

Promoting the Concepts of European Identity and Values in Ukrainian University Students: Insight into the Concepts of European Identity and Values and How to Promote Them among Ukrainian University Students

LESSON 1

*WHAT IS EUROPEAN IDENTITY?
UNPACKING A COMPLEX CONCEPT*

Perceptions of Inclusion, well-being and Identification with the European Union in Ukrainian university students



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In this lesson we will explore:

- The concept of European identity
- The dimensions of European identity
- The relationship between European and national identity
- The impact of tutors on students' sense of belonging



What is European Identity?

- European identity is a multidimensional concept that refers to a sense of belonging to Europe as a cultural, political, and civic community.
- It is not a fixed label, but a dynamic process shaped by experiences, values, and social interactions.



In this session, we explore how European identity develops and why it is particularly relevant for Ukrainian students in higher education.





Dimensions of European Identity

1

Cultural

Shared historical heritage, philosophical traditions, art, languages, and cultural practices across Europe.

2

Political

Commitment to democratic principles, human rights, equality, justice, and the rule of law.

3

Civic

Rights and responsibilities linked to EU citizenship, mobility, participation, and engagement in public life.



European and National

European identity does not replace national identity.

Identity

Individuals can simultaneously identify as:

Croatian and European,
Ukrainian and European.

Identities are layered and complementary rather than mutually exclusive.

For students navigating mobility, displacement, or political change, this layered identity can provide stability and belonging.



Insights from the UkraStud Project



Psychological and social aspects of European identification among students.



Key factors influencing European identification include:

- ❑ Perceived inclusion in academic and social life
- ❑ Positive intergroup contact (local and Ukrainian students)
 - ❑ Experiences of fairness and respectful treatment
 - ❑ Psychological and social well-being

Positive contact with members of the host society predicts more favourable attitudes toward both the host country and other European nations.

The Role of Inclusion and Contact

Research findings show that:

- Students who feel included report a stronger sense of belonging.
- Meaningful and regular interaction with local peers increases comfort and engagement.
- Experiences of fairness and dignity strengthen identification with European values.

Interventions that promote positive intergroup contact can indirectly support stronger European identification.



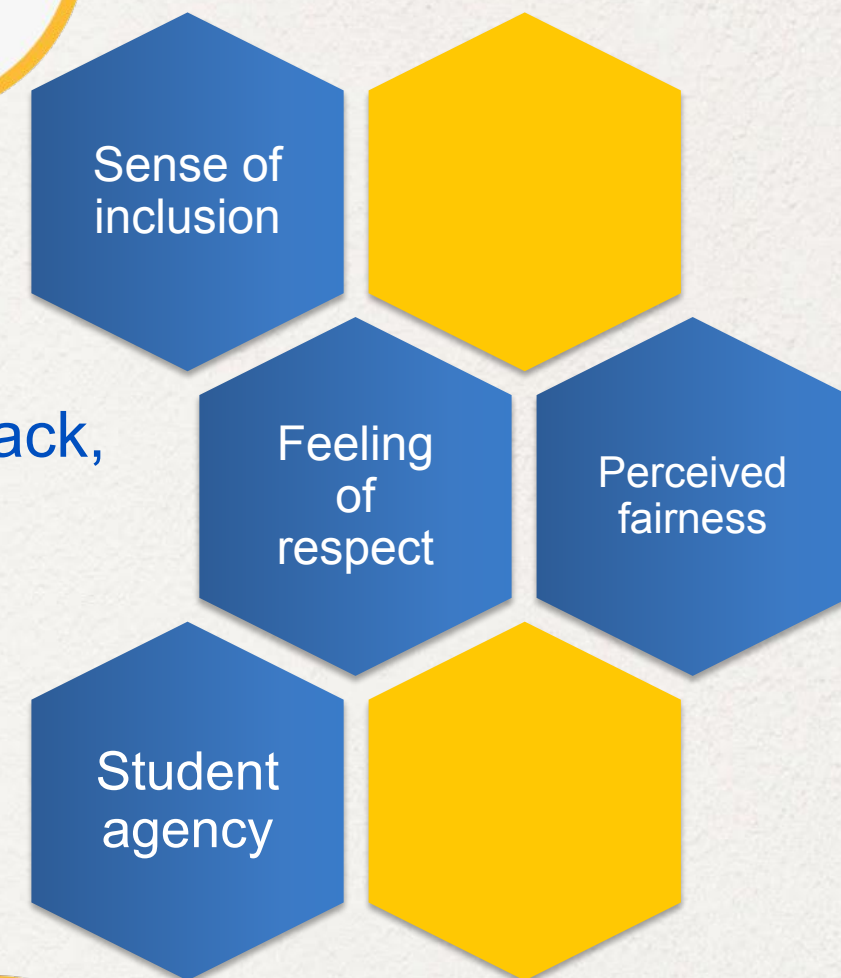


The Role of Tutors

1

Tutors shape students' everyday academic experience.

Through communication style, feedback, and expectations, tutors influence:



2

Tutors do not teach European identity explicitly- they embody it through practice.

Through: transparent assessment, open dialogue, respect for diversity, opportunities for participation.

Activity 1.1.

Value Map

Reflect on the core values of the European Union (dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, human rights).



1. Select three values that are most relevant to your role as a tutor.



2. Reflect: How are these values visible in your everyday academic practice?



3. Identify one area for improvement in your mentoring approach.



Thank you

Any Question?

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