

The Risks of growing Populism and the
European elections:

Disadvantages of Democracy

Author: Aleksandra Rosinska



Disadvantages of Democracy

Aleksandra Rosinska¹

The Risks of growing Populism at the European elections is a significant issue. A number of misstatements can get out of control if we will not change the rules and population's attitude we all follow. Requisite is to talk with people and to get to know their point of view. What is needed may be found in educating The Peoples in Politics.

The papers are divided in several parts. Theoretical part, which covers Current situation both at the European and national level. Next part of my contemplation, which is more practical shows examples of the "treatment" for this phenomenon - future development.

There are various methods that can be of help with to chose well at elections:

- To replace the election system that favors parties with pro individual contest.*
- The creation of the European Educational Platform which is easy to find and to use.*
- The educational program at schools showing good aspect of Politics.*

INTRODUCTION

The history of populism started in ancient Greece, with the beginning of democracy. Roman Imperators employed its methods in Imperium, organizing games to gain praise and acclaim of the people. The phenomenon intensified in 19th century in Russia, United States and central Europe. During the fourth and fifth decade of the same century it spread to Brazil, Peru, Argentina, India and Egypt. For centuries nations of the world have been exposed to demagoguery of their authorities – why didn't we develop resistance, as an immune system would against viruses attacking its organism?

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Populism is a political behavior characterized by promulgation of views that are, in a certain social group, most popular at the current time. It allows for a popularity gain in the most effortless way. Populists put little care into analyzing the meaning or impact of their slogans, which often come in the shape of unconstructive and groundless criticism of the authorities. On the other hand, populists that already are a part of the ruling government retain their position and public support by quick reactions to the changes of social mood, putting insignificant and substitute topics in front of issues vital to the country, avoiding grave topics of tax or retirement-pension reforms.

A common populist method is twisting and distorting statements of their political competition, tearing it from the right context to use in their own speeches for the purpose of casting a pall over them. By threatening with visions of disaster and misfortune to come, should the society choose their adversaries over them, they play on human emotions appearing as charismatic and compassionate personalities, guiding their nation from evil.²

There is a significant relation between society education and the popularity of populists and the views they express. One must also take in consideration the degree of social activity of a citizen in a democratic society. If the citizens demonstrate public spirit and actively participate in the country's political life, populists have reduced impact on public opinion. However, they still have a chance for favorable election output. The reason behind this is their ease to communicate with common people and the ability to accurately identify problems that are troubling the above.

The term "populism" is also currently used to depreciate the agenda of political opponents. Depending on different opinions, sympathies, various parties or views may be burdened by this title. Populist postulates are often a result of authentic problems and interests of masses, regardless of often being more of an exaggeration rather than a rational opinion.

THE TYPOLOGY OF POPULISM

Populism can be distinguished into a classic form, based on the protest of lower classes, and modern form, tied with movement and tendencies of populist nature.

² R. Tokarczyk, *Współczesne doktryny polityczne*, Wolters Kluwer Polska, 2010, p.505.

Torcuato S. di Tella divides populist groups onto four, in accordance to the scope of their influence, scale of different social group representation, personal leadership composition and the level of support by the social class they pretend to represent.

Multiclass integrative faction

The leader derives from a higher social class. The faction characteristics are good organization and the support of trade unions. Thanks to a wide spread electorate, they reach over medium class. Their radicalism is moderate and they have a chance for stability should they depart from demagogy and a specific, definite ideology.

Groups seeking support in the working class

As well as in lower layers of middle class. The radicalism they proclaim is moderate, due to the fear of loss of middle class support.

Reformist groups

Their leaders oppose the upper classes, from which they originate. People giving in to the ideas of political authoritarianism and visions of modernization of society and politics amass around the “heroic leader”.

Revolutionary parties

Their bases are working classes and peasants. The leader has his roots in the middle class, but left it.³

Gino Germani divided populism into liberal and national.

Liberal populism

It appears when middle classes want to participate and significantly affect the political life. Lower classes, being smaller in numbers and less motivated to mobilize, do not play a significant role in this model.

