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FUTURE OF EU FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE YOUTH

European Union (EU) has experienced political stability shifts in recent years due to inability to manage with such challenges as Eurozone crisis, followed by current migrant crisis. Political destabilisation in EU increased after the domestic debate in the United Kingdom (UK) has aggravated regarding its position and future in EU, acquiring the commonly used term "Brexit". With the outcome of the referendum, the cloud of uncertainty has risen regarding the success of the European project. The following articles will provide the insights on the future of the EU from the youth's perspective.

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Some newsletters are created as money-making ventures and sold directly to subscribers. Sending newsletters to customers and prospects is a common marketing strategy, which can have benefits and drawbacks. Public organizations emit newsletters in order to improve or maintain their reputation in the society. General attributes of newsletters include news and upcoming events of the related organization, as well as contact information.

VOTING - RIGHT OR AN OBLIGATION?

by

According to Wikipedia, newsletters are published by clubs, churches, societies, associations, and businesses—especially companies—to provide information of interest to members, customers, or employees. Google's definition of a newsletter is, "a bulletin issued periodically to the members of a society, business, or organization." A newsletter may be considered "grey literature". Newsletters delivered electronically via email (e-newsletters) have gained rapid acceptance for the same reasons email in general has gained popularity over printed correspondence.



BREXIT - FUTURE OF UK AFTER THE DECISION TO LEAVE THE EU

by Elena Kahiani

-The decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union has left the future of EU on the ambiguous path. A major argument for Brexit is the release of EU laws and regulations, growing EU bureaucracy, which decreases the sovereignty of UK (1). The supremacy of EU law over UK domestic law that was outlined in European Communities Act 1972, is claimed to be the reason why UK is unable to pass its own decisions in certain fields (e.g. Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy) without EU approval (2). The decision to leave the EU is claimed to restore UK control over its borders, preventing the flow of third-country nationals and unlimited EU immigration. In addition, directives that regulate free movement of workers are deemed particularly burdensome from the perspective of Brexit supporters. For example, Working Time Directive (3), that imposes a number of obligations as restrictions on night work, paid annual leave, that UK does not want to be bound with.

The argument of social welfare benefits also was highly discussed prior to the referendum as UK social benefits (4), according to non-discrimination principle (5), are available to any EU citizen coming to UK (e.g. in-work tax credits, out-of-work benefits, child welfare benefits) (6). Moreover, EU citizen, after residing in the UK for more than five years, can access the social benefits on the same basis as UK citizen (7). UK withdrawal leads to question regarding withdrawal mechanism, the form of further relations with EU and domestic and international legal uncertainty. There are different Brexit models:

1. Complete withdrawal from the EU- which is also the most extreme one, all treaties and EU legislation will no longer apply for the UK.

2. Joining the EFTA and re-joining the EEA - for countries that are not part of EU but would give access to the Single market, the main objective of EFTA is Free Trade, but unlike EU, it has not uniform external tariffs and has no supranational institutions. Such model is used Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Because of EU, UK is a member of EEA, and if leaves, will have to re-join if will want.

3. Joining EFTA but withdrawing from EEA- bilateral agreements will have to negotiate in order to access EU market. Switzerland uses this model.
4. Entering into a customs union with the EU- UK would partially have access to EU market, but EU would set the rules, which the UK would have to follow. Turkey is using this model.
 - o Free Trade Agreement (FTA) - UK could independently negotiate free trade agreements with third countries, as well with the EU, and this FTA would govern their relationships. There would be fewer obligations for the UK, but also less access to EU market. In addition, UK would have less bargaining power as a relatively small country in comparison to EU. Canada is using this model.

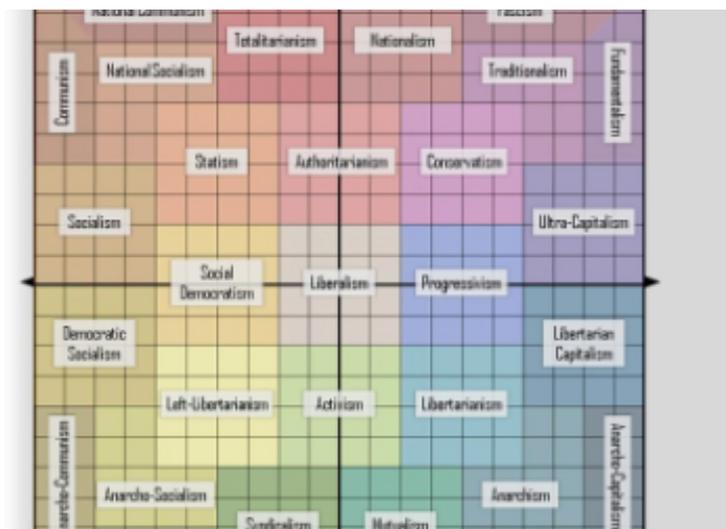
As there has been no general practice of withdrawal of a member state from EU, and Article 50 TEU, which is the only mechanism of withdrawal from EU, has never been invoked. There have been extensive discussions and concerns regarding the future of both, EU and UK.

