

Youth for EU 2017

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# YOUTH FOR THE EU



Mission Vision  
United Kingdom 2017

## GREECE: one of the most beautiful countries in the world

By: Kostas Gkrispanis

Greece is one of the most beautiful countries in the world for many reasons. First of all, the climate there is ideal. It has mild winters, warm springs and hot summers. This climate offers a healthy life to the people. Greek citizens face the problem the hot summer by going to the beautiful seas, this country has. Also, this climate is helpful to the land and therefore it gives to the locals the opportunity to produce food and other stuff. In addition, there are a lot of things to do in this country.

Greece has a lot of traditional restaurants where you can taste the Greek foods combined with music and dance. However, Hellas (as it is in Greek) is famous worldwide for the night life, Greek islands and cities. There are a lot of clubs and beach bars around the country where young people go and party until the next morning.

Besides from the entertainment that Greece provides to the young people, the older ones will find interest in visiting museums. In the museums, visitors can get closer to the

ancient Greece and admire their civilization.



This country, is also known for its renowned islands such as Mykonos, Santorini, Crete and Rhodes where you can combine sightseeing, night life and swimming in beautiful seas.

Except from all the above Greece has rich natural resources. For example Chalkidiki has gold deposits in the area called Ierissos and Ptolemaida has lignite which is used for fuel. Additionally, the seas there are full of precious minerals.

However, this country is well known for its history and its contribution to the global civilization. Greece is the place where democracy was born. There were plenty of philosophers there such as Sokratis, Platon or Aristotle. Besides that, comedy and drama were developed in ancient Greece with the help of Aristofanis and Sofocles accordingly. Last but not least Greek cuisine is really good as it has fresh foods and drinks. Finally, Greece has everything you need from mountains to pristine beaches, from fast food to gourmet, from hot weather to ski resorts and many more.



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## CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

By: Anete Silina

Traditions and customs in some kind of way are the delivery system for practical or any kind of information. They show how we behave, how we can stay safe and make sure everyone has a place to live. It's important if we have respect to our and other people traditions. The most important thing is how we pass shared information to each generation over time. We need to help new humans who are born in our group, because they don't need to re-discover everything on their own.

What is tradition? Why do we need and why they are important? For me tradition is knowledge, those are ideas or things that we do and they have lasted for a long time. Traditions make our lives more interesting and more enjoyable. They make us all different in a good way. They are needed, because of we



all would be like the same, then there wouldn't be anything fun in life. They make us unique. Every culture, every race or group of people have their own rich customs and traditions.

Every country have their own traditions. Some of them are really strong. They are living their lives depending on their customs and traditions. For example in Latvia they celebrate midsummer every year. It is called Ligo and it is a pagan tradition when Latvians celebrate the shortest night by staying up to greet the rising sun. There are many traditions in it like they are drinking beer, women pick flowers to make them in to crowns while men strip naked and jump into a nearby lake or river, everyone sings medieval Latvian songs around the fire and couples go into the forest to look for a mythical flowering fern. It is really strong traditional thing they do, because even when they were in Soviet Union they celebrated it, although it wasn't

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allowed. Greeks are really religious. They have many traditions who are really ancient, but they do them. When a child borns, eldest children are naked after a grandparent. For example if it is a boy, his name will be from his father's father. If it is a girl, her name will be from her mother's mother.

Another really important tradition is when a family member dies, women usually wear black for up to a year to show their respect, while men wear black armbands for up to 40 years. Women also make a special food such as kolluva. This just shows how different we are, because Latvians don't do that kind of things if person dies and greeks don't celebrate Ligo. Yeah, of course there are greek people who don't like this tradition, but they have a respect to it and because of that it is

really strong. You have to always show respect to other nation traditions and of course to your own.

Traditions and customs have really big influence in our life, on our life atmosphere. From childhood, cultural endowment, race and several societies decide many aspects that impact life. As they grow, they use the proven tendencies in approaching everyday living.

I think traditions are like one of the greatest things we have, because they make us so different and it is so interesting to get to know other nation customs and traditions. They make our life much better. So in the end I would like to say that we all should have respect to our traditions

and we shouldn't be ashamed of what we are and what kind of things we do.

Love yourself,  
your country and  
your nation



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## The younger the weaker?