National populism

Middle classes demand participation and having an impact on the political life, as well as social and economic matters. Lower classes are prolific and mobilize, increasing their significance.⁴

³ <http://www.money.pl/forum/populizm-doktryna-polityczna-czy-slogan-t3170345.html>

⁴ F.H.Cardoso, E Faletto, *Zależność a rozwój w Ameryce Łacińskiej: próba interpretacji socjologicznej*, Biblioteka Iberyjska 2008, Warszawa p. 116-117

According to Margaret Canovan, we can distinguish political and rural populism. For my papers political populism is more important. It refers to political dictatorship, populist democracy (referendum), reactionary populism and politician populism i.e. coalitions with a common purpose of recruiting lower classes.⁵

IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF THE POPULIST DOCTRINE

Modernization

It is very common for populist movements and programs to appear in metropolises, large urban areas. There is a direct connection between the urbanization progress and populist reaction addressed against the government form, social, cultural or economic problems that emerge arbitrarily on the basis of urbanization processes.

Multiple social classes

Populism is the movement of masses. It reaches over urban workers, bourgeoisie, country migrants, intelligentsia, students and soldiers. The doctrine favors the middle class, as a force capable of important political decisions acquiring power, as well as the working class, armed in the possibility of attaining a privileged place in the society, social care and the right to organizing a union. Some groups are excluded or omitted – for example peasants or traditional elites. Class multiplicity rejects hegemony as the mean for political activation of masses and social integration.

Expansiveness

Creating new political possibilities for multiple circles, stimulating activity and encouraging new voters to vote. Political parties aim to widen the range of their influence over new groups in order to retain power. To achieve that, they frequently make election promises that are near-impossible to deliver.

A charismatic leader is an important element of the doctrine. At the beginning of a movement creation, he is necessary to increase the dynamism of the popular movement and obtaining new followers. On later stages, the authority is rationalized and traditionalized.

The basic value of populist movements is social heritage. Populists adopt apolitical appearances, treating politics as if it is incomprehensible. Often do they sneak in slogans of

⁵ Margaret Canovan, *Populism*, London 1981, p. 13 and 128–138

xenophobic and intolerant nature, propagating distrust amongst the society. They speak against the upper classes, idealizing lower ones.

Ideological slogans create an utopian vision of the world. Nationalistic ideas and common people values are treated as the basis of national identity. The differences between the poor and the wealthy are nullified.⁶

⁶ R. Tokarczyk, *Współczesne doktryny polityczne*, Wolters Kluwer Polska, 2010, p.507-509.

POPULISM IN EUROPE

Populism is a great challenge for democracy to confront, especially in the era of crisis, where it is given ideal soil for dynamic expansion. Currently, we can experience a crisis not only in the economic, but also democratic sphere. The latter manifests itself in a lack of trust and minor citizen participation in political and social life. Europe becomes more and more encroached by new waves of populist movements, which bring out the anti-immigrant, nationalistic and xenophobic beliefs rooted in European societies in order to grow in strength. In order to achieve that, populists stir up the feeling of general dangers and constant crisis. This is why new solutions must be found and implemented into politics, to balance the sense of freedom and security in European society.⁷ The work of European Parliament must not be paralyzed by the actions of small but influential populist groups. Currently in Europe we can sense an increase in political support for parties that are Eurosceptic, anti-European, right-wing-nationalistic and extremist. What could happen, with Europe's political scene, should those parties succeed in the nearest May elections to EP? In what way, alliances formed by those parties would influence the European Union politic?

Brussels doesn't assume a total paralysis of EU work as a possibility. However, shutdown in a "light" version, meaning a blockade or delaying of legislative initiatives, and general difficulties in EP work is a realistic threat.

High risk could be brought by the forming of an alliance between very active right-wing Dutch populists with Geert Wilders and French populists with Marine Le Pen (terms of their cooperation allegedly already being discussed). There is a fear that they might direct against the union's politics regarding migration and refugees.

⁷ Małgorzata Kopka, *Populizm w Europie Środkowej – wyzwanie przyszłości*, 2012

The rise of populism is one of the most dangerous social and political phenomenon in Europe. In most of the EU Member States right-wing populist parties, Eurosceptic and questioning the existence of the European Union in its current state rise in force. Their main focus is the influx of immigrants, austerity measures and abandoning euro. How would the European Union work without a common currency?

