The European Union: function, scope, purpose and values

We encourage the existence and strengthening of pan-European political parties in the European Parliament. National candidate lists could be used as an initial step; such a system would ideally evolve to permit cross-national voting.

We support the direct election of the President of the European Council by citizens of the European Union.

As a means of improving the competence of the European Commission, we support selecting members of the Commission from an EU-wide talent pool without regard to nationality.

We advocate strengthening the authority of auditing and control mechanisms which oversee national budgets and independently verify reported figures.

- In the case of national or transnational economic crises, stimulus packages and economic rescue policies are encouraged; they would, however, be subject to improved control.

We encourage and support the right of the EU to initiate environmental protection policies and solutions at the international level.

- An increase in budgets and incentives for developing alternative energy sources would boost this role.
- Introducing legislative initiatives for promoting and regulating the activity of companies that produce energy would also serve this end.

We encourage the EU to speak with a unified voice based on common values, as defined by the European Charter of Human Rights and accepted environmental protection standards, while simultaneously integrating these values into both external and internal policies.

We also recommend incorporation of these common values into current and future commercial contracts.

We support the establishment of a single permanent seat on the UN Security Council representing the EU; this would replace current member state permanent representations on the Security Council.

As a means of promoting a European identity, we recommend the creation and implementation of an EU-wide curriculum, during the period of compulsory education, which emphasizes shared culture, institutional knowledge, civic participation, and European rights and values.

We support legislation which would ensure that all EU Member States allow their citizens to be able to spend one semester abroad, with full credit, before the end of compulsory education.

- Funding for this programme would be means tested, so household income levels would not influence rates of participation.

We advocate the founding of a "European University" with branch campuses in every EU member state.

We recommend increased EU investment in student scholarships, as well as greater promotion of such programmes.

- Programme guidelines would ensure an equal exchange between East and West, going both directions.
- Programmes would also place an emphasis on maximizing the number of languages in which classes are taught.

The mass media: content, access, etc.

Being the first generation to have come of age during the so-called information revolution, we believe that it is essential for the EU to organise campaigns and workshops on educating citizens about the power of media manipulation; this would preferably start in primary schools.

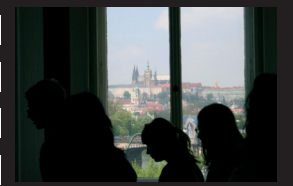
We support a positive transnational publicity campaign which discusses the internal workings of the EU in order to increase citizens' understanding of and engagement with Europe.

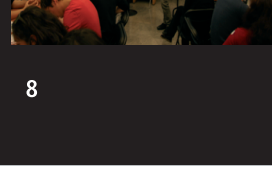
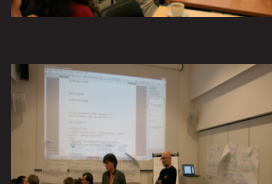
We encourage active EU support for the independence of public media in order to ensure their freedom from manipulation by political and/or business interests.

We believe the EU should provide free broadband internet access across the territories of all Member States for all citizens who desire it.

We advocate the establishment of centrally-funded, commercial-free, independent, EU-wide media consisting of a digital TV channel (with local subtitles in each country or region, as applicable), a radio station, and an electronic newsletter.

- As a means of fostering access and diversity, any EU citizen would be able to apply to create a feature or documentary programme, article, or other relevant content to be used by these media services.





Freedom and democracy

We advocate increased discussion and constructive decision-making concerning migration and asylum-seeking from non-EU countries.

- This includes establishing an official EU border police force and common migration and asylum guidelines, in line with UK standards; harmonization of guidelines will equalize burden-sharing.
- More openness within the EU to external migrants and asylum seekers, as a means of providing long-term budgetary and other benefits where populations are aging and migration is necessary for demographic reasons.

We encourage the creation of specialised EU anti-discrimination agencies with transparent rules and procedures, as well as equal access.

- Such agencies would have the authority to impose harsher punishments for discrimination and reward those who apply fair treatment.
- These anti-discrimination bodies would also promote the participation of women in politics in both the formal and informal sectors; Scandinavian practice could serve as an example.
- One unit of the anti-discrimination office would promote knowledge of history from a female perspective.
- Official policy would take into account all types of discrimination based inter alia on age, gender, religion, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, etc.

Where appropriate within the borders of Member States, we recommend a system promoting community service or education credits in exchange for social services.

We support the right of EU citizens under 26 years of age to be able to purchase standby tickets to travel on planes and trains if not fully booked.

Signatories:

Paula Amariei (Romania), Hirwa Arlette (Belgium), Mhairi Blair (UK), Camilla Born (UK), Veronika Boxanová (Czech Republic), Oscar Coppieters (Belgium), Michaela Dušková (Czech Republic), Tamara Dimova (Bulgaria), Anamaria Georgiana Flucuș (Romania), Teresa Habjan (Austria), Markus Himmelfreundpointner (Austria), Ioana Iordache (Romania), Jaroslava Jebavá (Czech Republic), Kamila Kaňovská (Czech Republic), Leona Kunayová (Czech Republic), Kamil Majchrzak (Poland), Michaela Marečková (Czech Republic), Zoltán Molnár (Hungary), Krzysztof Pacewicz (Poland), Petya Radulova (Bulgaria), Zsófia Szöllösi (Hungary), Natalia Szyszka (Poland), Martina Tesařová (Czech Republic), Christelle Umugwaneza (Belgium), Tobias Weik (Germany), Andreas Wiese (Germany).

