



Όνομα Επώνυμο	Anastasia Liopetriti
Εθνικότητα	Cypriot
Χώρα κατοικίας	Spain
Γλώσσα υποβολής	English
<p>WE HAVE A DREAM.</p> <p>I am currently writing this article from Valencia, Spain, even though I come from Cyprus. I am twenty two years old, and I count four years of studies, one Erasmus student exchange semester, active involvement in EU-related NGO's, one Erasmus Intensive Program, two Youth Exchange programs, a Training course, a Leonardo da Vinci internship and hopefully an Erasmus Mundus Master's degree scholarship. Yes, I am what you may call an EU enthusiast.</p> <p>Truth is, despite my young age, I feel like I have grown into a mature and critically-thinking woman throughout the different experiences that I have had so far. I am the kind of person who enthusiastically urges everyone to seize the opportunities the EU so abundantly offers, to live outside their mental and physical borders and to engulf every single moment that is offered to them. I feel like I have grasped every inch of what the vision of the European Union wants to transmit to its people, and the numerous invaluable experiences have molded my personality into one which sees beyond gender, race or country.</p> <p>I feel European. I feel like I belong in the same family as my German friend and my Italian roommates. We laugh together, we cook together, we even smile at the not-so-surprising fact that our mothers tend to say the exact same things, only in different languages, even though they live miles and miles apart. We're not so different as I once thought we were. And it's amazing to think that I am not alone in this. If you ask former or current Erasmus students, or people who have had the amazing opportunity to blend in different cultural environments, they will share very similar views, because that's what this does to you, it offers the possibility of looking at things from an entirely different perspective. I am deeply grateful for that.</p> <p>But at the same time, the very same people I consider my family are those people who will return to their countries only to find that society has utterly betrayed them. When I recall that an astounding number of 200 000 young Portuguese have migrated in another country, or that over 50% of young people are unemployed in Spain and Greece, I snap back to reality. And I think to myself, are these people not Europeans? If the EU has been the main reason why I have developed my critical skills and the ability to think outside the box, then why can't it do the same for the entire promising youth out there who is struggling to flourish and develop its potential in countries which do not give back half of what they receive from them?</p> <p>Indeed, I seem to be overcome with a profound bewilderment when I realize that there's a certain gap between what the EU spirit wishes to convey and how things are in reality. As a recent graduate with an honours degree, I am having a very difficult time bridging together what I really love doing and what's in demand right now in the labour market, in a divided country that still licks its wounds after an ongoing detrimental and destructive economic crisis. I am utterly and infinitely frustrated at seeing highly intelligent and ambitious young people being thwarted relentlessly by a system which fails to support them. I am deeply disenchanted with the idea of a</p>	



borderless and supportive Europe which does not fully apply in reality.

The last few weeks have been dramatic for Europe. Greece has stood its ground against the unacceptable way that is being treated and has initiated a chain of reactions which seem to demand the exact same thing I was talking about: unity. This article is a cry for unity, all over Europe. For the EU vision that Schuman once talked about, to be put into action. For a spark of hope to those who have an incessant need to grow and change the world. For a small ray of light to those who are thirsty for knowledge. For all the dreamers out there.

The answer to how EU can face the challenges of the future is simple. I call for unity. Because only a de facto united and integral Europe will rebuild and give hope to the new generations.