High abstention rate in elections may significantly help these groups in getting a place in the European Parliament. According to Siergier Lagodinsky, lower election attendance signifies a more indifferent electorate, making it easier for radical parties to get a majority of the votes. Social frustration, boredom or lack of interest in politics helps alternative parties in securing electorate. How much of a threat nowadays would be a high popularity of conservative or leftist parties? Would history repeat itself?

We are of late facing a lot of intensively conducted reformatory operations. The European Fiscal Compact, banking system inspections, radical reforms in particular countries of the Union determine a new foundation of euroland. In particular, cheap loans for banks and unlimited buying of bonds of countries most heavily in depth of crisis, thanks to the decisions of European Central Bank. Unfortunately, despite all the efforts, the issue of rebuilding the economic potential of the south, remains actual. Greece and Spain continue to struggle with economic difficulties. Their economies require investments in order to rebuild their capital. In order to help those countries, we need to refrain from long term loan plans and focus on the modernization of their markets through a strategy of slow but steady and consistent raise of competitiveness, for example, by introducing modern tax solutions for small enterprises.⁸

⁸ Interview with Marek Zuber, *Czy w Europie może powrócić populizm?*, 17 mar 13 05:00, Gazeta Finansowa

POPULISM IN POLAND

Populism in Poland doesn't appear in a very radical form. Radical parties and organizations exist, however, due to a slight amount of immigrants, they are not as numerous or powerful. The majority of those that come into being are an outcome of the Europe-wide crisis. Poland although, likely hasn't felt its consequences as much as the rest of the EU countries.

Polish populists put a strong emphasis on increasing the role of the relationship between representative organs and voters. They apply to direct democracy, proposing bound mandates, plebiscites, referendums and internet voting. This was the case of "Liga Polskich Rodzin" (League of Polish Families) programme. The above party aimed for a return to the roots, by strengthening the role of referendum and the plurality voting system. The return to direct democracy is often portrayed in the form of a caricature. Direct participation in the system takes the form of client-like relations. An influential decision-maker, thanks to economic resources develops illusory care over people in exchange for political support. This could be exemplified by peculiar activities of "Samobrona" (Self-Defense) which as a political party, traded in places on electoral registers that eventually led it to prosecutor accusations and sentences.

Populism is in a broad meaning employed by "Platforma Oburzonych" (Platform of the Outraged, their name being a mock of "Civic Platform", the current ruling party in Poland). They unite around one hundred organizations, and act on behalf of citizens whose interests are not taken in consideration by politicians. Their protests against the ruling parties are justified by representing the interests of the people. They exclude the possibility of dialogue between political elites and citizens, recognizing, that politicians are not accountable

to the people. It has been established in Polish reality, that politicians are responsible to their party leader, rather than to the voters. Facing the fear of furloughing or disciplinary dismissal, leads them to fully following the recommendations of their leaders.

The operations of the Platform of the Outraged are directed against the ruling coalition, though not against all ruling politicians. “Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej” (Democratic Left Alliance), supports most of the postulates of the PotO. Their catalogue includes components important for influential organizations, whereas a multitude of interests in the movement forced the determination of one common purpose, a tool of direct democracy – single-member constituencies. SMC’s, are according to them, a solution to most of the economic and social problems of the country.

Previously, populist movements in Poland frequently treated citizens like objects, transforming the will of the people into a tool to achieve the goals of small groups.

In the dialogue, their criticism of the government was not constructive. Populists, claiming to represent the nation, did not follow the rules of pluralism. They limited the discussion and didn’t allow different groups to participate, if their ideologies were somehow inconvenient.

Presently, the Platform of the Outraged association outright calls for this form of dialogue. They took a cunning path to get support – and are on a good way to do it. Formerly populism in Poland was reserved for politicians striving to seize power with electoral mandates, whereas the Platform of the Outraged is an example of distant populism – populism executed by people from outside the political scene, the citizens themselves.⁹

⁹ Dominika Kasprowicz, *Dwa oblicza populizmu*, Instytut Europejski, 2013, p.5-7.

THE RISKS IN POLAND AND EUROPE

Mainstream parties all over the world often get caught in the snares of populism. Propaganda opening a quick and easy way to seize power and mobilize masses of people is a phenomenon threatening the essence of democracy and values such as human rights, tolerance and personal freedom.