WARSAW DECLARATION

Introduction

To all of us, born in 1989, being European citizens means movement.

Movement can cover many different concepts and terms: mobility, development, exchange of knowledge, flexibility, tolerance and choice. As countries are opening their borders, likewise people should open their minds.

In order to move and to progress, one needs to know one's origins and one needs a common aim: we would like to offer our children a European future that will not allow nations, cities, friends and families to be separated again.

In this declaration we are going to focus on two main points: education and participation in the European Union. We believe that these points will be of crucial importance for the future of the European Union.

Education

We strongly believe that a good education is of the utmost importance in order to guarantee a prosperous future for the European Union. Therefore, we want to point out the following ideas:

- By acknowledging the motto "United in Diversity" we strongly support the crossing of cultural borders.
- We, as Generation '89, emphasise the promotion of intercultural education through the learning of different European languages and the understanding of different cultures.
- Our overall aim is to promote tolerance among Europeans. Therefore, we stress the need for open-mindedness towards all social groups surrounding us. Everyone should be treated equally regardless of his/her origin, social background and/or physical or mental health/disabilities.
- We emphasise the importance of alternative methods of non-formal education in order to support/reinforce an active democratic civil society. Furthermore, we want to highlight the importance of encouraging life-long learning through a dialogue between generations.
- In order to implement these ideas into our national educational systems, we suggest creating a new school subject entitled "European Studies". This subject would cover all topics mentioned above.
- Moreover, we want to underline the fact that these ideas shall not only be directed at young people, but rather at all citizens of the European Union.
- All in all, we strongly encourage knowledge-sharing and co-existence between representatives of different cultures, ages, nationalities, levels of education and social status, since we believe sharing plays an essential role for our continuing development.
- Finally, we suggest a more intense promotion of the European Broadcast Union and European Newsletters.
- These can be used as real means of informing citizens about the impact of EU policies upon our everyday life.
- Nevertheless we do realise that, while pursuing the goals set out above, we should not neglect regional cultural identities. Our goal is to forge a common European culture that has respect for others, while actively preserving the unique character of each region.

Participation

In order to enhance participation of young people towards the European Union we suggest that:

- European citizens should be given the opportunity to access daily news concerning issues covered at the European level.
- European Youth should be given the opportunity to report on European parliamentary and other European institutional affairs, and to impart their findings by diverse means of communication more commonly associated with young people, such as social networking.
- Sessions on the responsibility of an active European citizenship should be made available in schools and universities across Europe, enabling students to come into contact with NGOs and other institutions responsible for the promotion of European projects.
- The European Union may want to introduce new incentives to promote awareness about the civic responsibilities of young people and the opportunities they have to participate in decision-making through the channel of voting.
- The European Union should develop new ideas and projects in schools engaging children in European affairs on a regular basis. These new ideas would be dispersed through innovative ways of campaigning and advertising.
- In order to promote citizens' active participation, the European Union should emphasize the use of the internet and recognize its potential as a new platform of communication, thereby assuring unrestricted access to be guaranteed by every EU member state, in accord with the basic right to free speech and information.

This Declaration has been made by young Europeans, born in 1989, from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

Signatories:

Ioana Anton (Romania), Magdalena Bajda (Poland), Tomasz Burdzik (Poland), Żaneta Czyżniewska (Poland), Virginia Denisa Dan (Romania), Thomas Deweer (Belgium), Karoline Felsner (Austria), Katharina Holst (Germany), Adam Kapcsos (Hungary), Vera Kondratiuk (Poland), Daniel Kontowski (Poland), Ewelina Krasowska (Poland), Katarzyna Kuczyńska (Poland), Iliana Lazarova (Bulgaria), Réka Livits (Hungary), Alasdair Ian William Macleod (UK), Nikolas Ott (Germany), Konrad Piwowarczyk (Poland), Simona Popa (Romania), Agnieszka Pyrkosz (Poland), Luigi Sementilli (Belgium), Karolína Šklebená (Czech Republic), Kateřina Šustrová (Czech Republic), Ondřej Wagner (Czech Republic), Barbara Wasilewska (Poland), Céline Wiertz (Belgium), Judith Woerle (Austria), Georgina Wright (UK).



