

# Erasmus + Jean Monnet Project

## «Modern European identity formation in the framework of the EU integration: social and cultural dimensions»

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The project is dedicated to the transformations of modern European identity in the context of the EU integration processes in different aspects including social and cultural values. Interest to the problem of formation of a general European identity caused by a complexity of the EU development as a political entity. One of the goals of the project is to improve the understanding of the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogues in the context of European integration, as well as the dissemination of the acquired knowledge among teachers and administrative staff of universities, researchers, students, representatives of civil society and government authorities.

Within the framework of the project, 6 events were held. Representatives of universities, civil society and authorities of St. Petersburg, invited experts from Europe and various cities of Russia (Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Perm, Syktyvkar) participated in the events.

During the project implementation two seminars, two round tables and two conferences were held. The following issues were discussed:

- Theoretical bases of the study of identity, complexity and situationality of the concept.
- Attitude of Europeans to European identity.
- Interdependence of religious, cultural, historical, political dimensions of identity formation in the EU.
- The formation of a civil society in the context of EU integration processes.
- The impact of migration processes on European identity.
- The main trends in the development of European identity and possible ways of development.

More than 400 people participated in the project activities, including:

- 10 experts from Europe,
- Representatives of 18 universities in St. Petersburg and 9 universities in other cities of Russia,
- Members of European Association of International Studies (Italy),
- More than 100 students from Russia and 8 students from Italy,
- Representatives of local authorities and civil society, cultural centers and museums.

The round table "European integration: the formation of active citizenship" (September 28, 2017) aroused great interest among the participants. At the roundtable the participants discussed the differences between civil societies in Russia and the EU countries, as well as strategies and tools for building active citizenship in the EU. Representatives of civil society organizations in Russia and Finland participated in the round table.

The most significant event of the project was a two-day international conference "European and Russian Identities: Social and Cultural Aspects", organized with the support of the European Association of International Studies (AESI) (11-12 May 2018). More than 150 people took part in the conference. A special student session was implemented. Italian and Russian students discussed commons and differences of European and Russian identities. The conference was held with the aim of summarizing and translating the results of scientific search for solutions to the urgent problems of the formation of European identity in the context of globalization and integration processes in the EU.

The implementation of the Project revealed the importance of the search for optimal forms of identity, both at the level of individuals, and at the level of associations. In the process of successful integration in the EU, a significant role is played by the cultural factor, the main component of which is the idea of European citizenship, the idea of active citizenship, academic and social mobility of young people.



**For more details, check the web site**

**[unecon.ru/miac/european-identity](http://unecon.ru/miac/european-identity)**