The mechanism according to which populists act is inspiring fear through uncertainty and hatred through manipulation. Since the crisis struck Europe at around 2008, the return of populism is more feasible.¹⁰

Distrust towards a common value

If the political relations between the EU Member States are not tightened, and greater integration doesn't follow, the survival of euro zone will be put into question. According to Bernard-Henri Levy, the fall of euro would mean the fall of Europe. It would bring about the rise of populism, nationalism and xenophobia. The European political class might not be able to deal with nationalism and demagoguery. The cause of it is a lack of courageous leaders, who contrary to the interests of their own societies, could work towards the well-being of EU. Sometimes, the resolution to grave problems requires time and reforms inconvenient for citizens and politicians. The interested must be presented reasons behind those changes, and the risks of ceasing their implementation.

The richest countries of the EU unenthusiastically give out funds to help those Member States in a worse economic situation. They are reluctant to help for instance, Greece or Spain. But the Union brought great benefits for all countries. People refuse to remember, that the membership enriched not only the poorest, but also the wealthiest countries.

¹⁰ http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pdfs/PopulismLeaflet_PL.pdf

Nowadays we need to input more to the joint budget, but summarizing, we benefited more than we lost. There is a myth functioning in Europe, about a one sided transfer of funds, from the rich to the poor Member States. It's an ideal basis for populist party operations, handing them the arguments they need to persuade the masses.

There is a lack of awareness in Europe that the benefits resulting from EU membership are an effect of participation of all Member States. This is caused by the social tendency to put blind belief in the simplest arguments and prejudices.

Europe functions thanks to politics, economics and culture. To elevate EU from crisis, the economic union must be dealt with firstly, to ensure the safety of the political union.¹¹

¹¹27/01/2014, 19:00,
http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114873,12580027,Bernard_Henri_Levy__Upadek_UE_to_triumf_populizmu_.html

HOW TO PREVENT THE GROWTH OF POPULISM? SEARCHING FOR A CURE FOR EUROPE.

In this part of my research I focus on looking for solutions by short interviews with randomly chosen students of Warsaw Universities, a secondary-school student and foreigners living in Poland for some time. I'm interested in the opinion of young people, hence all of the interviewed are under 30 years old. They will, in a few years, participate in creating the future of the Europe. This is why their opinions and ideas are valuable.

Due to the lack of approval of some of the interviewed, I cannot share their personal information.

POLISH STUDENTS

Student of Law, Warsaw University, 5th year, age: 24

What is, in your opinion, populism and a populist?

Populism is a negative phenomenon; it should be eliminated from politics. A populist is a person with high leadership skills, knowing how to express himself with ease, which allows him to persuade others to his views; which is his main goal. After the elections he doesn't fulfill his programme. His only aim is to win. In a way, he deceives the society.

Do you feel that there are populist parties in Poland?

Yes, in my opinion there are a lot of populist-politicians in Poland.

And in Europe?

There are for sure. I'm not very interested in politics, and I don't know the European Populist Parties. This however is caused by the standard represented in parliament by most of our politicians. The level of their statements and debates, which I occasionally see in television, is rather miserable. This is the source of my animosity towards politics.

How can we fight or minimalize the phenomenon of populism in Europe?

It's a very hard task. Primarily, by enforcing consequence. Populists should hold to their promises and conduct the programme they proclaimed before the elections. The society should have a sense of security thanks to a mechanism that would guarantee the implementation of the said postulates. Thanks to this we'd be less frustrated, and perhaps we would take more interest in politics, instead of seeing populist organizations as a way to escape from financial and psychic crisis.

Student of Computer Science, Warsaw University of Technology, age: 22

What do you understand under the term populism?

I understand populism as a mean of deceiving people, typically employed by political parties, leading the people to believe that the representatives of the parties they may potentially vote for, and themselves, have common goals. The populist form could be described as researching the social mood, and then gripping on a popular topic to find electorate around.

Do you think that there are many populist parties in Poland? How can we minimalize the phenomenon of populism in Europe?