PROGRAMME OF THE MEETINGS AND IMPRESSIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS AND MODERATORS

BRUSSELS MEETING

25th April

- Arrival and registration in Leuven
- Walking guided tour of Leuven

26 th April

- Welcome speeches by EUNIC Brussels representative, project coordinator Ms Carmen Ducaru, representative of hosting organisation – the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe – Mr Malachy Vallely
- Four sessions of presentations, video screenings, debates, workshops, drafting "Generation '89"
- Plenary session – presenting the drafts of the "Generation '89" Declaration

27 th April

- Workshop – Declaration round-up session
- Visit to the European Parliament
Tour of the Parliament
Meeting with MEPs:
Rafał Trzaskowski (Poland) – Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
László Tőkés (Romania) – Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Member of the Committee on Culture and Education
- Visit to Musée Magritte
- Final round of discussions to conclude the two full days of the programme and "Generation '89" Declaration

28th April

- Departure

Host: the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe

Moderators' impressions:

Carmen Păun

The Secretary General of the European Youth Press, a network for young media makers all over Europe

"My expectations of the meeting were surpassed. I was expecting to meet some youngsters more interested in discovering what Europe is all about and being at the beginning of this discovery path. Instead, I was surprised by how informed they were on many policies of the European Union and about the very clear and detailed vision they had about the next 10 years of the Union. They were really competitive, ambitious and many of them were even trying to impose their point of view and show that they know what they were talking about. (...) I believe Generation '89 is made of realistic and ambitious youngsters who have known what they want from early on and who also have the means to achieve their objectives."

Tracy D'After

Independent communications consultant, author of the book *Europeans on the Move* for the European Commission's Year of Worker's Mobility

"The students were fantastic. Each and every one of them contributed to the discussions in a mature and well-informed way, much beyond my expectations. They were so hungry to learn from each other's experiences and also eager to question the current policies of the EU and what they could do to suggest improvements. They had also put a lot of thought into their videos with some taking different and varying angles on the theme of '89. (...) Some included interviews of parents, teachers or mentors talking about what it was like to live through 1989 and the impressions they had had as young people then. Such accounts should be documented as they are of interest to all Europeans so that we can learn from one another and build a better Europe for the future. I was truly uplifted by the level of thought that went into some of these videos. (...) I really believe, and even more so now that I have participated in the event, that Generation '89 and indeed any initiative that brings together young Europeans from all Member States to discuss and exchange their ideas is a fantastic initiative. With such gifted youngsters as the ones on this programme, I feel confident that we will have a better, stronger Europe in the future."

Maja Wolny

Writer, cultural operator and journalist, holder of the European Diploma on Cultural Project Management 2006, and author of different volumes and studies on migration and the challenges of intercultural relations between people

"All of the students were encouraged to take an active part in the debate. One of the most controversial topics (at the end excluded from the Declaration by the majority of our group) was the question of establishing a minimum percentage for culture from each of the Member States. (...) The participants felt a strong need to emphasize that education is not only a preparation for future employment, but that it shapes our civic society. (...) As the subject 'social issues' is very broad, the group decided to define the biggest social problem and concentrate on it. The choice was aging as it affects the other areas of the social system like employment, retirement, healthcare etc. (...) They see climate change as one of the most challenging global problems. The participants made a strong point by demanding, for example, the abolishment of coal as the most polluting source of energy. Some of them are very critical towards the environment policy in their countries and expressed their hope for a European solution."

Participants' impressions:

"It was a genuine pleasure for me to meet everyone and I believe that sharing our cultures, heritage and aspirations for the future is a small step to bringing our countries together." – Boriana Madjarova (Bulgaria)

"It was a real pleasure for me to have the opportunity to be a participant in this wonderful meeting. I feel it had some important impact on me, as I was talking with so many great people under your guidance and constructing ideas as well as getting to know other students from other countries. I am sincerely grateful for the whole meeting and wish you good luck in your future activities in this field or any other (even though I hope you'll continue doing things like that, as I take it for such an amazing experience)." – Tomáš Kopečný (Czech Republic)



"A lot of experience: meeting new, nice, intelligent and interesting people, travelling around Belgium, experience of a 'diplomatic-like' event and the use of and practicing my English. (...) I would like to express my gratitude to EUNIC, and especially the Romanian Cultural Institute for their tireless efforts and organisation of this event. The programme was really exciting, and the organisers and moderators were nice, friendly and helpful. It was good to meet so many like-minded people from my age, and I think we have made friendships during this short time!" – David Tóth (Hungary)

"The unique opportunity of having outlined, in an international framework, a declaration of the hopes and fears of my generation for future Europe. (...) An amazing project that left its mark on me from a personal, cultural and academic point of view." – Patricia Muhlbauer (Austria)

BUCHAREST MEETING

25th April

- Arrival
- Informal dinner

26th April

- Welcome speeches: Mr Zoltan Bretter, Director of the Hungarian Cultural Institute in Bucharest, Mr Petre Dumitru, Information and Communication Officer, Representation of the European Commission in Romania, Ms Tania Radu, Vice-President of the Romanian Cultural Institute
- Presentation by the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, followed by discussions
- Projection of the video-interviews made by the participants
- Meeting and discussions with Romanian film director Corneliu Porumboiu

27th April

- Two sessions: workshops on the "Generation '89" Declaration
- Presentation of the exhibition „A story of freedom" by Mrs Iulia Deutsch, Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania
- Pantomime show: "Romania. Closed for inventory"
- Press event

28th April

- Presentation and discussions on European youth policies
- "Generation '89" Declaration – round-up and presentation
- Feedback session
- Departure

Host: Representation of the European Commission in Romania

Moderators' impressions:

Liana Ganea

Member of Media Monitoring Agency (member of the Reporters without Borders Network), coordinator of the programme 'FreeEx – Freedom of Expression' (freedom of speech and media accountability). In the "Generation '89" project, moderator of "Social Challenges" workshop:

"Being in the middle of these young people has been an invigorating experience. They are young and idealistic, but they are pragmatic at the same time, willing to learn new things, and, most importantly, willing to change the rules of their cities, and their countries. The impression was that their creativity and their power come from the mixture of the different backgrounds they came with in the debates. Hopefully they will use this power in the future."