By: Petra Komarova

When I was little, me and my whole family lived in the small village in east London. I've had one older brother and two older sisters so I was the youngest one. We used to have so many disagreements about everything and nothing at the same time. You know. About not important things like who will wash the dishes. And you know what? I was washing the dishes all the time. And you know why? Because I was the youngest one and they were just using me.



Yeah, we were kids and we had fun, sometimes. We could play together, we could do ridiculous things together. Although, when there was a request from our parents to do something, they just disappeared. We were no longer one team. I had to do all the work and they were just chilling and making fun of

me. Those times, I didn't say anything. I was just doing what other people told me to do. I thought that I was supposed to do all the stuff around our house. When I made "friends" in school, they told me that they are not doing that much at home. BUT. There is a big but. After I told them, that my whole family use me for cleaning etc. they started to use me as well. Now you may be thinking, that I am stupid. But I never knew how to defend myself and how to say NO. After all of the years of being used for not really nice things I realized that it is wrong. Maybe I should do something with it. Even when I am the youngest and the weakest I can still express my opinion and disagree with the others. And you should too!



## RACISM VS. SOCIAL PROTECTION

By: Eleni Nikolaidi



At some point in our lives, we have witnessed a 'racist' act. A person ignored, made fun-of, physically abused, or taunted because of the color of their skin or the country where they are from. We seem to be aware that racism is a reality but as a society, we shy away or ignore the thought of tackling the problem.

We grow up looking up at our family and learning from their own actions. We imitate their behavior and we grow up with the notion that they are the ones who know what's best. When we begin to question any acts of theirs that may be considered as 'racist,' they reassure us that their actions are made to protect us or to guard us from the potential 'threat' that these people (the ones who are targeted) represent. Such excuses made to justify acts of racism make it seem as if the problems we have including crime, theft, and terrorist attacks occur because people have a certain skin color or are from a different country. But does this really make sense?

Based on what we see in the media, it's natural for people to distance themselves

from the faces that are such a common occurrence of violence. Cultures portrayed in a way that makes it seem as if they spend their entire lives planning to attack those portrayed as "good" receive a response that is not so welcoming. The existing stereotypes do not help this situation and seem to fuel the notion that certain cultures are more of a 'social threat.' Think about it. If you spent your life watching movies where the 'bad guys' are from a specific type of culture (for example French),

wouldn't you begin to believe that French people have a tendency to be violent? This is the way that the media plays with our minds.

But, regarding the idea of social protection, people use it as an excuse to perform racist acts and to prevent themselves from learning about other cultures. It also has to do with racial superiority and this derives from the feeling that a culture and/or country is much better than all the others. It can also

be a way of reorganizing society and turning things the other way around. An example to illustrate this which is quite distressing is Hitler's regime. It is not only safe to



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say that Hitler was a racist but that he was a defendant of social protection for the purposes of promoting only the Aryan race. Believing that only blonde and blue-eyed people have the right to live freely and above everyone else gave the rise to the idea of social protection. Sooner or later, the Germans at the time of WWII were in a frenzy to get rid of as many people considered as 'foreigners' for the purpose of defending their own race. This resulted in the assassination of a culture and the Jews had nowhere to escape from the racist acts.

People around the world are passionate about the end of racism and speak about equality for all but what can we do individually to help promote the end of racism if we can't be a part of large support groups and organizations? A lot of people consider themselves to be quite redundant in the face of such an issue so it's important to be aware of the fact that our own initiative is important. Taking a part in youth exchanges is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures and to talk to people who have different backgrounds.

This does not only change our way of thinking about other cultures making us more open and understanding but it also allows us to speak positively about the new cultures we learn about to our own circle of friends and family. Another opportunity to open ourselves to other cultures is to travel and read books. Although a book might not provide a face-to-face interaction with a person who is from another culture, it might feature a character who shares with the readers their own background and experiences.

This might actually provide even more time for a person to understand another culture and the best thing about this is that everyone can have access to a book. So, under any circumstances a person can learn to appreciate and respect other cultures. This not only helps diminish racist behaviors but also gets rid of social protection as an excuse.



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## EU

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COMPETITION  
EQUALITY  
INFLUENCE  
SUCCESS  
YOUTH

COOPERATION  
FUTURE  
RIGHTS  
TRADITION

EMPLOYMENT  
HISTORY  
STRENGTH  
TRAVELLING

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