I consider all of them to be populist. I also think that the idea of minimalizing the amount of populism is a misconception. In my belief every party employs populist methods. Whether their agenda is to threaten people with visions of crisis or upcoming immigrant flood, or to say that the current state of events is near perfect and what awaits is a bright

unified European future, they say, what some of us expect and want to hear. I can hardly recall the last time I've read or seen a substantive or meaningful political programme, instead of blatant hollow ideas and visions impossible to execute. It's an obvious result of the fact that the masses are hardly able or caring when it comes to understanding difficult concepts. I know that might not sound very democratic, but giving the possibility to vote for everyone on equal footing opens a window for populists to exploit and abuse. Furthermore, I don't consider we can simply overcome an obstacle like this by educating people in the topic of politics. Despite popular belief, the sophisticated methods of manipulation that we're talking about are something that only a minor part of society may prepare to defend themselves against, leaving us, in the current democratic system, forever exposed charismatic and cunning enough to find a suitable electorate with little effort.

Magdalena Domagała, Secondary school student, age: 18

What is, in your opinion, populism?

Unfortunately, I don't know this term, but I associate it with the people, playing on emotions. Actually, I'm not interested in politics. Maybe because no one ever tried to interest me, no teacher ever said anything on this topic.

Then what should be done to change your approach on politics and make you interested in it?

I'd like Social Studies lessons to look a bit different. The teachers, instead of trying to avoid political topics, should talk to us more and explain phenomena and terms that we don't understand.

Mikołaj Dragovic, graduate of Warsaw School of Economics, working in consulting services

What is, in your opinion, populism?

Playing on most basic human emotions in the attempt to attain support for yourself or some kind of action. Politicians, instead of putting forward rational arguments to facilitate

rational decisions (using logic and facts), often choose shortcuts – they try to cause actions by stirring up emotions, using for this purpose stereotypes, heuristics, mental leaps, playing on unawareness and anxiety, incomprehension, naivety. The threat implied by such action is that the populist, while playing on emotions, will consciously avoid the rational appraisal of his arguments provided by his audience – as a mean to get away with substantive weaknesses. It ruins the public discourse, as it propels a populist race. To influence the rational stance is an action harder and more time-consuming – the stronger value is displaced by the weaker.

Is there a possibility to overcome this phenomenon in the European Union?

Fighting a rhetoric form (regardless of its harmfulness), quarrels with freedom of speech, if it takes place post-factum (for example by punishments, banning and stigmatizing). One ought to reduce the supply, taking care of the quality of the political class, of its professionalization. “Overcoming it in EU” isn’t sufficiently clear, since we don’t know if it means overcoming it in EU structures (for example, in European Parliament), or in the public life of the Member States. Overcoming populism should be an obligation of the member states, rather than the duty of European Union.

FOREIGNERS LIVING IN POLAND

Briton, graduate of The University of Nottingham, age: 29.

Could you tell us something about populism in UK?

The UK has a long history of populist right wing or far right political parties springing up like mushrooms and dying just as quickly, from the far right National Front in the 70s and 80s to the ostensibly mainstream British National Party in the 90s. UKIP, the United Kingdom Independence Party, is the latest mushroom to spring up in British politics, and its threat to steal core Conservative votes has rapidly lead the Prime Minister, David Cameron, to harden his language on the EU, including a historic pledge to give British voters a vote on membership of the EU, and a crack-down (mainly verbal) against benefits claimants. This is known as 'Dog Whistle politics' in the UK.

Is there any solution in UK, which could be implemented in EU or Poland, to decrease the growing phenomenon of populism?

These policies are popular but ultimately the UK's political system - first past the post - makes the establishment in mainstream politics of a truly populist national party highly unlikely. Protest voting is often seen in European elections - hence UKIP's presence there.

Brasilian Jamir Issa de Oliveira, student of Accounting on the Academy of Leon Koźmiński, age: 28

Could you tell me something about populism in Brazil?

In my opinion populism is a form of government, in which the ruling party uses various means to acquire public support. A populist government uses simple and popular language, understandable by anyone, doesn't respect political parties or democratic institutions. Populist cabinets are a common sight in large countries, like in the case of Brazil. Vargas and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva were known populists. Getúlio Vargas was known under the name of „father of the poor”. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva during his ruling, developed social programs that focused the distribution of resources on areas of simultaneous high living density and low average income.

Is there any solution in Brazil, which could be implemented in EU or Poland, to decrease the growing phenomenon of populism?

The introduction of electronic voting in the Brazilian election process immensely helped in fighting financial abuses, as well as improved the efficiency and reliability of the process of counting of votes. Electronic counting of votes and the usage of specialized software allows avoiding mistakes. There is although the risk of manipulating the results of the election trough the usage of computer viruses and hacker activity.