Manuela Preoteasa

Founding member of the Romanian Center for European Policies, managing partner of the Brussels-based website EurActiv.ro and the HotNews.ro news portal, associated professor and a media researcher. In the "Generation '89" project, moderator of "Youth Active Citizenship" workshop:

"The young people were extremely interested in the discussed topics. In the workshop I moderated, they proved structured thinking skills, good knowledge of the field and of the governing mechanism, desire for involvement in responsible citizenship. Points where I felt like I wanted to have the opportunity to work more: more freedom and creativity in addressing the issues or, in other words, a creative approach would be more encouraged by short sessions of brainstorming, correlated with highly organised workshops, as was the one that I had the honour to participate in. In short: words of praise both for the program and for the participants, equally interested and interesting."

Csibi Magor

Former Member of the European Parliament, currently works as a journalist at Hotnews.ro – coordinator of the project "Think outside the box" (project on ecology and healthy lifestyle). In the "Generation '89" project, moderator of "Environmental challenges" workshop:

"Meeting Generation '89 was a genuinely interesting experience for me. There is no way for a man to accurately evaluate himself, nor to evaluate his own generation. Meeting these young colleagues has helped me realise how "modern" and "novel" my perceptions on the current state of society really are, but at the same time it has shown me how those who come behind me think. I discovered active people, concerned with the things around them, people who easily interact with each other and who think in a more practical way than my generation did at their age. The most pleasant surprise was to discover young people who not only "talk the talk", but also live by the principles they talk about. This gives me hope that the future generation will make a real step towards true change."

Cristian Ghinea

Director of the Romanian Center for European Policy, editor and columnist, involved in various civic projects, working in the most important NGOs in Romania: Academic Society from Romania, APADOR-CH, Freedom House Romania, and Center for Independent Journalism. In the "Generation '89" project, moderator of "European Cultural Identity" workshop:

"I was afraid I wouldn't find common ground for discussion with people born in freedom, people who take it for granted. I was afraid my world and theirs were so different, that a common language could not exist. I was glad to see that my initial expectations were wrong and that the European youth born in 1989 had not only their own opinions, but also a great capacity to listen and understand."



Participants' impressions:

"Personally, it was an experience that made me think of my future in Europe and not think about a future in Belgium." – Michel Pepa (Belgium)

"The opportunity to meet people from different countries, discuss important matters, visit a beautiful place and feel Romania!" – Agata Olewicz (Poland)

"A lot of insight into other European cultures, I got to get to know Bucharest (yes, I did), insight in politics, a better understanding of the history of Romania. (...) I will say it was an amazing experience to connect young European citizens and motivate them to get more involved with politics." – Claudia Nagel (Germany)

"Mainly I have enlarged my views about how we young people can make a difference through international collaboration. (...) A very fruitful project." – Ștefana George (Romania)

"It has been absolutely unforgettable, motivating and thought provoking and I loved every minute of it." – Miranda Clark (UK)

"It was the thing that got me closer to politics than I've ever been. And, for my personal surprise, I did enjoy that side of the project. It was not as overwhelmingly serious and formal as one could expect, it was just the opposite. At the same time, I feel glad that we had the chance to discuss some serious issues concerning the involvement of youth in European policy." – Dimitar Krastev (Bulgaria)

PRAGUE MEETING

25th April

- Arrival and registration
- Informal dinner

26th April

- Welcome speeches by the President of EUNIC Czech Republic cluster, Mr Dan Duță, and Mr Heinrich Bloemke, Director of Goethe-Institut in Prague, the host of the meeting
- Opening speeches: EUNIC Czech Republic members, Ms Brigitte Luggin – communication officer of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, Dr Jonathan Terra – Senior Lecturer, Anglo-American University in Prague, Mr Jan Bubenik – participant in the Czechoslovak Revolution in 1989
- Parallel events:
 - Opening documentary screening on 1989 events in the Czech Republic
 - Press conference
- Three sessions: video-interviews presentations followed by reflection and discussion
- Visit to Libri Prohibiti - Library of Samizdat and Exile Literature

27th April

- Four sessions: workshops on detailed themes in groups, with introduction speeches by invited guests: Mr Jan Urban, journalist and human rights advocate, and Mr Šimon Pánek, director of the humanitarian NGO "People in Need"
- Visit of the Czech Centre Prague in the presence of the Director General of Czech Centres, Mr Michael W. Pospíšil
- Performance "Chance '89 - Window of Opportunity" at Archa Theatre with active involvement of selected participants

28th April

- Declaration draft presentation followed by discussion
- Round-up session on the "Generation '89" Declaration
- Sightseeing / Departure

Host: Goethe-Institut in Prague

Moderators' impressions:

