

WHAT EUROPE MEANS FOR US, IN A SINGLE IMAGE.

10 YEARS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS



European
Parliament

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Foreword

What does Europe mean to you? It's a deceptively simple question, but one with over 450 million answers. It gets to the heart of what it means to be European today, and what kind of Europe we are building together.

This photo competition, launched to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) programme, brings that question vividly to life. The images in this booklet don't just give us a fresh perspective on our continent, they offer a window into how the next generation see our Union. Sometimes surprising, often funny, always interesting, they unpack what matters to young people, what they value most and – perhaps – where they want Europe to go next.

The European Union is a living, breathing project – a promise that together we can build a better, more unified future that works for everyone. The European Parliament is our democratic engine working to make that promise a reality. But for Europe to work properly, we rely on each new generation to vote, to get involved and help to shape the future they want for themselves. This is the mission EPAS has been fulfilling for the past ten years.

EPAS is one of Europe's success stories. It brings European democracy into classrooms, helping young people not just to learn about Europe but to live it, making our Union more real, relevant, and relatable. These photos bring this decade of connection to life, from constructing the circle of stars to reminding us all that "I am part of Europe", from celebrating borderless travel to defending fundamental rights, these images show that Europe is not somewhere else – it begins with you.

My congratulations to all the competition winners. My thanks to the more than 2,000 schools currently taking part in EPAS, to all the teachers going above and beyond to connect their students to Europe, and to all the Senior and Junior Ambassadors for their commitment, enthusiasm and engagement over the last ten years. Together, you are bringing our democracy to life and inspiring the next generation of Europeans.

I look forward to the next decade of EPAS and to the next generation of answers to the question of what Europe means to young Europeans.



Roberta Metsola,
President of the European Parliament.



Austria

The EU influences our daily lives – often invisibly, but crucially. The depicted threads symbolize connection and collaboration. They illustrate how the EU creates rules and opportunities behind the scenes which shape our everyday life – for instance, through mobility, security, and freedom. Not always visible, but tangible and therefore important for all of us.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Kerstin Charuk,
Lea Reithofer, Elena Scheidl

SCHOOL: HAK/HAS Weiz





Belgium

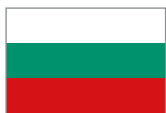
For us, the European Union is not an abstract concept but part of our daily lives: freedom to travel without passport controls, connection and solidarity across borders, and a shared, sustainable future. Open borders, shared values, quality standards and digital connection bring us closer, even when far apart. Different dreams, backgrounds and languages, but one conviction: working together makes us stronger. Europe does not exist outside of us — we are Europe, united in diversity!

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Elena Somers, Marilou De Brabander, Liesl De Groote, Megan Deprez, Elise Bert

SCHOOL: Sint-Paulusinstituut, Herzele, Belgium



© Elena Somers, Marilou De Brabander, Liesl De Groot, Megan Deprez, Elise Bert, 2026



Bulgaria

The only inevitable thing is change. We all want to keep up with technological progress and are caught up in a fast-paced way of living so that we do not fall behind. Yet while we aim to be where everyone else is, we lose touch with our true selves. We forget the importance of sharing a moment together. This is exactly what Europe means to us - the opportunity to be part of the change, without losing ourselves in the rush.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Tina Tuncheva

SCHOOL: High school of computer modeling and computer systems "Academic Blagovest Sendov", Varna



© Tina Tuncheva, 2026



Croatia

Ten years of the EPAS programme in Europe and Vukovar. In front of the symbols of our past, we send a message of a European future. Through the European Parliament Ambassador School, we nurture ten values: freedom, peace, unity, understanding, education, respect, solidarity, diversity, dialogue, and future. EPAS shapes us into responsible citizens who, through knowledge, courage, and togetherness, build a Europe worthy of all its people. EPAS is not just a programme, it is a movement of youth for Europe.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Stella Špoljarić

