

## Europeanization through students' lens: EU versus EaP citizens. Is there a collective identity?

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### Abstract

*The process of Europeanization has been intensively discussed and participation in debates has been vigorously tested by the academic world, mostly concerned with examining political personalities. This process is often seen from a political and economic perspective, ignoring the spiritual part pointing to a collective identity rationale. Hereby, our interest consists in finding how this concept is perceived through students' lens. We aim at investigating students' opinions, revealing young citizens' points of view. The conducted research is qualitative, consisting in in-depth interviews for discovering participants' standpoints and attitudes towards admitting European bonds and becoming Europeans not just as a frame, but in a substantial way, from the perspective of the sense of belonging to a EU member state or to an Eastern Partnership (EaP) member state. As the findings show, the bond with the European Union (EU) is seen through a political and cultural approach. Students' understanding of the Europeanization process is varied, and so are their endeavours of spreading the importance to adhere to the European Union and to share the European spirit among students belonging to EaP states.*

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