Jan Macháček

Journalist, co-founder and currently deputy editor in chief of the first independent media outlet in the country, the weekly Respekt (original title: Information Service), board member of Transparency International in the Czech Republic

Petr Roubal

PhD in contemporary history, researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences at the Department of Post-1989 Democratic Transition History

"Being part of the Generation '89 project was a revealing and, at times, surprising experience. (...) The workshop with students clearly contributed to their (and my) better understanding of current European issues and the complexities of inter-cultural cooperation. In the role of moderator I had the chance to observe how the students coped with the challenge of formulating their views on Europe clearly and concisely. I was impressed by the common will of the students to reach a compromise, consensus and common goal on the Declaration. As far as the text of the Declaration is concerned, the most surprising issue for me was the openness of the students to immigration, which they saw as a benefit rather than a loss."

Jonathan Terra

PhD in political science, Senior Lecturer at the Anglo-American University in Prague, political consultant, and external advisor to the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) at the European Commission in Brussels

"The Generation '89 conference in Prague was an unusual opportunity for young people at that turning point in their lives when important decisions about career and values come into sharp focus. Being 20 years old is both a time to listen and a time to be heard. Our gathering was an intense and fruitful example of what happens when a genuine dialogue takes place, and people remain open to the ideas and viewpoints of others of their own generation, as well as generations that came before them. Perhaps more important, those of us who were already in our twenties during the collapse of communism in 1989 were able to listen to a new generation voice



their concerns and express their views on issues that matter to them. We were also able to prepare the most important points of consensus among the young conference participants to pass on to decision makers at the core of pan-European institutions in Brussels and elsewhere. In this way the multinational Generation '89 project remains, and will continue to remain, a living event. Ideas encountered will continue to provoke. Bonds forged will continue to strengthen.

The cracking honesty of our discussion of ideas, values and the world-altering changes the past two decades have brought to a united Europe more than justified the Herculean efforts of the conference organizers to get us all together for three days in four cities. The Generation '89 gathering has given us all – irrespective of our country of origin – a much better idea of what we've learned about ourselves and our societies since the birth of political pluralism and free markets in the Eastern half of Europe. It has also shown us what lies ahead for those who will soon be at the helm of a peaceful and united European continent, where a rich diversity of societies, institutions and interests will continue to create both opportunities and challenges.

After three days of frank but friendly discussion, I can safely say that I believe the future of Europe is in good hands. In this respect, the Generation '89 conference was not only a success on its own terms. It can be seen equally as a measure of just how far the European project of Messrs. Monet, Schuman and others, an idea born of rather modest origins when six countries signed the Treaties of Rome in 1957, has evolved into a Union of 27 countries with a common future. We need to make sure the seeds planted during three days in spring 2010 in Prague, Warsaw, Bucharest and Brussels are also allowed to grow. With the overwhelming interest students showed when presented the opportunity to deliver the conference declarations in person to EU representatives in Brussels, we already have evidence that roots are forming and buds are breaking."

Participants' impressions:

"Being able to hear such inspiring speakers and meeting some great people. (...) A lot of inspiration and itchy feet to want to do something! Also some really good contacts and an enthusiasm to do more. (...) I had the time of my life!" – Camilla Born (United Kingdom)

"Knowledge, friends, answers to many questions that I had in my mind and more questions to be solved in the future. (...) The most fruitful experience in my life until 21." – Georgiana Anamaria Flucus (Romania)

"New friends, information about year 1989 in Romania and Bulgaria and also I had chance to hear personal stories and experiences. I enjoyed discussing and making our Declaration. Before this project I didn't have the chance to do something like that. (...) It really gave me a lot and I think I changed some of my ideas and also this project gave me ideas to think about." – Kamila Kaňovská (Czech Republic)

"I liked especially that people came here with enthusiasm to deal with the topics. And generally I enjoyed and learned most from discussions and the process of democratic making decisions." – Martina Tesařová (Czech Republic)

"I learned so much about the recent European history and I really had fun!" – Teresa Habjan (Austria)

"It was a great chance to see how an Official Declaration was being made, to hear interesting information and facts about European Union and to practice English as well. This experience also helped me realise what huge gaps we can find in the Hungarian education system, and how learned a 20 year old can be. This journey was definitely useful." – Zoltán Molnár (Hungary)

"I learnt a lot about the year 1989: there were many aspects of history I wasn't aware of. I discovered a lot and learnt also a lot about myself and realized there was more than one way to think of what Europe should be like in the future. It was very enriching! This has been from far the greatest experience I've ever taken part in! If we do want to develop an European identity, this is where it starts!" – Christelle Umugwaneza (Belgium)

"I hope our declaration will have a little influence on Europe's development." – Tobias Weik (Germany)

WARSAW MEETING

25th April

- Arrival and registration
- Team-building session

26th April

- Presentation of participants' videos about 1989 and respective short presentation of archival documents about 1989 and younger Polish history
- Visit of Polish organizations and meetings with their representatives, in separate groups: Centre for Contemporary Art at the Ujazdowski Castle, Association of the Creative Initiatives "E", Center for Citizenship Education, Lambda Association, Campaign Against Homophobia, Partners Poland Foundation, Polish is a Woman Foundation, Warsaw Continent, Warsaw House under the Fountain, Polish Representation's of the European Commission in Warsaw, Youth in Action, Welcome Centre.