SCHOOL: Gymnasium Vukovar



© Stela Špoljarić, 2026



Cyprus

Young People “Build” Europe’s Future. “Move the star a bit to the left!” “Watch the ladder!”. That’s how the photo began, with laughter and teamwork. Students from different fields gathered to “build” Europe. On a wall, the 12 stars take shape—symbols of unity, freedom, and opportunities. Each star is a dream, a promise for tomorrow. At Avgorou Technical School, we learned that nothing is ready-made; everything is built. We are the creators of tomorrow, and tomorrow starts now.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO:

Educators: Margarita Theodoulou, Andry Soteriou

Students: Nicole Mavrogiorka, Ioannis Venizelou, Konstantinos Georgiou, Anastasia Marshal, Alexandra Prokopiou, Chrysanthos Vasili, Thanos Myratidis, Georgiana Charalambous, Kiki Chari, Eleana Kitsi, Styliana Diplarou, Christodoulos Choiromeras

SCHOOL: Regional Agricultural, Technical and Vocational School of Avgorou



© Margarita Theodoulou, Andry Soteriou, Students: Nicole Mavrogiorka, Ioannis Venizelou, Konstantinos Georgiou, Anastasia Marshal, Alexandra Prokopiou, Chrysanthos Vasili, Thanos Myrattidis, Georgiana Charalambous, Kiki Chari, Eleana Kitsi, Styliana Diplarou, Christodoulos Choimeras, 2026



Czechia

Hi folks! My human keeps talking about something called the European Union. What could that be? Hmm... is it some kind of tasty treat? I don't know, but apparently it's awesome! Thanks to it, we can travel to different countries and experience amazing adventures. Honestly, I don't understand it at all, but I do know that when we stick together, our journey is always worth it! So this "Union" must be something veeeery useful, and I'm totally up for that. Alright, I'm off! My human and I are heading somewhere again. Where will it be this time? WOOF WOOF.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Marika Zvonková,
Marek Liška, Mariana Burešová, Štěpán Múdrý

SCHOOL: GJP & SOŠ Slavičín, Czechia



© Marika Zvonková, Marek Liška, Mariana Burešová, Štěpán Mídrý, 2026



Denmark

Since 1972, both Denmark and Greenland have played an essential role in keeping Europe strong and united, aiming to create a sustainable future for everyone. Greenland has since been given an OLT status, which is the term for an associated EU country. The EU has since opened an office in Nuuk in 2024, making the connection between EU and Greenland even stronger. Through the past 10 years, EPAS has made a huge difference in educating young students in the EU.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Molly T. Sommer,
Anders Krogh Rask, Emil Stilling

SCHOOL: Rungsted Gymnasium



© Molly T. Sommer, Anders Krogh Rask, Emil Stilling, 2026



Estonia

For me, Europe is like this snowy landscape: vast, peaceful and full of possibilities. Europe joins two shores across the unpredictable river of life, offering the white freedom to move, travel, learn and discover new opportunities. Thanks to the cooperation between nations, as a young person, I can dream boldly, knowing that the ice will hold. I can set my sights as far as the eye can reach and shape a future where security, support and unity are guaranteed.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Emma Themas

SCHOOL: Hugo Treffneri Gümnaasium (Tartu – Estonia)



© Emma Thomas, 2026



Finland

Europe represents security and fundamental rights for us. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which became legally binding with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, guarantees citizens, among other things, freedom of expression, equality, and the right to fair treatment. The magnifying glass symbolizes the idea that rights must be continuously examined and defended. A united Europe protects the individual and creates stability even in the cold northern landscape.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Paula Härkönen,
Tähkä Tolvanen and Ilpo Suominen

SCHOOL: Kaleva upper secondary school
(Kalevan lukio in Finnish)





