

Lecture 1

Identity = How we see (identify) ourselves and how others see (identify) us. How EU identifies us and how we identify ourselves as E.U. citizens

ME

- John
- Male
- Lecturer
- White Caucasian
- European
- Single
- Father
- Divorced

'OTHER'

- John
- Male
- Professor
- White Caucasian
- U.K. citizen
- Single
- Father/Son
- Divorced
- Foreigner (in Czech Republic)



Economic, Political and Social Identity in the European Union

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 1

**Identity as a concept: the
'narrative of identity'**



Lecture 1

1. What we mean by ‘identity’ – the theoretical concept.
2. The symbols and processes that contribute to the production of identity at the national level
3. Processes that could produce and promote a European Union identity



Lecture 1

- Labels
- ‘act of belonging’
- Symbols and ‘meanings’ that construct identity
- Ernest Gellner – national identity is always there - slumbering



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-THE 'NARRATIVE OF THE NATION'

- *national history*
- *literature*
- *through the media*
- *through popular culture*

these provide:

- *a set of stories, images, historical events, national symbols and rituals*

.... which represent

- *the shared experiences, triumphs and disasters, which give meaning to the nation.*



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- Processes and symbols contributing to production of an E.U. identity:-

E.U. flag (cultural)

**E.U. anthem – ‘Ode to Joy’ Beethoven’s 9th symphony
(cultural)**

E.U. laws and regulations (political)

**Harmonisation of European statistics (political, social
and economic)**

**Educational and cultural exchanges (cultural and
social)**

E.U. institutions (political and economic)

E.U. passport (political and social)

Euro?? (economic, social and political)



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“The nine member states shared the same attitudes to life, based on determination to build a society which measures up to the needs of the individual, that each wished to ensure that the cherished values of their legal, political and moral order are respected. And that all were determined to defend the principles of representative democracy, the rule of law, social justice (the ultimate goal of economic progress) and respect for human rights.”

(Commission of the European Community, 1973)



Lecture 1

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- establishing over time a greater degree of mutual acceptance or tolerance amongst the different peoples (different populations of each state) of the E. U.
 - through processes such as:
 - education
 - cultural exchanges
 - communication processes
 - economic and political processes
 - social celebrations/anniversaries/festivals