27th April

- Visit of Polish organizations and meetings with their representatives, in separate groups: Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Me Vistula Foundation, Zachęta National Gallery of Art
- Reports on visited institutions, work on the "Generation '89" Declaration

28th April

- Departure

Host: History Meeting House

Programme developed under the local auspices of the Mayor of Warsaw, Ms Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz.



Moderators:

Piotr Pacewicz

Journalist, founder and currently deputy editor chief of "Gazeta Wyborcza", initiator of many social campaigns, commentator on human rights

"Thank you for the invitation to take part in this project – we were very satisfied with the work of our team – nice people, who think, who are interested, energetic and very European."

Alicja Pacewicz

Co-founder, vice-president of the board, programme director and editor of the Center for Citizenship Education

Participants' impressions:

"I loved the people there, so many cultures, so many habits, so many different points of view on the same problem. I also enjoyed the city and the way the organisers combined diversities." – Denisa Dan (Romania)

"Now I have new ideas for my future life. I opened myself to many new and different things. I realized that there are so many things that I still don't know and I have to learn, so many places I have to visit, so many ideas which are worth to fight for." – Ewelina Krasowska (Poland)

"New friends, more perspectives, information and invaluable experience. I am even more enthusiastic about finishing my education and becoming a responsible and 'moving' European citizen. (...) Enriching, symbolic... 20 years after the fall of communism with my peers from all over Europe; unforgettable; challenging to my points of view." – Iliana Lazarova (Bulgaria)

"I learnt a lot during the discussions as well as from the experiences from the participating people and projects. I also got a clearer idea about what I want to do later on, how I want to participate in a shared European future." – Judith Woerle (Austria)

"[Through this project, I gained] New ambitions and beliefs towards the EU, new perspectives of other countries towards EU politics." – Nikolas Ott (Germany)

"... what I saw, what I heard, experienced taught me a lot about the year 1989 in itself, about Poland's and then specifically Warsaw's historical background. We were introduced to organisations; we started a discussion yet to be continued, a spirit of hope..." – Thomas Deweer (Belgium)

JURIES

A panel consisting of jury members in each participating country selected the participants from that country based on the application form. The application form included an essay on the theme "What can I do for Europe and what can Europe do for me? How do I see myself as an EU citizen in 5–10 years?". The applicant should have developed the structure of the essay around one or more of the following topics: Education, Employment, Culture, Social issues, Migration, Equal Opportunities, Environment, Economics, and Europe in the world. The selection criteria were: relevance of the issues raised, feasibility and vision in treating the topics raised, the ability to develop new, innovative and creative solutions, structure and coherence in presenting ideas, English skills.

Austria

Margit Wogowitzsch – International University Relations, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

Julita Carmen Ratzemberger – Responsible for Information and Communication, Public Relations, European Commission Representation in Austria

Tatjana Langasková – President, EUNIC Vienna

Belgium

Maïté Abram – Director, Mouvement Européen-Belgique

Andrei Țârnea – President, EUNIC Brussels

Jonathan Brennan – Head of Communication, British Council - Brussels

Bulgaria

Alexandre Nedeltchev – General Secretary, Café Babel Sofia

Bogdana Chichkova – European Relations and Politics, Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic

Dan Mircea Duță – President, EUNIC Czech Republic

David Weber – Institute for Contemporary History

Gwen Hardcastle – Teacher, British Council - Prague

Germany

Martin Krafl – Director, Czech Centres - Berlin

Dr. Felix Ackermann – Director, „Geschichtswerkstatt Europa" at the Europa-Universität Viadrina

Matthew Beavers – Project Coordinator, British Council - Berlin

Hungary

Katalin Gáboros – Head of Administration, Open Society Archives

Christopher Ryan – Visiting Lecturer at ELTE University of Budapest, Faculty of Arts

Dóra Fober – Assistant, European Commission Representation in Hungary

Poland

Anna Kozdój – Politics of Multilingualism, European Commission Representation in Poland

Ewelina Pękała – Producer, Events Department, History Meeting House in Warsaw

Kliment Trenkow – Director's Assistant, Bulgarian Cultural Institute - Warsaw

Karolina Rutkowska – Expert, Promotion and Information Department, Foundation for the Development of the Education System - Warsaw

Romania

Sorin Gherguț – Head of the Press Bureau, Romanian Cultural Institute - Bucharest

Sorin Cuceraï – Political Philosopher

David Lewis – Teacher, British Council - Bucharest

UK

Ladislav Pflimpfl – Director, Czech Centres - London

Steve Green – EUNIC Presidency Support Team

Dorian Branea – Director, Romanian Cultural Institute - London

Ben Harris – British Council's Representative to EUNIC London

APPLICANTS' QUOTATIONS

Austrian participants:

"The EU has to be sustained by its people, because it's not only the institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg that make the EU." – Nora Christina Berger

"The EU – just like Generation '89 – is still growing, still learning and trying to find its place in the world. We have the tools to make it a Union, not only in legal or political terms, but in a philosophical, social and empirical sense. We shall not waste this unique chance." – Teresa Habjan