France

“Europe is an association of several countries on the same continent: it stands for unity despite diversity (languages, cultures, geography) . This is why we have chosen to represent it in this way: on a plain white background, symbolising peace, each of these diverse everyday objects is linked to the country it represents. Sometimes overlapping, because no borders can be drawn between them. Europe is thus more like a community that is reflected in our lives as European citizens”.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Alixe Delebarre,
Laura De Lavallée, Inès Barra Bolletot

SCHOOL: Lycée Condorcet, La Varenne Saint Hilaire



Germany

I am a part of Europe. A single puzzle piece may seem small, but without it, Europe remains incomplete. Together, we shape the picture of a shared future.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Sophia Domoschakow

SCHOOL: Wittekind-Gymnasium in Lübbecke,
Germany





Greece

Human rights begin in small places, close to home—so small and so close that they cannot be seen on any map of the world» E. Roosevelt. On a small island in the Cyclades, Kimolos, citizens from countries outside the EU have found refuge, safety, and the opportunity for a new beginning. The EU does not exist only in the great capitals. It exists in small and “quiet” places... In the heart and soul of their inhabitants. In mutual support. In understanding. In acceptance. Because everyone has the right to be themselves in the EU.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Emmanouela Antivachi, Aikaterini-Sofia Karakoulaki, Konstantinos Karakoulakis, Leandri Kola, Markos Logothetis, Konstantinos Nikoleousakos, Maria Tomi Kataga, Maria D. Ventouri, Maria N. Ventouri, Georgios Chrysovalantis Ventouris

SCHOOL: Gymnasio-Lyceum of Kimolos



© Emmanouela Antivachi, Aikaterini-Sofia Karakoulaki, Konstantinos Karakoulakis, Leandri Kola, Markos Logothetis, Konstantinos Nikoleousakos, Maria Tomi Kataga, Maria D. Ventouri, Maria N. Ventouri, Georgios Chrysovalantis Ventouris, 2026



Hungary

“For us, Europe represents the opportunity for growth, travel, and staying in constant motion. For us as students, Europe means having a choice, sharing common values, and building our future together. We can travel and study without borders. The platforms on the two sides symbolize progress, finding our path, and making decisions, while the suitcase expresses the opportunity for travel, learning, and the freedom of movement within Europe.”

NAME OF THE CREATORS: Ms. Villő Ágó (she is the girl in the photo), Mr. Botond Kellermann, Mr. Gyula Bognár-Béres

SCHOOL: Közgazdasági Politechnikum Alternatív Gimnázium



© Ms. Villő Ágó, Mr. Botond Kellermann, Mr. Gyula Bognár-Béres, 2026



Ireland

As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." To us, Europe has many faces sharing one future. It offers freedom of movement, protection of rights, and cultural identity, while giving hope for safe and free future generations. Pictured is our EPAS class: each country represents an aspect of Europe, with Lady Europe at the centre holding balanced scales, symbolising the rule of law. To us Europe means unity in diversity, together achieving more than alone.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Mena Lane and the EPAS class of 2026

SCHOOL: Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland



© Mena Lane and the EPAS class of 2026, 2026



Italy

The photo shows a group of young people wearing T-shirts with EU founding values: freedom, dignity, justice, equality, citizenship, and solidarity, symbols of a Europe made up of people and ideals. Above them, the EU flag represents the link between institutions and citizens and the concrete commitment of young people. The "trullo" evokes roots and history, while young people represent the future. The cloudy sky symbolizes a Europe that exists also amid uncertainties and difficulties.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Bellanova Francesca, Caramia Aurora, Elia Sara, Ligorio Carlotta, Monaco Gaia, Semeraro Roberta, Taurino Pierfrancesco, Turrisi Giorgia, Venerito Francesca, Amico Cosimo, Annese Vita, Bruni Arianna, Casalino Beatrice, Ciciriello Clizia, Gallone karole, Leo Giuseppe, Menga Giulia, Palmisano Virginia, Roma Sofia, Strippoli Isabella, Urso Giuliano, Bellanova Arianna, Biondi Palma, Bogias Sofia, Elia Sara, Giacobbe Cecilia, Leo Graziana, Leuzzi Roberta, Monaco Serena, Monetti Sabrina, Nacci Stefania, Santoro Dominic, Urgesi Grazia, Ligorio Francesco

