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Youth produces change. We have seen this recently, with the so-called "Arab spring". [Read more...](#)



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Europe"

It is generally said of Europeans that we have a rather pessimistic view of the future. [Read more...](#)



Read what
the project
is about



THE BOOK

"United Dreams of Europe" is the title of a current research project, which was initiated by the German non-profit Foundation for Future Studies.

So far, with the aim of gaining a first insight into their perceptions of Europe and their views on Europe's future, we conducted a survey in which 15,300 citizens from Russia, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland took part. In addition, as qualitative research, we did 27 interviews containing eight members of the European Parliament, nine futurologists, and eleven students from ten different countries. To get a preview of their "European Dream", just click on one of the interview partners above.

In September 2011, the research will be published in the book "United Dreams of Europe", including all the answers and interviews as well as the analysis of the central questions, to enable the European public access to the study.



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Youth produces change



Youth produces change. We have seen this recently, with the so-called “Arab spring”: an overwhelmingly young and fairly well educated population has challenged the status quo and fought for a better future.

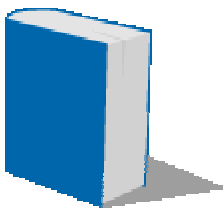
Young people in societies are the harbingers as well as the recipients of that future: North and South, East and West. Europe’s worrisome demographic balance is such that we often forget or neglect this simple fact: that we should not stop thinking about tomorrow; and that the hardships of today are more easily accepted if and insofar as they are linked to the hope for (and expectation of) a better future.

Having dreams is part of all this: dreams that are driven by powerful ideals and herald a better world; dreams that appeal to many; as Victor Hugo put it, “Each man should frame life so that at some future hour, fact and his dreaming meet.” Dreams we can make happen if we do the right things now.

This is our task as policy-makers: to lay the foundations for “United Dreams” to come true. It is indeed a tall order, especially at a time of recurrent crises and possible night-mares, when the pressure to act swiftly and prevent the worst from happening makes it difficult to plan for the best to happen. We have instead to be willing and able to think ahead, to draw up a common wish-list for the kind of Europe we want in the foreseeable future. Too often has the rationale for European integration been founded on the past. The success stories of the 2nd half of the 20th century are neither to be taken for granted nor sufficient to build a brighter future. Different generations have different concerns and expectations – and the sooner we articulate our ideals and goals for the 1st half of the 21st century, the easier it will be to mobilise the resources required to achieve them.

This is why the effort undertaken with this publication is both relevant and timely – and is indeed most welcome. After being confronted with so many “cahiers de doléances” about the Europe we have, I am also personally delighted to be presented with a “cahier d’attentes” – and possibly also “d’impatiences” – about the Europe we need. This is the kind of discussion we should have these days, in order also to get our priorities right and take the appropriate decisions for the years and decades ahead. Allow me to encourage you to have more dreams for Europe; keep telling us about them; and help us translate them into future realities.

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission



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You can also be part of the project! Just [post your dream](#) and get one out of 1,000 free copies of our [upcoming book](#).