"My fellow colleagues and I would undoubtedly differ as for our background, culture, education and/or nationality; however, we would all share the year of our birth: a year of incredible emotion and political revolution that made the world hold its breath for a moment." – Patricia Muhlbauer

"I will live and work in a world which I inherited from my parents and for which I am now responsible. (...) It is our turn to make the world a place we really want to live in. It is our task to make Europe a place where we can see our future take shape. At least we can start to try. Right now." – Judith Woerle

Belgian participants:

"Every State needs to keep its own values, and maintain its own culture, traditions, and the memory of its history. (...) The implication for everyone also depends on our expectations about the EU." – Céline Wiertz

"Our generation is one of the earliest global generations. In order to make a global society that is favourable for all its inhabitants, we need co-ordination on a new dimension. The EU creates this new dimension but its potential is still not used fully." – Dries Boeye

"Even if we come from different origins, we are all heading to the same future, and we are the ones capable of building a new great Europe." – Arlette Hirwa

"If the EU fails to be more coherent, other nations in the world, such as emerging countries which are willing to have a more and more important role in the world's affairs, will then take up the challenge." – Christelle Umugwaneza

"My motivation for participating in this project is fuelled by the recognition that the possibilities of human happiness and freedom are still being denied in our current global society. (...) I do truly hope the EU can set a global example of a society that is altruistic instead of egoistic." – Oscar Coppieters

"To avoid there being a non-Europe at the centre of the EU, the EU has to show that it is able to develop a foreign policy designed to open its doors to the Western Balkans." – Michel Pepa

British participants:

"I believe that our future lies in our own hands and it's up to us as Europeans to cooperate together and listen to each other's solutions to world problems which won't evaporate in a lifetime." – Miranda Clark

"In the future I look to be an EU citizen who works with people throughout Europe to improve people's lives, as well as representing Europe throughout the world doing the same thing." – Alasdair Ian William Macleod

"I believe there is a fundamental difference in the level of integration witnessed by Generation '89 and the generation currently leading Europe. We have reaped the benefits of integration, and fully realise the opportunities it offers. Generation '89 will be constantly pushing forward the limits of European integration, whether it be through programs we have undergone ourselves or new ones which we develop. (...) We are, perhaps, a defining generation in many aspects. The environment hangs tenuously as a problem we can either face or allow to worsen." – Mhairi Blair

"Europe provides the stability for the economic growth that underpins our way of life. This is its lasting achievement for the generation of '89 and will be its legacy for past and future generations. We, as young adults of 20, have had the opportunity to live in democratic member states where freedom of expression is allowed - this is in great part due to the EU and the stability it has provided." – Georgina Wright

"Those of us who have grown up with the EU, and who consider it to have had a significant impact on their lives will be the ones to see and guide Europe through the changes. As a citizen I hope to be able to help with that, through social integration, voting, movement and education." – Charlotte Cook

"We are being given a tremendous opportunity to decide for ourselves what our future in the European Union is going to be like. We can use this tool to break down barriers and to build up friendships." – Caitlin Mills Lyle

Bulgarian participants:

"Communism was a horrifying social regime, which has mentally handicapped a lot of people. I believe that people should realize that it is time to move on, to be proactive and positive." – Borianna Madjarova

"Generation '89 will give me the opportunity to share my history, my family's pain and struggle during the communist period, and my visions with other young European as myself. We cannot choose how, when or where we are born, but we can choose where to go, how to live, and what trace of ourselves to leave in this world." – Deyana Stareva

"The EU is not a saviour which will rescue us from a political or economic crisis. It is a conglomerate of nations that accept their differences and work together for a better future." – Alexandrina Dimitrova

"'Generation '89' has a refreshing and more personal approach to look at the events of 1989." – Tamara Dimova

"I hope that in the next years the EU will fight corruption, not as mythical chimera, but as a real threat to society's well-being. (...) And my ultimate dream is that we are going to learn to value truth over superstition, knowledge over ignorance, love over fear, right and justice over law and authority, and all of these over money. I don't need to be a hypocrite in order to be successful." – Dimitar Krastev

Czech participants:

"I am interested in answering the call of our voice." – Martina Tesařová

"In the days of Facebook and Twitter I prefer being connected with people that share enthusiasm of being EU citizens." – Tomáš Kopečný

"The stability that the construct of the EU has brought about is beneficial for all its inhabitants. I see myself as an EU citizen representing all values that are shared across the EU and so fiercely defended. I hope to become an agent of change." – Jan Vohryzek

"I have a persuasion that EU possesses a real possibility of influencing the global agenda." – Marie Prouzová

"I consider myself an active Czech but also a proud European." – Veronika Boxanová

"Every one of us can make a change in the course of events. Participation, awareness and interest—that is what EU needs from its citizens." — Kateřina Šustrová

"We need to cherish EU values. We need to approach them not only with responsibility but also with an awareness of their fragile balance. They are worth protecting."
— Ondřej Wagner

German participants:

"Both the older and the younger history have taught me that I have an important responsibility in my actions for Europe as a German citizen." — Hannes Boehm