Vadim Lashchinin, Russian, graduate of University of Warsaw, Lawyer, age: 29

How do you understand Populism? What's the state of populism in Russia?

In my opinion, populism means politicians taking irresponsible actions, which are however approved amongst a wide (particularly weakly educated) circle of voters, in the goal of achieving their sympathy. In long-term prospect, populism might be disastrous for the country system or the existence of civil society. Russia is an example of country ruled, for over ten years, by populists, with the president at the head. Nevertheless, it's an extraordinary case, that populism, which in most circles is almost textbook i.e. staged question asking from the nation representatives to the president, statements about fighting terrorism, revoking laws for organizing LGBT circles meetings, accomplishes so much in the scope of economic development, international policy and execution of big investment projects in the country scale i.e. preparing a sport infrastructure in Sochi as a preparation for the 2014 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, creating a technological park. Therefore, despite an explicit democratic imperfection of the political and legal system of the Russian Federation, it seems reasonable to point out some solutions regarding strictly the internal policy, as well as administrative and legal solutions.

The effectiveness of execution of investment projects

The central government should always be authorized to execute project in country scale – the construction of international and domestic roads, big research, industrial, sport and tourist centers, rail transport infrastructure.

Defending the domestic market against colonization

Foreign capital can never be left outside control of the beneficiary country, as it will always focus on the transfer of generated profits to its native country, as well as on the taxes. It also isn't usually bound to localization, and with the first change of economic trend, it might be prone to transfer to a more cost-optimal country.

SPECIALISTS STANDPOINT

Paweł Piskorski, President of the Stonnictwo Demokratyczne (Alliance of Democrats)

Is populism in EU a substantial threat?

The more deeply rooted are democratic country institutions – such as free elections, division of power, independent courts, constitutional courts – the less space populism has to grow. Similarly, populism is correlated with wealth. The more prosperous a society is, the lesser the tendency to submit to populist slogans.

Europe, or the European Union, is an area within which the democratic traditions and average prosperity lower the chances of populism to succeed, in comparison to other parts of the world. Although, even while keeping those two factors in mind, we can notice that the countries of “new Europe” are often more susceptible to the influence of populist slogans of a largely xenophobic character.

Are there any mechanisms to eliminate or reduce this phenomenon?

Yes. Firstly, we need to support economic development, to reduce the areas of poverty. Secondly, we need to create and reinforce democratic institutions.

MY PROPOSITIONS

How to counteract the rise of populism?

First of all, we need to focus on actively educating the society. Commit ourselves to educate young people. We should talk with them not only about agendas of individual parties, but about politics in general, phenomena's connected, the threats for the modern world. We

should answer their questions, as well as listen to their propositions. Work together, unite instead of dividing.

To lessen the risk of populism in Europe, we need to destroy its source. We search for it through conducting discussions for certain social groups. We shouldn't wait for people to come into the Parliament, politicians should reach out themselves to find suitable people and encourage cooperation. We can achieve this by organizing meetings at Universities, secondary schools, non-governmental organizations, foundations, etc.

Because the European society puts more and more emphasis on IT, my proposition is to create an internet service concerning politics and political events, and promoting it in all environments.

The platform would deliver information regarding politics, the agendas of all parties participating in the elections to the European Parliament, and all current political events in Europe. It could function similarly to a social media, providing the means to exchange personal views, chat with politicians and organize virtual informational meetings with experts. Such knowledge would broaden the worldview of the society and would help to determine its needs thanks to direct contact. After gathering information about what does the society expect from politicians, individual political agendas could be adjusted in a way concerted with the electorate expectations, allowing for a rational choice of factual representatives of Europe.

SUMMARY

In my opinion the one and only effective medicine for the spreading populism is educating the masses – the recipients of populist speeches. This process should begin in the youngest years of a man, to raise awareness amongst the whole population of voters. The educational program of schools should be broadened by European Education. This kind of lectures could shed some light on the idea of a united Europe, explaining the importance and benefits of this model of the European Union to its citizens. These lessons should apply to youth at around 15 years of age (while compulsory schooling is still applicable). This way regardless of when do they stop their education they will be able to understand the surrounding political reality and assess the threats hidden beneath it.

Teaching will be a time-consuming but rewarding process that will prepare us and the future generations for building a better Europe.



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