SCHOOL: I.I.S.S. (Istituto di Istruzione Secondaria Superiore) 'C. Agostinelli' in Ceglie Messapica (BR)



Latvia

“United in diversity”. Europe is more than just a word in documents. Europe is our home, our people, our shared story. Each of us is a part of it—with our own culture, language, ideas, and dreams. These 12 candles symbolize our unity in diversity, mutual respect, and civic engagement, which make Europe a place where we want to live, grow, and collaborate. We are grateful for the opportunity to live in a democracy and to shape a tomorrow defined by peace, freedom, and solidarity. Europe begins with each of us.”

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Annija Skudra,
Nikola Dreimane, Katrīna Rāzna

SCHOOL: Edgars Kauliņš Lielvārde Secondary School
(Edgara Kauliņa Lielvārdes vidusskola)



© Annija Skudra, Nikola Dreimane, Katrina Rāzna, 2026



Lithuania

For us, Europe is a shared project that we are all sewing together — every button, every thread, every tailor's hand contributes to this common composition. Europe is the hands that create, the hearts that connect. For us, Europe lives not only in big decisions, but also in the small details that we choose, touch and cherish every day. And perhaps that is precisely why it is so dear to us — because it allows us to create our own Europe from different components, one in which we feel at home.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Emma Betingytė

SCHOOL: Vilkyškių Johaneso Bobrovskio gimnazija



© Emma Betingytė, 2026



Luxembourg

This picture represents the European Union for us as it depicts footsteps inside a star, each step different from the other and coming from different directions but heading towards the same goal. The destination of these steps is a growing plant, that embodies growth, hope, life and ecological transition. There are 27 footsteps, representing the 27 countries of the European Union, diverse but also united. This image highlights cooperation, solidarity, and shared goals. This is Europe for us.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Juan Ignacio Sanchez Saldivar, Tristan Wolf, Niccolò Creti

SCHOOL: Vauban, École et Lycée Français du Luxembourg



© Juan Ignacio Sanchez Saldivar, Tristan Wolf, Niccolò Creti, 2026



Malta

Europe means many countries living together. It has different languages, cultures, and traditions, but they share history and values. Europe stands for peace, cooperation, and learning from the past. To me, Europe is about freedom and exploring different cultures. It is not just a place on the map, but a feeling of belonging and connection.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Ms Sophie Ditzel Pritsker

SCHOOL: St Martin's College



© Sophie Ditzel Pritsker, 2026



The Netherlands

'I chose to take a picture of me with all typical different European foods, because I think food is a connecting factor within Europe. In Europe eating habits differ from country to country, but at the same time there are many similarities in the European cuisine. Food links cultural practices, tourism, trade and infrastructure. New food traditions emerge through migration. So, Europe's food culture evolves through the years. My favorite food is pita Gyros from Greece.'

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Feline Zijlstra

SCHOOL: Sint-Janscollege from Hoensbroek



© Feline Zijlstra, 2026



Poland

Europe is a meeting place of many perspectives — from critical to full of positive energy. Its diversity is an invitation to dialogue, and community grows from the importance of every voice. The future is born where we are able to listen to one another and act together. That is why our future is in Europe.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Łucja Chorążyczewska (Ms), Helena Ejeriks (Ms), Martyna Schmidt (Ms), Zuzanna Kot (Ms), Monika Kumór (Ms) and Kajetan Kotowicz (Mr).