"I believe that a strong, accepted EU is necessary to maintain the culture and influence of all countries in Europe. I myself want to be an ambassador for the EU in and outside Europe." — Claudia Nagel

"We shouldn't hesitate to consider measures and effects already today which might concern all of us tomorrow." — Jacob Baumgartner

"... We, who were born in the year that brought together West and East ... can continue the dialogue that was started then." — Jana Bauer

"In particular, I hope to experience Europe (...) to get a feeling for Europe." — Samuel Bahlsen

"Our future expands beyond our own country, it is Europe that matters." — Nikolas Ott

"(...) During my internship in a Stasi museum I saw a picture of the many people screaming out loud their fears and hope on the 23rd of October, my date of birth. It was perhaps the most moving discovery I ever made." — Florian Lütke

"I am already looking forward to experiencing different cultural ways of life, although I am not sure whether I would prefer to have an Italian coffee every day, or listen to the beautiful sound of British English; whether to take a pub stroll in Krakow or visit the beautiful resorts at the Black Sea near Mamaia; whether to relax at a Spanish siesta or go back to a good old German potato salad." — Katharina Larissa Rilling

Hungarian participants:

"Exchanging ideas and opinions is essential to understand and accept each other's problems, and it leads to a common solution that is convenient to each participant." — David Tóth

"I, as the member of the European Union, do not want to miss my chances, I want to take my opportunities and as I mentioned in my other writings, I do not want to do it alone." — Viktor Sándor Kovács

"I consider the EU a powerful community, which cannot afford itself to let down any of its citizens and I hope that a fellowship of well educated, morally and culturally powerful people can become a great power in international history as well." — Enikő Tóth

"... The importance of community side by side with being unique individuals, and the importance of the natural environment side by side with satisfying our needs of security and comfort." — Réka Livits

"I can travel freely in Europe, and use the same currency in many countries already. This does not only make travel easy and enjoyable, but it gives us a feeling of togetherness, of being at home wherever we go. Emerging from one culture and diving into another is an experience open for all." — Zsófia Szöllösi

"My most evident experience is that crossing the border between Austria and Hungary now takes 5 seconds at a speed of 60 km per hour compared to the earlier times when we were queuing even 3-4 hours." — Dóra Janikovszky

Polish participants:

"What my parents could only see in books, I can personally experience." — Agata Olewicz

"(...) the most valuable and significant dimension of the European Union are people. The EU is a great power, being the biggest economy worldwide and the third biggest highly diversified community. It means that our voice is meaningful and cannot be ignored by anyone. According to that, what is the main aim of young people all over the Europe? To achieve the ability to reconcile the differences leading to an efficient dialogue between all nations inside the European Union and presenting its unified shape outside the community." — Bartosz Wiśniewski

"No matter what Europe is according to dictionaries, I can tell you what Europe is for me: it is my parents and high school friends in Poland, my sister's family in France and my girlfriend and university friends in Sweden." — Konrad Piwowarczyk

"I am a member of a strange generation. When my grandfather was my age, he was sitting in a Nazi labour camp with guns pointed at his face. When my mother was my age, she was attending anti-communist demonstrations with water cannons pointed at her face. And here I am, and suddenly there is no weapon pointed at my face; historically speaking, this is a strange situation. Of course, I am very glad of the fact that no one is shooting at me. However, this situation has its drawbacks—it is demotivating." — Krzysztof Pacewicz

"We discuss hopes and fears. (...) it makes me feel that somehow the ideas of young people matter. That the competences of the EU and its policies do not depend only on the governments, but on the civil society as well." — Magdalena Surówka

"As if Europe invested in us ... we are the future of Europe. (...) I remember that at the time of accession I thought we were the future of Europe and that by opening borders we were going to explore it and contribute to further changes in order to make our country a better place to live. Generation '89 gives me the means for fulfilling my dream." — Izabela Kołodziej

Romanian participants:

"European countries should stop seeing themselves always as competitors and make the effort to get through the historical conflict and cultural misconceptions dividing the west from the east." — Simona Popa

"Europe's relation to the world could be different. Perhaps by then, the European Union will be seen as an individual partner in its relations with other countries, and not as a group of individual countries pursuing their own agenda. This will depend very much on the relationship between the European citizens. Educating people to share and agree to different ideas will reduce distinctions and create common goals, while at the same time being careful to respect the diversity of the European citizens." — Filip Ciortuz

"The EU has, therefore come into existence to improve our lives, from cheaper products generated by abandoning custom taxes, reducing CO2 emissions, or travelling abroad with reduced effort. (...) The European Union is all about eliminating the gap between nations, and that provides many opportunities for individuals." — Cătălin Vrînceanu

"But what can Europe do for me? Perhaps the best thing it could do for me is, first of all, to notice me. It should take the pejorative east out of East European and stop shutting me out." — Georgiana Constantin

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Ernestine Baig – Austrian Cultural Forum

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PARTNERS

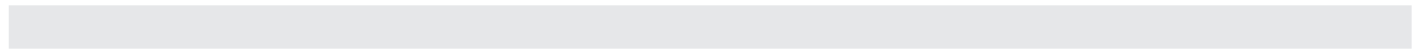
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