

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 7

COMBATING STEREOTYPES AND EUROSCEPTICISM

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



Co-funded by the European Union

In this lesson we will:

- Clarify what Euroscepticism means and how it differs from critical thinking
- Explore how stereotypes about the EU influence student perceptions
- Examine insights from UkraStud on inclusion and intergroup contact
- Identify practical strategies tutors can use to foster informed, respectful dialogue



Stereotypes and

Euro-scepticism
Where do our conceptions of Europe come from, and how can we examine them critically?



Important distinction: critical thinking is healthy.

Misinformation and generalisation limit understanding.





Common Stereotypes Students May Express


**“The EU is only
bureaucracy.”**

**“Small or poorer
countries don’t benefit.”**

**“The EU imposes
rules without
listening.”**

**“The EU does not affect
students’ real lives.”**

These views often stem from:

- Limited information.
 - Second-hand opinions
 - Political or emotional experiences
 - Lack of exposure to EU processes.
- 



Ask for clarification: “Can you tell me what makes you feel that way?”



Link to students’ values: connect discussions to: justice, equality, rule of law, democratic aspirations



Provide concrete examples and show real-life impact on: student mobility, research funding, digital innovation

**How Tutors
Can Respond**

What Researches Suggests



Although UkraStud did not measure Euroscepticism directly, findings show:



- ✔ Frequent positive intergroup contact.
- ✔ Rare negative interactions.
- ✔ Strong openness toward European identity.

Inclusive academic environments foster open, reflective dialogue, reduce reliance on stereotypes, and encourage positive intergroup contact.





Practical Approaches for Tutors

To counter stereotypes constructively

1

Value-based dialogue

Connect EU policies to fairness, equality, and inclusion.

2

Evidence-based clarification

Use concrete examples affecting student life.

3

Perspective-taking

Encourage comparison between EU principles and students' aspirations.

4

Situational reframing

Help separate fact from assumption without judgment.

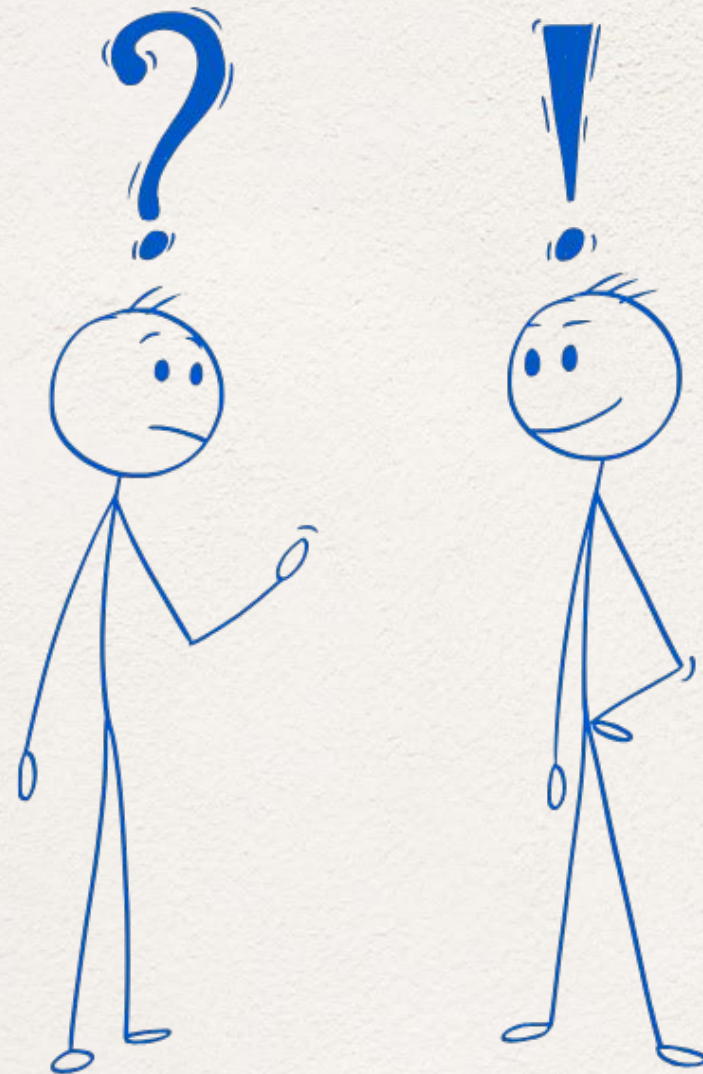
5

Supportive communication

Students who feel respected show stronger engagement.

Activity 7.1.

Talk, Clarify, Connect.



Choose one EU value to actively promote this week.



1. Reflect: How can I demonstrate this value in my daily interactions? Where in my teaching could it be more visible? Example: If you choose Equality, ask yourself: Are my assessment criteria fully clear and accessible to all students?



2. Write It Down: Write a short, practical commitment (1–2 sentences). Example: This week, I will provide a short written explanation of grading criteria before the assignment before deadline.



3. Include It in Practice: Implement the action intentionally during the week. At the end of the week, briefly consider: Did I follow through? How did students respond? What will I continue doing?

Thank you

Any Question?

Web

ukrastud.eu

Social Media

@ukrastud



Co-funded by
the European Union