SCHOOL: II Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. ks. Jana Twardowskiego in Oleśnica (Poland)



© Łucja Chorążyczewska, Helena Ejeriks, Martyna Schmidt, Zuzanna Kot, Monika Kumór, Kajetan Kotowicz, 2026



Portugal

“Starting from the painting Liberty Leading the People, Europe is invoked as an allegory of its values and as a guide for humankind. Above, the Goddess raises the flag that upholds democracy, human rights, and freedom, and she calls upon the young EPAS, workers of its unity. At her feet, the shadow of censorship slinks about, where silent bodies lie. The dangers of walls and bars remind us that democracy is not guaranteed, but that the Treaty of Lisbon strengthens it. A painting as a warning in the form of hope”.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Izabela Kososki

SCHOOL: Agrupamento de Escolas de Monserrate



© Izabela Kososki, 2026



Romania

Europe, in our hands! Europe takes shape through simple gestures and through the values shared by people. Written on our hands, these words become promises: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, and respect for human rights, including those of minorities—values we strive to uphold and share. Gathered around the flag, they remind us that Europe is not just a geographical space, but a living ideal, built day by day through cooperation, responsibility and hope, by young people who believe in unity and in a better future for everyone.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Voicu David Gabriel,
Hriscu Alina Maria, Băjinaru Eduard Gabriel

SCHOOL: Liceul Teoretic „Eugen Lovinescu”
București / “Eugen Lovinescu” Theoretical High
School, Bucharest



© Voicu David Gabriel, Hriscu Alina Maria, Băjinaru Eduard Gabriel, 2026



Slovakia

The Future of Europe in the Hands of Young People. The photograph captures the important symbols that the European Union represents - education, freedom of movement, healthcare and environmental awareness. The EU flag is a symbol that reminds us that these values form a place where young people can grow, learn and build a successful future. The EPAS program allows us, as students, to learn about our rights and better understand how the European Union countries work.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Natália Ďuričeková,
Martina Sústriková, Laura Liptáková

SCHOOL: P. J. Šafárika in Rožňava



© Natália Ďuričková, Martina Sústriková, Laura Liptáková, 2026



Slovenia

At Europe Square, Slovenian and Italian students from both sides of the border create together – one artwork, one Europe, one world of colors and ideas.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Mark Vovk

SCHOOL: Gimnazija Nova Gorica



© Mark Vovk, 2026



Spain

Through this image of a tree with hanging luggage tags, we symbolize what the EU means to us. The roots represent the foundations of the EU and its founding countries. The trunk stands for the shared structure that supports both the core values and all EU citizens. The branches reflect how the EU continues to grow stronger as more countries join united by common principles. The six main EU values are displayed on luggage tags to represent freedom of movement. They are written in different languages to highlight the diversity, despite cultural and historical differences. To sum up, the European Union stands for unity, cooperation and stability.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Paula Alonso Borrego,
Desiré de Osma Hinojosas, Astrid Valentina Molina
Hernández

SCHOOL: IES Manuel de Falla, Coslada – Comunidad
de Madrid



© Paula Alonso Borrego, Desiré de Osma Hinojosa, Astrid Valentina Molina Hernández, 2026



Sweden

We stand united! The EU stands for cooperation, human rights and freedom. Right now, the EU is taking a punch in the face from today's trade war, represented by a snowball. It is crucial that the EU stands firm to uphold cooperation, human rights and freedom for the next generation.

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Alvar Lönneskog,
Wincent Sävmo and Philip Schepp

SCHOOL: Platengymnasiet, Motala



© Alvar Lönneskog, Wincent Sävmo, Philip Schepp, 2026



The United Kingdom

What Europe means to me. Europe isn't just a continent or a geographic label. It has always been so much more than that! Europe is the blazing light in the unforgiving darkness, in a time ruled by political uncertainty and insecurity. It is the freedom of jumping into democracy with joy and confidence - united and holding hands, forever supporting each other through the hurdles to come. Europe is a path, set by a timeless and devoted community, through democracy and peace, led by a globally recognized blue, our shared symbol for everything Europe has ever been and will grow to be!

CREATORS OF THE PHOTO: Léonie Caron

SCHOOL: Europa School UK



© Léonie Caron, 2026



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