The first model, complete withdrawal from the EU (only WTO membership), provides the most clear-cut withdrawal possibility. It will provide UK with the most isolation from EU. Not the only UK will receive freedom to set own regulations and policies, it will have to readopt and re-examine all laws, especially those, which were adopted from EU law. For those areas that were regulated by EU law, UK will have to invent new rules, one of those areas is standards of goods. Freedom of movement will be more difficult because borders and visas will be established. As for the EU and UK nationals, both sides will be recognized from this point of view as third country nationals.

The second model is to join the European Free Trade Association and re-join the European Economic Area. Membership of the EEA will provide access to the European markets through bilateral agreements. UK citizens will enjoy virtually the same rights within the scope of free movement of persons as EU citizens. Both models can partially restore UK sovereignty, as the agreements do not cover EU policies such as common agricultural and fisheries policy, social policy, monetary union and others. In case of joining European Economic Area and re-joining European Free Trade Association, full access to single market will be provided; in turn, Swiss option will assure only partial access, as free movement of services was not yet negotiated between Switzerland and EU, which does not necessarily mean, that the UK will not be able to manage negotiations, however unresolved issue of services shows how time-consuming and burdensome coordination of bilateral agreements can be. In terms of free movement of persons, the rights under both models will largely stay the same as UK citizens currently enjoy. However, joining one of the models will leave UK without voting rights over EU legislation and decisions in this area. In addition, UK will still have to pay annual contributions. The third option for the UK is to enter into Customs union with EU, similar as Turkey. However, this option does not really reflect UK interests, because the UK is seeking for independence, and with Customs union, it will get access to the internal market, but it will not be able to determine their own customs tariff. However, it will have to apply rule provided by EU and would have no say in it. However, with regards to free movements of persons, this model would provide rights for workers. The last model is entering into a free trade agreement with the EU within World Trade Organization framework. This is an example of Canada's and EU trade relationship, parties are planning to establish CETA agreement, which will eliminate any trade barriers and quotas between Canada and EU. There is a possibility for the UK to follow the same path. No trade barriers will make the economic relationship between UK and EU easier. However, there are certain problems. One of them is fact that this model will leave freedom of persons an open question, which will have to be solved or circumstances in this field will be similar as in the complete separation model.

To conclude, the most preferential model which reflects the interests of the UK the most, and provides the widest range of rights for UK citizens within the free movement of people, would be the Norwegian model (joining EEA and re-joining EFTA) because it gives virtually the same rights of free movement of persons, as currently, the UK nationals are enjoying, additionally, to the full access to the internal market. The complete withdrawal model (just with rules under WTO) would have the most deteriorating effect on the UK, because, without any future relationship agreement between EU and UK, all legislation and Treaties would have no effect upon the UK. Moreover, it would mean that the UK will not enjoy the access to the single market, and UK nationals will be treated as third country nationals.

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EU POLITICAL COMPASS TEST

1. To which extent do you associate yourself with being European?

- a not at all (0 points)
- b a little (1 point)
- c neither way (2 points)
- d to the high extent (3 points)

2. Immigration has a positive impact on the economy of the country.

- a agree strongly (3 points)
- b agree (2 points)
- c disagree (1 point)
- d disagree strongly (0 points)

3. EU membership has benefited citizens of my country generally speaking.

- a agree strongly (3 points)
- b agree (2 points)
- c disagree (1 points)
- d disagree strongly (0 points)

4. In the future, the facilitation of the EU integration process will result in the creation of the federation.

- a agree strongly (3 points)
- b agree (2 points)
- c disagree (1 point)
- d disagree strongly (0 point)

5. Richer EU member state countries should support less developed EU member states.

- a not at all (0 points)
- b a little (1 point)
- c neither way (2 points)
- d to the high extent (3 points)

6. In the light of the migration crisis, EU member states should:

- a accept refugees proportionally (3 points)
- b depending to the size of the country (2 points)
- b should have the autonomy on the decision on the acceptance of the refugees (1 point)
- c should not be required to accept the refugees (0 points)

7. In the future EU should:

- a expand its powers in more fields (3 points)
- b give back the powers to the states (2 points)
- c leave the amount of powers as it is now (1 point)

RESULTS: EU POLITICAL COMPASS TEST

Federalist (20-28 points)

Federalists support the further integration of the European Union, and ultimate creation of the "United States of Europe" and closer European Union.

Satisfied Europeans (15-20 points)

Satisfied Europeans are strongly pro-European, they think that they benefit from the European system, think positively about immigration. Tend to give the preference to the current state of things in the European Union rather than the further integration.

Uncertain Europeans (10-15 points)

uncertain Europeans feel discouraged by the crises which took place in the recent years such as Euro crisis, migration crisis, doubting the potential future of the European Union. They tend to focus on national sovereignty over regional cooperation and governance.

Eurosceptics (0-5 points)

EU sceptics reject the EU and feel doubtful with regard to European policies, the success of European project in general.